



Statement on Los Angeles City Council Passing the Motion to Report on Alternatives to Armed Police in Traffic Stops

We're very pleased to see LA City Council pass the motion to report on alternatives to armed police in traffic stops. The next step is issuing a full report, which will explore using civilian Department of Transportation (LADOT) officials to achieve transportation policy objectives. LADOT will be conducting the report and we expect them to meaningfully engage communities of color, particularly those residing in South LA.

This problem calls for Councilmembers and city staff to act with a fierce urgency because the racism, fear, trauma and harm that Black and Brown drivers experience at the hands of police occurs daily. It's too often the case that minor traffic stops lead to unwarranted vehicle searches and unjust police violence. Driving while Black isn't a crime, and as one of our resident members said, "you shouldn't need to be armed with more than a pen to cite someone for a traffic violation."

Yesterday, the LA Times [reported that the LAPD](#) admits it made hundreds more traffic stops in South LA than originally said. The new figure is over eight times as high.

This all follows the recent news that the LAPD is redeploying a criminalizing strategy of "investigative" vehicle stops, which through concrete data have been proven time and again as largely ineffective and harmful to residents who are pulled over under the guise of "reasonable suspicion." We believe that the true, long-term solution to addressing community safety is to first, fully remove the Metro Division from South LA, and fully fund community-based intervention workers who are trusted and trained peacemakers and come from the neighborhoods they serve.

South LA Chief Regina Scott's remarks in the above article about using "smarter ways" to deploy police to areas where there are gang feuds or hangout locations is highly problematic because of the significant falsehoods revealed within LAPD's gang database, and because it undermines the work of community intervention workers.

Overall, this issue of traffic safety responsibilities has taken on significance in cities across the country as demonstrated by last year's protests to Reimagine Public Safety. Philadelphia, New

York, Berkeley, Cambridge, and Montgomery County in Maryland are also considering similar moves. Berkeley in particular has made [significant progress](#).

We'll continue to keep you updated as this moves forward, but please reach out with any questions. Thank you so much for your continued coverage and consideration of this issue.

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.

