



# Echo Park Rehabilitation

After Action Report



Los Angeles Police Department

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## **INTRODUCTION**

On March 24, 2021, at the direction of Council District 13, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks began the process of closing Echo Park Lake to conduct critical repairs to the park's extensively damaged environment and infrastructure. To prevent members of the public from entering an active construction zone and protect City employees from interference during the rehabilitation process, a mile-long fence was erected around the perimeter of the 29-acre park.

Council District 13 requested assistance from Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment, the Department of Transportation, the Los Angeles Police Department, and the Los Angeles Fire Department to remove health hazards from inside the park, address problems with the park's ecosystem, and provide safety for critical work during the closure. The Los Angeles Police Department was asked to provide security for the City contractor responsible for erecting the fence around the park, while also maintaining a safe perimeter around the park so that City workers could travel to and from the location without hinderance during the closure.

This report was prepared to fully and accurately document the complex and intensive process that led to closing a popular recreation area. For the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD or Department), this report offers a detailed overview of the planning and preparation process, as well as lessons learned and recommendations for future police involvement in cooperative operations where the Department is not the lead entity, and when enforcement action is not the primary objective.

## BACKGROUND

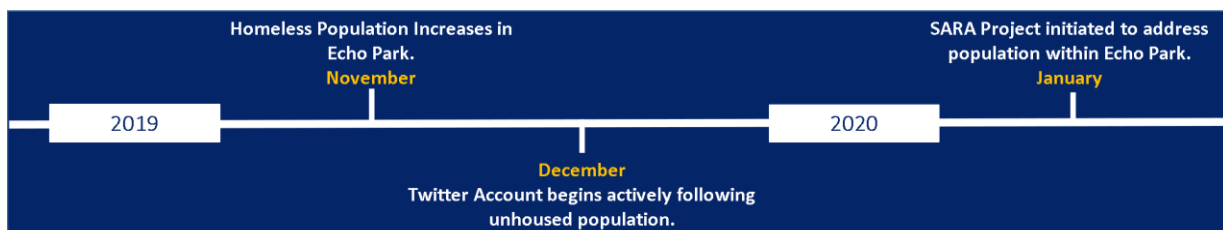
Sitting in the shadow of Los Angeles’ famous skyline, Echo Park is a 29-acre public park featuring a large man-made lake. The lake, which boasts towering fountains, lush flora, and picturesque views, is a popular recreation destination for visitors and residents alike. After undergoing a 45-million-dollar renovation that was completed in 2013, the park provides guests with access to picnic tables, walking paths, a playground, and white swan pedal boats that can be rented from the boat house on the east side of the lake.

Like many neighborhoods near Downtown Los Angeles, the value of real estate in Echo Park has risen dramatically over the last decade. While many residents and property owners welcome the gentrification, there is a segment of society that resents the displacement of lower income families who have lived in the area for generations. The change in neighborhood demographics and the lack of affordable housing, compounded by subsequent COVID-19 restrictions and the country’s fractured political climate, led several social activist groups to use Echo Park as a stage for reform.



### Increasing Homelessness

In November of 2019, an organized and well-equipped group of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) took control of the northwest corner of Echo Park when they began erecting tents and make-shift shelters near Glendale Boulevard and Park Avenue.<sup>1</sup> Almost immediately, the park’s environment began to suffer from continuous and unprecedented human habitation. In the months that followed, individuals within the group became increasingly aggressive with maintenance staff from Recreation and Parks (RAP) and Los Angeles Park Rangers (Park Rangers) who were providing upkeep and maintenance to ensure that visitors could continue to enjoy the park.



<sup>1</sup> The group that began populating the park in November of 2019 arrived in the park well equipped with new tents, camping supplies, and electronics. Additionally, the group was regularly supplied with food and water through an interconnected group of activists.

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

As the elected representative for Council District 13 (CD13), Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell began receiving complaints regarding public safety and the quality of life in the park. Visitors, as well as the park's maintenance staff, reported seeing drug paraphernalia (needles), buckets of human waste, trash, rotting food, and animal carcasses in heavily frequented areas. In the park's public bathrooms, sinks and toilets were ripped out, and the plumbing was modified to be used as showers. Streetlights and electrical boxes were broken open and live electrical lines were run across the ground to power televisions and heaters inside tents.<sup>2</sup>

### Outreach Efforts

In response to the growing public health crisis, CD 13 and RAP utilized a multifaceted, wholistic approach, by providing vital services including housing and weekly cleanups. To provide a more permanent solution, RAP contacted the Unified Homelessness Response Center (UHRC) to

### FREE Personal Property STORAGE



Register for a completely free 60 gallon storage bin.

- No identification necessary.
- One storage bin per person.
- Must be 18 years or older.

**The Bin: Echo Park**  
1140 Glendale Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90026  
**(213) 926-2445**  
Hours of Operations  
Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM- 3:30 PM

assist with coordination of services. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), a sitting participant of the UHRC, conducted regular outreach and attempted to place the park's occupants into more stable housing. To meet the immediate needs of those PEH, CD 13 provided access to showers, storage, and laundry services (See DAMAGES & COSTS). Despite the considerable resources that were offered, most of the people living inside of the park continued to reject the City's assistance and refused to move elsewhere.<sup>3</sup>

To address sanitary concerns and to maintain the park for visitors, CD 13 organized weekly cleanups with RAP and Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN). The cleanups were met with immediate, and hostile, resistance from the new encampment. When Park Rangers or LAPD officers showed up to provide security for the cleaning crews,

activists took to social media and organized protests to stop City trucks from even entering the park. During one encounter in February of 2020, an altercation broke out between City employees and activists, resulting in a representative of the group being arrested for assaulting a Park Ranger.

<sup>2</sup>According to an estimate that was submitted to the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners, the damage done to the bathrooms and street lights would cost approximately \$109,000.

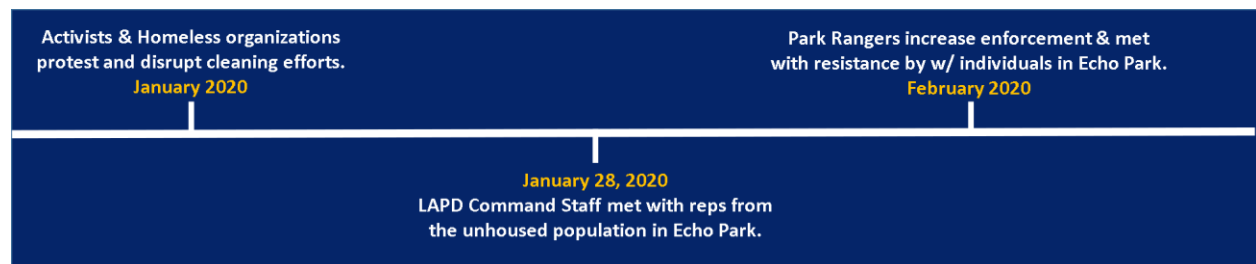
<sup>3</sup> Current LAHSA policy prevents them from sharing statistics with law enforcement, so the exact results are unknown.

## Decision to Close the Park

In 2011, the City spent \$45 million dollars to completely renovate Echo Park Lake. During the rehabilitation project, the park was completely fenced off and closed to the public. After two years of construction, during which the lake was drained, and the famous lotus beds restored, the park re-opened in 2013 with new walking paths, new informational signs, a new observation deck, and new landscaping.<sup>4</sup>



By March of 2020, less than a decade after its major update, Echo Park was once again in a state of disrepair. To prevent any permanent damage, Councilmember O’Farrell decided to close the park to allow RAP and City contractors to conduct extensive waste removal, plumbing repair, electrical repair, and ecological rehabilitation.



<sup>4</sup> “Echo Park Lake to Reopen with Eco-Friendly Improvements” KCET, June 5, 2013 available at <https://www.kcet.org/green-living/echo-park-lake-to-reopen-with-eco-friendly-improvements>



At the time, fair-housing advocates and social justice organizations were increasingly critical of the City’s efforts to address the homelessness crisis. Using their sizeable social media following, they routinely organized protests to demonstrate their public opposition to any action that was perceived to lead to the displacement of PEH. As the Echo Park encampment grew, so did the activist’s claims of ownership over the public space. RAP leadership determined that any attempt to close the park would be framed as displacement in support of the activist’s narratives, justifying further resistance and attempts to repopulate the park during the rehabilitation process. Therefore, RAP decided that the entire park would have to be fenced off. Like any large-scale maintenance or construction project, the fence would prevent passersby from entering a hazardous work area, while also allowing City workers to conduct the necessary repairs without interference or threats of harm. Due to the size of the park and the expectation of protest actions, CD 13 and RAP concluded that the Park Rangers did not have the necessary personnel to enact the closure alone.<sup>5</sup> To ensure the safety of City workers, and to maintain public peace during the initial stage of the rehabilitation phase, CD 13 requested that the Department assist with the operation by providing a secure presence during the erection of the fence.

## Police Involvement

*This section is an overview of the events that led to the closure of the park from the perspective of the LAPD.*

From the onset, the LAPD was hesitant to involve itself in an operation that could potentially

| CoC Name                               | Homeless Individuals |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Major City CoCs</b>                 |                      |
| Los Angeles City & County CoC, CA      | 51,290               |
| New York City                          | 36,394               |
| San Jose/Santa Clara City & County, CA | 8,802                |
| Seattle/King County, WA                | 8,008                |
| Oakland, Berkeley/Alameda County, CA   | 7,646                |

lead to the relocation of PEH. Across the country, large cities are struggling to address the increasing number of PEH. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s most recent Annual Homeless Assessment Report, California’s homeless population grew five percent between 2019 and 2020, and 22 percent between 2007 and 2020. As of January 2020, Los Angeles City and County led the country’s major metropolitan areas with 51,290 people who

were counted as experiencing homelessness. More concerning is the fact that Los Angeles City and County had the second highest percentage (84.1 percent) of PEH who were “unsheltered.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The Park Ranger Division is typically a deployment of 65 Park Rangers overseeing six regional parks and all “pocket parks”, with Echo Park being considered a “pocket park.” However, when Park Rangers conducted a merger with LAPD Security Services half of the Park Rangers went to Security Services and additionally budgetary concerns became a factor. With those factors only 31 Park Rangers, including the Chief were assigned to handle the City of Los Angeles Regional Parks and “pocket parks.”

<sup>6</sup> The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress; The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development, defines an “unsheltered homeless” as when the

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Before moving forward, the Department carefully examined current City ordinances, the Department’s policies regarding lawful interactions with PEH, applicable court decisions, and its experiences with the activist groups in Echo Park. As part of the assessment, the Department sought out legal advice from the City Attorney’s office on potential risk management concerns and civil liability. Lastly, the Department conducted a thorough assessment of efforts made by partnering City agencies to ensure that involvement in the park closure was appropriate and would not expose the Department to risk management concerns.



### Homelessness in Echo Park

For years, Echo Park hosted a small number of people who used the park for overnight shelter. Historically, those unhoused individuals who slept in the park were cooperative, did not cause excessive damage to the park, and complied with directions from the Park Rangers and LAPD officers. Their cooperation allowed visitors to enjoy the park and ensured that maintenance staff had the opportunity to conduct necessary repairs to the park’s structures and grounds.

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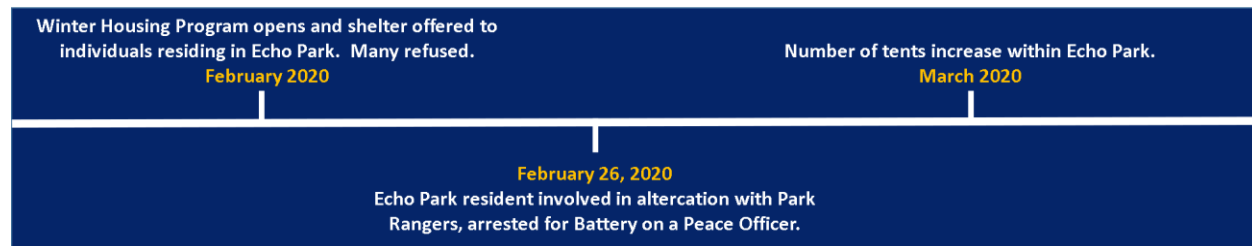
individual experiencing homelessness resides in a place not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, and sidewalks. Additionally, “CoC” stands for Continuums of Care, which are local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state.

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In November of 2019, a distinctly different group of individuals began erecting tents in the northwest quadrant of the park. The arriving population appeared to have an unusual level of external support with easy access to resources like food, camping equipment, and electronics. Unlike the park’s prior unhoused population, the new group of individuals became instantly aggressive and threatening (verbally and physically) with City employees when they were asked to move or take down their tents.

Rampart Area Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) began working diligently to address the growing encampment by educating the group on the various Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) sections restricting overnight lodging in public parks.<sup>7</sup> When education failed to ease tensions, dissuade aggressive behavior, or decrease the size of the encampment, officers utilized Release from Custody (RFC) and Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) citations to sanction illegal activity.<sup>8</sup>

Enforcement of the LAMC sections through citation was ineffective. Instead, self-proclaimed “representatives” from the growing encampment began arguing with SLOs and Park Rangers, contending that Section 63.44 of the LAMC did not apply to them.<sup>9</sup> These representatives argued that they had received “legal advice” that they did not have to leave the park.



<sup>7</sup> Each of the LAPD’s 21 geographic Areas selects officers to address reoccurring quality of life issues that naturally arise in neighborhoods. These officers are known as “Senior Lead Officers” or “SLOs.”

<sup>8</sup> A Release from Custody (RFC) is a citation given to Misdemeanor offenses that may be released from custody as long as they do not meet any of the conditions to remain in custody (See LAPD Manual Volume 4, Section 216.65 Release from Custody). The Administrative Citation Enforcement Program, (ACE) within the Community Justice Initiative, is a non-criminal approach to nuisance abatement and quality of life offenses - using fines (instead of arrest, incarceration and criminal records) - for people who violate the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

<sup>9</sup> 63.44 LAMC is Prohibition on Using Park Area or Facility for a Purpose Contrary or Inconsistent to its Specific or Designated Purpose

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

**SARA**

**SCANNING**

**ANALYSIS**

**RESPONSE**

**ASSESSMENT**

When it became apparent that traditional dialogue, communication, referrals for services, and enforcement were failing to positively impact the growing health and environmental concerns inside Echo Park, the Commanding Officer of Rampart Area directed the SLOs to initiate a SARA Project. A “SARA Project” is a Department problem solving model designed to address reoccurring crime and quality of life issues. The acronym “SARA” represents: **Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment.**<sup>10</sup> In place of proactive enforcement, which can be interpreted as punitive in nature, the Department assessed the problem and developed a wholistic response in partnership with other City entities. Collaboration was the underlying foundation of the Department’s philosophy of outreach and engagement moving forward. Between January of 2020 and March of 2021, Rampart Area SLOs recorded 52 education and outreach activities geared towards the PEH in Echo Park.<sup>11</sup> Instead of giving citations, they issued warnings for quality of life violations. Rather than arresting people for sleeping in the park, they provided security for cleanups and outreach efforts led by City partners.<sup>12</sup>

Despite the Department’s efforts to provide information and services, the people associated with the encampment in the park resisted the City’s efforts to keep the park clean and free from hazards. In addition to the increased number of persons sleeping in the park, City workers observed a growing contingent of homeless-advocates whose actions hindered City efforts to address the situation. Trash cleanups and other sanitary initiatives were suddenly being interrupted by organized protestors wielding signs and banners, and occasionally physically impeding the work. These interventions were frequently followed up by social media posts



<sup>10</sup> Office of the Chief of Police Notice, titled “Community-Police Problem Solving Form – Renamed and Revised,” dated January 28, 2021.

<sup>11</sup> Rampart 2020 SARA and 2020 Neighborhood Engagement Area (NEA) Projects. Neighborhood Engagement Areas (NEA) are locations identified by an Area ACCIC where crimes have increased over the past year and where SLOs, patrol officers, residents and businesses begin to take more responsibility for reducing crime. The Department will use the well-established academic principles of “SARA” problem-solving techniques to address issues within NEAs; implement location-based solutions; provide services to those who need assistance; and, engage the community to assist with education and prevention.

<sup>12</sup> An Office of Operations Notice titled, “Department Role in City-Led Initiative to Eliminate Homelessness,” states that the Department is committed to embracing a “Service-Led” approach to contacting persons who are experiencing homelessness. Dated February 20, 2020.

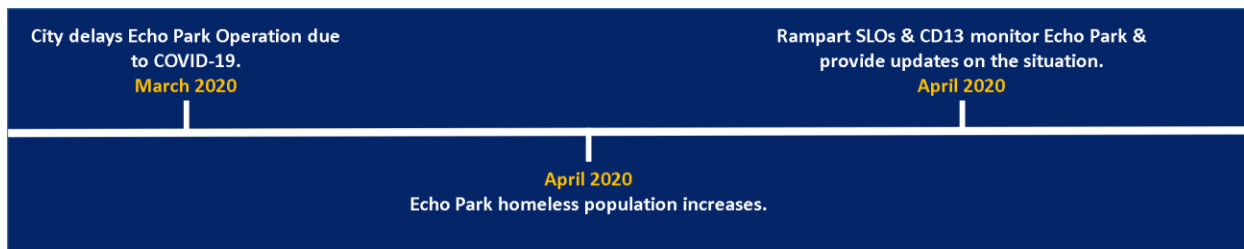
condemning normal park maintenance as attempts to “sweep” the homeless from the area, while simultaneously painting the advocates as noble protectors of the poor. It became increasingly clear that the growing encampment in Echo Park was unique and would require unconventional solutions.

### Social Activism in Echo Park

Nationwide, social activism in support of more affordable housing has been growing with support from various media and social media influencers. As an example, in December of 2020, several city blocks outside of Portland, Oregon, were barricaded by protestors attempting to prevent the eviction of a family who lost their home to foreclosure.<sup>13</sup> Similar incidents have occurred locally. In El Sereno, vacant homes owned by Caltrans have been taken over, or “reclaimed” (with much opposition), by unhoused families seeking shelter during the pandemic. For years, Los Angeles has experienced one of the most significant affordable housing crises in the country and the emergence of COVID-19 with its economic impacts only exacerbated the issue.



Beginning in December of 2019, the Twitter account @StreetWatchLA began regularly posting regarding the encampment at Echo Park. In the year that followed, several similar homeless-advocacy groups joined Street Watch LA in supporting the continued encampment within Echo Park. The presence and influence of these activists, who are often confrontational and resistant to any intervention from Park Rangers and other law enforcement, made it increasingly difficult for the City to adequately address basic health and safety concerns.



<sup>13</sup> Oregon Eviction Protest Fueled by History of Gentrification, Associated Press, <https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2020-12-09/portland-barricades-still-up-in-anti-gentrification-protest> Dated December 9, 2020.

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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On January 24, 2020, RAP cleanup crews and Park Rangers were met with significant opposition when they attempted to conduct a scheduled clean-up inside the park. During the cleanup, people living inside the park were asked to move their belongings to another area of the park while maintenance was conducted. Though no one was displaced, and no “sweep” was planned, the encampment dwellers, along with a group of 50 homeless activists (including several minor children), conducted a sit-down protest to block the cleanup. To de-escalate the incident, RAP cancelled the clean-up, and only minor maintenance to clean the area around the tents was performed.

Staff and command officers from the LAPD met with representatives from the unhoused population living in the park on January 28, 2020. During the meeting, three self-identified spokespersons (accompanied by a member of the National Lawyers Guild) stated that they would not leave Echo Park unless they were provided with permanent housing. In addition to permanent housing, the group made three demands:

- (1) That the police refrain from enforcing any laws within the park (specifically Section 63.44 of the LAMC);
- (2) That the City cease conducting any park clean-ups; and,
- (3) That police refrain from waking them at night.<sup>14</sup>

The meeting concluded without any agreement between the parties.



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<sup>14</sup> According to LAMC Section 63.44, City parks close at 10:30 p.m. After consulting with the City Attorney’s office, Rampart Area SLOs made a concerted effort to notify everyone in the park that the law precluded anyone from being in the park past 10:30 p.m.

After the impasse, the size of the group living in the park grew even larger. With more people living in the park, the effects of continuous habitation, something for which the park was not constructed nor environmentally able to sustain, caused the park's overall conditions to deteriorate quickly. The growing presence of trash, drug paraphernalia, and human waste began discouraging visitors, especially families, from using park. Less than a decade after its 45-million-dollar renovation, Echo Park was rapidly returning to a state of decay.

As the park's environment and infrastructure continued to spiral downward, so did the relationship between the encampment dwellers and law enforcement. In one instance, one of the more vocal figures, an ex-fashion model named Davon Brown, took to live streaming on Instagram after being shot by a suspected gang member from the "Echo Park" criminal street gang. In his video, Brown claims that Mayor Garcetti and Chief Moore were behind the shooting and, in response, threatens both officials by repeatedly yelling "you're dead Mayor Garcetti" and "you're dead Chief Moore."<sup>15</sup>

On February 26, 2020, Park Rangers and RAP maintenance staff met in the park to conduct a routine cleanup and remove bulky items as allowed by 63.44 LAMC.<sup>16</sup> During the cleanup, which was supervised by Chief Park Ranger Joseph Losorelli, Davon Brown became irate when he was not allowed into a section of the park being attended to by RAP maintenance crews. Brown attempted to push past a Park Ranger, striking the Ranger in the process. An altercation ensued, and Brown was arrested for 243(B) PC – Battery on a Peace Officer.<sup>17</sup>

## Closing the Park

To address the public's concerns regarding the health and safety issues caused by the encampment, and to rehabilitate the park's ecosystem, CD 13 and RAP began searching for a comprehensive solution to the growing problem. After carefully considering several options, CD 13 decided to fully close the park for rehabilitation.

It should be emphasized that closing the park was a **last resort**. The complexity of the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles is well understood by elected officials and in each of the City's departments. Based on their years of experience in dealing with

### **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

During 2020, Calls for Service in and around Echo Park increased nearly 20 % compared to 2018 and 2019.

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<sup>15</sup> Davon Brown Instagram profile. Dated December 1, 2020. [https://www.instagram.com/tv/CIRC93Xn-DR/?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CIRC93Xn-DR/?utm_medium=copy_link)

<sup>16</sup> In 2015, Councilmember Mike Bonin, from Los Angeles' 11<sup>th</sup> Council District, requested that an ordinance be drafted to restrict people from bringing bulky items onto park property. Los Angeles City Council Ordinance No. 1083761, amending Subsections B and I of Section 63.44 of Chapter VI of the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Ordinance was signed July 8, 2015 and became effective July 18, 2015.

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homelessness, City leaders were hesitant to embark upon an initiative that could hurt some of Los Angeles' most vulnerable residents. Out of compassion, before moving forward with any closure, the Mayor's Office insisted that every unhoused person inside the park had to be provided with an appropriate housing offer.



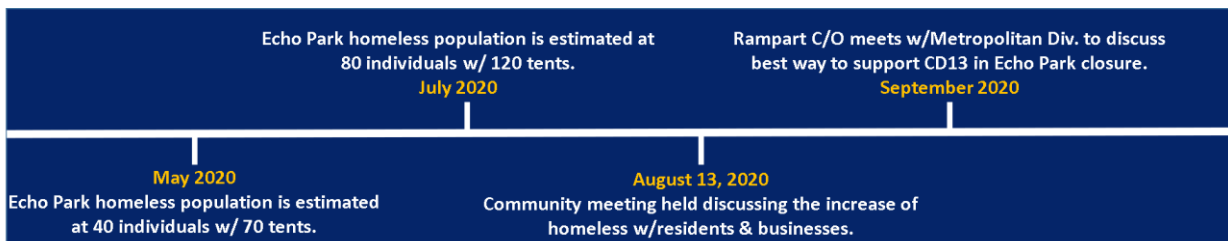
The LAHSA is the entity responsible for the delivery of homeless services in the City and County of Los Angeles. The organization, which was created in 1993 as an independent entity with joint authority in the City and County, has substantial control over federal, state, and local funding for all homeless services, including housing. As the sole conservator of the governmental funding for homelessness, LAHSA coordinates

with more than 100 partnering agencies to provide a variety of services. Unfortunately, for several reasons, LAHSA was hesitant to provide statistics regarding the success of their housing efforts in Echo Park. Without a clear understanding of how successful LAHSA's outreach efforts were, CD 13 was forced to look to outside entities for help meeting the Mayor's requirements.

To comply with the Mayor's guidance, the City reached out to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and religious organizations to identify enough beds to shelter everyone that was camping in the park. In one instance, the Rampart Commanding Officer was able to work with Saint Athanasius Episcopal Church, which is located directly across the street from the park, to open a shelter and supply beds for the unhoused in Echo Park. Before opening its doors, the church attempted to conduct outreach and build relationships in the park. Unfortunately, church volunteers were met with the same hostility shown to City employees. The hostile interactions were so severe that the church canceled the agreement.

