



Friday, January 8th, 2021

Regarding the Violence in Downtown LA on Wednesday

We've seen the footage and reports of what happened in downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday when several white supremacists shoved, pepper sprayed, and punched a Black woman. There have been six arrests made, but we join in the demands for the LAPD to identify and arrest all of the individuals involved in the assault and other violence that occurred.

Regarding City Council's Traffic Stops Legislation and Mayor Garcetti's Recent Budget Veto

By now, the stark contrast between the police's response to a violent white mob at the Capitol Building and the peaceful Black Lives Matter protests for racial justice has been made clear. However, as a 15-organization coalition dedicated to ending racial violence by the LAPD in traffic stops, we want to take the contrast one step further.

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When we look at the treatment of Bryant, a Black husband and father of three who was pulled over for a moving violation while driving to the grocery store we see a scenario that happens all too often to those who are "driving while black." He was forcibly removed from his vehicle, thrown to the ground, and handcuffed while his wife and children watched in horror. There was a suspicion of drugs and a gun in the car, the officer said, items which were never found.

This type of racial violence happens each day to Black drivers, actions we rarely, if ever, see happening to white drivers in similar situations. Fortunately, there is policy movement in the City Council to address this violence in traffic stops. In June of 2020, Councilmembers Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Mike Bonin, and Curren Price introduced a motion to have the Department of Transportation facilitate stops for minor vehicle infractions and moving violations instead of armed LAPD officers.

"Driving While Black" is not a crime and if passed, this motion would significantly reduce the trauma caused to folks like Bryant and his family. The urgency can't be understated as this continues to happen each day.

The City Council has said that issuing a report on the motion's feasibility will be the next step, but funding for the report remains unidentified. However, [in his December 21, 2020 veto](#) of the Council's plan to reinvest funds from the reallocation of the LAPD's budget, Mayor Garcetti said he would be pleased to sign a spending plan into law if it emphasized piloting new, more immediately actionable ideas to reimagine policing and public safety.



This traffic stops motion is a precise fit to reimagine public safety. We're calling on funds from the LAPD's budget cut to go towards the full funding of this feasibility study and move it along with the urgency it deserves.

PUSH LA was formed in response to decades of racist policing that has plagued Black and Brown communities in Los Angeles. This inclusive cross-sector coalition of base building, advocacy and religious/interfaith organizations launched after data analyses in 2019 revealed that the LAPD Metro Division officers stop and arrest Black people at a rate more than five times their share of the city's population.

The organizations in the coalition include ACLU Southern California, Advancement Project California, Black Lives Matter Los Angeles, Brotherhood Crusade, Brothers, Sons, Selves, Children's Defense Fund California, Community Coalition, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, LA Voice, Labor Community Strategy Center, Million Dollar Hoods, SEIU 2015, SEIU Local 99, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California, and the Social Justice Learning Institute.