

WRAC: [POLICY]

Motion of Support of Policy Statement Concerning LA City Budget Priorities:

Whereas institutionalized racism and the systematic oppression of black people in education, healthcare, the job market, the criminal justice system, government, banking, housing, and more have real-life, everyday impacts in Los Angeles;

Whereas LAPD has over the past two decades shown significant improvements in training, diversity within its ranks and the City has instituted improved civilian oversight, but the LA Times Homicide Report still identified 329 people killed by LAPD officers since 2013;

Whereas the most successful policing with LAPD Pacific Division has been that which engaged the community in a proactive way, by listening and engaging with all parties of all races and genders;

Whereas in spite of these improvements, LAPD officer-involved shootings continue to disproportionately affect the black community, there is a severe lack of transparency in cases of officer misconduct, and the City of Los Angeles still spends an unacceptable amount of money on legal settlements for officer misconduct;

Whereas the City budget must take into account a broad swath of priorities in Los Angeles and should carefully balance public safety with lifting up our most marginalized communities, supporting initiatives like the City Attorney's Neighborhood Justice Program;

THEREFORE, the Mar Vista Community Council supports protests, supports a city budget that prioritizes crime prevention and social services, supports substantial reform efforts within LAPD and a reassessment of their responsibilities, and moreover supports both a budget and legislation that prioritizes social, housing and economic inequalities.