



WILSHIRE CENTER
KOREATOWN
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



December 16, 2020

Monica Rodriguez
Mitch O'Farrell
City Council - Public Safety Committee
C/O City Clerk, Room 395 City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

We, the Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council of the City of Los Angeles, respectfully oppose the Memorandum of Agreement between the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) for the LAPD to provide community policing and security services to the LADOT's transit buses, stations, and stops to include Downtown Area Short Hop (DASH), Commuter Express and Cityride, with an emphasis on DASH, referenced in [Council File 20-1436](#).

As evidenced by protests surrounding the police's murder of George Floyd, the People's Budget movement, and Los Angeles City Council's approval to "[develop an unarmed model of crisis response](#) that would divert non-violent calls for service," Los Angeles residents overwhelmingly want armed police presence reduced, as well as the police defunded. Police officers [disproportionately use force against Black people](#) and unfairly target communities of color, [especially Black and Latinx individuals](#). As such, the Chief of Police's recommendations contain several instances of concerning language regarding the Agreement's implementation, which are detailed below:

The Agreement states that "the LADOT and the LAPD will work together to identify problem areas and the LAPD will deploy officers to targeted areas on buses, stations, or bus stops" but fails to specify how these "problem areas" will be identified. This is especially troubling given that Los Angeles Police Chief Michael Moore announced the [cessation of predictive-policing](#) in April, as predictive-policing [does not reduce crime](#) and unfairly targets minority neighborhoods.

Additionally, the Agreement reasons that "officers will board buses near school areas at the end of school hours to deter, and if necessary, apprehend suspects who commit crimes, with an emphasis on vandalism, graffiti, alcohol/drug violations, sexual battery, hate crimes, and battery"; however, [violent crime on public transportation is low](#), so armed officers are not necessary. Nowhere in the Agreement does it state that police boarding DASH buses will be unarmed. Moreover, there is [little evidence](#) that increased police presence reduces crime. Funds spent on policing public transportation systems could be better spent on [free fares, increased service, and additional homeless outreach workers](#).

In the interest of protecting our predominantly minority community from police brutality, we, the Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council, respectfully request that the Public Safety Council Committee of the City of Los Angeles reject the proposed Memorandum of Agreement between LADOT and LAPD which stations police on DASH transit and, instead, pursue safety measures that utilize unarmed models of crisis response and alternatives to policing.

Respectfully,

Wilshire Center Koreatown Neighborhood Council