

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Department of Recreation and Parks**

August 6, 2020

TO: Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners

FROM: Michael A. Shull, General Manager



SUBJECT: **STATUS OF THE PARK RANGER DIVISION**

SUMMARY

This report provides information on the status of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Park Ranger Division, to include allocated position, current staffing levels, recent exemption requests, Ranger recruits and COVID-19 related duties.

Number of Allocated Position (56)

- (1) Chief Park Ranger
- (43) Park Ranger
- (8) Senior Park Ranger I
- (2) Senior Park Ranger II
- (2) Communications Information Representatives

Current staffing Levels (31)

- (1) Chief Park Ranger
- (19) Park Ranger
- (7) Senior Park Ranger I
- (2) Senior Park Ranger II
- (2) Communications Information Representative I

Recent Exemption Request (8)

- (6) Park Ranger
- (2) Recreation Instructor

New Park Ranger Recruits for 2020

Since January 2020, a total of five Park Ranger recruits have been added to the Park Ranger Division. Currently, there is one Park Ranger recruit in the Los Angeles Police Department Academy set to graduate on August 3, 2020.

There are an additional three Park Ranger candidates who have completed the testing process and who we are awaiting the authority to hire as mentioned in the recent exemption request.

Ranger Duties

Park Services – education, public awareness & park assistance

The Park Rangers provide a variety of service related functions throughout our 450 parks and 175 sites and facilities. These services range from leading educational and environmental stewardship, helping provide directions and awareness of park systems, monitoring of health and safety protocols and assisting LAPD with law enforcement needs and public safety. To date park rangers have responded to 3,097 calls for service.

Firefighting and Medical Responses

In addition to park service functions, the Park Ranger Division has responded to 45 fire calls in our parks, with concentrations in Elysian Park, Hansen Dam and the Sepulveda Basin. These fires are abated with the assistance of the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Park Ranger Division who work together to keep our parks safe from fire threats – training, brush clearance and deployment. During high fire season, the Park Ranger Division has its fire apparatus vehicles on “ready stand-by deployment” for a quicker response time to reports of active fires.

The Park Ranger Division also responds to medical calls in the park system where hikers are injured on park trails and need rescue or medical attention. The majority of the medical calls include fractures to serious broken bones, dehydration incidents, and reported symptoms of heart attacks. In all, the Park Rangers have responded to 196 medical calls.

Traffic Assistance

Our Park Rangers work with the City’s Department of Transportation to monitor and respond to traffic incidents throughout the park system. There have been 35 traffic collisions in our parks. Often times, Park Rangers are the first responder to traffic calls because of their geographical knowledge of the park systems and trails. All of the Park Rangers are equipped with basic first aid equipment. Three of the park rangers are state/county certified paramedics and three are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). All of the Park Rangers have gone through a state/county certified basic first aid course, to include the Park Ranger Captains and the Chief Park Ranger.