



Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2025

FROM: PORT POLICE

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOS ANGELES ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO FORMALLY ESTABLISH A LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT PORT POLICE RESERVE CORPS

SUMMARY:

The Port Police Division requests Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approval of an Ordinance which would amend the Los Angeles Administrative Code (LAAC) to formally establish a Los Angeles Harbor Department Port Police Reserve Corps. The proposed Port Police Reserve Corps program would be comprised of five reserve officers serving on a volunteer basis with Harbor Department-provided uniforms and equipment including a ballistic vest, badge, duty firearm, taser and handheld radio. The Harbor Department would be financially responsible for payment of \$119,950 in initial expenses (\$23,990 per officer) incurred to furnish the five reserve officers with equipment; \$3,250 in annual expense reimbursements (\$650 per officer) for uniform cleaning and firearms maintenance; as well as up to one uniform replacement per year in the amount of \$510 per officer.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Approve language of Ordinance amending the Los Angeles Administrative Code to formally establish a Los Angeles Harbor Department Port Police Reserve Corps;
3. Authorize and direct the Board Secretary to transmit the Ordinance adding Article 4, Sections 23.67 through 23.67.6, to Division 23, Chapter 3 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to the City Council for consideration pursuant to Charter Section 250;
4. Upon the City Council's approval of the Ordinance, authorize the Chief of the Port

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Police to implement the Port Police Reserve Corps in accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code Division 23, Chapter 3, Article 4 after the effective date of said Ordinance for and on behalf of the Board; and

5. Adopt Resolution No. _____

DISCUSSION:

Background/Context – The Harbor Department hires and maintains its own Port Police Division pursuant to City Charter Section 657, which states that: “The Los Angeles Port Police shall remain under the independent and autonomous control of the Harbor Department.” Many law enforcement agencies utilize Reserve Officers in various duty assignments as an added component of policing resources. A Reserve Corps program provides additional surge capacity without reducing services provided by full-time Officers. Additionally, Port Police Reserve Corps members (members) can provide the Division with specialized knowledge, skills, and abilities. Members may be assigned as patrol officers, instructors at the Maritime Law Enforcement Training Center, or may serve in some other special capacity such as recruiting.

LAAC Article – The proposed LAAC article is modeled on the existing LAAC article which codifies the LAPD Police Reserve Corps. It sets forth the basic structure and organization of the Corps. It addresses the management of the program, requirements for participation, compensation for uniforms and expenses, misdemeanor penalties for false impersonation, and eligibility for workers’ compensation benefits.

Reserve Officer Authority Levels – The law enforcement authority for Reserve Officers is established in the California Penal Code. Reserve Officers' authorities are separated into three levels. The following chart summarizes these levels of authority:

Level	Penal Code Section	Authority
I	830.6(a)(1) 832.6(a)(1)	Powers of a peace officer at all times. Not required to be under the immediate supervision of a peace officer. May be assigned to all law enforcement duties.
II	830.6(a)(1) 832.6(a)(2)	Power of a peace officer only while on duty and under the immediate supervision of a peace officer. May be assigned to all law enforcement duties.
III	830.6(a)(1) 832.6(a)(3)	Power of a peace officer only while on duty and under the immediate supervision of a peace officer or a Level I Reserve Officer. Assignments limited to duties not requiring general law enforcement powers.

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Reserve Officer Duties - The LAAC article gives the Chief of Police or designee the power and responsibility to assign reserves to perform police duties appropriate for their authority level. Members may perform several general and specialized law enforcement assignments including but not limited to landside patrol, waterside patrol, and response to calls for service. Specialized assignments may include investigations, underwater operations, special events deployments, translators, and information technology specialists. Level III Reserve Officers are not assigned to patrol duties nor do they respond to calls for service.

State Regulations and Port Police Policy - To be enrolled as a member, individuals must meet the same stringent selection standards and background requirements as full-time officers. These standards are promulgated in the California Penal Code and implemented by the State of California Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) Commission. Port Police Policy 350 sets forth the internal policies for managing the Reserve Program. This policy establishes work rules and training requirements for Reserve Officers.

Training and Equipment – Prior to entering service, Reserve Officers must complete an accepted police academy program. Prospective Reserve Officers may be allowed to attend the LAPD's reserve academy training, subject to the availability of openings in academy classes. Otherwise, they may attend another police academy that is recognized by the Port Police at their own expense. Once enrolled in the Corps, Reserve Officers are required to participate in continued training in accordance with POST standards and Port Police policies. Members will be provided with uniforms and equipment necessary to perform their assigned duties. Upon termination of their service, members will be required to return all issued uniforms and equipment to the Harbor Department.

Employment Status, Salary, and Benefits - Members are volunteers and are not considered City employees with regard to salary and benefits. Members are classified as employees of the City for the purposes of applicability of workers' compensation benefits only while serving in an assigned shift or while receiving training as such. Members must serve at least 16 hours every two pay periods to maintain their status. They are provided funds in the amount of \$25 per pay period to offset the costs of various expenses that they incur such as uniform cleaning and firearms maintenance. A pay period is two weeks. Members will not be included in any pension plan based solely on their status as a member.

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False Impersonation - The draft Ordinance would add a provision to make it a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not to exceed six months or by a fine not to exceed \$500.00, or both for any person, not a member of the Corps, to wear, display, or carry any item which shall have been issued to any member or to represent, identify, or hold themselves out to be a member or have any connection with the Corps.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the approval of an Ordinance to add new articles to the LAAC, which is an administrative action. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of the proposed action would require the Harbor Department to incur initial costs totaling \$119,950, or \$23,990 per officer, in order to furnish police equipment to each of the five proposed Reserve Corps officers. In addition, each of the five officers would be eligible to receive annual reimbursements for uniform cleaning and firearms maintenance in the amount of \$25 per officer per pay period, or \$3,250 per year in aggregate. Lastly, each Reserve Corps officer would be eligible for one uniform replacement per year which is estimated to be \$510 per officer, on an as-needed basis.

As the Reserve Corps officers will be volunteers, there will be no salary and benefits paid to these officers, except for payment of workers' compensation benefits where necessary.

If the proposed action is approved, Fiscal Year 2026 funding will be requested as part of the annual budget process, subject to Board approval.

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CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the draft Ordinance as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTAL:

1. Draft Ordinance

FIS Approval: 
CA Approval: 



GREG MCMANUS
Deputy Chief of Police



THOMAS E. GAZSI
Chief of Public Safety and
Emergency Management

APPROVED:



EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director
TEG:GC:ec