### COVID-19 Pandemic

In March of 2020, before CD 13's planned closure could be carried out, the COVID-19 pandemic created a global health emergency that caused the City to issue restrictive health and safety orders based on guidance from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health





## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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(DPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Specifically, the DPH recommended that persons experiencing homelessness who could not shelter indoors should shelter in place inside their tents, as the tent provided protection from the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with the Mayor's direction, the plan to rehabilitate the park was postponed to protect the unhoused people sheltering there.<sup>18</sup>



As the pandemic continued, COVID-19 shelters were established across the City to aid individuals experiencing homelessness. One of these COVID-19 shelters was opened at the Echo Park Recreation Center. The emergence of a new shelter attracted PEH from across the City and the population of individuals sleeping in the park grew to 70 individuals and 140 tents by the close of 2020.

During the pandemic, the group in the park began marketing themselves as an autonomous community that was struggling, but managing, to care for society's disenfranchised citizens.<sup>19</sup> Physical structures began popping up throughout the park. On the lake's western shore, a tarp was fastened to wooden cabinets to create a "community kitchen." Makeshift showers were constructed using plywood and 5-gallon water jugs. CBOs staffed cellphone charging stations using solar powered batteries.

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<sup>18</sup> DOC Notice, Updated Guidance of the Mayor's Safer at Home Initiative, sent to Department personnel on March 29, 2020

<sup>19</sup> Story of Echo Park Lake's Homeless Community: "Where Are We Going to Go" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iY3LwDH72-c>) Dated October 20, 2020.

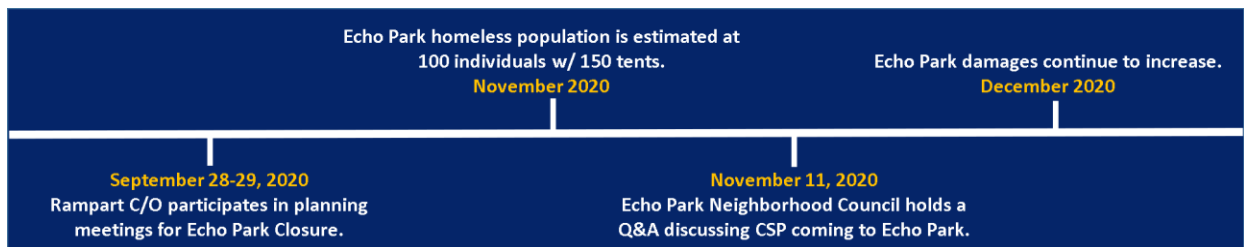
## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Below the surface, life in the park was less than utopian. At CD13, Councilmember O’Farrell’s deputies began hearing rumors that people inside the encampment were using force and fear to profit from the situation by charging rent to sleep in tents within the park. Furthermore, individuals who were willing to accept the City’s assistance were being threatened with violence if they left the park, so they can remain within Echo Park and continue to collect payments.



By the fall of 2020, damage to the park’s environment and infrastructure had reached catastrophic levels. Plant life throughout the park, including all of the park’s grass, was destroyed after the park’s irrigation systems were disabled to prevent sprinklers from showering tents with water. Human feces, jugs of urine, hypodermic needles, and trash littered the lake’s shores and walking paths. Light poles were broken into and electrical systems modified so the people sleeping inside the park could charge their personal electronic devices, such as computers and cellular phones, and operate microwaves.

Nearby residents began complaining that people from the park were trespassing in their yards and knocking on their doors in the middle of the night. Calls for service began to increase within



the area surrounding Echo Park and community members began to express their concerns to CD 13.

Sadly, poor quality of life and property damage were ultimately overshadowed by loss of life. Five people died in the park in 2020.<sup>20</sup> One of the victims, an eighteen-year-old girl from Orange County, was found dead from an overdose just days before she was scheduled to start college.<sup>21</sup>

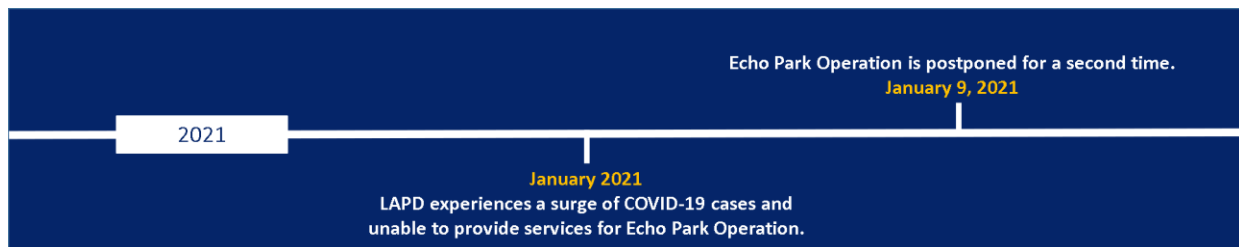
For many Angelenos living in the area, the situation was perceived to be out of control, neglected and unsustainable. As people began to emerge from their homes after a year in quarantine, the deterioration of the recently renovated grounds, the presence of human waste, and the rise in crime, caused residents and visitors to cry out for intervention.

## Revisiting the Closure

The CDC guidance that led the City family to postpone closing the park stated that individuals experiencing homelessness should be allowed to shelter in their tents **if no indoor quarantine options are available**. Additionally, the DPH order advised that homeless encampments should not be cleared *unless* individual housing units were available.<sup>22</sup> By the end of 2020, the City and County of Los Angeles had gone to great lengths to provide various shelter programs for people experiencing homelessness and beds were available for everyone in the park.

Unfortunately, over the previous year, the remaining people living in the park had made it clear that they had no desire to relocate to temporary housing. In an interview with ABC 7, Jed Parriott, a ‘community organizer’ with Street Watch LA, was recorded saying:

“Shelters are not the solution; permanent housing is the solution. So, we really need to be accommodating people and not sweeping them out of sight. We need to be telling these



<sup>20</sup> 06/16/2020 – DR 200211412, Overdose  
08/09/2020 – DR 200213547, Overdose  
10/01/2020 – DR 200215650, Overdose  
10/25/2020 – DR 200216708, Death Investigation  
12/31/2020 – DR 200219188, Drowning

<sup>21</sup> Los Angeles Magazine, The Homeless Republic of Echo Park: Life (and a Death) in L.A.’s Fastest-Growing Tent City. Dated December 23, 2020.

<sup>22</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Guidance for Homeless Service Agencies and Outreach Teams Last Updated May 15, 2020.

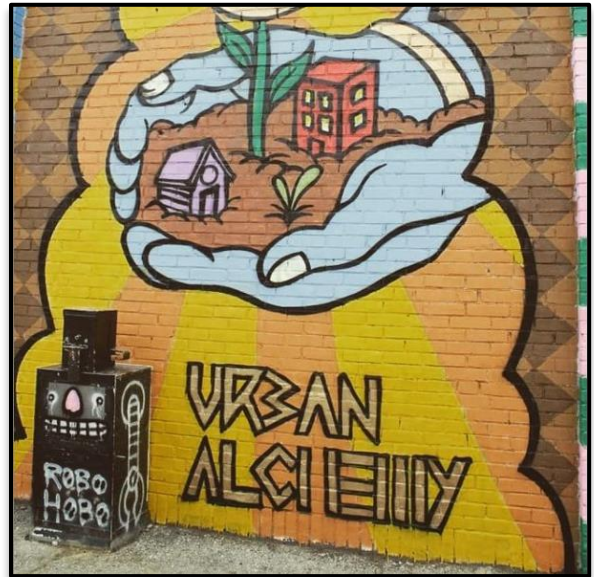
## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

property owners and homeowners, ‘Sorry, you’re going to have to tough this out. I’m sorry that you have to see this; that you have to see poverty. You’re going to have to see it right now until we get permanent housing for everybody. Sorry.’”<sup>23</sup>

As the neighboring community’s pleas for intervention grew louder, it became evident that something had to be done. In direct response to the public’s demands, CD 13 reintroduced their plan to close and rehabilitate the park in December of 2020. Again, LAPD was asked to support the operation by providing security for other City workers.

Unfortunately, during the holidays, COVID-19 positive cases exploded among Department personnel. Between December 1, 2020, and January 31, 2021, 1,684 LAPD employees tested positive for COVID-19 and were forced to quarantine for at least 14-days. The loss of such a significant portion of the Department’s workforce created massive ripples across the organization that drastically effected the Department’s ability to conduct daily operations.

Simultaneously, the Office of Operations (OO) and half of its geographical bureaus experienced a transition in leadership. The Director of OO, and the Commanding Officer of Operations-Central Bureau (OCB), both of whom approached the request with fresh perspective, were uncomfortable with sending an already depleted workforce into a situation where more officers would be placed at risk of exposure. Additionally, both leaders objected to the possible displacement of PEH at a time when the City and County were experiencing such a drastic spike in positive COVID-19 cases.



To ensure that the closure was implemented as smoothly as possible, and to protect LAPD personnel and members of the public from unnecessary exposure and infection, the Department requested that CD 13 postpone the operation until the spike in COVID-19 cases subsided. A new approach was developed by CD 13. The focus would be on bringing Echo Park’s homeless indoors in order to close the park without displacement. Access to Project Roomkey

Urban Alchemy is contracted to conduct outreach & house individuals within Echo park.  
January 2021

City notices an increase of homeless individuals moving to Echo Park to get priority on services.  
February 2021

February 2021  
Urban Alchemy continues to successfully place homeless into housing.

<sup>23</sup> Video link: <https://abc7.com/echo-park-homeless-cleanup-lake/5845914/> [date]

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

beds now made this possible. Due to the lack of information from LAHSA, in January of 2021, CD 13 entered into a \$350,000 contract with Urban Alchemy (UA) to provide additional access to housing for people sheltering in the park.<sup>24</sup>

Urban Alchemy’s experienced approach at building trust led to immediate success in their outreach efforts. In the first three months of 2021, Urban Alchemy was able to place over 100 unhoused individuals into stable housing using Project Roomkey and other COVID-19 sheltering programs.<sup>25</sup> Because UA openly shared their results data, CD 13 could actively manage the housing stock and transportation infrastructure. Unlike the previous year, there was no shortage of available housing to those living in the park. The COVID-19 pandemic had caused state and local governments to fund numerous projects to house and protect their vulnerable unhoused citizens from contracting the deadly and contagious disease. Still the City family continued to encounter uncooperative individuals who refused to accept offers of housing. In contrast, UA’s success in placing eager individuals only served to highlight that a segment of those claiming to be part of the unhoused population in Echo Park had ulterior motives for their continued presence beyond obtaining shelter.

By March of 2021, CD 13 could confidently report that everyone in the park had been given an offer of housing. CD 13 informed the LAPD that they could no longer delay closing and rehabilitating the park. Due to the confrontational demeanor of the remaining population in the park and the potential for large scale protests, the Department agreed to participate in the closure by providing the necessary resources to maintain order and public safety while the park closure went into effect.



<sup>24</sup> Urban Alchemy is a community-based organization (CBO), that was founded in 2018 to “bring a sense of peace and respect to America’s most chaotic urban areas that are struggling with the intersection of extreme poverty, addiction, mental illness, and hopelessness.” According to their website, Urban Alchemy “utilizes the transformative power of love, passion, respect, and a sense of belonging to reshape the lives of society’s most vulnerable members, into society’s most valued members.” See Urban Alchemy website, <http://urban-alchemy.us/our-impact>.

<sup>25</sup> Project Roomkey was developed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to their website, the purpose of Project Roomkey is to provide non-congregated shelter options for people experiencing homelessness using trailers and local hotel/motels.

## **PLANNING**

To properly repair the park's extensive damage, RAP determined that the entire area would need to be fenced off to prevent repopulation of the park, which would only serve to delay requisite renovations, escalate costs, and cause setbacks. Identifying how to erect the fence with minimal interference from opposing activist groups became a significant area of in-depth discussion, requiring scheduling, flexibility and continuous attention. As the entity responsible for public safety, and due to the sheer number of personnel that would be required to successfully secure such a larger perimeter while the fence was being constructed, the LAPD took a leading role in operationalizing the closure. Once the fence was secured, focus would then shift to RAP and LASAN's efforts to remove hazardous waste, legally impound and store other personal property, and assess the damage to the park.

### **Efforts to Mitigate City Liability**

During each phase of the City's response to the situation in Echo Park, the involved City departments relied heavily on legal advice from the City Attorney's office. Before CD 13 initially decided to close the park, RAP sought advice on the enforcement strategies to keep the park safe and free of hazard. The CD 13 decision to close the park the first time in March of 2020, was only made after consulting with the City Attorney's office on the legal requirements needed to close a public area for construction. When COVID-19 began to spread in Los Angeles, the City's decision to allow people to remain in their tents was based on input from the City Attorney's office.

During the planning phase of the operation in March of 2021, the City Attorney's office provided CD 13 and RAP with guidance on several legal requirements related to the potential displacement of PEH, unattended property, and what notice should be given prior to closing a park.

### **Mitigation of Department Liability**

Any enforcement action involving members of the homeless community is complicated and carries significant legal risk. In its response to the situation in Echo Park, the Department focused heavily on ways to mitigate any potential civil liability. For this reason, the Department met with City Attorney's office on seven separate occasions between December of 2019 and March of 2021.

In November of 2019, Rampart Area's initial response to the growing homeless problem in Echo Park, and the creation of a SARA project, was based on legal advice given by the City Attorney's office. The standard, that every person in the park should be given an offer of

housing, was also based on direction from the Mayor's Office in consultation with the City Attorney's office.

While planning the Echo Park Operation, the Department focused on the best way to maintain order and public safety while the fence was being constructed. After several meetings with the City Attorney's office, Police General Counsel, the Department decided the creation of a "public safety perimeter" was the best course of action.

Department staff and command officers continually communicated that the goal of operation was to close and rehabilitate the park. The possible displacement, or arrest, of the unhoused individuals in the park was a potentially unfortunate consequence of the closure, but not the goal of the operation. The division of responsibilities was clearly reiterated throughout the process. While the Department would handle security and public safety, other City departments would be responsible for conducting outreach, allocating available housing, providing tangible resources, and offering access to intervention specialists.

## **Operational Planning and Organization**

The operation to close Echo Park was organized into a unified command with RAP, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), DOT, CD 13 and the LAPD identified as unified commanders. Using the unified objective Special Events Unit (SEU) at OCB took the lead role in planning, requesting the required resources, and publishing the final Event Action Plan for review by the Office of Operations and the Chief of Police.

After consulting with the City Attorney's office, RAP elected to provide encampment dwellers with 24 hours' notice before forcing anyone to leave the park. To accommodate the advanced notice, six Operational Periods (OP) were planned over a three-day period. As described below, each Operational Period was planned with specific goals and missions.

### **Operational Period One (B Watch, 1800 to 0600)**

After a sustained week of outreach by UA and CD 13, and the Department, with the assistance of DOT, would be assigned to secure a public safety perimeter and provide security for the City contractor hired by RAP to install the fence. Response Mobile Field Force (MFF) squads consisting of LAPD officers would stage nearby in the event any demonstrations became violent and interfered with City workers or contractors.

Simultaneously, Park Rangers and Rampart SLOs would be tasked with providing everyone inside the park with written notice of the closure that would take place in 24 hours. In addition to the written notice, signage would be posted around the perimeter of the park.

**Operational Period Two (A Watch, 0600 to 1800)**

Throughout Operational Period Two (OP 2), officers would be assigned to the perimeter to keep anyone not already inside Echo Park from entering the expansive fenced-off perimeter of the closed park. Meanwhile, LAHSA, UA, and CD 13 would conduct extensive outreach and attempt to gain voluntary compliance from all the unhoused people inside the park to accept the offer of shelter and leave the park.

**Operational Period Three (B Watch, 1800 to 0600)**

Consistent with the City Attorney's office advice, at 10:30 p.m., having given 24-hours' notice to anyone remaining in the park, RAP Rangers, assisted by LAPD officers, would close the park to encampment dwellers and attempt to obtain voluntary compliance with exiting. Only as a last resort Park Rangers and LAPD would arrest anyone refusing to leave for a violation of LAMC Section 63.44 (B)(7).

Additional LAPD assets would monitor the perimeter and respond, if needed to any unruly demonstrations.

**Operational Period Four (A Watch, 0600 to 1800)**

With the park clear of persons and the closure in effect, city workers from RAP and LASAN would begin removing personal property and trash from the park. Personal property would be impounded and stored for retrieval.

LAPD officers would be staged at fixed posts along the fence's perimeter to provide security for the workers inside the park. Fixed posts would be responsible for preventing unauthorized persons from entering the park.

**Operational Period Five (B Watch, 1800 to 0600)**

LAPD officers would continue to be assigned to fixed posts throughout the night, to ensure that unauthorized people were unable to enter the park.

**Operational Period Six (A Watch, 0600 to 1800)**

LAPD officers would continue to provide security for City workers inside the park. At the completion of the cleanup, the operation would be turned over to Rampart Area for further monitoring.

On March 23, 2021, the day before OP 1, the SEU held a final briefing in the Roll Call room at Central Station. Representatives from LAPD, LAFD, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), DOT, and RAP attended to discuss the operational plan and offer last minute advice. During the meeting, SEU informed the group that the Los Angeles Times (the Times) had released an article early that morning, advising readers that the park would be closed and fenced on Thursday.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> LA Times Article, "City Plans to Close Echo Park Lake and Clear Homeless Encampment." <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2021-03-23/city-plans-to-close-echo-park-lake-and-clear-homeless-encampment> Dated March 23, 2021.



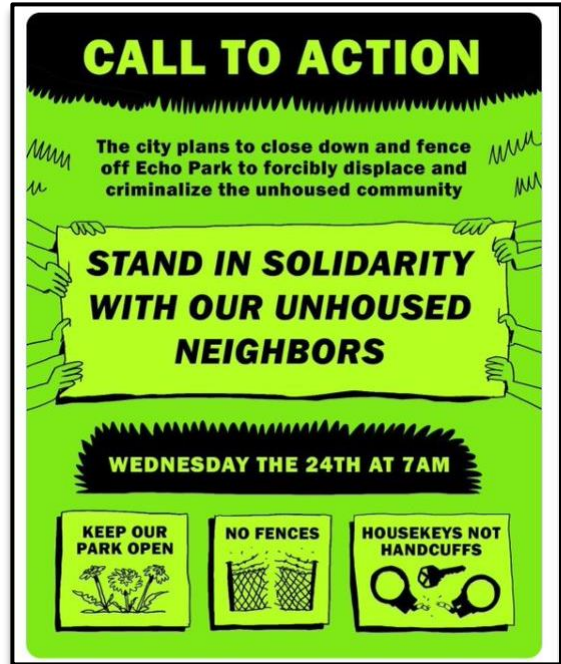
## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Throughout the planning phase, CD 13, RAP, and the Department made every effort to keep the park's impending closure confidential. This was not done out of spite, but out of caution. Based on previous activism within the park, the Incident Management Team (IMT) was concerned that a flood of protestors would entrench themselves in the park if news of the closure was made public.

As expected, in response to the Times article, social media activists began calling for reinforcements to flood the park and "stand in solidarity with our unhoused neighbors." Despite the fact that the Times article indicated that the closure would take effect on Thursday, a rally in Echo Park was scheduled for Wednesday morning.

With the element of surprise no longer available, members of the IMT deliberated whether an additional operational period should be created to monitor demonstrations planned for the morning of March 24, 2021. Opponents of the idea argued that the presence of LAPD officers in MFF squads during daylight hours on Wednesday would only attract more attention and invite additional protestors, making it more difficult for the fence to be erected that night.

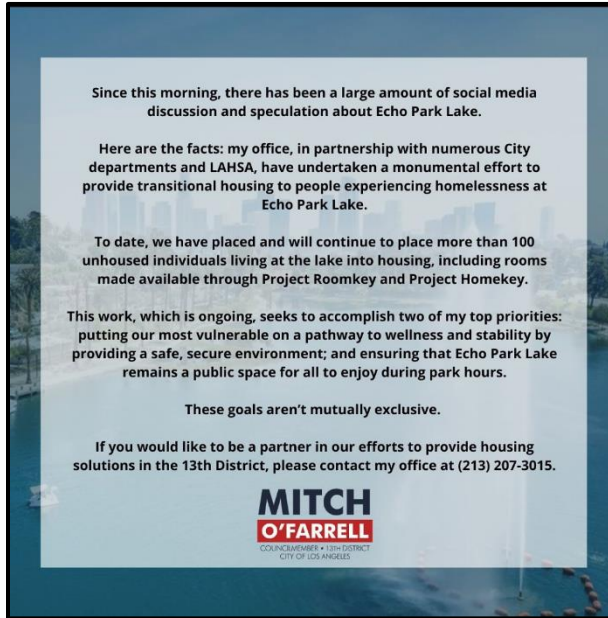


Rather than showing up in force, and escalating a sensitive and highly publicized situation, proponents of the original plan argued that a minimal police presence would prevent any large gathering from gaining traction on social media and in the news. Available information indicated that people would begin to arrive as early as 7:00 a.m., which made it likely that the congregation would lose momentum and disperse organically before the planned operation later that night.

In the end, the operational plan remained the same. Instead of allocating operational resources for the early protests, the Rampart Patrol Commanding Officer would monitor the event with their SLOs to limit the often-imposing presence of law enforcement in the area.

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Another thoroughly discussed topic during the tactics meeting was the plan to erect the fence with people still inside of the park. There was a concern that anyone allowed to remain in the



park would use the 24-hours' notice to gain a position of advantage which could potentially make it impossible to remove them during the OP 3. Instead, it was suggested that Park Rangers enter the park on Tuesday night and give the 24 hours' notice, so on Wednesday night, during the first operational period, the Department would have grounds to remove resistant individuals before the fence was erected.

In the end, it the IMT decided that encampment dwellers inside the park would be notified of the closure by Park Rangers while the fence was being constructed. Despite the tactical challenges that it presented, the IMT ultimately decided to adhere to the original plan because it had already been discussed extensively with

the City Attorney's office. The Department was intent on ensuring that it protected the rights of all individuals involved, followed sound legal advice, and, to the extent possible, shielded the City from liability.

## NARRATIVE

*This narrative is an overview of what transpired during the Echo Park Operation from March 24, 2021 through March 27, 2021. It gives the reader context for the critique and recommendations that follow and allows the reader to assess and evaluate those recommendations based on the facts present during the event.*

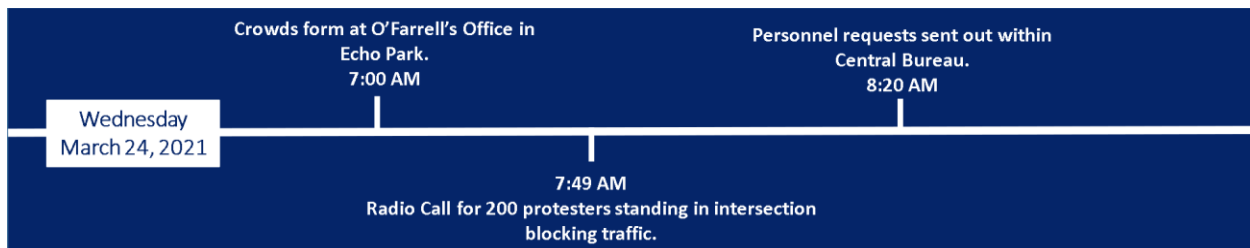
### Pre-Operational Events and Protests

On March 24, 2021, after 14 months of collaboration and outreach, City departments were ready and prepared to close Echo Park for extensive renovation and rehabilitation. Despite the City's desire to keep the operation confidential, rumors of the closure were leaked in the news and on social media three days earlier. Consequently, at 7:00 a.m. on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 11 hours before the first operational period was scheduled to begin, a group of 100 protestors gathered outside of Councilmember O'Farrell's field office to protest the closure.<sup>27</sup>

The IMT planning team was aware of the early protests but decided to move forward with the operation as it was originally planned. Instead of adjusting to provide resources in the morning, they assigned monitoring responsibilities for the early protests over to a small contingent of officers assigned to Rampart Area. This decision was made not to escalate the incident by not providing, what could ultimately be seen, as an antagonistic presence that would draw additional protestors.

Rampart Area's Commanding Officer, Captain Alfonso Lopez, was scheduled to serve as the Operations Section Chief starting with the first Operational Period at 6:00 p.m. that night and was unavailable to handle the early protests. On Wednesday morning, the Rampart Patrol Commanding Officer, Captain Adrian Gonzalez, identified himself as the Incident Commander (IC) and assigned several of his SLOs to monitor the group.

