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NB-63

November 9, 2021

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution in support of the establishment of the Law Enforcement Work Inquiry System (LEWIS) Registry, and request the City Manager to have the Long Beach Police Department partner with Lewis Registry at the University of Southern California Price Safe Communities Institute, to help in development, pilot and beta testing of a unified national database that documents all officers who were terminated or resigned due to misconduct. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to your request on August 24, 2021, the attached Resolution has been prepared and is submitted for your consideration.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney

By: *Arturo D. Sanchez*
ARTURO D. SANCHEZ
Deputy City Attorney

ADS:kjm

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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH IN SUPPORT OF THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK
INQUIRY SYSTEM (LEWIS) REGISTRY, AND REQUEST
THE CITY MANAGER TO HAVE THE LONG BEACH
POLICE DEPARTMENT PARTNER WITH LEWIS REGISTRY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PRICE
SAFE COMMUNITIES INSTITUTE, TO HELP IN
DEVELOPMENT, PILOT AND BETA-TESTING OF A
UNIFIED NATIONAL DATABASE THAT DOCUMENTS ALL
OFFICERS WHO WERE TERMINATED OR RESIGNED DUE
TO MISCONDUCT

WHEREAS, following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in May
2020, there were renewed calls for several police reforms, including creating a
nationwide registry of law enforcement officers who had been fired for misconduct to
curtail the ability of fired officers to be hired elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, in April 2020 a study published in the Yale Law Journal
claimed to be the first systemic investigation of “wandering officers” who were fired by
one department and hired elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, in that study of 98,000 full time law enforcement officers in
Florida over 30 years, it found that in any given year, 3% of officers employed at
agencies were previously fired; and

WHEREAS, in March 2021 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the
George Floyd Justice in Policing Act which would create a nationwide police misconduct
registry at the Justice Department, however it's prospects for passing the U.S. Senate

1 and becoming a law remain uncertain; and

2 WHEREAS, the University of Southern California Price Safe Communities
3 Institute is working on establishing the first comprehensive publicly available national
4 catalog to collect data regarding officers fired or who resign because of misconduct,
5 however, law enforcement agencies will also be able to access crucial analytical data
6 regarding trends and patterns of potential misconduct casualties; and

7 WHEREAS, the database, named for the late civil rights pioneer Rep. John
8 Lewis, is called the Law Enforcement Work Inquiry System (LEWIS) Registry; and

9 WHEREAS, the objective of the LEWIS Registry is to increase the public
10 trust of law enforcement officers serving the community while also helping departments
11 hire the best police candidates; and

12 WHEREAS, in its final form, the LEWIS Registry will be a blockchain-
13 enabled network database used by all credentialed law enforcement agencies; and

14 WHEREAS, designed to hold police officers and departments accountable
15 and increase public trust in law enforcement, the LEWIS Registry is a trustworthy,
16 transparent and publicly available resource of officers separated due to misconduct; and

17 WHEREAS, in an effort to promote transparency, the database will
18 document all police officers who were terminated or resigned due to misconduct with
19 available details such as excessive force, corruption, domestic violence, sexual assault,
20 physical assault, harassment, perjury, hate group affiliation or falsifying a police report;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, all the information in the registry is drawn from public sources,
23 such as official department statements, court records, police notices, news reports, and
24 other opens sources; and

25 WHEREAS, the LEWIS Registry will have a phase one launch in Fall 2021
26 for public use, with a subsequent law enforcement data base phase in early 2022; and

27 WHEREAS, the Long Beach Police Department has been proactive in
28 recent years to implement policies addressing use of force, and in the Fiscal Year 2021

1 budget, established the Office of Constitutional Policing, to review current practices and
2 recommend proposals that would reimagine traditional policing to foster equitable and
3 constitutional public safety for the entire community; and

4 WHEREAS, Long Beach's engagement in the development and
5 implementation of the LEWIS Registry would be another step in our City's commitment to
6 being at the forefront of transparency and providing public safety services in an
7 accountable, effective and innovative manner that meets the community's expectations;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as
9 follows:

10 Section 1. The City Council of the City of Long Beach does hereby
11 indicate its support of the establishment of the LEWIS Registry.

12 Section 2. The City Council of the City of Long Beach does hereby
13 request the City Manager to have the Long Beach Department partner with the LEWIS
14 Registry at the University of Southern California Price Safe Communities Institute, to help
15 in the development, pilot and Beta-testing of a unified national database that documents
16 all officers who were terminated or resigned due to misconduct.

17 Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption
18 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

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Ayes:	Councilmembers:	_____

Noes:	Councilmembers:	_____

Absent:	Councilmembers:	_____

Recusal(s):	Councilmembers:	_____

