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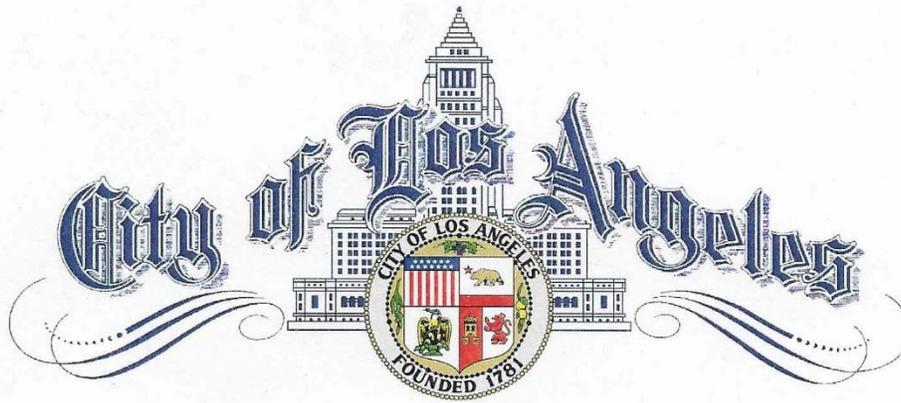
Public Works

Ad Hoc Committee

on 2028 Olympics
and Paralympics Games

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September 23, 2021

Dear Community Members and Friends,

My office's commitment to the safety and security of the residents and businesses within the Melrose Corridor has been unwavering. Although all of the positive actions we have taken haven't been publicized or my positions reported on, I'd like to take a moment in this letter to make sure that you are all informed with correct and factual information.

Over the past several months, through legislative action, my staff's collaboration with law enforcement agencies, and the information I put out in my newsletters and statements, I have been clear about our work and strategy for Melrose. It began in July of 2020, when I committed funding from my office's discretionary accounts to pay for additional LAPD overtime. That first step was an initial effort to increase patrols, specialized details and presence along the Corridor.

To double-down on my commitment to LAPD overtime details on Melrose, this past Tuesday I introduced in another motion to fund more LAPD overtime on the Melrose corridor, creating a pot of money to be used to increase crime suppression details deployed to the area immediately.

The Los Angeles Police Department, indeed all enforcement agencies, have had my full support and continue to have my dedicated backing. In fact, I have made sure that these agencies know of my Full Enforcement and Zero Tolerance of criminal acts posture. Any criminal behavior within the Melrose Corridor must be investigated, and the perpetrators must be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This has been my position for years and has never changed or waived.

My Director of Public Safety and I are in frequent communication with LAPD Chief Michel Moore in order to coordinate, collaborate and advocate for the needs on Melrose. I have asked for and received support on my requests for deployment of Metro Division Officers, Equestrian Units, Bike Patrols and Foot Beats to the region.

Since April of this year, in a successful attempt to provide personnel multipliers to the LAPD presence, my office has been coordinating additional City personnel on Melrose. This includes a joint effort with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation Traffic Control Officers, Bureau of Street Service Street Use Investigators and the LAPD.

My office repeatedly hears from various community leaders that “we know LAPD’s hands are tied.” I want to be crystal clear that my office has taken no such position and does not in any way hinder enforcement. To the contrary, my District leads the City in requesting, moving forward with and implementing enforcement efforts.

The LAPD has a new strategy for Melrose, one that we support and will continue to back. In close collaboration with the Police Department’s Office of Operations, Assistant Chief Bea Girmala, Operations West Bureau Deputy Chief Blake Chow, and Wilshire Division Command Staff, we have put together a comprehensive plan and strategy to thwart threats on the Melrose Corridor. We are confident that this crime suppression operation will be successful.

I’d like to also clear up any remaining confusion about my position on electric scooters. I am the only Councilmember who has consistently spoken out against scooters, voted against scooters, and in the absence of a council-backed ban, I have pushed for strong scooter enforcement in my District. I have supported and coordinated significant enforcement resources on scooters. One such law enforcement collaboration with LAPD West Traffic Division yielded 78 citations and one arrest in one day.

Thank you to the businesses, residents and community organizations who have partnered with my office and the City’s law enforcement agencies in order to make sure that Melrose is a safe place to visit and shop. I am committed to all measures, security protocols and specialized details to help enhance safety on Melrose.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Koretz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District