



Los Angeles Unified School District

Board of Education Report

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File #: Res-047-19/20, **Version:** 1

Ms. Goldberg - Reexamining the Role of the Los Angeles School Police Department and Reimagining Safety in Our Schools (Res-047-19/20) (Waiver of Board Rule 72)

Whereas, The history of institutional racism in this country is long and terrible, extending from slavery to Jim Crow and continuing to the present through mass incarceration and our criminal justice system;

Whereas, People of color, particularly Black people, continue to face numerous forms of racism and discrimination in both public and private institutions;

Whereas, One of the key ways people of color, particularly Black people, are deprived of equal opportunity in our society is the institutional racism embedded in law enforcement agencies, and enabled by state and federal laws which protect officers who violate policy and those who commit acts of violence against arrestees;

Whereas, This nation's criminal justice system is fatally flawed due to its inclusion of legal protections for illegal police behavior and a historic pattern of longer prison sentences and higher conviction rates for people of color, particularly Black people;

Whereas, According to a 2018 UCLA study, between 2014 and 2017, the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) detained 3,389 students for arrest and issued 2,724 citations and 1,282 diversions. Black youth comprised 25 percent of the total youth detentions, citations, and diversions, despite representing less than 9 percent of the Los Angeles Unified School District's student population;

Whereas, Schools should be places of learning, compassion, and caring, where students feel safe and loved; and

Whereas, The District must keep our students safe as well as foster an environment of learning, compassion, and caring, in which all of our students feel secure and loved; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Los Angeles Unified School District shall establish a Reimagining School Safety Action Planning Group that is convened by the Superintendent and comprised of: one representative from the Superintendent's Office; the Student Board Member, and two appointees appointed by each member of the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District, with Board Members representing odd-numbered Board Districts each appointing one community safety expert and one student representative, and Board Members representing even-numbered Board Districts each appointing one parent representative and one teacher or principal representative.

Resolved further, That the Reimagining School Safety Action Planning Group shall present a report no later than July 30, 2020, which makes recommendations on the following questions:

- a. Does the District need a school police department? Are there other, more effective ways to

- ensure school safety? If a school police department is needed, what should be its role in keeping our schools' safe?
- b. If the District maintains a school police department, should its officers or personnel be stationed on campus, stationed at a school's perimeter, or dispatched as needed? Is their best use in the community, especially helping students safely get to and from school?
 - c. Who should respond to school administrators' calls for assistance under a variety of different circumstances (e.g., mental health calls, violence occurring on campus, violence occurring near campus with students involved, a fight between students)?
 - d. What role should students play in ensuring safety on school campuses?
 - e. Are LASPD's current policies appropriate for the role of a school police department, particularly with regard to use of force, use of K-9 units, pepper spray, and detention for arrest protocols?
 - f. Should the District establish a civilian oversight commission composed of representatives from various stakeholder groups of our school communities to review LASPD policies and practices on an ongoing basis?
 - g. Should the name of the LASPD be changed to more accurately reflect the Department's role in supporting and keeping safe students and employees?;

Resolved further, That, effective immediately, the District shall implement a hiring freeze for new sworn personnel at the LASPD;

Resolved further, That the LASPD shall heretofore not hire any sworn personnel who have previously been employed as sworn officers with any other law enforcement agency;

Resolved further, That LASPD officers immediately suspend the use of their current uniforms and return to non-military-style apparel such as polo shirts and chinos;

Resolved further; That LASPD immediately suspend the use of K-9 units on school campuses until the Reimagining School Safety Action Planning Group reports on whether their use should be permitted and under what circumstances;

Resolved further, That LASPD shall immediately begin stationing officers at the perimeter of schools rather than on school campuses until the Reimagining School Safety Action Planning Group reports on whether LASPD officers should be stationed within school campuses and under what circumstances; and, be it finally

Resolved, That LASPD immediately suspend the use of oleoresin capsicum spray (pepper spray) on school campuses until the Reimagining School Safety Action Planning Group reports on whether its use should be permitted and under what circumstances.