In addition to the group protesting outside Councilmember O'Farrell's field office, Captain Gonzalez began receiving intelligence reports that a second group was forming near the

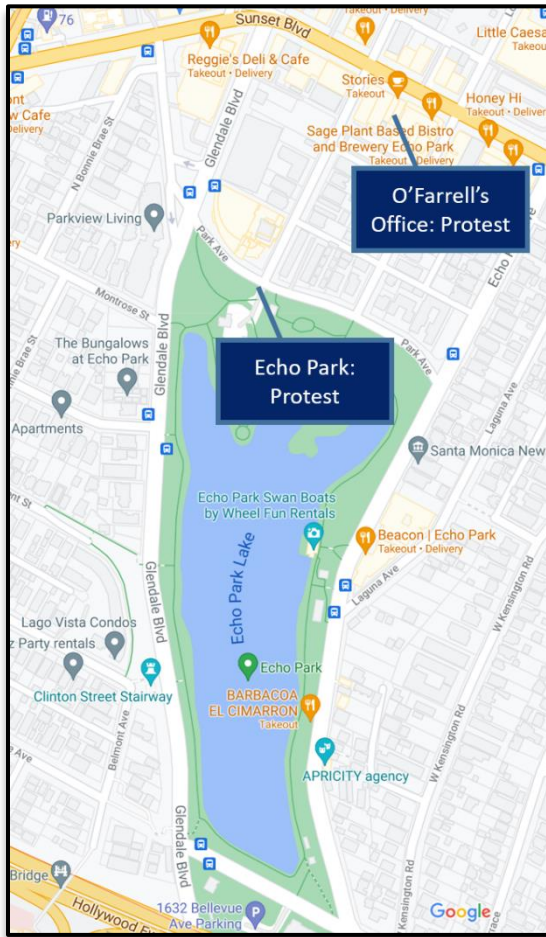


<sup>27</sup> Operation Echo Park was broken down into six operational periods, the first one being March 24, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to March 25, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. The second operational period being March 25, 2021, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Third operational period being March 25, 2021, 6:00 p.m. to March 26, 2021, at 6:00 a.m. Fourth operational period being, March 26, 2021, at 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Lastly, March 26, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to March 27, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. With the sixth operational period being turned over to Rampart Area.

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

northwest corner of Echo Park. At 7:50 a.m. Communications Division broadcast that a person had called to report that a group of protestors at Park Avenue and Lemoyne Street (at the north end of Echo Park) was in the street and blocking traffic.

Around 8:00 a.m., the group of 100 protestors at CD 13’s field office began marching southbound on Lemoyne Street and converged with a group of 200 protestors in Echo Park. The

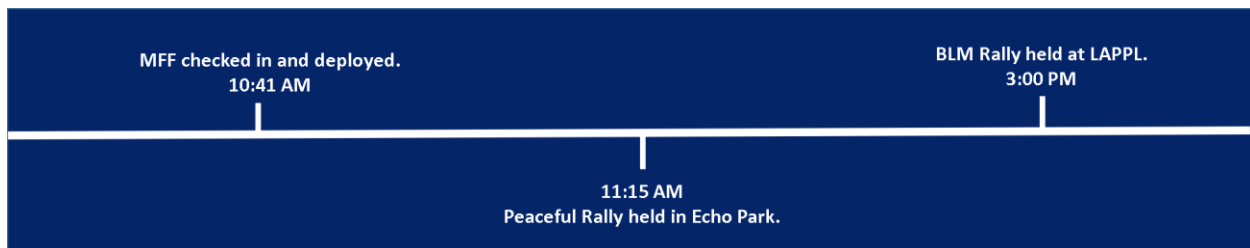


combined group soon grew to approximately 500 people, and several radio calls were generated for excess noise and obstruction of traffic. Despite the increased size of the group, Rampart personnel continued to monitor the situation at a distance and did not observe any significant threats to safety or public order.

At the time, due to a Department-wide freeze on promotions, OCB was operating without an Assistant Commanding Officer. During the Commanding Officer’s absence from command, alternating senior Captains from OCB’s five geographical Areas were serving as Acting Assistant Commanding Officers. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Hollenbeck Area Commanding Officer, Richard Stabile, was the Acting Assistant Commanding Officer of OCB.

As the IC of the incident in Echo Park, Captain Gonzalez continuously provided Captain Stabile with updates on the situation. At 8:30 a.m., out of an abundance of caution, Captain Stabile contacted the SEU at OCB and requested that each Central Bureau Area provide a squad of 1 supervisor and 12 officers in case the group in Echo Park continued to grow and become disruptive.

At 10:40 a.m., Captain Gonzalez had received enough officers to fill an entire MFF (60 officers). Before deploying them to observation posts around the park, Captain Gonzalez ensured that each



## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

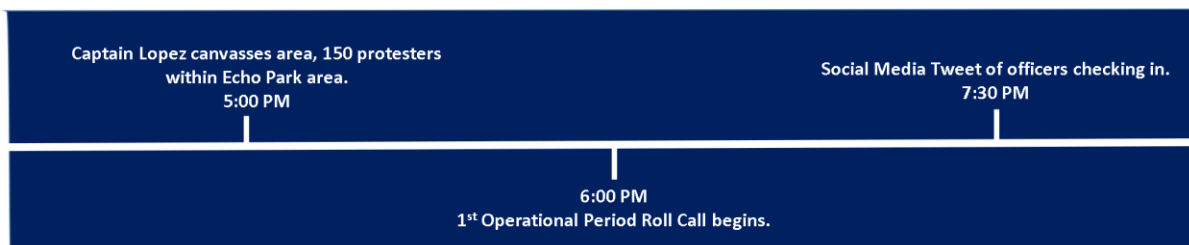
officer had a clear understanding of the Commander’s Intent for the incident.<sup>28</sup> That intent, which had been clearly articulated during the planning of the operation, was to allow First Amendment demonstrations to continue in an obstructed manner with minimal intervention or engagement from the Department. Unless officers observed violent or destructive behavior, they were told to remain at a distance and allow people to voice their opposition.

Though the crowd was larger than anticipated, demonstrations remained peaceful. At 11:45 a.m., after several speeches, the crowd began to disperse on its own. Instead of releasing the officers assigned to the MFF, Captain Gonzalez placed the squad on standby to monitor a reoccurring protest that was scheduled to be held nearby at the Los Angeles Police Protective League (LAPPL) headquarters at 3:00 p.m.

The “Fund Services Not Police” protest held in front of the LAPPL building was organized by Black Lives Matter (BLM) and had been held every Wednesday during the month prior to the park closure. In prior weeks, the protests consisted of approximately 100 people and had always been peaceful. Despite the functional relationship the Rampart command had established with organizers, intelligence reports indicated that the group would march from the LAPPL building and continue their protest in Echo Park.



To prepare for the possibility of a long march and necessary traffic control, Captain Gonzalez kept the MFF on standby. The protest began as scheduled, at 3:00 p.m. and was handled by lieutenants from Rampart Area. The crowd and tenor of the event were similar to the previous protests and the standby MFF was never utilized. When the event ended, and the crowd dispersed without marching, Captain Gonzalez released the personnel assigned to the MFF and directed them to return to their divisions. Rampart SLOs continued monitoring a smaller group that remained in the park throughout the day.



<sup>28</sup> The term “Commander’s Intent” refers to the guiding principles and strategies outlined in an incident’s Event Action Plan (EAP).

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

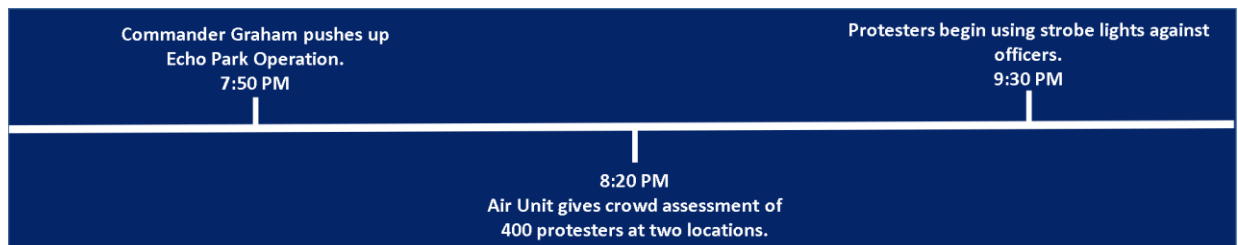
## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

### March 24, 2021 - March 25, 2021 (1<sup>st</sup> Operational Period)

At approximately 5:00 p.m., Captain Lopez, the Operations Section Chief for the first operational period, drove by the park to assess the situation and estimate the size of the crowd. Captain Lopez determined that there were only approximately 150 protesters remaining inside of Echo Park.

Roll call for the OP 1 was scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Command Post (CP). Before roll call, Captain Gonzalez met with Commander Graham, the IC for OP 1, to discuss the day's events.

At 6:00 p.m., Commander Graham held roll call for OP 1. Staff Officers from every Department office and representatives from participating City entities were present for the briefing. During the briefing, Assistant Chief Girmala and Commander Graham relayed the Commander's Intent by strongly emphasizing that the Department was participating in the closure in a supporting role, by providing necessary security for RAP while they closed the park. Captain Lopez identified the Crespo area and gave further direction regarding officer safety, necessary equipment, and the use of less lethal force.<sup>29</sup> Specifically, Captain Lopez encouraged officers to use their BWV to clearly articulate circumstances where it became necessary to deploy less lethal munitions.<sup>30</sup>



<sup>29</sup> See Journalists and Legal Representatives Section. Los Angeles Police Department Uniformed Services Group Notice 8.2.3, Media Relations in Crowd Control Situations, July 8, 2002.

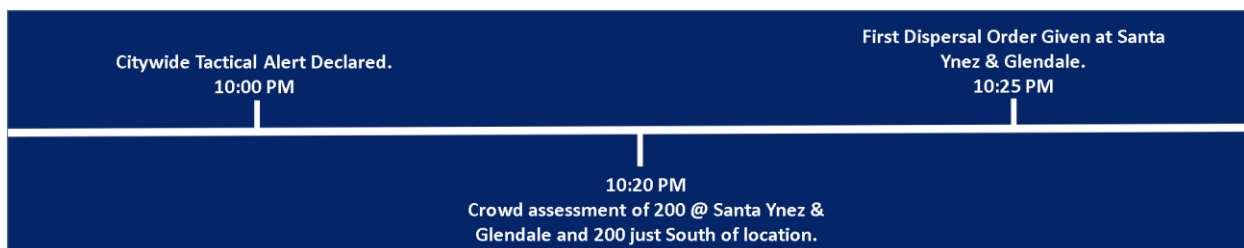
<sup>30</sup> "Tell your story" is a commonly used phrase in the LAPD. It is used to encourage officers to verbally narrate their observations, so that their BWV captures their individual perceptions in real time.

### Decision to Launch Operation Early

At 7:07 p.m., the Twitter account @VPS\_Reports posted three photos of the staging area and the just completed roll call on social media with a caption urging people to respond to Echo Park to “help with defense.” The primary goal of OP 1 was to erect the fence around the park. The increased presence of people inside the park would make it more difficult for the City contractor to build the fence. Concern that a social media push for reinforcements would cause the park to become heavily populated by a large number of protestors caused the IMT to reassess the operational timeline.

Although the closure was not scheduled to begin until 10:00 p.m., at 7:50 p.m. Commander Graham made the decision to launch the operation early and deploy Department personnel as soon as practicable to prevent a large group from gathering inside the park. This proved to be challenging. DOT was responsible for establishing the outer perimeter by shutting down vehicular traffic into the park. When the IC launched the operation early, DOT was not in place, which forced Captain Lopez to make quick changes to the planned deployment of officers.

At 8:26 p.m. the CP requested a crowd estimate. According to the Air Unit, there were 100 protestors in the roadway at Glendale Boulevard and Park Avenue, with an additional group of 150 at Glendale Boulevard and Bellevue Avenue. The airship advised that both groups were being bolstered by a steady flow of people entering the area from side streets. Based on his knowledge of the area, Captain Lopez made the decision to leave the CP to gain better situational awareness of the incident. With Captain Lopez deployed to the field, Captain McGuyre, the Deputy Operations Chief, remained at the CP with the Incident Commander. Although leaving



the CP contradicts ICS principals, Captain Lopez felt that being in the field would give him better understanding of what was happening and allow him to make better operational decisions.

As squads focused on shutting down vehicular and pedestrian traffic around the park, SLOs from Rampart Area began posting signs around the park, notifying that the park would be officially closed in 24 hours. The SLOs recorded the posting of signs on their BWV to prove that the entire park had been given the required notice of the closure.

By 9:04 p.m. there were approximately 100 demonstrators on the north side of Echo Park and an additional 200 demonstrators to the south on Glendale Boulevard. To address both groups, Captain Lopez coordinated two skirmish lines to keep the groups from converging or impeding construction of the fence. As soon as the skirmish lines were in place, protestors began taunting officers with insults and profanity.

### Use of Strobe Lights

During the Civil Unrest in 2020, protestors constantly utilized new tactics to impede Department efforts. One of the more harmful tactics was the use of laser pointers and strobe lights to blind officers assigned to skirmish lines. In response, the Department issued laser protective eyewear to all sworn personnel to prevent injuries caused by the green lasers that were used by protestors.

LAMC Section 55.07 prohibits possession of certain items while attending or participating in any public demonstration, rally, protest, picket line, or public assembly. After the Civil Unrest in





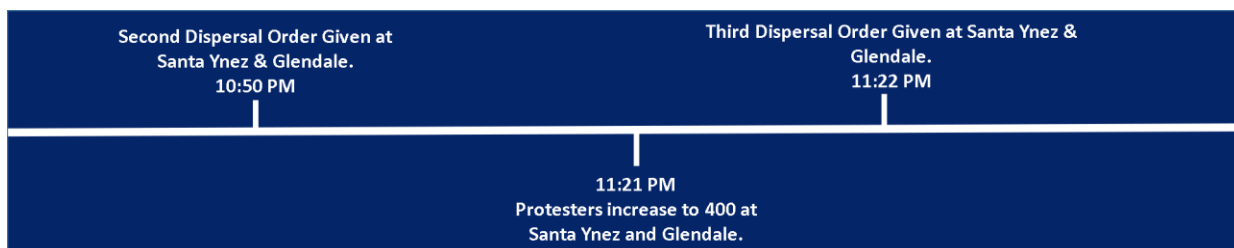
## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020, the City Council amended LAMC Section 55.07 to include laser pointers.<sup>31</sup> Green lasers are known to cause temporary blindness, and in some instances, permanent visual impairment when pointed directly into a person's eye. Lasers directed at aircraft in flight bring additional safety concerns as they can brightly illuminate the cockpit of the aircraft, potentially blinding the pilot. This leads to the visual loss of the pilot's aircraft controls and flight path, causing significant public safety concerns. On November 3, 2020, the requested amendment went into effect.

Including laser pointers in Section 55.07 of the LAMC allowed police to arrest agitators in the crowd for using lasers to interfere with an officer's vision. In response to the new legislation, protestors found a new way amendment interfere with officer's vision by using high intensity strobe lights to cause flash blindness. 'Flash blindness' is a type of blindness that results from sudden exposure to bright light.<sup>32</sup>



Any visual impairment is extremely dangerous for an officer assigned to a skirmish line. Repeated or prolonged blindness in a crowd control situation prevents officers from being able to defend themselves from projectiles or assaults, and potentially having the ability to disarm officers. In addition to other rare side effects, some individuals, like those who suffer from epilepsy, can experience seizures after being exposed to flashing lights.<sup>33</sup>



<sup>31</sup> City Council voted on adding laser pointers as a prohibited item in protests, rallies, etc. The motion occurred on October 28, 2020 and was approved by the Mayor on October 29, 2020. [See https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-1362](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-1362)

<sup>32</sup> Ray, P. L., Cox, A. P., Jensen, M., Allen, T., Duncan, W., & Diehl, A. D. (2016). Representing vision and blindness. *Journal of biomedical semantics*, 7, 15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13326-016-0058-0>.

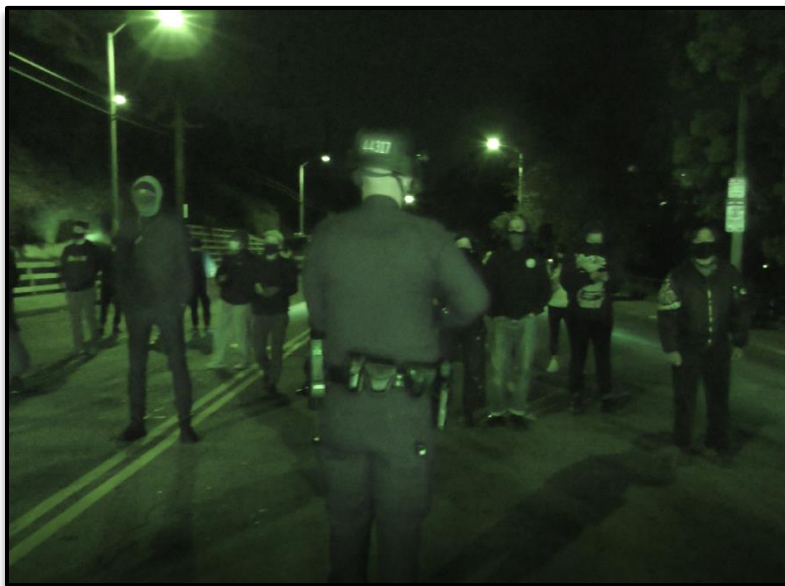
<sup>33</sup> <https://www.epilepsy.com/learn/triggers-seizures/photosensitivity-and-seizures>

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

### LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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At approximately 9:30 p.m., Commander Graham and Captain Lopez conferred via cellular phone. Commander Graham established the objective of keeping the current group on the streets occupied until 10:30 p.m. at which time the park would close to anyone not inside. Captain Lopez began negotiating with protest leaders to move south on Glendale Boulevard. While not quite cooperative, the group continued south. While moving the crowd southbound on Glendale Boulevard, officers reported their first encounters with individuals using strobe lights. The strobe lights had a disorienting effect on officers due to the strobe light's effects, one MFF leader requested a plain clothes officers to the area to identify the individual using the strobe light against officers. Meanwhile, the crowd of protesters continued to shine strobe lights and spotlights, yell, chant, and bang on instruments to create chaos and make it difficult for Department personnel to communicate.



### Use of Less Lethal Munitions

Shortly before 10:00 p.m., protestors in the crowd began lighting illegal fireworks and smoke bombs. As a white blanket of smoke began to cover Glendale Boulevard, officers on the skirmish line lost their ability to see threats further down the street. To make matters worse, activists took to social media to report that LAPD had deployed tear gas, which was not accurate. The crowd became more confrontational and a beanbag round was fired towards a protestor identified as an individual who attempted to take an officer's baton.

### Declaration of Unlawful Assembly

The combination of fireworks and flashing strobe lights presented a clear and present danger to the officers assigned to the skirmish line.<sup>34</sup> At 10:00 p.m., based on the crowd's violent behavior, Captain Lopez decided to declare an unlawful assembly and requested a sound-truck to

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<sup>34</sup> Department policy outlines two circumstances in which an assembly may be declared unlawful. The first circumstance requires an unlawful act. The second circumstance is when people assemble to do a lawful act in a "violent, boisterous or tumultuous manner." In order to be considered violent, boisterous or tumultuous, the manner in which the people are acting must be violent or pose a clear and present danger of imminent violence.

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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respond to the area of Glendale Boulevard and Santa Ynez Street.<sup>35</sup> To ensure that the operation would have necessary resources in the event things continued to escalate, Commander Graham issued a Citywide Tactical Alert. Captain Lopez called Commander Graham to update him on the situation. Captain Lopez requested permission to deploy 37mm Less Lethal Launcher. While tensions were high and there were individual acts of aggression, Commander Graham did not find justification and denied permission.

By 10:20 p.m., the Air Unit assessed that there were approximately 200 protestors at the intersection of Glendale Boulevard and Santa Ynez Street and an additional 200 protestors further south on Glendale. As Captain Lopez organized MFF squads into blocking forces and in preparation for the dispersal order, protestors began moving trashcans into the street to impede the MFF squads' ability to move in a uniform manner. This tactic was commonly seen during the Civil Unrest in 2020.

At 10:25 p.m., a dispersal order was given at Santa Ynez Street and Glendale Boulevard. By 10:34 p.m., approximately 100 protestors remained at the intersection. Those who remained, continued to yell, chant, and bang on instruments with little regard for the community members who were trying to sleep or get home to their residences.



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<sup>35</sup> The Department dispersal order is read verbatim in both English and Spanish over an amplified speaker. The dispersal order specifically states, "Section 409 of the Penal Code prohibits remaining present at an unlawful assembly. If you remain in the area which was just described, regardless of your purpose in remaining, you will be in violation of Section 409." Routes for dispersal and reasonable time frame are also given to the crowd. See Emergency Operations Guide, Volume 5 – Guidelines for Crowd Management and Crowd Control, 2009, p. 43

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While LAPD officers were dealing with the protesters on Glendale, Park Rangers and the fencing contractor continued building the fence around the outside of the park. This caused a certain level of chaos as Department personnel were required to deal with aggressive protesters while

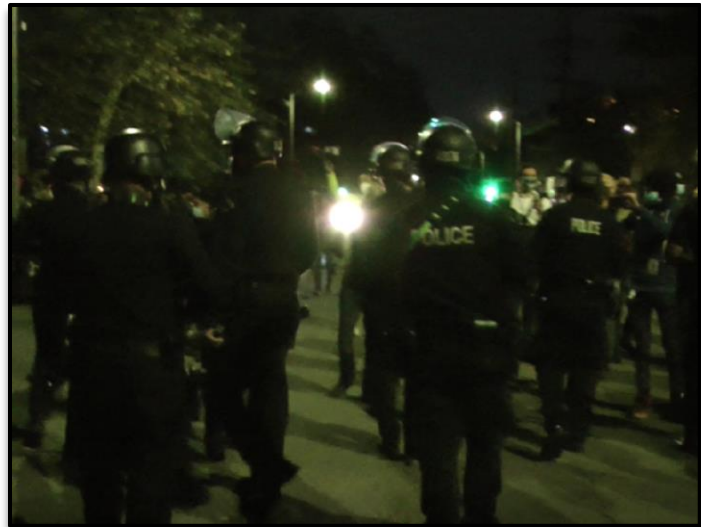


simultaneously providing protection for fellow City employees and contractors. However, strong communication between field commanders and the CP allowed for general situational awareness and good decision making.

A second dispersal order was given at 10:50 p.m. stipulating that remaining protesters had five minutes to leave the

area. The number of protesters at this point increased to approximately 400. As the number of protesters increased, aggressive violent tactics continued against officers. Captain Lopez advised that protesters were now launching fireworks at Santa Ynez Street and Glendale Boulevard, and at 11:21 p.m., a third dispersal order was given by an MFF supervisor, Q210, advising that protesters had ten minutes to disperse. Protesters once again defied orders and remained in the area, continuing to yell at officers and bang on instruments.

On the east side of the Park, Rampart SLOs encountered two protesters who were attempting to block construction of the fence. Officers attempted to gain compliance from the individuals and informed them that they could stand inside, or outside, of the fence, but they could not block construction. After a short impasse, the protesters agreed to move and allowed the fence construction to continue.



Fourth Dispersal Order Given at  
Santa Ynez & Glendale.  
11:50 PM

11:48 PM  
Crowd assessment of 250 protesters at  
Santa Ynez & Glendale.

11:55 PM  
Crowds diminished & one arrest made  
for 409 PC.

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

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By 11:48 p.m., the Department had issued three dispersal orders with little to no effect on demonstrators. Prior to refueling, the Air Unit assessed that there were approximately 250 protesters still in the area of Santa Ynez Street and Glendale Boulevard. At 11:50 p.m. a fourth dispersal order was given, and the number of protesters finally started to diminish. Eventually, only one individual remained in the street. That person continued to yell and shine a bright light in officers' faces. Since several dispersal orders had been given, Department personnel arrested the individual for 409 PC – Failure to Disperse.

### Return to Normal Operations

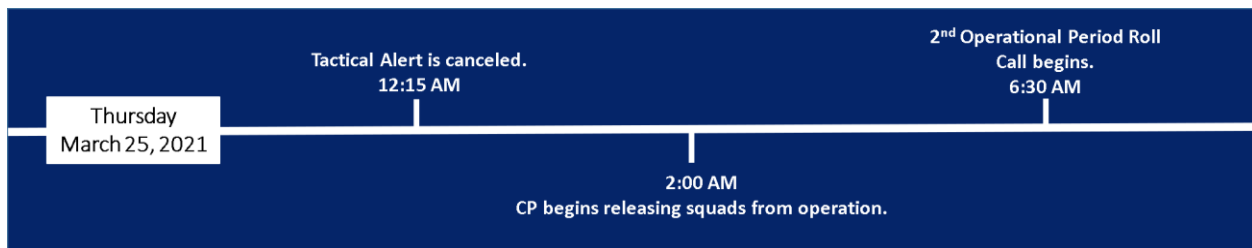
By midnight, it appeared that most of the protestors were gone; however, approximately 50 people remained inside of the park. Following the advice from the City Attorney's office, those people that remained in the park were still within the 24-hour grace period. By 1:20 a.m. Commander Graham canceled the Tactical Alert and at 2:00 a.m. the CP began releasing unneeded units from the incident.

At the close of the first operational period, the top objectives had been completed: the fence around Echo Park was in place and written notice of the park's closure was fully posted. In accordance with the Commander's Intent, Department personnel went to great lengths to allow demonstrators to exercise their First Amendment rights. Despite the protests, the strobe lights, the fireworks, and the repeated dispersal orders, by the end of the first operational period, only one person had been arrested for 409 PC (Failure to Disperse).

