From: Voices For LAPD <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2026 4:29 PM
To: Police Commission
Cc: JAMES MCDONNELL
Subject: LAPD Staffing, Crime Reduction Transparency, Federal Enforcement, and 2028 Olympic Preparedness

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Dear LAPD Board of Police Commissioners and Chief McDonnell,

Voices For LAPD is writing to express concerns regarding Chief Jim McDonnell's repeated public emphasis on declining crime statistics while the Los Angeles Police Department continues to face significant staffing challenges and the city prepares to host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Let us be clear from the outset: **Voices For LAPD strongly supports increasing LAPD's sworn personnel strength.** Los Angeles needs more police officers, not fewer. With the Olympics approaching, adequate staffing, emergency preparedness, neighborhood patrol coverage, and public safety must be among the Department's highest priorities.

However, we question whether Chief McDonnell is making a sufficiently compelling case to the public and elected officials for the additional officers LAPD needs.

The chief frequently highlights reductions in homicides, shootings, and other reported crimes. These reductions are welcome, but favorable statistics alone do not provide a complete picture of public safety in Los Angeles.

What about the crimes that continue to occur? What about neighborhoods experiencing persistent criminal activity, emergency response times, investigative backlogs, and officers being asked to accomplish more with fewer resources?

The public deserves a balanced assessment that acknowledges both progress and ongoing challenges.

We are also concerned about the limited public discussion of the factors contributing to declining crime.

Federal immigration enforcement has included the arrest and removal of individuals with serious criminal histories, including individuals convicted of violent offenses. We recognize that not everyone detained or deported has committed a violent crime, and we do not suggest otherwise.

Nevertheless, an important question deserves consideration: **Has federal immigration enforcement contributed in any measurable way to declining crime in Los Angeles?**

Other major cities, including Washington, D.C., have experienced reductions in certain crime categories. Are these developments attributable to local policing strategies, federal enforcement, broader national trends, or a combination of factors?

Has LAPD conducted an analysis of these possibilities? If not, will the Department undertake one?

We are not asking LAPD to attribute crime reductions to federal enforcement without supporting evidence. We are asking for a transparent examination of potential contributing factors, including the role of other law enforcement agencies where relevant.

Most importantly, Voices For LAPD believes Chief McDonnell must do more to explain the Department's staffing needs as Los Angeles approaches the 2028 Olympics.

Declining crime and the need for additional police officers are not contradictory. A city can experience lower crime rates while still lacking sufficient personnel to maintain patrol coverage, investigate offenses, respond promptly to emergencies, and provide security for major international events.

But the Department must clearly demonstrate those needs.

How many additional sworn officers will LAPD require before the Olympics? How will Olympic security assignments affect neighborhood patrol coverage? What are the consequences of current staffing shortages for response times, investigations, and officer workloads?

These questions require answers supported by operational data.

Our concern is not that Chief McDonnell reports declining crime. Our concern is that the public is not receiving a sufficiently complete explanation of the crimes that continue to occur, the factors that may be contributing to reductions, and the resources LAPD needs to protect Los Angeles.

Voices For LAPD respectfully requests that the Board of Police Commissioners direct the Department to provide a comprehensive public presentation addressing:

1. **Staffing:** Current sworn personnel strength, vacancies, recruitment and retention trends, and projected staffing needs through the 2028 Olympics.
2. **Crime trends:** A complete breakdown of crime categories, including those that are declining, increasing, or continuing to present significant public-safety concerns.
3. **Operational demands:** Patrol response times, investigative workloads, overtime requirements, and the effects of staffing shortages on service delivery.
4. **Contributing factors:** An evidence-based assessment of the factors associated with declining crime, including whether federal immigration enforcement has had any measurable effect.
5. **Olympic preparedness:** Security staffing projections and plans to maintain ordinary police services throughout Los Angeles during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Voices For LAPD supports the officers who serve this city and believes they deserve the staffing, equipment, leadership, and resources necessary to perform their duties effectively.

We welcome genuine progress in reducing crime. However, public confidence requires more than announcements of favorable statistics. It requires transparency about continuing threats, honest assessments of operational challenges, and clear explanations of how additional resources will improve public safety.

Chief McDonnell, if Los Angeles needs more police officers—and we firmly believe it does—then make that case to the public with the same energy and visibility devoted to announcing declining crime.

Respectfully,

Voices For LAPD

From: Carolina Goodman <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2026 2:57 PM
To: Police Commission
Subject: Proposed Less Lethal Ordinance and LAPD Response

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November 9, 2026

To: Police Commission
Cc: Django Sibley, Executive Director; Brian Maxey, Director of Constitutional Policing

Re: Proposed Less Lethal Ordinance and LAPD Response

Dear Commissioners,

We greatly appreciate the Public Safety Committee's attention to protecting protestors and journalists while expressing their First Amendment Rights. It is our understanding that items **a-c** of the proposed less lethal ordinance are already addressed in California AB 481 and AB 48, and we expect that LAPD adheres not only to the letter of the law but also to the spirit of the law.

We also note in the Department's response that item **g** is already covered by LAPD's discipline standards. Of course, it wouldn't be inappropriate to underscore that rule.

We ask that the Commission seriously consider the other recommendations outlined in the proposed ordinance.

Sincerely,

Penny Sommers and Mary Dickson, Co-Presidents
League of Women Voters of Greater Los Angeles