

# MOTION

HEALTH, EDUCATION, NEIGHBORHOOD,  
PARKS, ARTS & RIVER

The Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) currently has 22 sworn City of Los Angeles park rangers assigned to its Park Ranger Division. The staffing levels are anticipated to expand to 50 rangers by mid 2020. Every day, park rangers patrol the City's parks day and night, often in remote and desolate areas of the City, and assist other City law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Approximately 70 percent of a ranger's daily duties are related to law enforcement activities and the first responder to an emergency in a City park is likely to be a park ranger.

Every sworn park ranger assigned to RAP's Park Ranger Division is required to complete a six-month Certified Academy Training Course, which includes, among other things, firearm training. The course is administered by California Police Officer Standard and Training (CAPOST), which regulates standards and training for all California law enforcement agencies throughout the state. CAPOST recognizes the City of Los Angeles Park Ranger Division and its sworn personnel as a law enforcement agency with full police powers to detain, arrest, book criminal violators, conduct investigations into criminal activity, and beyond. RAP park rangers are also considered full law enforcement officers under California Penal Code (CPC) section 830.1 and have full police powers throughout the State of California.

For the protection of the public and for the safety of all law enforcement officers in the City, it is necessary to amend LAMC section 63.41, to allow park rangers to be armed while on duty, as authorized by CPC §830.31(b) which states, " a person designated by a local agency as a park ranger, who is regularly employed and paid in that capacity, and whose primary duty is the protection of parks, may be armed by their employing agency."

Park rangers should have the full ability to utilize all law enforcement tools and equipment to ensure the safety and security of the public under all circumstances.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be DIRECTED to prepare and present an ordinance amending LAMC Section 63.41 to allow park rangers to be armed while on duty, in accordance with state law.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be DIRECTED to report back on the department's plans for Use of Force policies; tactics and training; partnership, if any, with the Los Angeles Police Department on Categorical Uses of Force Investigations; counseling and psychological evaluations following a Categorical Use of Force incidents; and the budgetary impacts of the proposed program to arm park rangers.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Police Department be DIRECTED to report back with policies and procedures for the implementation of the proposed program to arm park rangers.

PRESENTED BY: 

JOE BUSCAINO

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: 

**ORIGINAL**

  
FFB 1 1 2020