The Honorable David Ryu
Chair of the Health, Education,
Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, & River Committee
Los Angeles City Hall, 200 N. Spring St. Room 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 473 -7004

RE: SUPPORT *Armed While On Duty Park Rangers Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC)*
Section 63.41 Amendment CF #20-0190

Dear Council member Ryu and Health, Education, Neighborhoods, Parks, Arts, and River Committee:

I am contacting you to encourage advancement of this much needed policy and Los Angeles Municipal Code change. It has never been more important to ensure that as the first responders to any incident at any of the City of Los Angeles Parks; be granted the authority that comes with being a full-time law enforcement professional with this City. The changing of Section 63.41 (LAMC) will grant the tools necessary to provide the level of service and protection the park patrons, park and recreation staff and Park Rangers deserve. – Los Angeles Park Rangers who are sworn peace officers under 830.31 of the California Penal Code, are already trained, qualified and certified by our state's leading authority on law enforcement: the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and operates more than 400 sites for recreational use. The Department is the most comprehensive social service agency in the City of Los Angeles, operating 184 recreation centers, 61 swimming pools, 11 lakes, 7 camps both in and out of town, more than a dozen museums and historic sites, 13 public golf courses, tennis courts, and hundreds of programs for youth, seniors, physically disabled persons, and volunteers. It also supervises construction of new facilities and improvements to existing ones.

With over over 450 parks and locations patrolled by the Los Angeles Park Rangers through out the vast 503 square miles, public safety at our parks and surrounding communities will be strengthened by this policy change. For the about 23,938 acres of parkland within its city limits, the surrounding communities will experience increased neighborhood safety as it frees up the Los Angeles Police Department resources to respond to local calls. Having received the same level of police academy training as LAPD, Los Angeles Park Rangers do not have the same protective tool as other Park Rangers agencies through out the country that patrol such large citywide and rural areas.

This is non-fiscal, as tax dollars will not be required to provide new training since the Park Rangers are already currently receiving the State required training in the LAPD Academy. The Los Angeles Park Rangers primary responsibility is to ensure the highest level of safety and security for our parks. The change to 63.41 LAMC provides the additional authority necessary to do so. Park rangers should have the full ability to utilize all law enforcement tools and equipment to ensure the safety and security of the public under all circumstances.

This motion, CF #20-0190, introduced by Council Member Joe Buscaino, has been officially endorsed by Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Chief Michael Moore, the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC).

I would ask you to move this motion forward for due consideration by the full Council.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Craig Lally, President
Los Angeles Police Protective League

cc: Hon. President Nury Martinez
         Hon. President pro tem Joe Buscaino
         Chief of Police Michael Moore
         Chief Park Ranger Joe Losorelli