



COMPRISED OF
THE POLICE OFFICERS
OF THE CITY
OF LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

A PROFESSIONAL POLICE UNION

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November 13, 2020

Dana Brown, Chief Employee Relations Officer
City of Los Angeles
1500 City Hall East
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ms. Brown,

We are in receipt of your letter dated November 10, 2020 requesting “a meeting regarding the City’s current economic situation and the City’s obligations relative to MOU 24.” We are well aware of both the City’s situation and its obligations. The City’s obligation is to honor the terms and conditions of MOU 24, which was agreed to by the Mayor and Council, ratified, and executed by both parties. The Board of Directors for the Los Angeles Police Protective League is unanimous in its belief that its members deserve every penny of compensation that our contract prescribes. Period.

On September 2, 2020, Councilmember Mike Bonin told the *Los Angeles Times*, “I wouldn’t support asking for concessions from the firefighters in Los Angeles. Right now, they are the front lines of our battle against climate change...” If keeping your contractual promises based on the importance and the risks associated with our jobs is a sincere position, we would agree with Mr. Bonin. Although Mr. Bonin has a long track record of flip-flopping on his positions, on September 2, 2020, that was his position.

Our officers have been on the front lines of our City’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They were duty-bound to perform tasks that directly exposed them to the deadly virus, such as transporting high-risk populations to seek services and shelter, responding to tens of thousands of calls for service, and being in close proximity with our growing homeless population. One of our officers died as a result of COVID exposure, and thus far, there have been 536 sworn LAPD officers infected by the virus.

Our officers were ordered to work at least 12-hour shifts for weeks in a row, to provide security during L.A.’s protests, riots and professional sports “celebrations” that devolved into chaos. Many of our officers were hit in the head with bricks, had urine thrown at them, attacked with frozen water bottles, and even injured with eye-damaging lasers. They were on the front lines

providing support during all of this year's fires and even more extensively last year, when our contract was first executed. Physical attacks on your LAPD officers are up 12% this year.

To Mr. Bonin and his colleagues, respectfully, we are the front line.

We have no interest in meeting over what has already been agreed upon as we believe it will divert our focus and attention away from addressing the violent and deadly crime increases plaguing many of our most vulnerable neighborhoods. These increases include a:

- 25% increase in homicides
- 22.6% increase in gang homicides
- 30.5% increase in shooting victims

As for the additional request to meet "regarding the City's current economic situation," we believe there is ample publicly available information that confirms there is a budget deficit. We also know that the LAPD budget was recently slashed by \$150 million dollars and that a significant amount of that money is being utilized to prevent cuts to the City's civilian workforce. So for those keeping score at home, police officers are being cut, safety of neighborhoods plunged into further peril and the victimization of our residents increased so that other city employees don't suffer in the least bit. Furthermore, it is unclear as to how the balance of the \$150 million is being utilized by the City. We know the money is gone from the LAPD budget, but where did it go?

Unfortunately, the \$150 million cut will result in at least 385 fewer police officers on an ongoing basis and result in the LAPD having up to 700 fewer "street ready" police officers over the next 18 months. This cut is having a catastrophic impact on our ability to patrol our streets and investigate crimes, specifically in our sexual assault unit, robbery and homicide, and other critical units. In short, we have given \$150 million to close the deficit at great cost to our members and the community. This begs the question, what about everyone else?

As you are aware, on June 4 when Mayor Eric Garcetti and Police Commission President Eileen Decker announced the draconian \$150 million cut from the LAPD budget, it was done with great fanfare but with little forethought. It was a political stunt with significant negative impacts. The Mayor and his political appointee did not conduct any analysis as to the dire impacts this budget cut would have on the safety of the residents of Los Angeles. They picked a number out of thin air and the LAPPL was given zero forewarning, was not consulted, and did not participate in the formulation of this scheme.

The League has provided the administration, Mayor and Council with options to address the budget deficit that would not result in cuts to police services. Unfortunately, these options were ignored, including:

- Utilization of the over \$700 million in CARES Act funding received by the City from the federal government to pay for salaries and benefits of all police officers from March of 2020 to December 31, 2020. See our previous correspondence on this matter that

confirms all police officers and fire fighters are presumed to be COVID-related expenditures fully eligible to be paid for by CARES Act money.

In closing, increasing the paltry savings secured from the civilian workforce as well as reducing the increase to the Fire Department budget are other areas ripe for the City to seek cuts from to add to the \$150 million taken from the LAPD budget. We wish you luck.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Lally". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Craig Lally,
President