



Executive Director's
Report to the

Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2020

FROM: PORT POLICE

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR PARTICIPATION ON THE TASKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTOTHEFT PREVENTION OPERATIONS

SUMMARY

Staff requests approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). This partner agency MOU, if approved by the Board, will establish the agreement for various duties and responsibilities of the Partner Agencies in regards to Los Angeles Port Police (LAPP) participation on the Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP).

This proposed MOU is for an indefinite term commencing upon execution by LASD. Approval of this proposed MOU will have no financial impact on the Harbor Department, as there are no costs and or revenues associated with this action.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

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 the Memorandum of Understanding between the Los Angeles Harbor Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department to establish various duties and responsibilities for TRAP operations;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute, and the Board Secretary to attest to, the proposed Memorandum of Understanding for and on behalf of the Board; and
4. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE HARBOR DEPARTMENT AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR TRAP OPERATIONS

DISCUSSION

Background/Context – LASD has formed a consolidated taskforce for the purpose of integrating investigative and prosecutorial resources to address the expanding vehicle theft problem in Los Angeles County. The MOU (Transmittal 1), if approved, will be the operative document governing LAPP participation on TRAP.

TRAP is comprised of law enforcement and prosecutorial personnel from public agencies within Los Angeles County, including police officers, sheriff's deputies, California Highway Patrol investigators, and prosecutors.

The purpose of the MOU is as follows:

- Promote a coordinated effort and encourage maximum cooperation and participation with all law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies in Los Angeles County;
- Deter and reduce the incidents of vehicle theft;
- Increase the recovery rate of stolen vehicles;
- Identify trends and patterns in vehicle theft;
- Provide training and expertise to participating agencies county-wide; and
- Coordinate a deterrence program in conjunction with the private sector.

TRAP will target, investigate and prosecute individuals involved in vehicle theft, particularly those professional thieves who organize, direct, finance, or otherwise engage in commercial vehicle theft for profit. TRAP will provide training and expertise for participating agencies throughout Los Angeles County.

On October 2, 2019, the Harbor Department and LASD entered in to a one-year MOU to formalize duties and responsibilities related to LAPP participation on TRAP.

The term of this MOU shall commence upon execution by LASD and not less than one other participating agency and shall continue indefinitely until terminated upon mutual written consent of the participating agencies. If fewer than two participating agencies remain active participants on TRAP, then this MOU shall terminate immediately.

As agreed to in the proposed MOU, the Harbor Department LAPP will assign one investigator to TRAP on a full-time basis and the County of Los Angeles, utilizing TRAP program funding, agrees to reimburse the Harbor Department for the LAPP investigator's salary, benefits, and approved overtime incurred while performing TRAP duties in accordance with the approved annual TRAP Program Operating Budget.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The proposed action is the approval of an MOU with the LASD to establish various duties and responsibilities for LAPP participation on TRAP operations, which is an administrative activity. 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 this MOU will have no financial impact on the Harbor Department, as it is administrative in nature and formalizes the understanding between LAPP and LASD related to LAPP participation on the state-funded Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention. Staff currently anticipates that the assignment of an investigator to the TRAP program will be fulfilled using existing resources with no associated increase in headcount.

On September 6, 2013, Assembly Bill 767 was passed and signed into law by the California Legislature. The bill amended California Vehicle Code section 9250.14 to eliminate the sunset date and authorize the collection of TRAP program funding indefinitely. This funding will be utilized to reimburse the Harbor Department for the LAPP investigator's salary, benefits and approved overtime incurred while performing TRAP duties in accordance with the approved annual TRAP program Operating Budget.

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CITY ATTORNEY

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the Memorandum of Agreement as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTALS

1. MOU between the Harbor Department and LASD

CA Approval: MB
FIS Approval: JS



MICHAEL HYAMS
Deputy Chief of Police



THOMAS E. GAZSI
Chief of Public Safety and
Emergency Management

APPROVED:



EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director

TEG:MH:GPC:MEO:arlAuthor: R. Grant