Statement on Yet Another Delay in City Council Motion Regarding Alternatives to Armed Law Enforcement in Traffic Stops

The Motion Was First Introduced on June 30, 2020

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2021: Today as you probably know is Groundhog Day. If you've seen that movie with Bill Murray, you know that it's about the same day happening over and over again.

Well, when it happened to Bill Murray, it was funny. But in real life, it is not. The same day happens over and over and over again to Black & Brown drivers across this city who experience trauma, humiliation, abuse and violence --up to the point of death in some cases-- at the hands of the police during traffic stops.

Take the example of Bryant M., a Black husband and father of three who was pulled over for a moving violation while driving to the grocery store. He was forcibly removed from his vehicle, thrown to the ground, and handcuffed while his wife and children watched in horror. The officer said he suspected drugs and guns, items which were never found. Bryant and so many others who experience this racial violence each day don't have time to wait.

We were hopeful when this motion to report on alternative models and methods that do not rely on armed law enforcement to achieve transportation policy objectives was first introduced on June 30, 2020. Now, more than seven months later, we are beyond frustrated by the Council's inaction on a motion that could help address the scourge of state violence on Black and Brown communities.

Our people require URGENT ACTION by their City Council. We demand that this motion be agendized for a vote by the full Council so the mandated action can begin instead of being sent to yet another committee. The motion already passed in the Ad Hoc Committee on Police Reform on October 23, 2020.

Our request comes on the heels of a recent report by the Inspector General relative to the Review of Stops Conducted by LAPD in 2019 that confirms racial disparities in the practices and patterns of the department's use of pretextual stops and searches.

PUSH LA partners include the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU SoCal); Advancement Project CA; Black Lives Matter Los Angeles; Brotherhood Crusade; Brothers, Sons, Selves; Children’s Defense Fund California; Community Coalition; Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA); LA Voice; Labor Community Strategy Center; Million Dollar Hoods; SEIU 2015; SEIU Local 99; and Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Southern California.