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LOS ANGELES POLICE PROTECTIVE LEAGUE

A PROFESSIONAL POLICE UNION

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April 26, 2017

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Honorable Mitchell Englander
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Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Honorable Mike Bonin
City of Los Angeles Budget and Finance Committee
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: April 27, 2017 – Consideration of the Mayor's 2017-18 Proposed Budget
Item No. (1) – Los Angeles Police Department

Dear Councilmembers,

The Los Angeles Police Protective League has reviewed the Mayor's 2017-18 Proposed Budget for the Los Angeles Police Department and we are left scratching our collective heads. How will a reduction of at least 328,000 hours of police officer availability make Los Angeles safer? This budget proposal should be put out of its misery and rewritten in a manner that prioritizes efforts to reduce the 69% increase in violent crime Angelenos have suffered since 2013.

In evaluating the proposed budget for sworn overtime, several items jump out at us and leave us feeling as if we have been victims of a well orchestrated bait-and-switch. First, our current MOU with the City states that for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year the minimum amount of sworn overtime must be \$100 million dollars. The Mayor's budget proposal reduces that amount to \$80 million dollars. Apparently, our contract isn't worth the paper it is written upon, but this is not what should alarm this committee. What should alarm this committee is that the reduction from \$100 million in sworn overtime to \$80 million will mean a reduction of 328,000 police officer hours in 2017-18.¹

This 20% reduction in sworn overtime is the equivalent of 27,333 fewer 12-hour shifts per year or 75, 12-hours shifts per day that will go unfilled in Los Angeles. Which neighborhoods will suffer because of this reduction? How will this impact response times to Code 3 and Priority 2

¹ We address the mysterious disappearance of \$20 million in overtime funds below.

calls? How many more victims of crime will this equate to? This is unacceptable and must be remedied.

The bait and switch of promising \$100 million in sworn overtime to the LAPPL to settle our contract is wrong. However, to divert \$41 million of sworn overtime to cover the recently awarded MTA contract is deceitful. Yet, that is exactly what this budget proposes to do. It recommends \$121 million dollars in sworn overtime with \$41 million diverted to the MTA contract. The MTA is providing \$54.3 million in overtime funds to the LAPD to service the contract. So why then is the Mayor taking \$41 million from the police budget, where will those funds go?

On page one of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority/Los Angeles Police Department Contract No. PS5862100LAPD24750 it states, "The deployment strategy **does not impact** current deployment or the basic level of police services provided to the City."² The taxpayers and MTA Board of Directors were baited into the MTA contract under the guise that it would not impact or overstretch our already thin police department, yet the Mayor's proposal does just that, by deploying budget trickery.

With the department moving its minimum patrol plan staffing levels from 50% of patrol plan to 70% of its patrol plan, this cut in overtime will be devastating for neighborhood police patrols and portions of the detective bureau. It puts the public's safety at risk.

This "switcheroo" must be exposed and reversed. Put plainly, this budget proposal does not add up. We strongly urge this committee to reject this proposal and restore the department's sworn overtime budget to at least \$100 million as has been agreed to in our current MOA and halt the diversion of \$41 million in city funds to service the MTA contract.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Los Angeles Police Protective League



Craig Lally
President

² Emphasis added in contract.