### March 25, 2021 (2<sup>nd</sup> Operational Period)

At 6:00 a.m., the IMT from OP 1 met with the oncoming IMT assigned to OP 2 to conduct a transfer of command and a situational debrief. During the discussion, Commander Graham informed Commander Rimkunas, the IC for OP 2, that the population dropped to 30 people inside the park.

After the transfer of command, Commander Rimkunas conducted roll call for A-Watch personnel assigned to OP 2. Like Chief Girmala the night before, Commander Rimkunas emphasized the Department's role as a supporting entity for CD 13 and RAP. Commander Rimkunas stressed his desire that the Department allow people to exercise their First Amendment rights by allowing them to speak and protest. Commander Rimkunas advised the



## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

sergeants and lieutenants to learn lessons from the 2020 Civil Unrest and make sure that officers activated their BWV during any enforcement or crowd control situations. He also discussed the different ranges and criteria necessary for the deployment of less lethal munitions and encouraged supervisors to ensure the officers under their command were familiar with the Department's various policies.

Captain Stabile, the Operations Chief for OP 2, reinforced that the Department's primary mission was to protect the park and the fence around it. He advised officers to be

cognizant of the media and the Crespo location. Captain Stabile also discussed tactics and various responses depending on the actions of the protesters that were anticipated to show up. As the Deputy Operations Chief, and the person most familiar with events leading up to the operations, Captain Gonzalez provided background on the City's decision to close and rehabilitate the park.

At 7:30 a.m., Captain Gonzalez began driving around the park's perimeter to verify that remaining B-Watch personnel assigned to fixed post security assignments were relieved by their A-Watch counterparts. Implementing lessons learned from OP 1, Captain Gonzalez added additional postings west of the lake at the stairs leading down to Glendale Boulevard.

### Press Conference at CD 13

Meanwhile, outside his field office on Sunset Boulevard, Councilmember O'Farrell held a press conference, where he announced that, since January of that year, City partners had been able to house 166 people who had previously been sheltering in Echo Park. More than just housing, Councilmember O'Farrell stated that individuals were being given



# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

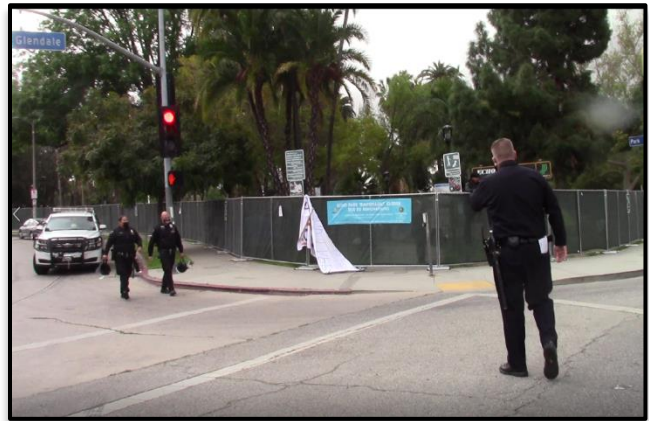
## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

three meals each day, access to medical services, and access to counseling services. The Councilmember emphasized that Urban Alchemy would continue offering resources to every person remaining in the park.

During the press conference, Dr. Lena Miller, the Chief Executive Officer for Urban Alchemy explicitly stated, “we had one goal, and that was to make sure that everybody in this park who wanted housing, was housed.” Dr. Miller, who is not a City employee, proclaimed that the operation was a model of how these situations should be handled and commended CD 13 for doing things ‘the right way’ and making sure that every single person was moved into safety.

At 9:15 a.m., Park Rangers, LAHSA and Urban Alchemy went into the park to offer housing to the individuals remaining within the fence line. Although the City Attorney’s office, advised that housing was not required to close the park; councilmember O’Farrell made the prerequisite for closing the park, was everyone inside was given an offer of housing. To facilitate the movement of those who accepted the services, DOT provided buses and bus drivers to transport encampment dwellers and PEH within Echo Park to hotels being paid for through Project Roomkey.

The morning and early afternoon remained generally uneventful. Aside from a small group of protestors near the Crespo area at Glendale Boulevard and Park Avenue, there was no significant activity to report. Officers maintained their fixed security posts around the fence to ensure that no one entered the park while outreach workers were inside. The area surrounding the park remained closed to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.



At 10:15 a.m. the CP held an operational command briefing. Captain Stabile advised Department personnel to allow LAHSA and Urban Alchemy to handle any issues or inquires related to housing and property storage. Again, there was emphasis placed on the fact that the Department was only involved to provide safety to fellow City entities and members of the community though maintaining the integrity of the perimeter.



## Preparation for Scheduled Protests

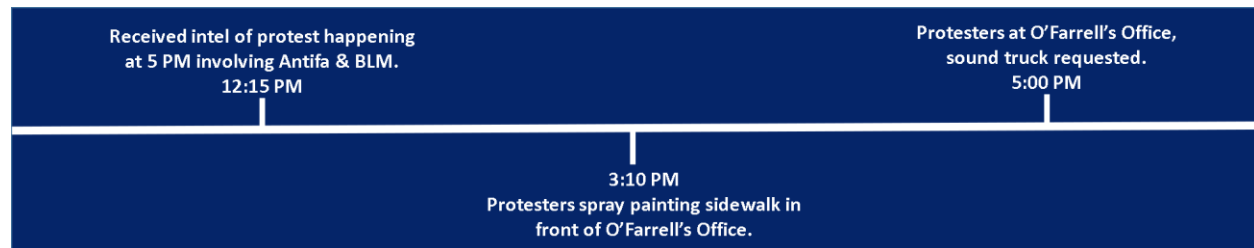
In the afternoon the CP began reviewing tactical plans and resources in preparation for a protest that was scheduled for 5:00 p.m. According to intelligence reports discussed during the 3:00 p.m. command briefing, the protest was getting attention from several activist groups including Antifa.<sup>36</sup> By 3:10 p.m. all necessary Department personnel were deployed with additional personnel on standby. The LAPD Traffic Branch was on post and working closely with the DOT. regional jail locations were staffed and ready to receive arrestees. The CHP and LAFD were at the CP and ready to provide assistance when requested. In summary, the unified command was prepared and ready to handle what the evening had.

At 4:20 p.m., the Department Operations Center (DOC) notified the CP that there were individuals spray-painting “House keys, not handcuffs” on the sidewalk in front of the CD 13 field office. Plain clothes officers were requested to monitor the group, but the responding team was unable to locate the suspects.



## Officer Needs Help Call

By 5:00 p.m. there were no significant changes within Echo Park, however, the group in front of CD 13’s field office was beginning to impede traffic on Sunset Boulevard and Lemoyne Street. In response, Captain Stabile requested that a sound truck respond to advise protesters to remain on the sidewalk. At 5:20 p.m. an “officer needs help” was broadcasted over Rampart frequency behind Councilman O’Farrell’s field office. The sound truck had responded as requested and



<sup>36</sup> “Antifa is a left-wing anti-fascist and anti-racist political movement. It is highly decentralized and comprises an array of autonomous groups that aim to achieve their objectives through the use of both nonviolent and violent direct action rather than through policy reform.”



## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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was being surrounded by hostile protesters who were hitting the truck and throwing cones and objects with unknown liquids.<sup>37</sup>

Officers inside the sound truck attempted to remove themselves from the scene, however, two protesters placed themselves in front of the vehicle and placed their hands on the hood to prevent the truck from leaving the area. In fear of their safety, officers very slowly drove forward, forcing the protesters to move backwards until the trucks was able to drive away from the location. Luckily no officers or protesters were injured during this incident. However, the truck received several dents and other damage from the crowd. In lieu of taking immediate action to identify and arrest the perpetrators, the IC elected to instead take a vandalism report and follow up on the crimes at a later date in an attempt to de-escalate the situation.



### Crowd Management

Meanwhile, at the intersection of Lemoyne Street and Park Avenue, a second group of protesters was beginning to congregate. This became an area of great concern due the presence of an unfenced service entrance into the park located in the area. To prevent the group from traveling southbound into the closed park, Captain Stabile placed a skirmish line on the north side of the intersection of Lemoyne Street and Park Ave. Functionally, this turned Lemoyne into an artery for protestors to freely move between the protest at Sunset and Lemoyne Street, and the protest at Lemoyne Street and Park.

Sometime after 5:30 p.m., an officer was assigned to the skirmish line at Lemoyne Street and Park Avenue observed an individual on a bicycle shine a laser at him. The officer immediately advised the skirmish line and his supervisor, however, due to the increasing size of the crowd, the suspect was able to dissipate into the sea of protesters. Fortunately, the officer was wearing the protective eyewear issued by the Department and did not sustain any injury. Later, after

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<sup>37</sup> A Department Sound Truck is a vehicle that is equipped with amplified sound speaker system to communicate with crowds.

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

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being relieved, the officer documented the incident on an Assault with a Deadly Weapon on a Police Officer investigative report.

By 5:45 p.m. the number of protesters at both sites had increased dramatically. To maintain order and public safety, Captain Stabile directed the Traffic Branch to initiate traffic closures on Sunset Boulevard and the smaller streets leading towards Echo Park. This closure was enacted to protect protesters who were exercising their First Amendment rights.

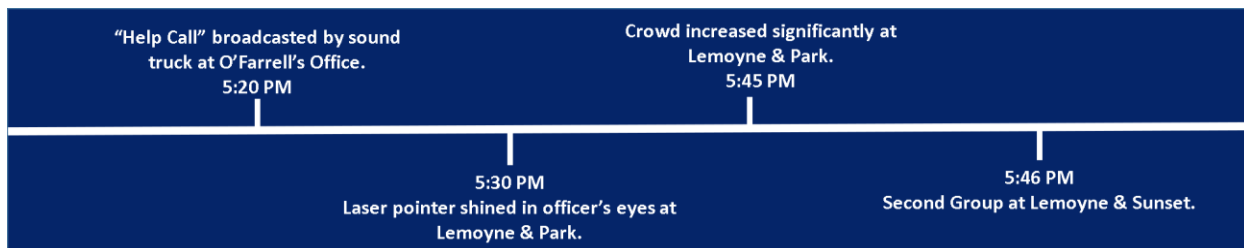


At 6:00 p.m. a transfer of command briefing was held at the CP and Commander Graham, the IC for OP 3, took control of the operation. Due to the growing protests at Lemoyne Street and Sunset Boulevard and Lemoyne Street and Park Avenue, personnel assigned to the field, including command staff, were unable to be relieved from their posts.

### March 25, 2021 – March 26, 2021 (3<sup>rd</sup> Operational Period)

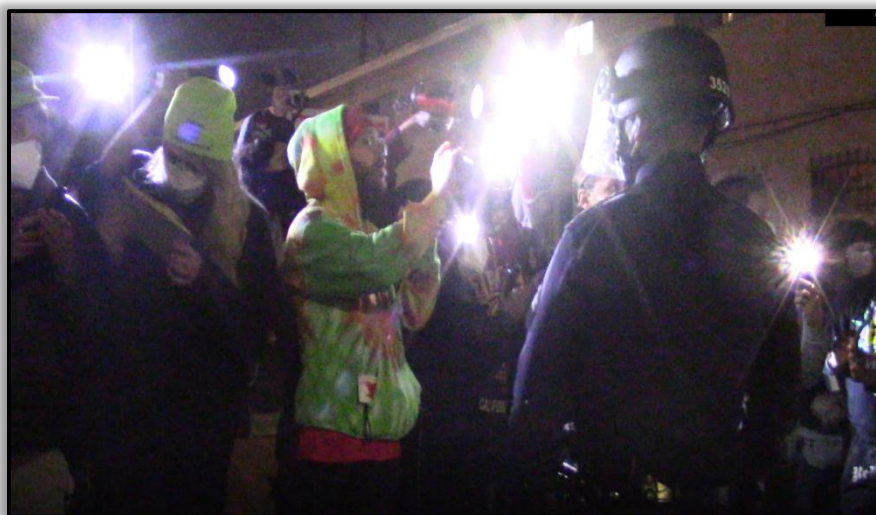
By 6:20 p.m. the transfer of command was complete, and the third operational period was underway. As 7:00 p.m. arrived, Captain Hurtado, who was managing the protest on Sunset Boulevard, informed the CP that the crowd had grown to nearly 1,000 people.

Groups opposed to the park closure were unwilling to believe that the encampment dwellers inside the park had left voluntarily. After the demonstrations the previous night, tensions and anger towards the Department flared online. Despite the fact that the LAPD had not arrested a single person inside the park, social media was aflame with claims that the LAPD, armed in riot gear, was responsible for sweeping PEH from the park.<sup>38</sup>



<sup>38</sup> Twitter Profile, dated March 26, 2021. [https://twitter.com/speedy\\_slighter/status/1375593121799499777](https://twitter.com/speedy_slighter/status/1375593121799499777)

Anger over the Department's involvement in the closure exploded when an audio recording of helicopter pilots telling jokes about dumping helicopter fuel onto protestors was released online. The initial report indicated that the voices on the recording belonged to LAPD officers flying



the Air Unit. The audio recording caused significant outrage and was presented as proof of the Department's disdain for the people in the park. Later, further investigation revealed that the conversation was not between Department employees, but between other helicopters in the area.<sup>39</sup> Unfortunately, those finding could not be substantiated and subsequently released until days after the operation had concluded.

### Use of Strobe Lights

As daylight began to wane over Echo Park, protestors at Sunset Boulevard and Lemoyne Street began migrating southbound to Park Avenue and Lemoyne Street. As the group at Park Avenue and Lemoyne Street grew, they became confrontational with officers on the skirmish line. When the sun had gone down completely, agitators in the crowd began using high intensity strobe lights to blind officers on the skirmish line. This tactic was



clearly antagonistic and intended to interfere with officers on the skirmish line's ability to see. As officers attempted to shield their eyes, the protestors would reposition their lights to shine directly underneath the officer's visors. Making matters worse, officers reported that the protective goggles that were meant to protect against lasers only made the effects of the strobe lights worse. This forced officers to choose between wearing the goggles to protect their eyes

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<sup>39</sup> LAPD HQ Twitter Profile. Posted on March 25, 2021 <https://twitter.com/LAPDHQ/status/1375267135828623363>

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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against permanent damage from green lasers, or not wear the goggles and protect themselves from immediate disorientation and temporary blindness. Almost immediately, officers on the skirmish line were asking to be relieved.

Shortly before 7:30 p.m. the skirmish line began taking projectiles from unknown individuals in the back of the crowd. With their vision impaired by the incessant flash of bright strobe lights, officers on the skirmish line found themselves in a dangerous position without the means to defend themselves against the incoming bombardment of objects. A final announcement was made with a megaphone, directing the crowd to, “back away from the officers, and stop flashing the lights or we are going to do an unlawful assembly.” The crowd did not comply.



### Declaration of Unlawful Assembly

Based upon the crowd's previous acts of vandalism and violence directed towards the sound truck; the laser that was used to assault an officer on the skirmish line; the crowd's refusal to cease attacking officers with strobe lights; and the crowd's organized efforts to interfere with the arrest of individual agitators; Captain Stabile determined that the Department had no choice but to declare an Unlawful Assembly. The only other option would have been to abandon the position, which would have allowed the crowd unfettered access to Echo Park and the service workers who were attempting to provide services to the PEH and complete maintenance at the park.

With the sound truck already in position, the Department began issuing repeated dispersal orders for the area of Parke Avenue and Lemoyne Street. The first dispersal order was given at 7:30 p.m., followed by additional orders at 7:40 p.m., 7:50 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 8:10 p.m. In total, the

dispersal order was read five times in English and two times in Spanish. Despite the repeated orders, the crowd, which included member of the media, legal observers and internet “bloggers,”



failed to heed the Department’s orders.<sup>40</sup> Instead, the crowd remained, continued to use strobe lights, continued yelling, and continued directing profanity at officers.

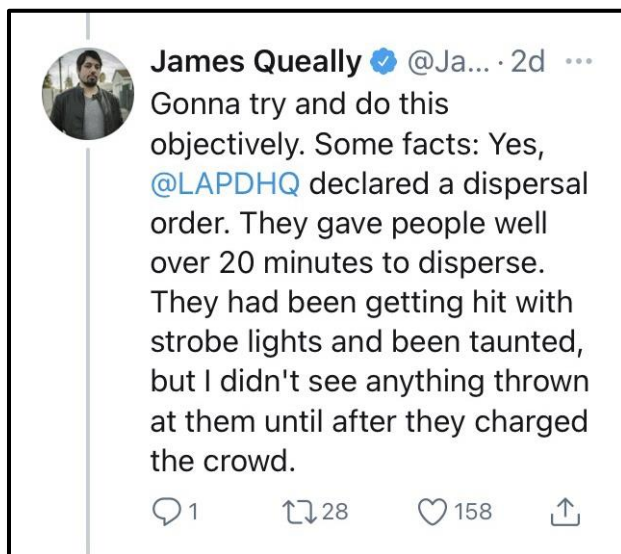
To allow those people protesting peacefully to continue exercising their First Amendment rights, Captain Stabile organized arrest teams to target and detain only those agitators who were using strobe lights so that the others could remain. Unfortunately, the protestors recognized the

Department’s stacked formations. Before the arrest squads could push through to reach the agitators, protesters at the front of the crowd locked their arms together to prevent officers from accessing anyone behind the first line. Despite the interference, Officers held the line and allowed the protest to continue.

### Concessions for Members of the Media

The Department encourages its MFF leaders and field commanders to avoid interfering with legal observers and members of the media, whenever possible. However, according to California Penal Code Sections 407 and 409, as delineated in the Department’s Media Relations Handbook, members of the media are not exempt from dispersal orders and are subject to arrest for failure to disperse.<sup>41</sup>

Consistent with the Department’s stated orientation, the captains on Park Avenue and Lemoyne Street made a concerted effort to avoid arresting anyone from the media or National Lawyers Guild. At 8:05 p.m., 35 minutes after the first dispersal order was given, a bull horn was used to specifically address members of the media and National Lawyers Guild. Repeated



<sup>40</sup> ‘Legal observers,’ commonly referred to as ‘green hats,’ are representatives from the National Lawyers Guild of Los Angeles, who respond to protest incidents to record civil-rights violations against demonstrators. According to their website, legal observers are not required to be California Bar certified attorneys. Anyone over the age of 18 can become a legal observer after completing the required NLG training. <https://nlg-la.org/legal-observing-program/>

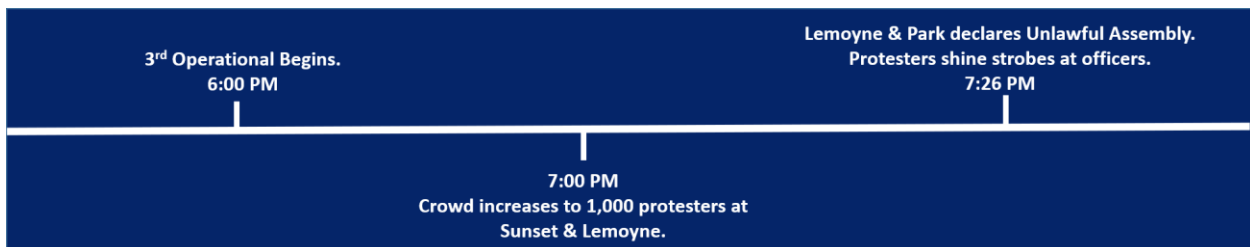
<sup>41</sup> See Media Relations Handbook, Page, 6

twice, these supplemental announcements directed, “any members of the media, or the National Lawyers Guild, disperse to the north now!”



### Arrests for Failure to Disperse

When the dispersal orders failed to have any effect on the crowd, Captain Stabile ordered the skirmish line to begin pushing the group north. As the forward command was announced, the crowd responded by linking arms, stopping the line from moving forward. Without any ability to disperse the crowd, Captain Stabile, Captain Gonzalez, and Captain McGuyre decided that the only remaining option was to surround and arrest anyone remaining for Failure to Disperse. At 8:15 p.m., after three hours of attempts to facilitate the demonstration, Captain Stabile declared that everyone remaining at Park and Lemoyne was under arrest for Failure to Disperse.



# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

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Based on the crowd's acts of aggression, both towards the sound truck and officers on the line, in conjunction with the ineffectiveness of attempts to push the crowd with batons, Captain Gonzalez received telephonic approval from Commander Graham to use the 37 mm to disperse the crowd if necessary.

To contain the group that had just been placed under arrest, Captain Gonzalez deployed four MFF squads in crossbow formation from the east/west alley just north of Park Ave.<sup>42</sup> The MFF squads cut across Lemoyne Street, sequestering a group of approximately 180 people between the northern skirmish line and the southern skirmish line. During the containment, approximately 50 protestors were able to escape northbound on Lemoyne Street and avoid containment.

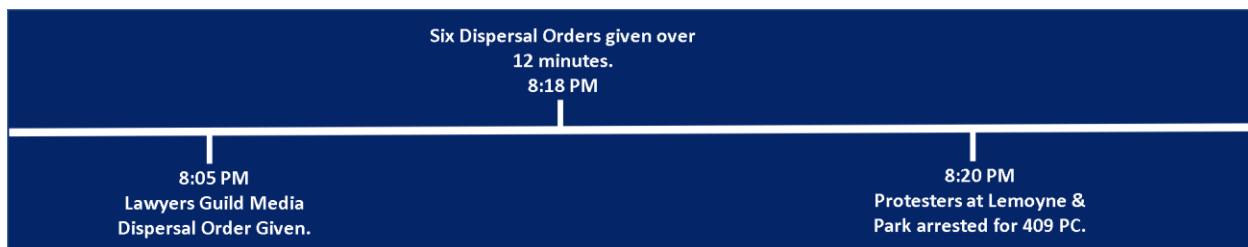
With the aim of preventing another crowd from forming, Captain Gonzalez directed MFF squads to push the remaining uncontained crowd northbound on Lemoyne. As the MFF squads began pushing forward, demonstrators refused to move and began pushing against the skirmish line, causing one officer to fall backwards. Because the crowd had become a physical threat to the officers, the 37mm Less-Lethal Launcher was deployed and proved to be effective at creating distance and getting the crowd to move.



### Use of Less Lethal Munitions

Once again, communication between field commanders and the CP played a critical role in the decision making. Commander Graham and Captain Lopez were aware that Captain Stabile had over 180 detained and was in the process of making arrests.

Therefore, they directed the Captains on Sunset Boulevard to disperse those crowds by pushing them out of the area. The alternative, another mass arrest situation, would have overtaxed the incident resources and caused unreasonably long detentions. Captain Gonzalez and Captain Hurtado, with assistance from Metropolitan Division, began dispersing various crowds that were



<sup>42</sup> Crossbow is a crowd control formation and coordinated unit tactics utilized by law enforcement to control crowds, stop unlawful activity, and disperse and/or arrest violators.

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

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gathering on Sunset Boulevard, and in the parking lot south there. During the movement, the 37mm Less-Lethal Launcher, a non-target specific round, was used to disperse violent crowds, while the 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher and Beanbag Shotgun were used against several individuals perceived to be of immediate threat. The use of Less Lethal Munitions was documented by MFF squad leaders on the narrative portion of the ICS 214 form as required by Department policy.

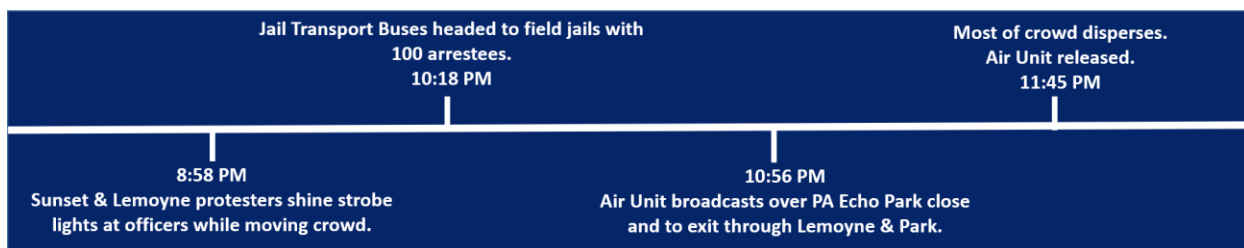
### Field Investigation and Arrestee Processing

Meanwhile, teams from the B-Watch Investigative Branch, led by Lieutenant Heredia from Rampart Area, began overseeing the arrest process at Lemoyne and Park. Building on lessons learned during the Civil Unrest of 2020, members of the investigative team were posted prior to the declaration of unlawful assembly to witness the behavior of the crowd, document the dispersal orders, and coordinate completion of necessary paperwork. Additionally, offers of restroom breaks were documented on logs for Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) and 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Jail).



During the processing of arrestees, three known members of the media identified themselves from within the detained crowd. In response, the CP dispatched supervisors from Media Relations Division (MRD) to provide specialized guidance on their detention. In the end, despite a legal justification for arrest, all three members were released without being cited (See Arrests/Journalists and Legal Representatives).

