**PSROC RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL ON SMPD’S BUDGET THROUGH 2025**

**INTRODUCTION**

On June 21, 2023, the ad hoc Budget Committee of the Santa Monica Public Safety Reform and Oversight Commission (PSROC) met to review the proposed Santa Monica Police Department (SMPD) budget through 2025. Presenting the offered budget on behalf of SMPD was Deputy Chief Darrick Jacob and Lieutenant Ericka Aklufi, who provided testimony aided by written documents presented as slides.

The committee voted to recommend PSROC recommend to Santa Monica City Council to approve SMPD's budget as proposed, with the following revisions:

**Measure CS funds proposed to be used to pay overtime pay for SMPD's Direct Action Response Team (DaRT), are recommended to be allocated to fund the following:**

**1) Brazilian Jiu Jitsu training for officers as recommended in a prior PSROC report submitted to City Council.**

**2) Hire an additional officer beyond what is proposed to be assigned** **to the Homeless Liaison Program Team.**

**OVERTIME FUNDING FOR THE DaRT PROGRAM IS UNNECESSARY**

The budget committee was informed by presenting officers that the DaRT program was initially created to combat illegal vending in areas on and surrounding the Santa Monica Pier. By all accounts, DaRT impacted unlawful vending, decreasing the activity significantly. SMPD officers presenting to the budget committee described the current state of illegal vending as "stable.” With a shortage of funding for resources, Santa Monica and its police department should not be throwing funds at issues that are "stable."

**HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA MONICA IS NOT "STABLE"**

All entities in Santa Monica seem to agree that the issues surrounding homelessness are problems that need to be addressed. Whether the issues are housing, mental health, addiction, crime, or access to resources, homelessness in Santa Monica needs funding and attention.

PSROC feels that Measure CS funds being used to provide overtime pay to combat a "stable" decreased issue would be more appropriately allocated to a problem that is not stable and is increasing. SMPD plays a prominent role in interacting with homelessness and its resulting concerns. Specifically, the Homeless Liaison Program Team is SMPD"s front line on the issue.

Therefore, PSROC recommends the Measure CS funds designated for DaRT overtime pay be diverted in majority to hiring an additional officer for the Homeless Liason Program so that the most prevalent issue can be addressed with the most resources.

**$20,000 FROM MEASURE CS FUNDS, DESIGNATED FOR DaRT OVERTIME, SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU TRAINING FOR OFFICERS**

PSROC wrote a report recommending officers, who wish to participate, have Brazilian jiu jitsu training funded by SMPD. Other departments who have adopted similar or identical programs as proposed in PSROC's prior Brazilian Jiu Jitsu report had the following results:

1) Reduction in worker's compensation claims

2) Reduction in funds spent on Worker's Compensation

3) Reduction in excessive force claims against officers.

4) Reduction in officer injuries

5) Reduction in injuries of suspects and those arrested.

Brazilian Jiu Jitsu is an art that involves zero strikes. Instead, it relies on grappling techniques. This is safer for everyone involved.

**CONCLUSION**

PSROC recommends city council approve the proposed budget, except for Measure CS funding overtime for DaRT. Instead, PSROC recommends city council earmark those funds to hire an additional officer to be added to the Homeless Liaison Program Team and fund Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Training for officers.