

Community Impact Statement Recommendation

To: Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Board
From: Livability Committee
Date Approved by Committee: 05/12/22
For Board Consideration on: 06/14/22

Re: Council File 22-0123 - Serious and Violent Crimes / Public Transit System / Safety / Armed and Unarmed Response Models

Motion or Recommendation of the committee:

The Livability Committee recommends a vote on CF 22-0415.

For	X
For if amended	
Against	

Committee Vote Count: Yes (5), No (0), Abstention (0), Absent (1), Recused (0)

Summary:

The Council File instructs the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles Police Department to report back on how to improve safety in all City transit systems and station stops as it relates to serious and violent crimes.

The motion also requests the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to report with past and upcoming efforts to curtail the issue of violent crimes on trains, buses, and transportation stops, including an analysis of armed and unarmed response models.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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June 14, 2022

Re: Community Impact Statement on CF 22-0415: Serious and Violent Crimes / Public Transit System / Safety / Armed and Unarmed Response Models

To Whom It May Concern:

At our regularly held public meeting on June 14, 2022, the Board of Directors of the Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council ("DLANC") voted to provide the following comments below:

The Downtown Los Angeles Neighborhood Council submits this Community Impact Statement **in support** of CF 22-0415: Serious and Violent Crimes / Public Transit System / Safety / Armed and Unarmed Response Models.

As the terminus and hub of many of the City's mass transit systems, our community and our stakeholders heavily rely on public transit via the MTA and DASH network to further connect around our community and surrounding portions of the greater Los Angeles region.

As such, it is imperative that transit be safe and comfortable for everyone who relies on public transit. We know that black and brown communities, the elderly and youth, disproportionately depend on public transit for their livelihoods. When these networks are unsafe, they directly hurt people that lack other alternatives modes of transportation to move about Los Angeles.

Therefore, DLANC supports the call to improve the safety and security of the City's public transit network - especially at transit stops and stations.

In addition, DLANC further supports the MTA and LADOT, in partnership with LAPD, to study armed and unarmed models to improve awareness and safety on public transit lines.

We further ask that City Council submit an amending motion to request LAHSA and the County's Department of Mental Health (DMH), to report back to Council regarding outreach services to the unhoused community that often find shelter on public transit systems.

*** SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY DLANC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON JUNE 14, 2022 ***

Sincerely,

Claudia Oliveira
President,
DLANC

Debby Zhou
Chair,
DLANC Livability Committee

CC: Council District 14 (via email)

MOTION

This morning, during peak rush hour in Brooklyn, New York, a suspect set off a smoke grenade and fired his weapon on a subway train, injuring at least 16 people, including 10 who were shot. While this serious and tragic incident occurred outside of the State of California, it is indicative of a rising trend nationwide, including here in Los Angeles, of rising violent crimes on transit systems and station stops and platforms.

A March 2022 *Los Angeles Times* article details that even with gas prices in California at an all-time-high, public transit ridership is not increasing, citing safety as a primary concern for riders. The article states that violent crimes on the system increased by over 35% last year, according to Metro's data. Rape, aggravated assault, and homicides rose for the second year in a row.

Metro also recently released the results of their FY23 Budget Survey that was broadly distributed to Los Angeles County residents. One survey response reveals that both riders and non-riders recommend that Metro spend the most dollars on "**More security and law enforcement**," even though other expenditure opportunities in the same survey question included things like, "free fare," "reliable and frequent service," "more train lines," and "non-law enforcement safety programs (including mental health crisis specialists)."

Given the recent spike in violent crimes in and around transit, as well as the changing perceptions of the need for alternative approaches to public safety on transit systems, it is imperative that we review the City and County's approach to public safety in transportation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation and the Los Angeles Police Department be DIRECTED to report back on how to improve safety in all City transit systems and station stops as it relates to serious and violent crimes.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) be REQUESTED to report with past and upcoming efforts to curtail the issue of violent crimes on trains, buses, and transportation stops, including an analysis of armed and unarmed response models.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

[Signature]

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APR 12 2022