By 10:18 p.m., less than two hours after the declaration of arrest, jail transportation buses were loaded and heading to MDC and 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Jail. With the mass arrest handled, all remaining A-Watch resources were relieved and released to go home.

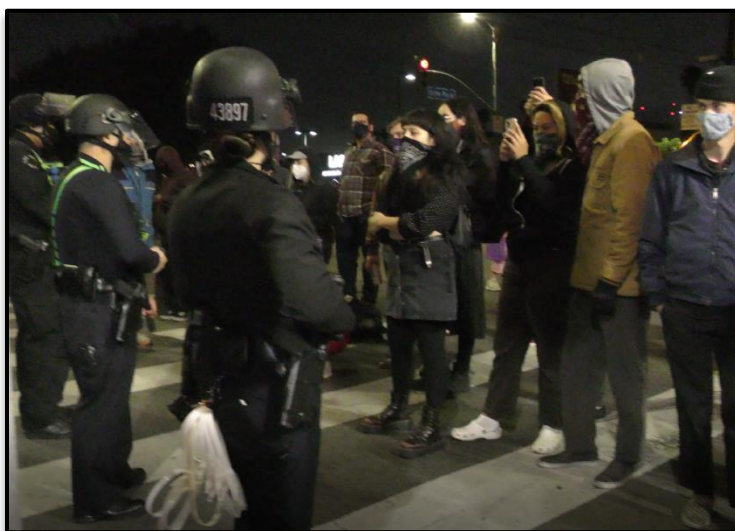




## Return to Normal Operations

At approximately 10:30 p.m. the CP was informed that crowds were continuing to diminish. To decrease the size of the Department's footprint, Captain Lopez began to redeploy resources away from Sunset and back to the park. Inside the park, Park Rangers, Urban Alchemy, and Rampart SLOs conducted outreach and offered housing to those people remaining in the park. At 10:56 p.m., more than 24-hours after notice of closure, Captain Lopez requested that the Air Unit make announcements over the park, informing those inside that the park was closed and they could exit through the gate at Lemoyne Street and Park Avenue.

After midnight, on March 26, 2021, RAP notified the CP that, out of the 10 people that were inside the park, eight had accepted offers of housing. The remaining two people, both known as activists, were adamant that they would not leave the park on their own free-will. After a brief conversation with the Chief of Police, Commander Graham conferred with Chief Park Ranger Joseph Losorelli and they decided to leave the two individuals and have the next operational period make one more attempt to gain voluntary compliance.



Around 12:20 a.m., the DOC notified the CP that an arrestee was streaming video on a jail transportation bus via a Black Lives Matter South Pasadena social media account. Lieutenant Heredia dispatched officers who were able to locate and take possession of the phone until the person was cited and released, at which point the phone was returned.

By 2:21 a.m., all remaining protestors had dispersed. Outside of fence security, the CP released most personnel by 4:00 a.m. Due to the significant decrease in protest activity, with only two PEH inside the park, the Planning Chief significantly decreased the number of personnel needed for the fourth operational period.

## March 26, 2021 (4<sup>th</sup> Operational Period)

At 6:15 a.m., the A-Watch IMT met with the B-Watch IMT to discuss outcomes from the previous night. Commander Graham informed Commander Rimkunas that there were still two people remaining in the Park. At 7:15 a.m., A-Watch conducted roll call and the Planning Chief relayed the days assignments. Outside of perimeter security, the main objective of the operational period was to provide security for RAP and LASAN to begin cleaning the park and storing belongings. For the safety of the workers assigned to the cleanup, the remaining two

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## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

individuals inside the park would be given one more opportunity to accept housing before placing them under arrest and allowing the crews to enter the park.

### Arrests Inside the Park

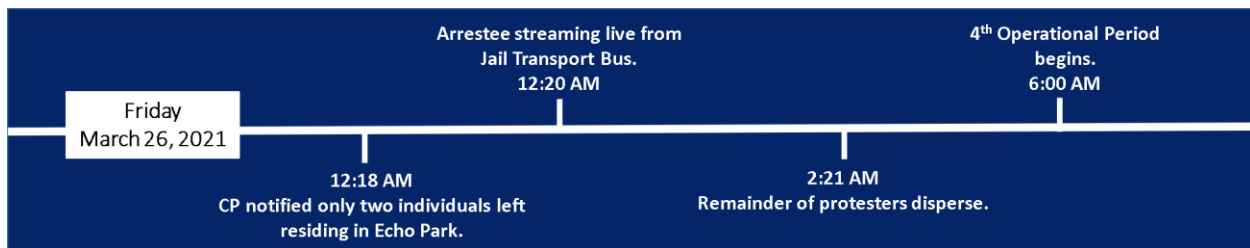
Commander Rimkunas and Captain Stabile remained at the CP while Captain Gonzalez responded to the park to oversee the transfer of duties from B-Watch to A-Watch. By 8:20 a.m., B-Watch had been relieved, and A-Watch was on post. At 8:30 a.m., at the direction of Commander Rimkunas, Captain Gonzalez began requesting resources to address the two individuals inside the park. At 9:35 a.m., Captain Gonzalez entered the park with representatives from CD 13 and Urban Alchemy. Inside they met with the two remaining activists. Inside they met with the two remaining activists. Both individuals were offered housing, and they both refused. With the park having been closed for 24-hours, both individuals were placed under arrest for violation of LAMC Section 63.44(B)(7) - *Prohibition on Using Park Area or Facility for a Purpose Contrary or Inconsistent to its Specific or Designated Purpose*. They were both transported to MDC, where they were cited and released within two hours.



At 9:40 a.m., the CP directed the Traffic Branch to reopen the streets surrounding the park. Glendale Boulevard and Park Avenue remained closed to accommodate the large trucks coming in and out of the park.

With the park empty, LASAN and RAP began the intensive process of clearing trash and storing personal belongings. Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment workers found,

and photographed, containers of needles, tents filled with trash, buckets of urine and feces,



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rotting food, and dead animal carcasses. Salvageable items free of hazardous material were clearly marked and documented before being placed in storage containers for owners to claim later. At 11:25 a.m. Park Rangers were conducting their routine patrol within Echo Park and discovered a loaded firearm in the boathouse. Investigators responded to the scene and handled the investigation.

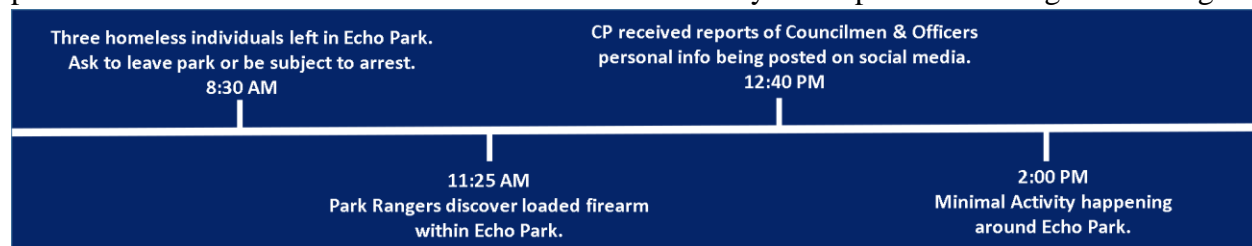
The day continued without notable activity. With no indication of further protests, the Planning Section prepared to decrease the number of officers needed for the next operational periods. CD 13 contracted a private security company to supplement Park Rangers inside the park, leaving LAPD to protect the fence line and the entrance to the park.



### March 26, 2021 – March 27, 2021 (5<sup>th</sup> Operational Period)

Full transfer of command took place at 6:00 p.m. and the fifth operational period began shortly thereafter. Very minimal activity occurred throughout the night.

At 7:30 p.m. there was a handful of protesters using bullhorns who were causing a disturbance at Santa Ynez Street and Glendale Boulevard. Officers in the area were directed to monitor the situation, which eventually dissipated on its own. At 9:00 p.m. the Air Unit checked the perimeter of Echo Park and advised the area was clear. By 11:00 p.m. the CP began releasing



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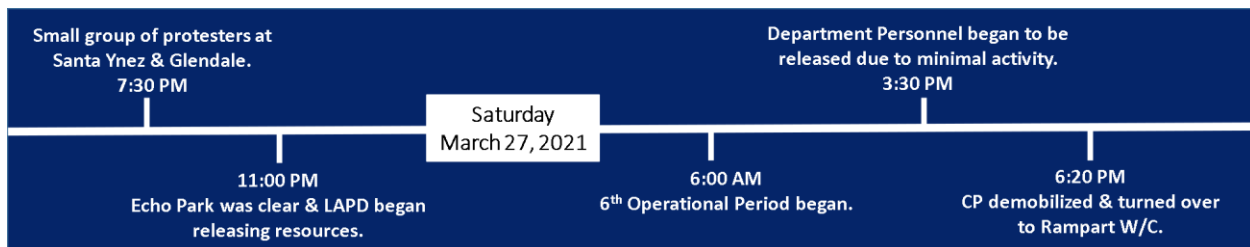
some officers from the Echo Park Operation, and LASAN advised they were done for the night and would return in the morning on March 27, 2021.

The early morning hours were calm and minimal activity was occurring. The CP advised the next operational period would be the last and only needed very minimal staffing.

### March 27, 2021 (6<sup>th</sup> Operational Period)

As the final operational period transitioned into command, the situation in and around the park remained calm. The CP maintained staffing, confirming no protests to occur in the Echo Park area. By 3:30 p.m. most Department personnel were released from the incident. LASAN advised the Department that they discovered a firearm magazine with ammunition while cleaning. Officers met LASAN at the park entrance off Glendale to retrieve the property.

At 6:20 p.m., the CP held its final briefing. With zero activity related to the Echo Park Operation, the CP was set to demobilize at 7:00 p.m., officially ending the operation. Moving forward, Rampart Area would be responsible for supervising a small contingent of officers assigned to the area surrounding the park.



## **CRIMES**

Unlike other major incidents in Los Angeles, the decision to close Echo Park was not spontaneous. The operation was carefully planned and organized. The Department remained ready to assist and was able to allocate and deploy the necessary personnel to maintain order and public safety. The extensive size of the lake and the surrounding fence required a significant allocation of officers to fully ensure the perimeter remained secure.

The only crimes related to the closure were crimes against officers and Department property, committed by protestors. The following crimes reports were taken over the course of three days:

(1) Vandalism report was taken for damage done to a Department Sound-Truck during Operational Period Three

(1) Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW) report was taken for an officer who had a laser shined into his eyes during Operational Period Three.

## **ARRESTS**

The City Attorney's office guided the Department throughout the pre-planning of the Echo Park Operation. Specifically, the City Attorney's office and the Department discussed which sections should be enforced against those individuals refusing to vacate the park after being offered housing.

Most arrests occurred during the third operational period (March 25, 2021-March 26, 2021).

### **Felony Arrests**

From March 25, 2021 through March 27, 2021 there were six operational periods. Out of the six operational periods, there were no felony arrests made.

### **Misdemeanor/Infractions Arrests**

Between March 24, 2021 and March 27, 2021, there were 187 misdemeanor arrests that were made related to the Echo Park Operation. The arrests are broken down as follows:

Operational Period No. 1: (1) Protestor arrested for 409 PC – Failure to Disperse

Operational Period No. 2: (2) Bystanders arrested for 148(A)PC – Resisting Arrest

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- Operational Period No. 3: (182) Protestors arrested for 409 PC – Failure to Disperse
- Operational Period No. 4: (2) Individuals arrested for 63.44(B)(7) Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) – Prohibition on Using Park Area or Facility for a Purpose Contrary or Inconsistent to its Specific or Designated Purpose.

### Journalists and Legal Representatives

After Los Angeles hosted the Democratic National Convention in 2000, the lawsuit *Crespo vs. Los Angeles* led the Department to re-evaluate how it handles media during crowd control situations. One of the changes implemented was the requirement for the Department to identify a specific area for media to cover the event.<sup>43</sup> This designated media zone is commonly referred to as a “Crespo Area.” Consistent with Department policy, the Event Action Plan for the Echo Park closure included a Crespo Area on the northwest corner of Park and Glendale. This area was chosen for its unobstructed view of the northwest corner of Echo Park, where the population of unhoused persons was the densest.

Despite having identified a Crespo area, during the mass arrest situation that took place at the start of the third Operational Period, six persons who identified themselves as members of the media were detained when the Department surrounded a large group of protestors that had failed to disperse after an unlawful assembly was declared. Several MRD supervisors were dispatched to the scene from the CP. Upon their arrival, they identified and released three known members of the media. Ultimately, three internet bloggers and video streamers were arrested and transported to MDC, where they were cited for 409 PC and released from custody.



As stated in the Department’s Media Relations Handbook, California Penal Code Sections 407 and 409 state that the media is not exempt from the requirement to disperse after an unlawful assembly has been declared. Department policy further states that, “After declaring an unlawful assembly, the Department will designate a dispersal route for all persons present, including the news media, to use when evacuating.” (See Footnote #30). During the Echo Park Operation, seven dispersal orders were given, with two additional orders given specifically to media, directing them to disperse to the north.

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<sup>43</sup> Los Angeles Police Department Uniformed Services Group Notice 8.2.3, Media Relations in Crowd Control Situations, July 8, 2002.

In the aftermath of the operation, news outlets were critical of the Department, specifically officers and front-line supervisors, for not immediately releasing members of the media who identified themselves after the group was detained. One of the journalists, James Queally, who writes for the Los Angeles Times, admitted to hearing the dispersal order and knowing where the Crespo area was, but, in his words, “if I’m covering a protest, it’s a fluid situation, I can’t stay in a pen.”<sup>44</sup> Queally also admitted that he did not identify himself until he was detained. It was at that point, during the process of detaining the large group, that Queally expected to be immediately released.

The process of conducting mass-arrests, in arrest team formations, does not allow officers the latitude to pick and choose who is handcuffed, and who is not. The arrest of a large group involves a large number of people utilizing processes and systems identified ahead of time. During the Echo Park Operation, the system that was utilized was ultimately successful, as evidenced by the fact that the three legitimate media representatives were identified and released without being booked.

**Note:** The LAPD conducted a thorough evaluation of the circumstances and actions that led to the detention of members of the media during the mass arrest situation on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During the analysis, it was determined that the sergeant who responded to Queally’s supervisor request made an improper remark. The supervisor’s conduct is being investigated as part of a personnel complaint and the reasonableness of the detention will be included in the adjudication.

## USE OF FORCE

The Department’s guiding principle when using force is reverence for human life. Officers are taught to make every attempt to control an incident by using time, distance, communication, and available resources to deescalate a situation whenever it is safe, feasible and reasonable to do so.<sup>45</sup> In many situations, de-escalation requires that officers avoid creating situations where a tense encounter is likely to lead to an application of force. Instead, officers are trained to find creative ways to achieve their desired goals without physical force.

The entire year leading up to the closure was an exercise in de-escalation. City family, and the Department, made repeated attempts to prevent the destruction of Echo Park without relying heavily on enforcement of LAMC sections. Similarly, during the planning of the park closure, RAP and CD 13 went to great lengths to obtain voluntary compliance from the people living inside the park to avoid using Park Rangers or LAPD officers for enforcement action. Additionally, during each operational period, it was clearly stated that the objective was to provide security for construction of the fence while allowing demonstrators to safely exercise their First Amendment rights.

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<sup>44</sup> Conversation with MRD Sergeant Guzman after Queally was released. Conversation is recorded on BWV.

<sup>45</sup> See Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Section 1/556. 10, Policy on Use of Force.

During the operation, field commanders and officers showed immense restraint in allowing protestors to have a voice. The following are only a few examples of steps the Department took to avoid enforcement action or application of force in order to facilitate First Amendment activity:

- During the first operational period, Captain Lopez declared three different dispersal orders and only arrested one individual, even though the crowd was launching illegal fireworks.
- On the night of March 25, 2021, officers assigned to the skirmish line at Park Avenue and Lemoyne Street held their position for three hours despite a constant barrage of insults, verbal threats, and blinding strobe lights.
- That evening, the crowd was warned to stop their behavior to prevent an unlawful assembly. Once the unlawful assembly was declared, the Department issued seven orders before resulting to mass arrests.

However, despite the Department's attempts to avoid confrontations with the crowd, there were instances when force was used. For reference, Departmental policy characterizes the use of force in two forms: non-deadly force and deadly force.

## **Non-Deadly Force**

Non-Deadly Force is defined as only that force which is "objectively reasonable" to:

- Defend themselves;
- Defend others;
- Effect an arrest or detention;
- Prevent escape; or;
- Overcome resistance.

Non-Deadly Force incidents are investigated as a Non-Categorical Uses of Force (NCUOF) and are investigated by an uninvolved supervisor. All NCUOFs are adjudicated through an employee's chain of command with review and oversight of Critical Incident Review Division.

In a crowd control situation, a Use of Force Report is not required when officer(s) become involved in an incident where force is used to push or move individuals who exhibit unlawful or hostile behavior and who do not respond to verbal directions by the police; or where a baton strike is used in response to threatening or violent behavior.<sup>46</sup> In these instances, LAPD policy dictates that supervisors document the force used on the ICS, Forms 211/214, or as directed by the IC. A NCUOF report is only required when an officer(s) becomes involved in an isolated

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<sup>46</sup> See Los Angeles Police Department Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 11.1, Crowd Management, Intervention, and Control, dated October 2020 – Page 5, Note, indicates that strikes should be reported to a supervisor and appropriately documented.



incident with an individual during a crowd control situation, which goes beyond the mission of the skirmish line.

During the closure of Echo Park, officers reported using a range of force options including, but not limited to, baton pushes; baton strikes; sock rounds fired from Beanbag Shotguns; 40mm sponge rounds fired from the 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher; and foam rubber baton rounds fired from the 37mm Less-Lethal Launcher. Except for a single incident that is being investigated as a NCUOF, applications of non-deadly force were utilized by officers working in organized squads and were appropriately reported on ICS 214s as required by Department policy.

**Note:** Though most of the non-deadly force utilized was recorded on ICS 214s, personnel complaints were generated for any complaints of excessive force or other alleged misconduct. At the time of this report, 12 separate personnel complaints have been generated regarding police action at Echo Park during the closure.

## Deadly Force

Deadly force shall only use force upon another person when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:

- To defend against an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person; or,
- To apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

Incidents of deadly force are investigated as a Categorical Use of Force (CUOF). The Force Investigation Division investigates all CUOF incidents. The categories for CUOF include, but are not limited to:

- An incident involving the use of deadly force (e.g., discharge of a firearm) by a Department employee;
- A use of force incident resulting in an injury requiring hospitalization commonly referred to as a law enforcement related injury (LERI);
- All intentional head strikes with an impact weapon or device (e.g., baton, flashlight, etc.) and all unintentional head strikes that result in serious bodily injury, hospitalization or death.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> See Los Angeles Police Department Manual, Section 3/792.05, Definitions- Categorical Use of Force.

Though deadly force was not used during the Echo Park operation, it should be noted that an individual who was struck by an officer's baton did claim to have sustained a broken arm.<sup>48</sup> The individual incident was investigated by Force Investigation Division, and it was determined that the incident did not rise to the level of a CUOF because the individual was not admitted to the hospital. As described in the next section, the use of a baton on approved target areas (center body mass and limbs) is not considered a use of deadly force unless the individual is unintentionally struck in the head or admitted to the hospital for injuries sustained by the use of force.

## Less-Lethal Usage

Since the Safe LA Civil Unrest that occurred during the summer of 2020, the Department has faced increased scrutiny concerning its use of less-lethal munitions during crowd control situations. In Federal court, opposition groups seeking to limit the Department's ability to use the less-lethal projectiles during demonstrations have claimed that LAPD officers, "*...engaged in the indiscriminate use of less lethal weapons and baton strikes contrary to law.*"<sup>49</sup>

There were three less-lethal munitions systems utilized by the Department during instances of volatile protests during the closure of Echo Park: the 40mm Less-Lethal Launcher (40mm LLL); the Beanbag Shotgun; and the 37mm Less-Lethal Launcher (37mm LLL).<sup>50</sup> According to Department policy, the 40mm LLL and the Beanbag Shotgun are both target specific munitions that can be "*used on a hostile individual which may or may not be in a crowd that poses an immediate threat of violence of physical harm.*" The 37mm LLL is a non-target specific munition that can be used "*as a crowd control tool when a dispersal order has been issued and/or immediate action is necessary, to stop violence, to ensure public safety, and to restore order.*"<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> On March 25, 2021, Isaac Scher posted a picture on Instagram stating that the LAPD had broken his arm while he was protesting in Echo Park. Van Nuys Division initiated a Level I NCUOF investigation. This incident is also being investigated by IAG as part of a personnel complaint.

<sup>49</sup> Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, Congress (DBA Los Angeles Community Action Network), Linus Shentu, Weston Rowland V. City of Los Angeles, Complaint for Damages and Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

<sup>50</sup> Metropolitan Division has access and authorization to use additional weapons systems. Those systems are rarely utilized and were not used during the Echo Park Operation.

<sup>51</sup> Los Angeles Police Department Use of Force Tactics Directive No. 11.1, Crowd Management, Intervention, and Control, dated October 2020

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Less-lethal munitions used during crowd control situations are documented in the narrative portion of a squad leader’s ICS 214. According to the ICS forms submitted by squad leaders at the end of each operational period, the following less-lethal force munitions were utilized in crowd control situations:

| <b>Less-Lethal Munitions Used</b> |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| 40mmFoam Round                    | 5  |
| Bean Bag Sock Round               | 12 |
| 37mm Foam Baton                   | 6  |

## **DAMAGES & COSTS**

The rehabilitation of Echo Park involved a coalition of City departments that included: Council District 13 (CD13), Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP), Los Angeles Sanitation (LASAN), Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT), the Los Angeles City Attorney’s office, and the LAPD. Any analysis of the City’s response to the homeless crisis in the park must consider that the situation was fluid and changing for nearly 15 months. When the population in the park initially began to grow, the City Family went to great lengths to address the issue without closing the park. Resources and expenditures during this outreach phased are included in this report. In summary, costs incurred by City entities in response to the increase of unhoused persons sheltering in Echo Park are broken down into four categories: outreach; closure; cleanup; and rehabilitation.

### **Outreach: January 2020 to February 2021**

When the population of people using Echo Park for temporary shelter began to grow in November of 2019, representatives from every City department went to great lengths to provide the unhoused population with access to vital services and housing options. Closing the park and relocating the unhoused population was a last resort. In the 15 months prior to the park’s closure, the City Family conducted regular outreach, provided access to laundry, toilets, showers, and safe storage areas. For entities like LASAN and the LAPD, many of the services provided were part of routine operations, and specific estimates were not obtained. The following figures are estimates of costs provided by each entity:

|       |  |                          |
|-------|--|--------------------------|
| CD 13 | Storage Facility at 1146 Glendale Blvd | \$291,355                |
| CD 13 | Aroma Laundry Vouchers                 | \$1,195                  |
| CD 13 | Mobile Hygiène Site                    | \$720,000                |
| CD 13 | Portable Toilets                       | \$9,206                  |
| CD 13 | Contract with Urban Alchemy            | \$350,000                |
|       |  | <b>Total \$1,371,756</b> |

### **Closure: March 24, 2021 and March 25, 2021**

In order to prevent the repopulation of the park, CD 13 determined that the park would have to be fully fenced off in order for cleaning and maintenance crews to work in safety. Due to the size of the lake, the contractor estimated that it would take approximately eight hours to construct the fence. During that time, DOT closed the area to vehicle access while LAPD provided security around the lake.

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LAPD’s costs were spread across the entire operation, which encompassed both the closure, and the clean-up portions of the operation.

Entities involved in the closure of the park incurred both salary and hard costs for services rendered.<sup>52</sup>

|              |   |                    |
|--------------|---|--------------------|
| DOT          | Parking Enforcement Personnel             | \$5,170            |
| DOT          | Transit Personnel                         | \$12,187           |
| LAPD         | Air Unit Operation (Maintenance and Fuel) | \$5,397            |
| LAPD         | Mobile Command Response Unit Equipment    | \$687              |
| LAPD         | Personnel: Regular Salary Costs           | \$782,998          |
| LAPD         | Personnel: Overtime Hours (Code 17)       | \$510,730          |
| <b>Total</b> |   | <b>\$1,317,169</b> |

### Cleanup: March 26, 2021 and March 27, 2021

After the fence around the park was secured, and the two remaining protestors were removed, the majority of the clean-up activities were the responsibility of RAP and LASAN. Over the course of two days, LASAN removed over 35 tons of trash and hazardous materials. Meanwhile, LAPD maintained fixed posts around the park in order to protect the cleanup.

|              |  |                  |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| LASAN        | March 26 <sup>th</sup> Clean-up (46 LSD Personnel) | \$34,240         |
| LASAN        | March 27 <sup>th</sup> Clean-up (24 LSD Personnel) | \$17,637         |
| LASAN        | Clean Harbors                                      | \$29,800         |
| LASAN        | Disposal – 35.70 Tons                              | \$2,660          |
| LAPD         | Personnel: Regular Salary Costs                    | \$343,425        |
| LAPD         | Personnel: Overtime Hours (Code 17)                | \$395,912        |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>\$823,674</b> |

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<sup>52</sup> Salary costs are estimates only. City employees have varying salaries based on rank and experience. In order to provide this number, averages salaries were multiplied by number of personnel and hours worked.

