

Community Impact Statement

DATE: May 21, 2021

TO: LA Mayor, LA City Council, Los Angeles, CA

RE: Community Impact Statement in SUPPORT of Council File #21-0002-S118

Resolution Relative to HR 1280 (Bass), the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Los Angeles City Council, the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council is writing in SUPPORT of the Resolution Relative to HR 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. While the verdict of the Derek Chauvin trial was a moment of accountability, HR 1280 begins to provide a future of justice. Rather than proposing to defund or abolish the police, this bill would enhance existing policies for holding law enforcement accountable: limiting qualified immunity as a defense in civil suits, lowering the criminal intent standard to “knowing or reckless,” granting subpoena power to the US Department of Justice in pattern-or-practice investigation, and establishing a framework to prevent racial profiling at all levels of law enforcement -- national to local.

As the Los Angeles Times has documented on its “Police Killings” webpage, police have killed 925 people in LA County since the year 2000. Nearly all of those victims were men, and 80% of them were Black or Latino. Though Black people comprise only 10% of the population, they comprise 25% of law enforcement killings. That blatant disproportionality is why George Floyd’s death sparked national, even international, outrage and demonstrations. His death was emblematic of the reality Black and Latino people face in most urban centers across the United States; it resonated in the hearts and minds of people of color, echoing the deaths of so many from Oscar Grant to Daunte Wright.

Recognizing the need for reform and increased law enforcement accountability, particularly in light of only FOUR officers having been prosecuted in Los Angeles of the 662 law enforcement killings the DA has investigated since 2004, the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council is proud to support our Councilwoman’s proposed resolution.

Sincerely,

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

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