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**Park Rehabilitation: March 28, 2021 to Present**

At the time of this report, Echo Park is still in the process of being rehabilitated. Therefore, reported costs are estimated figures provided by CD 13 and RAP.

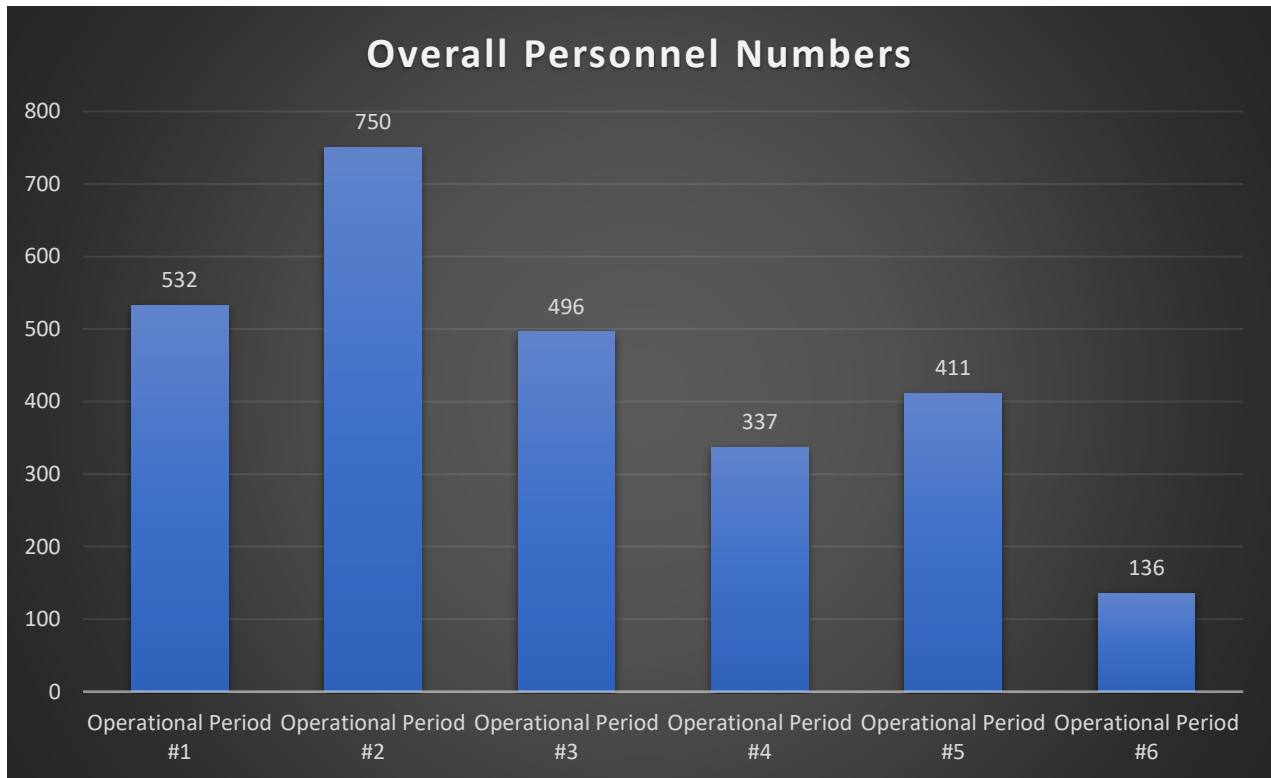
|              |  |                  |
|--------------|--|------------------|
| RAP          | Lawn Refurbishment and Irrigation Repair | \$90,000         |
| RAP          | Replace Drinking Fountains               | \$50,000         |
| RAP          | Install Covers on Light Poles            | \$20,000         |
| RAP          | Replace (4) Light Poles                  | \$20,000         |
| RAP          | Replace Damaged Restroom Fixtures        | \$12,000         |
| RAP          | Replace (20) Restroom Doors              | \$30,000         |
| RAP          | Replace Locks on (20) Restroom Doors     | \$15,000         |
| RAP          | Replace Restroom Lighting                | \$12,000         |
| RAP          | Repair Bridge                            | \$7,500          |
| RAP          | Paint Restrooms, Bridge, and Boathouse   | \$45,000         |
| RAP          | Repair View Deck                         | \$50,000         |
| RAP          | On-Site Security During Rehabilitation   | \$80,000         |
| RAP          | Perimeter Fencing                        | \$104,000        |
| RAP          | Installation of 33 Security Cameras      | \$200,000        |
| <b>Total</b> |  | <b>\$735,500</b> |



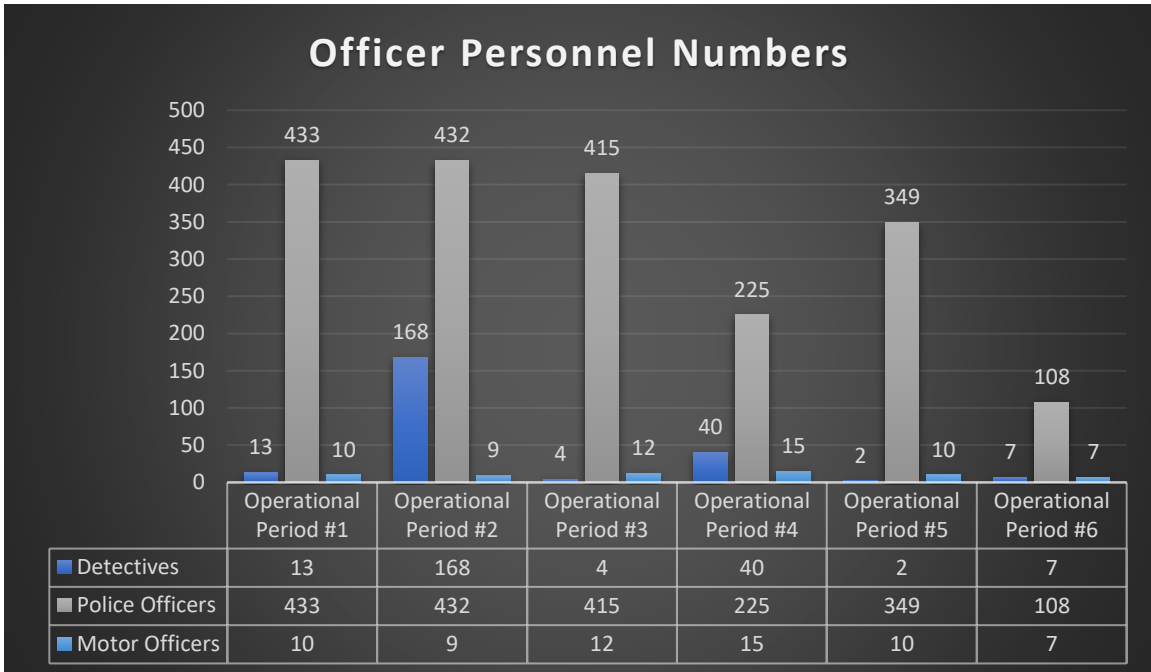
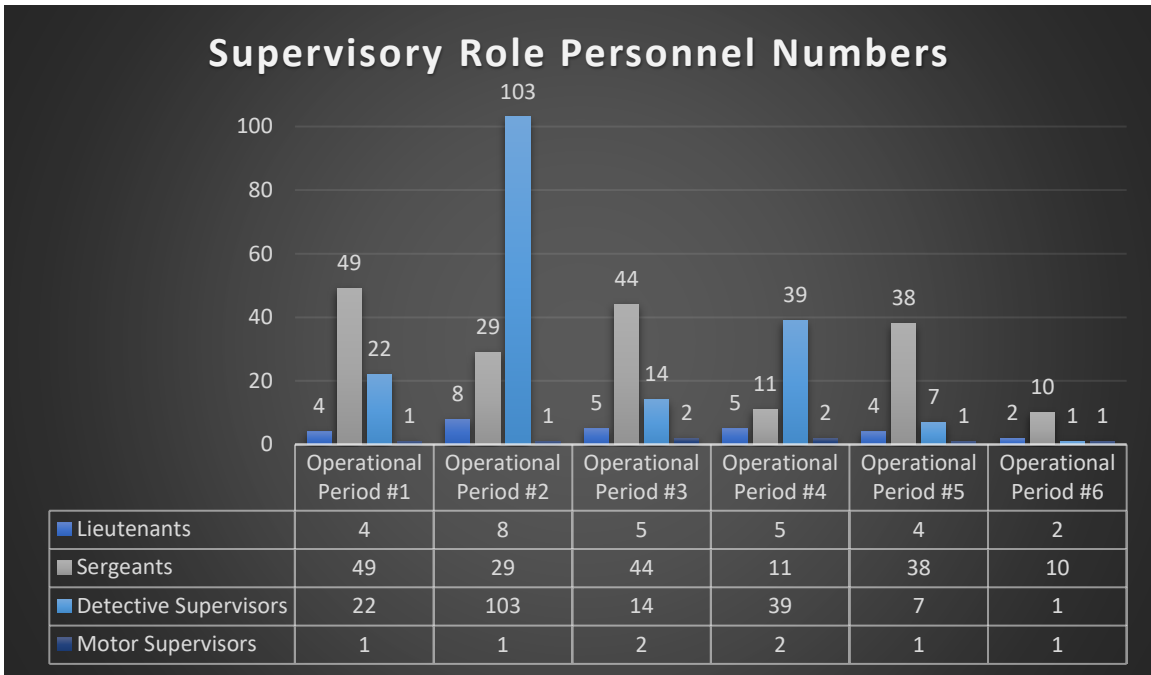
## PERSONNEL

Personnel assignments were documented on ICS 211/214 forms. Officers assigned to the incident were instructed to check-in and out with the Staging Unit located at a Dodgers Stadium parking lot. When a person went end of watch (EOW), supervisors were instructed to complete and turn in their ICS 211/214 forms to the Demobilization Unit collocated with Staging. The Planning Section then stored the forms for each date.

In the tables below personnel have been broken down into two categories (Supervisory Roles and Sworn Personnel) solely related to the Echo Park Operation. Again, the counting of personnel was solely based on ICS 211/214 forms that were submitted to the Demobilization Unit. Personnel have been broken up into each operational period configuration starting with March 24, 2021 for all personnel assigned.



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## **LOGISITICS**

For this event the Command Post and Staging Area were in one location and was set up at a Dodger Stadium parking lot. Not only was this the official Check-in and Demobilization location for all resources responding to the Echo Park Operation, but this is where CP staff and other agency liaisons would oversee the operation. Below is the equipment that was staged and used at the Command Post and Staging Area:

- Mobile 3 Command Tractor and Trailer
- Plans Trailer
- Alternate Department Operations Center Trailer
- Tractor with attached 25kw Generator (CP power)
- Light Trailer
- Portable Restrooms
- Laptops
- EZ Up Canopies
- Tables
- Chairs
- Portable Satellite System (WIFI for CP)

The following vehicles were used to logistically support the incident with the movement of supplies and equipment to the CP, the Staging Area, and various field locations:

- Stake Bed Truck with left gate
- Box Truck with lift gate
- Pickup Trucks

## **CRITIQUE**

The critique portion of this After-Action Report is based on information provided by a variety of sources, including the Department's General Staff assigned to the management of this incident, chronological information logs, videos, body-worn video, social media, media outlets, pictures, communication recordings, and subject matter experts. The critique will focus on recommendations for areas of improvement and are organized to correspond to the narrative section when possible. As with the other sections of this report. It should be noted that Department personnel were strictly operating in a role of support for the City Family. The Department was only one part of this operation to protect and serve all City entities involved with this operation. In accordance with the Department's core value of "Quality Through Continuous Improvement," the purpose of this section is to improve in the future by learning from the past. This is achieved by discussing the events transparently and respectfully.

## **Lessons Learned**

### **1. Pre-Operational Events and Resources**

The day before the operation was scheduled to begin, the IMT received intelligence that a protest was scheduled for the morning of March 24, 2021, before the first operational period. Instead of organizing resources to monitor the event, the IMT team elected to have the local Area handle the incident internally. The decision was made tactically, to prevent an unnecessary encounter between police and protesters that could escalate into a major disturbance.

The protest on the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> ended up being larger than expected, causing the Acting Commander of Operations-Central Bureau to direct the Special Events Unit to send last-minute personnel requests to each area in Central Bureau. Ultimately, the protest action remained lawful, and the personnel who were called in were never deployed.

### **Recommendations on Pre-Operational Events and Resources**

The presence of uniformed officers at certain demonstrations tends to increase the size and duration of the events. Regarding the Echo Park Operation, the Department was only involved in a support capacity. The decision to maintain a low profile for the period leading up to the event was sound. The fact that extra resources were called in and not deployed supports the original decision to allow the local Geographic Area to monitor the situation.

In hindsight, an additional operational period could have been created to cover the early protest. During that time, assigned resources could have been placed on stand-by at the CP to maintain the desired low-profile. This is a best-case scenario and should be considered in future operations if resources are available.

## 2. Record-Keeping of Personnel and Less-Lethal

The organization and maintenance of thorough records during an event is a critical function. During the Echo Park Operation, the CP maintained its incident chronological log and situational status reports. During the operation there was only one source tracking all pertinent events and several vital information points were not properly recorded. In addition, the Finance/Administration Section, Planning Section, and Logistics Section did not work together causing an inability to accurately capture resources (personnel, equipment, supplies) deployed to the incident. The system used for the tracking of resources proved to be inadequate. At the end of the incident, it was difficult to locate supplies, resources, and personnel. Further, all personnel did not accurately document unit designations, personnel assigned, resource requests, missions, uses of force, injuries, etc.

Shortly after the Echo Park Operation, a federal judge granted a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) restricting the Department's ability to use less lethal munitions during crowd control situations. In response to the TRO, the Office of Constitutional Policing and Policy requested detailed information regarding the Department's deployment of less-lethal munitions during the Echo Park Operation. That information was not readily available or captured in a way that could be referenced without significant research.

Following the incident, entities inside and outside of the Department requested information regarding the number of officers deployed during the operation. Like the issue regarding less lethal usage, the necessary deployment information was not readily available. Afterwards, in order to determine the correct number of officers deployed, ICS Forms 211 and 214 were counted by hand. The Department experienced a similar problem after the Civil Unrest in 2020.

### Recommendations on Record-Keeping of Personnel and Less Lethal

Currently, there is a large gap between the level of documentation that goes into a traditional NCUOF incident, and the level of reporting and investigation that accompanies the same type of force used during a crowd control situation. While acknowledging that crowd control situations are complex, and chaotic, the Department should devise a system for accurately capturing all relevant information regarding deployment of less lethal munitions. After being assigned to a scrimmage line for several hours, it is unrealistic to expect an officer, and their supervisor, to be able to recall all the detailed information the Department needs to manage liability.

Requiring officers and their supervisors to review BWV before turning in their ICS 214 Log becomes troublesome when the BWV runs out of battery before the conclusion of the event and/or demobilization. Though this is not always the case, it happens enough that BWV should not be used as the foundation for reporting less lethal munitions. Instead, the Department should correct the current Demobilization form to capture specific details regarding the use of less lethal munitions. Specifically, the form should capture the date, time, officer serial number, type, and number of munitions used by any officer deploying less-lethal munitions.

At the end of each operational period, the Planning Section should compile this information and record it in a way that makes the information easily retrievable in the short and long term.

*Modernize Technology* is one of the primary goals listed in the Department Strategic plan for 2020 and beyond. During large scale events, the Department needs to utilize technology to track the number of less lethal systems and munitions that are deployed in the field.

### 3. Photographers and Videographers

After the Civil Unrest in 2020, the Department held a citywide training for videographers. However, despite the training, the Echo Park Operation was unable to deploy effective videographers to record vital information. Of the four videographers utilized, only one captured quality, useful footage. This occurred, in part, because officers from other assignments were inserted into these positions and sent into the field without proper training or direction. As a result, very limited details were captured, and most of the details that were captured were missing vital narration and time stamps. Photographers were not assigned to the incident at all.

#### Recommendations Regarding Photographers and Videographers

Photographers were a missing resource during this event. Photographers can be used to document evidence and capture before and after pictures of protest areas. In preparing this report, there were no photographs of the damage to Echo Park or relevant pictures of protestors' actions against officers. The Department had to rely on other means of photography by outside entities or compile still frames from video that can be potentially grainy. Having pre-designated photographers at each event/incident is vital and necessary.

Regarding videographers, it is imperative that only personnel that have completed the Citywide training be assigned to such positions. Additionally, a refresher course for videographers should be generated in which they are trained on how to properly narrate the events that they are observing. For example, they should at least describe where they are (with words and visual evidence if possible) as well as the actions of individuals in the crowd (i.e., throwing frozen water bottles at officers).

In order to maximize the number of personnel who have this knowledge, Training Bureau should consider this for regular routine Department Schools. The Department should develop a guide for videographers to ensure all pertinent information is captured in photographs and videos. This guide can be reviewed with videographers prior to deployment. Each geographic Bureau should identify personnel as videographers and ensure they receive the proper training prior to deployment as a videographer. This position would be an ancillary duty. Videographers should be requested prior to an incident, preferably during the planning phase. To further their training and expertise in filming, videographers should be assigned to a variety of events to understand and gather experience in all scale and types of events. Having videographers not only assigned to MFF squads but assigning additional videographers with the Department sound truck and/or jail buses so the Department can capture all vital information that may be needed at a later date.

#### 4. Field Jails and Arrestee Processing

There were several lessons learned during the Department's response to the Civil Unrest in 2020 that were successfully incorporated into the plan for closing Echo Park for maintenance and repair. Detective Teams consisting of two investigators were assigned to each MFF which proved especially beneficial during the subsequent arrest and documentation process. Use of the new two-sided Pre-Booking Arrestee Information Sheet played a vital role regarding arrest documentation and report completion.

After leaving the scene, Transportation Teams consisting of two officers were assigned to vans and buses to provide transportation of the arrestees from the location of arrest to a jail facility for processing. Field Jail Teams consisting of PM-Watch Detectives were assigned to Metropolitan Jail Section and 77th Regional Jail Section, appropriately selected locations, to work in partnership with Custody Services Division personnel.

#### Recommendations Regarding Field Jails and Arrestee Processing

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> OP, the Investigative Section Chief assigned an investigative team to monitor the protest on Park Ave and Lemoyne Street. From behind the skirmish line, that investigative team was able to document the crowd's actions, and specifically notate the times of each dispersal order. This role proved to be extremely valuable for the detective assigned to filing the charges for the mass arrest.

Moving forward, the Department should consider expanding MFF squads to include two imbedded investigators, one being a supervisor. In addition to important investigative documentation, imbedded investigators could also be responsible for documenting vital information on the use of force and less lethal munitions.

A robust Investigative Section, staffed by officers with investigative experience, is a necessity. Additionally, having experience personnel in these vital positions would decrease delays and ensure that necessary information is correctly captured.

#### 5. Detention of Journalists and Legal Observers

Dealing with the influx of self-identified 'media' has become increasingly difficult during protests incidents. During the Echo Park Operation, officers on skirmish lines were constantly met by individuals claiming to be members of the media trying to get through the line of officers. Many of these individuals were identified by a simple patch or hats with the label, "media." Based on the antagonistic demeanor displayed by some of the nontraditional reporters, officers had difficulty distinguishing between legitimate media and social media 'influencers.'<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> The Department has routine interactions with several social media 'influencers' who create content for their personal social media accounts. Unlike traditional news organizations, these individuals make no attempt to remain neutral, and often interfere police actions.

Additionally, officers encountered several legitimate members of the media who expressed outrage at being detained in the large group that was surrounded on Park Ave and Lemoyne Street. As stated previously, the media is not exempt from an order to disperse from an unlawful assembly.

In the aftermath of the operation, news outlets were critical of the Department, specifically officers and front-line supervisors, for not immediately releasing members of the media who only identified themselves after the group was detained. The process of conducting mass-arrests, in arrest team formations, does not allow officers the latitude to pick and choose who is handcuffed, and who is not.

### Recommendations on Detention of Journalists and Legal Observers

The Department needs to provide formal guidance to address the rise of independent journalists, reporters, and “observers” in today’s culture. In Los Angeles, many activists double as online reporters for alternative news sources. These individuals expect to be given free access during crowd control situations, while antagonizing officers and impeding police action.

Currently, Department policy states that members of the media who remain at scene after an unlawful assembly has been declared are subject to arrest.<sup>54</sup> Though policy states that the Department will make efforts to accommodate the media, policy does not state that members of the media should be automatically released after they are detained at the scene of an unlawful assembly. Officers and front-line supervisors, who do not have specialized training, should not be put in a position to fail if they come across an accredited member of the media while working in an arrest team in MFF configuration. The Department should consider publishing a formal policy or specific guidance regarding what actions field supervisors and officers should take when they detain someone at the scene of an unlawful assembly.

## 6. Communication on IC Authorization of Less Lethal

During the third operational period, the IC gave telephonic authorization to deploy the 37 MM at Park and Lemoyne. The authorization was then passed on to Metropolitan Division, who later used the 37mm Less-Lethal Launcher on Sunset Boulevard. When the Captain managing the dispersal of another violent group on Sunset asked communications if 37 mm Less-Lethal Launcher approval had been granted, he was told that it had not.

### Recommendations on Communication of Authorization of Less Lethal

Authorization for the 37 mm Less-Lethal Launcher should be clearly broadcast over the radio so there is no confusion and appropriate documentation can be inputted. Additionally, when feasible, field commanders should acknowledge the authorization to ensure consistency.

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<sup>54</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, Media Relations Handbook

## 7. Partnering with City Entities

The physical and costly damage done to Echo Park was the result of a large homeless encampment that was allowed to expand for over a year. From the start, RAP, CD 13, and LASAN utilized different strategies to address the issue to prevent the problem from growing out of control. Despite their efforts, and partially due to the emergence of COVID-19, their strategies were unsuccessful. As the City begins addressing similar homeless situations in other City managed parks, there are specific areas in which there is room for improvement.

The structure and organization of City departments creates confusion regarding which entity holds final authority over public spaces. All City parks fall under the oversight of RAP, however, only a select few are regularly monitored by the Park Rangers. In the case of Echo Park, the limited size and resources of the Park Rangers forced the Department to become involved in an incident that should have been handled by RAP.

For an entire year, CD 13 and RAP relied on LAHSA to provide outreach and services to the PEH inside Echo Park. When COVID-19 created a public health emergency, direction from the Mayor's Office required that every person inside Echo Park be provided with an offer of housing before being removed. To ensure that each person had been given that change, CD 13 went outside of the City to obtain the help they needed from a private company. As the City's primary homeless service provider, LAHSA should have been able to fulfill that need.

Since the Civil Unrest in 2020, many Americans, and Angelenos alike, have begun insisting that local governments provide unarmed, alternatives response units, to handle non-violent requests for service. Non-emergency situations involving homelessness are a perfect example of the type social issues that are best handled by a non-enforcement entity. Unfortunately, as one of two City departments that responds around-the-clock, the LAPD is often required called upon to use enforcement orientated resources to address non-violent civil problems. Echo Park was no exception.

### Recommendations for Partnering with City Entities

Council District 13's leadership was the primary factor that led to the closure of Echo Park. As an elected representative, Councilmember O'Farrell had the ability, and took the initiative, to act when opposing groups made conflicting demands. In the case of Echo Park, CD 13 was the entity that coordinated and requested the help of each supporting agency. CD 13 was also responsible for making the difficult decision to close the park. In the future, the decision to close a public space for renovation, when doing so creates a negative outcome for one segment of society, must continue to be made by elected officials with the expertise and responsibly of handling political decisions.

Had the encampment in Echo Park been adequately addressed in its early stages, there never would have been a need for a full-scale closure. Currently, Park Rangers are missing nearly half their allotted positions. They simply do not have the resources to monitor every park in the City. To prevent another encampment from establishing itself in a popular public space, the City should make fully staffing the Park Rangers a top priority.

In three months, Urban Alchemy placed more people in housing than LAHSA did in an entire year. Urban Alchemy's success should be the new standard for homeless services in the City. Their compassionate attitude and approach allowed CD 13 to close the park with minimal enforcement activity against the PEH population.

## 8. New Equipment – Strobe Lights and Drones

After the Civil Unrest in 2020, the City Council included laser pointers in 55.07 LAMC, which gave police the authority to arrest agitators in the crowd for using lasers to interfere with an officer's vision. During the closure of Echo Park, protesters found a way around the amendment by using high intensity strobe lights to cause flash blindness. These lights were not designated as contraband under 55.07 LAMC.

Additionally, protesters used the drones to stream live video of the officers' deployment and search for plain clothes officers. Drones were also seen over demonstrations causing dangerous conditions for the Air Units flying in the same air space.

### Recommendations on New Equipment

Similar to actions taken after the Civil Unrest of 2020, the Department needs to request that the City Council add strobe lights to the prohibited items enumerated in Section 55.07 of the LAMC. In order to allow peaceful protestors to exercise their First Amendment rights, the Department must have the ability to target and arrest agitators. Otherwise, field commanders have no choice but to declare the whole event to be an unlawful assembly.



## APPENDIX

### Appendix A: Acronyms

| Acronym | Meaning                                  |
|---------|--|
| AC      | Assistant Chief                          |
| BLM     | Black Lives Matter                       |
| CA      | City Attorney                            |
| CBO     | Community Based Organization             |
| CD13    | Council District 13                      |
| CDC     | Center for Disease Control               |
| CHP     | California Highway Patrol                |
| COP     | Chief of Police                          |
| CP      | Command Post                             |
| DA      | District Attorney                        |
| DC      | Deputy Chief                             |
| DOC     | Department Operations Center             |
| DOT     | Department of Transportation             |
| DPH     | Department of Public Health              |
| DTLA    | Downtown Los Angeles                     |
| EOW     | End of Watch                             |
| ETA     | Estimated Time of Arrival                |
| IAG     | Internal Affairs Group                   |
| IC      | Incident Commander                       |
| ICS     | Incident Command System                  |
| IMT     | Incident Management Team                 |
| LA      | Los Angeles                              |
| LAFD    | Los Angeles Fire Department              |
| LAHSA   | Los Angeles Homelessness Services Agency |
| LAMC    | Los Angeles Municipal Code               |
| LAPD    | Los Angeles Police Department            |
| LAPPL   | Los Angeles Police Protective League     |
| LASAN   | Los Angeles Sanitation Department        |
| MDC     | Metropolitan Detention Center            |
| MFF     | Mobile Field Force                       |
| OP      | Operational Period                       |
| OCB     | Operations-Central Bureau                |

**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT**  
**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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| <b>Acronym</b> | <b>Meaning</b>                           |
|----------------|--|
| OSB            | Operations-South Bureau                  |
| OSS            | Office of Support Services               |
| OWB            | Operations-West Bureau                   |
| OVB            | Operations-Valley Bureau                 |
| PEH            | People Experiencing Homelessness         |
| PR             | Person Reporting                         |
| RAP            | Recreation and Parks                     |
| RFC            | Release from Field Custody               |
| RHD            | Robbery Homicide Division                |
| SARA           | Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment |
| SEU            | Special Events Unit                      |
| SLO            | Senior Lead Officer                      |
| TSE            | Tactical Support Element                 |
| UHRC           | Unified Homelessness Response Center     |
|                |  |
|                |  |

## **Appendix B: Glossary Terms**

- **Assistant Chief (AC):** An Assistant Chief is the second highest rank in the Department. The AC commands one of the four organizational Offices and holds the title of “Director” of his or her Office. The AC is a member of the Chief of Police’s Direct Reports and Senior Staff.
- **Blocking Force:** Personnel deployed in an organized fashion to prevent access of an advancing crowd.
- **Captain:** A captain is assigned to a geographic Area, detective division, or specialized division. There are three paygrade advancements: Captain I, II, and III. Each higher level assumes a more complex and difficult level of responsibility. This position is promoted from the rank of lieutenant and is a part of the COP’s General Staff.
- **Civil Disobedience:** An unlawful event involving a planned or spontaneous demonstration by a group of people.
- **Commander:** A commander acts as the Assistant Commanding Officer at the four geographic Bureaus or Commanding Officer of a specialized group within the Department. A commander is promoted from the rank of Captain and is a part of the COP’s Senior Staff.
- **Crowd Control:** Law enforcement response to a pre-planned or spontaneous event, activity or occurrence where there is a potential for unlawful activity or the threat of violence.
- **Crowd Management:** Strategies and tactics employed by law enforcement agencies to deal with lawful assemblies in an effort to prevent escalation of events into an unlawful assembly or riot.
- **Deputy Chief (DC):** A deputy chief is the third highest rank in the Department. The DC is assigned as the commanding officer of a major organizational component such as a geographic operations Bureau, Detective Bureau, or Professional Standards Bureau. This position may be promoted from a captain or commander and is a part of the COP’s Senior Staff.
- **Incident Action Plan (IAP):** Contains objectives reflecting the overall incident strategy and specific tactical actions and supporting information for the next operational period. The plan may be oral or written. When written, the Plan may have a number of forms as attachments (e.g. traffic plan, safety plan, communications plan, map, etc.).
- **Incident Command System (ICS):** A standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user(s) to adopt an integrated organizational

structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents, without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.

- **Incident Commander (IC):** The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site.
- **Less-Lethal Impact Munitions:** Projectiles launched or otherwise deployed for the purpose of overcoming resistance, effecting arrest or addressing the threat of serious injury to an officer or suspect with less risk of causing death than the use of a firearm.
- **Mobile Field Force (MFF):** A fast and effective method to assemble and deploy a platoon-sized, tactical forces from existing on-duty personnel. The MFF is adaptable to both pre-planned and spontaneous events, which require the rapid assembly of large numbers of officers.
- **Senior Staff:** The COP's Senior Staff is comprised of Assistant Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, and Commanders and civilian equivalents of the Department.
- **Serious Bodily Injury:** is defined by but not limited to loss of consciousness, concussion, bone fracture, protracted loss or impairment of function of any bodily member organ, a wound requiring extensive suturing, and serious disfigurement (California Penal Code Section 243(f)(4)).

Appendix C: Laundry Vouchers given to Echo Park



Appendix D: Safe Park Initiative



A SAFE PLACE TO PARK EVERY NIGHT

SERVICE AREAS

- Hollywood
- East Hollywood
- Echo Park

-Connection to resources and pathway into housing

-Financial assistance services: smog check, auto repair, insurance, registration, driver's license renewal, & move-in assistance

CALL OR APPLY ONLINE

(323)210-3375 | M-F 8AM-4:00PM

[www.safeparkingla.org](http://www.safeparkingla.org)

[intakes@safeparkingla.org](mailto:intakes@safeparkingla.org)

NOBODY PLANS TO BE HOMELESS



## Appendix E: Summary of Echo Park Services

### ECHO PARK INFORMATION, SERVICES AND RESOURCES

 **OUTREACH SERVICES** Los Angeles County oversees all services for homeless individuals living within the City of Los Angeles. If you would like to request services, you can call 2-1-1 anytime of the day. You can also help make a request for services through the LA-Homeless Outreach Portal website: [la-hop.org](http://la-hop.org).

Councilmember O'Farrell has also hired Urban Alchemy to provide direct outreach services to people experiencing homelessness at Echo Park Lake. Outreach workers are at the lake five days a week helping the unhoused connect with resources to get them into housing.

 **ECHO PARK SAFE STORAGE FACILITY** There are 85 spaces available to store personal items. No identification is necessary, you get one storage bin per person, and must be 18 years or older. The site is open Monday - Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm and is located at 1146 Glendale Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90026. For more information, please call (213) 926-2445.

 **SAFE PARKING** The Safe Parking Program in Echo Park can accommodate up to 14 vehicles for people experiencing homelessness in their motor vehicles. There is an additional Safe Parking Site in Hollywood with spaces for up to 25 vehicles.

Both sites serve clients from 8:30pm to 6:30am, seven days a week, with on-site security and case management services for all clients.

You can apply for a safe parking space online at [SafeParkingLA.org](http://SafeParkingLA.org), call (323) 210-3375 or email [intakes@safeparking.org](mailto:intakes@safeparking.org).

 **MOBILE HYGIENE SERVICE** provides access to showers and restrooms for people experiencing homelessness. The services can be accessed at two Echo Park locations:

- ECHO PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (EPUMC) ON ALVARADO & RESERVOIR**  
EVERY TUESDAY & 3RD THURSDAY FROM 8:30AM - 1PM
- 1146 GLENDALE BLVD. IN ECHO PARK**  
EVERY THURSDAY & FRIDAY FROM 8AM - 1PM

 **ECHO PARK LAUNDRY SERVICES PARTNERSHIP**  
Since 2019 Councilmember O'Farrell has provided funding for laundry service vouchers for people experiencing homelessness in Echo Park. The vouchers can be used for eight loads of laundry, including detergent and use of the dryer.

**VOUCHERS ARE AVAILABLE AT:**  
AROMA LAUNDRY - 1448 N. ALVARADO ST., LA, CA 90026

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SERVICES & CONCERNS IN ECHO PARK, YOU MAY CONTACT FIELD DEPUTY JUAN FREGOSO AT (213) 207-3015 OR EMAIL AT: [JUAN.FREGOSO@LACITY.ORG](mailto:JUAN.FREGOSO@LACITY.ORG)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**MITCH O'FARRELL**  
COUNCILMEMBER - 13TH DISTRICT  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

[WWW.CD13.COM](http://WWW.CD13.COM) #CD13

Appendix F: Echo Park Closure Notice



# NOTICE: PARK CLOSURE

STORAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THIS PARK IS PROHIBITED  
PLEASE REMOVE ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM THIS PARK BY:  
**10:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, 2021**

Personal Property cannot be stored in any City of Los Angeles park (Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.44.(B)(26)(f)). Personal Property remaining in the park after the date and time referenced above is being stored in this park in violation of Section 63.44.(B)(26)(f) and may be removed by the City. Any Personal Property stored in violation of this LAMC Section will be collected by the City, identified, bagged, and stored at Chrysalis, located at 1146 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026. If the impounded property is not claimed within 90 days, the property may be discarded by the City. Information about the location and retrieval of any impounded property, or about voluntary storage can be obtained by calling (213) 926-2445 or visiting [\[insert website url\]](#).

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE REMOVED:**

All personal property remaining anywhere in this park after 10:30 pm on Thursday, March 25 2021, including, but not limited to, tents, chairs, tables, backpacks, bags, and personal items will be removed and stored at Chrysalis, as indicated.

All items that pose an immediate threat to the health or safety of the public will be immediately removed and discarded.

POSTING LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

POST DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, TIME: \_\_\_\_\_, SR NUMBER #: \_\_\_\_\_



# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

#### ECHO PARK IS BEING CLOSED AND FENCED OFF

Echo Park will be closed to the public for repairs and maintenance no later than Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 10:30 PM. The only exception is for people who have been living in the park prior to March 22, 2021 – they have until no later than Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 10:30 PM to leave the park and remove their possessions. Perimeter fencing will be installed to facilitate the repairs and maintenance and to ensure no one enters the park until the work is completed.

#### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE PARK

##### MANDATORY DEPARTURE

All persons who have been living within the park must leave the park and remove all belongings from the park within 24 hours of the park closure – no later than Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 10:30 PM. Except for City staff and contractors, no one will be allowed to enter any portion of Echo Park during the fence installation process or while the park is temporarily closed.

##### ALTERNATIVE SHELTER LOCATIONS

Outreach workers from Urban Alchemy have been in the park daily, offering shelter to people dwelling in Echo Park since December 28, 2020. Other outreach workers have been offering shelter on a regular basis for the last month. Sufficient shelter options exist for anyone who has been living in Echo Park since before March 22, 2021. If you have been living in Echo Park since before March 22, 2021, please seek out a representative for Urban Alchemy for remaining shelter options. Transportation to alternative shelter sites is available at no charge.

Persons refusing alternative shelter and those who began living in Echo Park after Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, must leave Echo Park and relocate to another unrestricted public area, such as sidewalks. Relocation to another park is not allowed as overnight camping is not permitted in City parks under Section 63.44D.4 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

##### PERSONAL PROPERTY STORAGE

Posted signs posted make clear that no personal property may be left in Echo Park after the park closure. People relocating to shelters will be allowed to take a limited quantity of property with them. All property that is remaining in the park after closure will be dismantled and stored for your retrieval, unless it is hazardous or contraband. You can retrieve your property by contacting the Chrysalis Center, 1146 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026 ((213) 926-2445. Stored property will be destroyed if you do not reclaim it within 90 days.

In preparation for the storage of personal property:

1. Deconstruct tents and other structures;
2. Place trash in large bins that will be located in the park to accommodate garbage.
3. Pack non-hazardous belongings in 60-gallon bags that will be provided by the City.
4. Until full, voluntary storage is available one block from Echo Park at the Chrysalis Center. If you transport your property and use the voluntary storage at the Chrysalis Center, you will be given a receipt to make it easier to get your property back.

##### ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED PERSONS

On Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the City's Department will be available to offer assistance.

**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT  
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Appendix G: Motion for Bathroom Access**

13 CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT  
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED #52

**MOTION** *For Wed, 1/29/20*

The Echo Park area is facing urgent hygiene and public health issues due to a recent increase in necessity for restroom access. To address hygiene needs of the public, it is necessary to provide increased access to the overutilized restrooms at the northwest end of the Lake.

Urgent action is needed to amend the Municipal Code to temporarily allow for expanded hours of accessibility to Echo Park Lake restrooms by the public for a six-month period.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to PREPARE and PRESENT an ORDINANCE with an URGENCY CLAUSE to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code to temporarily allow 24-hour access to park restrooms located on the northwest portion of Echo Park adjacent to the corner of Glendale Boulevard and Park Avenue for a six-month period, in order to address urgent hygiene and public health needs in the area.

PRESENTED BY: *Mitch O'Farrell*  
MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY: *De B*

**ORIGINAL**

JAN 24 2020



**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT  
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**ORDINANCE NO. 186592**

An ordinance amending Subsection S of Section 63.44 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to allow for 24-hour access to the park restrooms at Echo Park Lake.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subdivision 2 is added to Subsection S of Section 63.44 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

2. Between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., no individual who is utilizing the facilities in the multi-stall restroom building located on Park Avenue at Echo Park Lake for personal hygiene, or traversing the pedestrian pathway immediately between the Park Avenue sidewalk and the multi-stall restroom building for the purpose of utilizing the facilities for personal hygiene, shall be cited or arrested for violating LAMC 63.44(B)(14)(a). The provisions of this subdivision shall be repealed and terminate six months from the effective date of this subdivision.

Sec. 2. **Urgency Clause.** The City Council finds and declares that this ordinance is required for the immediate protection of the public peace, health and safety for the following reason: The area around Echo Park Lake area is facing urgent hygiene and public health issues due to a lack of access to 24-hour public restrooms. The City Council, therefore, with the Mayor's concurrence, adopts this ordinance to become effective upon publication pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Section 253.


**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT  
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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Sec. 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

Approved as to Form and Legality

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL DUNDAS  
Assistant City Attorney

Date 2/19/20

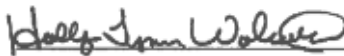
File No. \_\_\_\_\_

M:\GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION\ORDINANCES AND REPORTS\ORDINANCES - FINAL\LAMC 63.44 - Echo Park 24-hour Restrooms.docx

The Clerk of the City of Los Angeles hereby certifies that the foregoing ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, by a **vote of not less than three-fourths** of all its members.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

 \_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_

Ordinance Passed 04/07/2020

Approved 04/20/2020

Published Date: 04/23/2020

Appendix H: Motion for Storage Facility

HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

MOTION

According to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Point-In-Time Count in 2019, there are approximately 36,165 individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Los Angeles, of which 2,953 are in Council District 13.

In the community of Echo Park, a pilot program to offer safe parking at Edendale Branch Library is about to launch. The Mobile Pit Stop Program, which provides restroom facilities to maintain hygiene and keep our streets healthy, has been met with great success. And, my office has been partnering with a local business to offer free laundry services and provide access to clean clothes and bedding for people experiencing homelessness.

A permanent supportive housing project is being planned, which will accommodate up to 100 affordable units and offer supportive services, as well as provide recreational space for local youth. The City is also in the process of amending the municipal code to temporarily allow 24 hour public access to Echo Park restrooms for a six-month period.

The ability to store belongings in a safe place is an essential service for unsheltered individuals who seek access to social services and housing. Due to the increase of the unsheltered homelessness in the area, there is a need for storage near Echo Park Lake. Therefore, staff should be instructed to evaluate City properties in the area that may be feasible for a storage facility.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of relevant City departments, to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing the Department of Transportation Lot #676 at 1146 Glendale Boulevard in Echo Park for a storage facility and report on potential capacity, security needs, and hours of operation; and

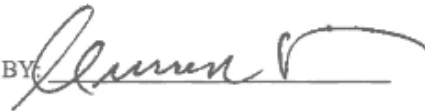
**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Council instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to identify funds, including capital and operational funding, for a storage facility at the site, including, but not limited to State Homeless Housing, Prevention, and Assistance Grant.

PRESENTED BY:



MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



JAN 31 2020

ORIGINAL

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MOTION TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT  
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED #53

On February 14, 2020, a motion was introduced (C.F. 20-0214), instructing staff to evaluate City-owned and private properties to provide emergency shelter to the unsheltered homeless population in the community of Echo Park. St. Paul's Commons Church has been identified as a suitable site for overnight shelter for up to 30 individuals and First to Serve has been identified to operate the site. The shelter will operate at this site for a minimum of eight (8) weeks. An alternate site, with up to 60 beds, is being identified to continue services beyond this time.

Additionally, on February 21, 2020, Council adopted a motion (C.F. 20-0140), which instructed staff to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing Department of Transportation Lot #676 at 1146 Glendale Boulevard in Echo Park for a storage facility. Staff has determined the site to be feasible for storage and has identified Chrysalis Enterprises as the operator. The site consists of nine parking spaces, which will be removed in order to accommodate CONEX boxes with storage bins.

In order to ensure rapid commencement of these critical storage services in the Echo Park community, the City Council should instruct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to use existing City funding for this purpose through June 30, 2020 and authorize the transfer of funds to the Bureau of Sanitation for costs associated with establishing the new storage facility. Additional funds should also be approved to continue to operate these facilities in Fiscal Year 2020-21.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that the Council find that a significant number of persons within the immediate vicinity of Echo Park Lake are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety; and that First to Serve, a non-profit corporation, currently contracted with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to provide shelter services, is qualified to meet the needs and serve public purposes which benefit the City of Los Angeles.

**I FURTHER MOVE** that the Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. REQUEST the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to:
  - a. Use Program Year 25 Emergency Solutions Grant emergency shelter funding, in the amount of up to \$256,800, to contract with First To Serve to operate a temporary shelter for up to one (1) year in the vicinity of Echo Park as follows:
    - i. At least eight weeks at St. Paul's Commons Church,
    - ii. Additional time, up to a total of one (1) year, pending site identification; and
  - b. Use a total of \$314,622 in City General Funds, including existing City General Funds allocated to LAHSA for CES Navigation Centers operations (\$84,622) and funds recommended in this Motion (\$230,000), to contract with Chrysalis Enterprises to operate a storage facility at the Department of Transportation Lot #676 at 1146 Glendale Boulevard beginning no sooner than March 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021;
2. APPROVE \$291,355 from the Additional Homeless Services line item within the General City Purposes No. 100/56 for the storage facility at 1146 Glendale Boulevard as follows:
  - a. \$230,000 to operate the facility for one (1) year beginning on July 1, 2020;
  - b. \$61,355 for Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation costs to clear and prepare the site for use as a storage facility; and
  - c. Authorize HCIDLA to add \$230,000 to the City's FY 2020-21 General Fund contract with LAHSA for this storage program.

DR  
MAR 08 2020

**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT  
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council Authorize the Controller to:

1. Transfer \$291,355 from the Additional Homeless Services line item within the General City Purposes No. 100/56 as follows:
  - a. Transfer \$230,000 to the Housing and Community Investment Department Fund 10A/43S795 Coordinated Entry System (CES) Navigation Centers for costs associated with operating a storage facility at the Department of Transportation Lot #676 at 1146 Glendale Boulevard for one (1) year, beginning July 1, 2020;
  - b. Transfer \$6,250 to the Solid Waste Resources Revenue Fund, Fund 508/50 Department RSC 530100, Reimbursement from Other Funds for costs associated with clearing and preparing the Department of Transportation Lot #676 at 1146 Glendale Boulevard for a storage facility; and
  - c. Transfer \$55,105 to the Department of Public Works – Bureau of Sanitation, Fund 100/82 Appropriation Unit 006020, Operating Supplies for costs associated with clearing and preparing the Department of Transportation Lot #676 at 1146 Glendale Boulevard for a storage facility.

I FURTHER MOVE that the CAO and Housing and Community Investment Department be directed and LAHSA be requested to: (a) expedite the siting and location of temporary shelter beds within the immediate vicinity of Echo Park Lake; and ensure program readiness by March 15, 2020; (b) enter into a contract with First to Serve to operate up to 60 beds of overnight shelter within the vicinity of Echo Park Lake for a period of up to one (1) year, starting on or around March 15, 2020.

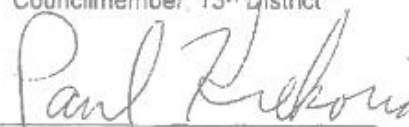
I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Transportation be instructed to remove the nine parking spaces, parking meters, and posted signs from the parking lot to accommodate the storage facility; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Administrative Officer, with the assistance of other departments as necessary, be directed to prepare Controller instructions or make any necessary technical and/or accounting corrections or clarifications consistent with the Mayor and Council action in this matter, and authorize the Controller to implement these instructions.

PRESENTED BY:

  
MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



**ORIGINAL**

## **FREE Personal Property STORAGE**



Register for a completely free 60 gallon storage bin.

- No identification necessary.
- One storage bin per person.
- Must be 18 years or older.

### **The Bin: Echo Park**

1140 Glendale Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90026

**(213) 926-2445**

Hours of Operations

Monday-Friday: 7:30 AM- 3:30 PM



**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT  
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Appendix I: Board Approved Park Improvements Dated 3/18/21**

**APPROVED**

MAR 18 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

**BOARD REPORT**

NO. 21-045

DATE March 18, 2021

C.D. 13

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

SUBJECT: ECHO PARK – PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PRJ21471) PROJECT – COMMITMENT OF PARK FEES – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(1) [INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS INVOLVING MINOR CONSTRUCTION WHERE THERE BE NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE], CLASS 1(12) [OUTDOOR LIGHTING FOR SECURITY AND OPERATIONS], CLASS 2 [REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STRUCTURES WHERE THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL BE LOCATED ON THE SAME SITE AS THE STRUCTURE REPLACED AND HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME PURPOSE AND CAPACITY], CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING] AND CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301(a), 15302, 15304(b) AND 15304(f) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz \_\_\_\_\_ M. Rudnick \_\_\_\_\_  
 H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_ *for* C. Santo Domingo *DF* \_\_\_\_\_  
 V. Israel \_\_\_\_\_ N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

*M. Shue*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Manager

Approved   X   Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the scope of work of the Echo Park – Park Improvements (PRJ21471) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Approve the Project to be bid and constructed through the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) list of pre-qualified on-call contractors;
3. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Staff to commit from the following fund and work order numbers, a maximum of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) in Park Fees, for the proposed Project:

| <u>Funding Source</u> | <u>Fund/Dept/Acct No.</u> | <u>Work Order No.</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Park Fees             | 302/89/89716H             | QT073929              |

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 21-045

4. Approve the authorization of change orders as authorized under Board Report No. 06-136, for the construction contracts for this Project in the budget contingency amounts for such contracts as stated in this Report;
5. Determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Interior and exterior alterations involving minor construction where there be negligible or no expansion of use], Class 1(12) [Outdoor lighting for security and operations], Class 2 [Replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity], Class 4(3) [New gardening and landscaping] and Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling] of City CEQA Guidelines and to Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15302, 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP Staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
6. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing a NOE; and,
7. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

### SUMMARY

Echo Park is located at 751 North Echo Park Boulevard in the Echo Park community of the City. This 28.14-acre park provides a lake and boathouse, recreation center, two children's play areas, tennis courts, skate park, and a walking path. Echo Park is City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 836. Approximately 18,431 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance from Echo Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Echo Park and its Recreation Center meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

### PROJECT SCOPE

The scope of the proposed Project includes the following:

- Replacement of playground surfacing at the north playground
- Restroom improvements, including new fixtures and doors and painting
- Upgrade of restroom interior and exterior lighting fixtures to light-emitting diode (LED)
- Replacement of five (5) drinking fountains with new hydration stations
- Improvements to various light poles around the park, including the upgrade of several existing solar lighting fixtures to LED
- Improvements to the exterior of the boathouse, including painting
- Improvements to the lake bridge, including replacement of handrails and planks

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

### BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 21-045

- Turf refurbishments
- Irrigation improvements

The proposed Project will be constructed by RAP on-call contractors.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

Upon approval of this Report, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) in Park Fees can be committed to the proposed Project.

The total amount of funding available for the proposed Project is Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00).

These Park Fees were collected within five (5) miles of Echo Park, which is the standard distance for the commitment and allocation of the Park Fees for community recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

The anticipated pre-qualified on-call contracts will be for Park Facility Construction. The budget contingency for the Park Facility Construction contracts will be Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000).

#### FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

| Source       | Fund/Dept/Acct | Amount              | Percentage  |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Park Fees    | 302/89/89716H  | \$600,000.00        | 100%        |
| <b>Total</b> |                | <b>\$600,000.00</b> | <b>100%</b> |

#### PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

RAP Staff has determined that sufficient funding has been identified and construction of the proposed Project is anticipated to begin in March 2021.

#### TREES AND SHADE

This proposed Project will have no impact on the existing trees and shade at Echo Park.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed Project consists of interior and exterior alterations involving minor construction where there be negligible or no expansion of use; outdoor lighting for security and operations; replacement of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and have substantially the same purpose and capacity; new gardening and landscaping and minor trenching and backfilling. As such, staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) determines that it is categorically exempt from the

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### BOARD REPORT

PG. 4 NO. 21-045

provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1), Class 1(12), Class 2, Class 4(3) and Class 4(12) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15302, 15304(b) and 15304(f) of California CEQA Guidelines. RAP Staff will file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of the commitment of Park Fees will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Park Fees or funding sources other than RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

**Goal No. 1:** Provide Safe and Accessible Parks  
**Outcome No. 2:** All parks are safe and welcoming

**Result:** The improvements to Echo Park will increase safety and enhance the park users' experience.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT  
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Appendix J: Board Approved Park Improvements Project**

**APPROVED**

MAY 06 2021

BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

BOARD REPORT

NO. 21-083

DATE May 06, 2021

C.D. 13

**BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

SUBJECT: ECHO PARK – PARK IMPROVEMENTS (PRJ21471) PROJECT – COMMITMENT OF PARK FEES – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(1) [EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS INVOLVING REMODELING AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION WHERE THERE BE NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE], CLASS 1(3) [MAINTENANCE AND MINOR ALTERATION OF EXISTING DRIVEWAYS, PARKING LOTS AND PAVED AREAS], CLASS 3(4) [INSTALLATION OF NEW EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR SAFETY AND THE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE INVOLVING NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE], CLASS 4(3) [NEW GARDENING, TREE PLANTING, AND LANDSCAPING], CLASS 4(12) [MINOR TRENCHING AND BACKFILLING WHERE THE SURFACE IS RESTORED], CLASS 6(2) [BASIC DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES WHICH DO NOT RESULT IN SERIOUS OR MAJOR DISTURBANCES TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE] AND CLASS 11(5) [SIGNS LOCATED ON CITY PROPERTY MANAGED BY A CITY DEPARTMENT WHICH HAS A SIGN POLICY ADOPTED BY ITS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTIONS 15301(a), 15301(c), 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f) 15306 AND 15311(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES

AP Diaz \_\_\_\_\_ M. Rudnick \_\_\_\_\_  
 H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_ \* C. Santo Domingo DF  
 J. Kim \_\_\_\_\_ N. Williams \_\_\_\_\_

*M. Sluce*  
 General Manager

Approved   X   Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Approve the revised scope of work of the Echo Park – Park Improvements (PRJ21471) Project (Project), as described in the Summary of this Report;
2. Authorize Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Staff to commit from the following fund and work order numbers, a maximum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) in Park Fees, for the proposed Project:

| Funding Source | Fund/Dept/Acct No. | Work Order No. |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Park Fees      | 302/89/89716H      | QT074377       |

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### BOARD REPORT

PG. 2 NO. 21-083

3. Approve the change order for Change Order No. 1 as further set forth in this Report in the amount of Two Hundred Thirty Five Thousand, Three Hundred Forty Three Dollars (\$235,343), which represents 42.2% of the original contract award amount to Chris Kelly dba Childs Play for this Project;
4. Authorize the Additional Contract items of the Additional Improvements (as more fully set forth below in this Report) be bid and constructed through the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) list of pre-qualified on-call contractors in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three Dollars (\$306,723.00);
5. Approve the authorization of change orders as authorized under Report No. 06-136, for the construction contracts for the Additional Contract Items in the budget contingency amounts for such contracts as stated in this Report
6. Determine that the revised scope of work for Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) [Exterior alterations involving remodeling and minor construction where there be negligible or no expansion of use], Class 1(3) [Maintenance and minor alteration of existing driveways, parking lots and paved areas], Class 3(4) [Installation of new equipment required for safety and the public convenience involving negligible or no expansion of use], Class 4(3) [New gardening, tree planting, and landscaping], Class 4(12) [Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored], Class 6(2) [Basic data collection activities which do not result in serious or major disturbances to an environmental resource] and Class 11(5) [Signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners] of City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15301(c), 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f) 15306 and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines and direct RAP Staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) with the Los Angeles County Clerk;
7. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of \$75.00 for the purpose of filing a NOE; and,
8. Authorize RAP staff to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

### SUMMARY

Echo Park is located at 751 North Echo Park Boulevard in the Echo Park community of the City. This 28.14-acre park provides a lake and boathouse, recreation center, two children's play areas, tennis courts, skate park, and a walking path. Echo Park is City of Los Angeles Historic Cultural Monument No. 836. Approximately 18,431 residents live within a one-half mile walking distance from Echo Park. Due to the facilities, features, programs, and services it provides, Echo Park

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### BOARD REPORT

PG. 3 NO. 21-083

and its Recreation Center meets the standard for a Community Park, as defined in the City's Public Recreation Plan.

#### PROJECT SCOPE

On March 18, 2021, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) approved the following scope for the Project (Report No. 21-045):

- Replacement of playground surfacing at the north playground
- Restroom improvements, including new fixtures and doors and painting
- Upgrade of restroom interior and exterior lighting fixtures to light-emitting diode (LED)
- Replacement of five (5) drinking fountains with new hydration stations
- Improvements to various light poles around the park, including the upgrade of several existing solar lighting fixtures to LED
- Improvements to the exterior of the boathouse, including painting
- Improvements to the lake bridge, including replacement of handrails and planks
- Turf refurbishments
- Irrigation improvements

The proposed Project is currently in construction. The above improvements are currently being implemented by Chris Kelly dba Childs Play, one of RAP's on-call contractors who was selected for the Project, through an as-needed park facility construction contract. To date, approximately Five Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$557,934) of the Project funding has been encumbered or expended on the above scope of work

Following the temporary closure of Echo Park for the initiation of the Project, RAP Staff was subsequently able to perform a more detailed assessment of Echo Park and has identified various additional improvements that are needed at the park. RAP Staff is recommending that the previously approved Project scope of work be modified to include the following (Additional Improvements):

- Restoration of Restroom Door Frames (Change Order No. 1)
- Cleaning and painting of park light poles (Change Order No. 1)
- Cleaning and painting of park benches (Change Order No. 1)
- Cleaning and painting of trash can enclosures (Change Order No. 1)
- Painting and Removal of Graffiti (Change Order No. 1)
- Installation of Security Signage and Banners (Change Order No. 1)
- Improvement of the decomposed granite in the picnic area. (Change Order No. 1)
- Mulching of various planting areas (Change Order No. 1)
- Installation and maintenance of new turf in various planter areas (Change Order No. 1)
- Additional Irrigation System renovations (Change Order No. 1)
- Replacement of Shrubs and Landscaping (Change Order No. 1)
- Installation of 8 new trees (Change Order No. 1)
- Survey of Nesting Birds (Additional Contract)

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### BOARD REPORT

PG. 4 NO. 21-083

- Replacement of damaged bird netting for the Boathouse Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) unit (Additional Contract)
- Renovation of the driveway and parking area adjacent to the maintenance yard, including restriping installation of new (2) removable bollards. (Additional Contract)
- Replacement of Informational/Educational Signage (Additional Contract)
- Installation of new security cameras (Additional Contract)
- Replacement of shade canopies at the north playground (Additional Contract)

It is important to note that some of the previously approved Project scope of work and these identified Additional Improvements are due to the impacts from the encampment at Echo Park, some are new improvements, and others are the result of deferred maintenance. Of the above previously approved Project scope of work and the proposed Additional Improvements, the following items are considered by RAP Staff to be deferred maintenance items:

- Improvements to the exterior of the boathouse, including painting
- Improvements to the lake bridge, including replacement of handrails and planks
- Restoration of Restroom Door Frames
- Installation and maintenance of new turf in various planter areas
- Installation of 8 new trees

#### CHANGE ORDER NO. 1

As previously stated in Report No. 21-045, the budget contingency for the original scope of the Project under the as-needed park facility construction contract is Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000).

Change Order No. 1 for the Project is for various items in the Additional Improvements noted above, which include restroom door frame restoration, cleaning and painting of park light poles, cleaning and painting of park benches, cleaning and painting of trash can enclosures, painting and removal of graffiti, installation of security signage and banners, improvement of the decomposed granite in the picnic area, mulching of various planting areas, installation and maintenance of new turf in various planter areas, additional irrigation system renovations, replacement of shrubs and landscaping, and installation of 8 new trees.

The total cost of Change Order No.1 is Two Hundred Thirty Five Thousand, Three Hundred Forty Three Dollars (\$235,343), which exceeds the budget contingency for this Project. RAP staff requests approval for this Change Order No. 1. Change Order No. 1 would be issued to the current contractor for the original scope of the Project, Chris Kelly dba Childs Play, under the as-needed park facility construction contract.

#### ADDITIONAL CONTRACT ITEMS

Certain of the Additional Improvements will require the services of additional pre-qualified RAP contractors. These items are noted above as Additional Contract items. RAP staff requests the Board approve these Additional Contract items to be bid and constructed through RAP's list of



# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### BOARD REPORT

PG. 5 NO. 21-083

pre-qualified on-call contractors in an amount not to exceed Three Hundred Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three Dollars (\$306,723.00). The anticipated pre-qualified on-call contracts for the Additional Contract items will be for: Asphalt Construction and Retrofit; Sports Netting/Fencing Installation; Environmental Impact Analysis and Special Studies; Purchase and Installation of Playground and Recreation Related Equipment; and Electrical Construction and Retrofit. . The budget contingency for each of these anticipated contracts will be Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), Eight Thousand Dollars (\$8,000), and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000) respectively.

#### PROJECT FUNDING

The Board previously approved the commitment of Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) in Park Fees for the Project.

As previously noted, approximately Five Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$557,934) of the Project funding has been encumbered or expended. Therefore, the Project is left with a remaining unencumbered amount of approximately Forty-Two Thousand, Sixty-Six Dollars (\$42,066), which is insufficient to complete the identified additional scope of work proposed in this Report.

Upon approval of this Report, an additional Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) in Park Fees can be committed to the proposed Project.

The total amount of funding available for the Project upon approval of this Report, including previously committed Park Fees, is One Million Dollars (\$1,100,000.00).

These Park Fees were collected within five (5) miles of Echo Park, which is the standard distance for the commitment and allocation of the Park Fees for community recreational facilities pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.33 E.3.

Upon approval of this Report, and the execution of Change Order No. 1 previously discussed in this report, the remaining funding for the Project will be approximately Three Hundred Six Thousand, Seven Hundred Twenty-Three Dollars (\$306,723.00).

#### FUNDING SOURCE MATRIX

| Source       | Fund/Dept/Acct | Amount         | Percentage |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Park Fees    | 302/89/89716H  | \$1,100,000.00 | 100%       |
| <b>Total</b> |                | \$1,100,000.00 | 100%       |

#### PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the Project began in March 2021.

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### BOARD REPORT

PG. 6 NO. 21-083

#### TREES AND SHADE

Approximately eighteen trees will be removed as a part of the proposed revised scope of work for the Project, most of which are located on the south end of the lake. These trees are recommended for removal for a variety of reasons. Several of these trees are dead or dying. Some of these trees are blocking light and will cause hardscape damage if allowed to continue growing, and some are suppressed below the canopy of other trees and have nowhere to grow.

Eight new trees will be installed as a part of the Project.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The proposed modified Project consists of exterior alterations involving remodeling and minor construction where there be negligible or no expansion of use; maintenance and minor alteration of existing driveways, parking lots and paved areas; installation of new equipment required for safety and the public convenience involving negligible or no expansion of use; new gardening, tree planting, and landscaping; minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored; basic data collection activities which do not result in serious or major disturbances to an environmental resource and signs located on City property managed by a City department which has a sign policy adopted by its Board of Commissioners. As such, RAP Staff recommends that the Board determines that it is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1), Class 1(3), Class 3(4), Class 4(3), Class 4(12), Class 6(2) and Class 11(5) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Sections 15301(a), 15301(c), 15303, 15304(b), 15304(f) 15306 and 15311(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon the Board's approval.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of the commitment of Park Fees will have no fiscal impact on RAP's General Fund. The estimated costs for the design, development, and construction of the proposed park improvements are anticipated to be funded by Park Fees or funding sources other than RAP's General Fund. The maintenance of the proposed park improvements can be performed by current staff with minimal impact to existing maintenance service at this facility.

#### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVES AND GOALS

Approval of this Board Report advances RAP's Strategic Plan by supporting:

**Goal No. 1:** Provide Safe and Accessible Parks

**Outcome No. 2:** All parks are safe and welcoming

**Result:** The improvements to Echo Park will increase safety and enhance the park users' experience.

This Report was prepared by Darryl Ford, Superintendent, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

# ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT

## LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

### Appendix K: Incident Objectives (ICS 202)

#### INCIDENT OBJECTIVES (ICS 202)

|  |   |   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>1. Incident Name:</b><br>Echo Park  | <b>2. Operational Period #1:</b> Date From: 03/24/2021<br>Time From: 1800 hours | Date To: 03/25/2021<br>Time To: 0600 hours                                      |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>3. Management Objective(s):</b><br>1. Protect life, property and facilities.<br>2. Protect the Constitutional Rights of all participants and spectators.<br>3. Provide for safety of all responders, participants, and observers and maximize the protection of public health and welfare through clear leader's intent with established work prioritization and implementation of fundamental principles utilizing thorough risk informed decisions.<br>5. Maintain close, interagency relationships through a Unified Command.<br>6. Gather intelligence and information from appropriate resources to develop situational awareness.<br>7. Provide accurate and up to date information to the community, event organizers, public stakeholders and media as necessary.<br>8. Minimize the financial and resource impact on the City of Los Angeles   |   |   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>4. Control Objective(s):</b><br>1. Establish a Public Safety Perimeter around Echo Park to protect the Recreation and Parks personnel as they install a fence around the park. This perimeter should limit access to authorized City personnel and residents of the closed area only.<br>2. Establish a 1 <sup>st</sup> Amendment Area for peaceful, free expression.<br>3. Demonstrators wishing to march will not be allowed access into the Public Safety perimeter. Marches shall be facilitated by LAPD personnel, to the extent possible, to maximize the safety of the public and demonstrators.<br>4. Static demonstrations shall, to the extent possible, be monitored from a distance.<br>5. If custodial arrests become necessary, ensure that all arrestees are expeditiously photographed by arresting officers and that the appropriate criminal charge with a short narrative is complete on the Mass Arrest Task Force Form before any arrestee is transported.<br>6. Ensure the expeditious transportation of any misdemeanor or felony arrestee to a Department Custodial facility.<br>7. Ensure that arrestees are supervised during the detention process and that they are given opportunities to use restroom facilities.<br>8. Ensure all arrestees are masked and socially distanced as defined in Los Angeles Department Policy.<br>9. Persons to be cited for an infraction or an Administrative Citation shall be released from scene.<br>10. All persons asking about social services from LAPD personnel shall be advised that City Sponsored housing and transportation will be available beginning at 0900 hours on March 25 at Echo Park. |   |   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>5. Officer Safety Information:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Officers shall wear appropriate uniform/equipment to assignment.</li> <li>• Police personnel shall have appropriate crowd management equipment (helmet w/cover, face shield, ballistic vest, baton, Taser, issued bodyworn video, etc.).</li> <li>• Plainclothes officers shall be introduced and identified at briefings by Shadow Branch, and all personnel shall be informed of a recognizable item of clothing, which will be worn by plainclothes personnel in the event police action is undertaken for purposes of identification.</li> <li>• Supervisors shall monitor their personnel for signs of dehydration and ensure their personnel hydrate accordingly.</li> <li>• Personnel are reminded to wear their reflective traffic vests when assigned to traffic control.</li> <li>• All members should be vigilant and maintain situational awareness. Always work in pairs, wear appropriate PPE's as necessary.</li> <li>• Continued on the ICS 208.</li> </ul>  |   |   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>6. Site Safety Plan Required?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><b>Approved Site Safety Plan(s) Located at:</b>  |   |   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>7. Incident Action Plan</b> (the items checked below are included in this Incident Action Plan): <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 203</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 207</td> <td><b>Other Attachments:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 204</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 208</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 55.70 LAMC, Dispersal Order and 41.20 LAMC</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 205</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map/Chart</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAPD Filing Memo-Trespass</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 205A</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Weather Forecast/Tides/Currents</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RAP Enforcement Sections</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 206</td> <td></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time line of Events from Rampart Area _____</td> </tr> </table>   |   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 203 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 207 | <b>Other Attachments:</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 204 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 208 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 55.70 LAMC, Dispersal Order and 41.20 LAMC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 205 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map/Chart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAPD Filing Memo-Trespass | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 205A | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather Forecast/Tides/Currents | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RAP Enforcement Sections | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 206 |  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time line of Events from Rampart Area _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 203  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 207                                     | <b>Other Attachments:</b>   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 204  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 208                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 55.70 LAMC, Dispersal Order and 41.20 LAMC  |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 205  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map/Chart                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAPD Filing Memo-Trespass                   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 205A   | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather Forecast/Tides/Currents                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RAP Enforcement Sections                    |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICS 206  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time line of Events from Rampart Area _____ |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>8. Prepared by:</b> Name: Boyle #35469 Position/Title: Sergeant Signature: _____  |   |   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |
| <b>LAPD ICS 202</b>  | EAP Page <u>  1  </u>   | Date/Time: March 3, 2021 1400 hours   |   |   |                           |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |  |  |   |  |   |

**ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT  
LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## Appendix L: Organization Assignment List (ICS 203)

### ORGANIZATION ASSIGNMENT LIST (ICS 203)

|   |                       |   |                |             |
|---|-----------------------|---|----------------|-------------|
| <b>1. Incident Name:</b><br>Echo Park                                     |                       | <b>2. Operational Period #1:</b> Date From: 03/24/2021      Date To: 03/25/2021<br>Time From: 1800 hours      Time To: 0600 hours |                |             |
| <b>3. Incident Commander(s) and Command Staff:</b>                        |                       | <b>7. Finance/Administrative Section:</b>   |                |             |
| IC/UCs  | Commander Graham      | Chief   | N/A            |             |
| Deputy  |                       | Deputy  |                |             |
| COVID/Safety Officer  | Ofcr. Villegas        | Time Unit   |                |             |
| Public Info. Officer  | TBD                   | Procurement Unit  |                |             |
| Liaison Officer   | Ofcr. Delgado         | Comp/Claims Unit  |                |             |
|   |                       | Cost Unit   |                |             |
|   |                       | <b>8. Operations Section:</b>   |                |             |
| <b>4. Agency/Organization Representatives:</b>                            |                       | Chief   | Captain Lopez  |             |
| CHP   | TBD                   | Deputy Chief  | Capt. Meuver   |             |
| RAP   | Chief Losorelli       | Staging Area  | Ofcr. Pineda   |             |
| DOT   | Lupe Sandoval         |   |                |             |
| Sanitation  | Deputy Chief Wong     | <b>Interior Branch</b>  |                |             |
| CD13  | Jeanie Min            | Branch Director   | Lt. Ling       | Q110        |
| Fire  | Captain Moody         |   |                |             |
|   |                       | Deputy  |                |             |
| <b>5. Planning Section:</b>   |                       | Group   | Sgt. Santiago  | Q120        |
| Chief   | Sergeant Boyle        | Group   | Sgt. Grasso    | Q130        |
| Check-In/Demobilization   | Officer Guerrero      | <b>Perimeter Branch</b>   |                |             |
| Situation Unit  | Officer Mancija       | Branch Director   | Lt. Humphris   | Q210        |
| Documentation Unit  | PSR                   | Deputy  |                |             |
|   |                       | Group   | Sgt. Gomez     | Q220        |
|   |                       | Group   | Sgt. Pasillas  | Q230        |
|   |                       | Group   | Sgt. Witzer    | Q240        |
| <b>6. Logistics Section:</b>  |                       | Group   | Sgt. Langsdale | Q250        |
| Chief   | Sgt Zavala            |   |                |             |
| Deputy  |                       |   |                |             |
| <b>Support Branch</b>   |                       |   |                |             |
| Director  |                       |   |                |             |
| Supply Unit   |                       | <b>Traffic Control Branch</b>   |                |             |
| Facilities Unit   |                       | Branch Director   | Lt. Mylonakis  | Q310        |
| Ground Support Unit   |                       | Deputy  |                |             |
| <b>Service Branch</b>   |                       | Group   | Sgt. Olivera   | Q320        |
| Director  |                       | Group   | Sgt. Smith     | Q330        |
| Communications Unit   |                       | Group   | Sgt. Amancio   | Q340        |
| Medical Unit  |                       | Group   | Sgt. Gasca     | Q350        |
| Food Unit   |                       | Group   | Sgt. Steussie  | Motor Squad |
| <b>8. Prepared by: Name:</b> Boyle #35469 <b>Position/Title:</b> Sergeant |                       | <b>Signature:</b>   |                |             |
|   |                       | Date/Time: March 3, 2021 1400 hours   |                |             |
| <b>LAPD ICS202</b>  | EAP Page <u>  2  </u> |   |                |             |

## ECHO PARK REHABILITATION AFTER ACTION REPORT LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

### ORGANIZATION ASSIGNMENT LIST (ICS 203)

|   |                        |   |  |  |                   |
|---|------------------------|---|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>1. Incident Name:</b><br>Echo Park                                     |                        | <b>2. Operational Period #2:</b> Date From: 03/25/2021<br>Time From: 0600 hours |  | Date To: 03/25/2021<br>Time To: 1800 hours |                   |
| <b>3. Incident Commander(s) and Command Staff:</b>                        |                        |   | <b>7. Finance/Administrative Section:</b>  |  |                   |
| IC/UCs  | Commander Rimkunas     |   | Chief                                      |  |                   |
| Deputy  |                        |   | Deputy                                     |  |                   |
| COVID/ Safety Officer   | Ofcr. Rodriguez        |   | Time Unit                                  |  |                   |
| Public Info. Officer  | Lt. Joval              |   | Procurement Unit                           |  |                   |
| Liaison Officer   | Ofcr. Padilla          |   | Comp/Claims Unit                           |  |                   |
|   |                        |   | Cost Unit                                  |  |                   |
|   |                        |   | <b>8. Operations Section:</b>              |  |                   |
| <b>4. Agency/Organization Representatives:</b>                            |                        |   | Chief                                      | Captain Stabile                            |                   |
| CHP   | Investigator Dan Keene |   | Deputy Chief                               | Captain Hurtado                            |                   |
| RAP   | Chief Losorelli        |   | Staging Area                               | Lt Smith                                   |                   |
| DOT   | Lupe Sandoval          |   |  |  |                   |
| Sanitation  | Deputy Chief Wong      |   | Interior/Arrest Team                       |  |                   |
| CD13  | Jeanie Min             |   | Branch Director                            | Lt. Garland                                | Q510              |
| Fire  |                        |   | Deputy                                     |  |                   |
|   |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Bielma                                | Q520              |
| <b>5. Planning Section:</b>   |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Washington                            | Q530              |
| Chief   | Sergeant Vandersall    |   | Perimeter                                  |  |                   |
| Check-In  | Officer Balchowsky     |   | Branch Director                            | Lt. Lopez                                  | Q610              |
| Situation Unit  | Officer Archuleta      |   | Deputy                                     |  |                   |
| Demobilization Unit   | Officer                |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Corwin                                | Q620              |
| Documentation Unit  | PSR TBD                |   | Division/Group                             | Det. Ehrenburg                             | Q630              |
|   |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Det. Siordia                               | Q640              |
|   |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Martinez                              | Q650              |
| <b>6. Logistics Section:</b>  |                        |   |  |  |                   |
| Chief   | Sgt. Lara              |   |  |  |                   |
| Deputy  |                        |   |  |  |                   |
| Support Branch  |                        |   |  |  |                   |
| Director  |                        |   |  |  |                   |
| Supply Unit   |                        |   | Traffic Control                            |  |                   |
| Facilities Unit   |                        |   | Branch Director                            | Lt. Wong                                   | Q710              |
| Ground Support Unit   |                        |   | Deputy                                     |  |                   |
| Service Branch  |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Jordan                                | Q720              |
| Director  |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Costello                              | Q730              |
| Communications Unit   |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Brawner                               | Q740              |
| Medical Unit  |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Sgt. Alpert                                | Q750              |
| Food Unit   |                        |   | Division/Group                             | Ofcr. Saenz                                | Motor Strike Team |
| <b>8. Prepared by: Name:</b> Boyle #35469 <b>Position/Title:</b> Sergeant |                        |   | <b>Signature:</b>                          |  |                   |
|   |                        |   | <b>Date/Time:</b> March 3, 2021 1400 hours |  |                   |
| <b>LAPD ICS 202</b>   |                        | EAP Page <u>  2  </u>   |  |  |                   |