

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
LAKEWOOD AFFIRMING A VOTE OF "NO CONFIDENCE"  
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY GEORGE  
GASCÓN.

Whereas, the City of Lakewood prides itself in being a family-oriented, diverse community made up of residents of varying ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds who share a common desire to live in a peaceful community with low crime rates and a respect for everyone under the law; and

Whereas, the City of Lakewood has witnessed a disturbing trend in the criminal justice system in the 15 months of George Gascón's leadership of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, with the D.A.'s Office now declining to prosecute suspects in a large number of misdemeanor criminal cases that have a direct effect on the quality of life in Lakewood and other communities; and

Whereas, District Attorney Gascón has also ordered the D.A.'s Office to ignore state law that requires prosecutors to seek sentencing enhancements if certain criteria are met in serious felony cases, such as a suspect using a gun and causing severe injury during the commission of a crime; and

Whereas, District Attorney Gascón has also ordered the D.A.'s Office to no longer represent victims during probation and parole violation hearings; and

Whereas, the misdemeanor cases in Lakewood that District Attorney Gascón has declined to prosecute include disturbing and brazen criminal activity such as vehicle theft and shoplifting while on probation, assisting a co-defendant with escape after a firearm was discarded, and a convicted felon illegally in possession of a weapon, to unfortunately name just a few; and

Whereas, the Lakewood City Council has written to District Attorney Gascón three times starting in early 2021 and met with him and his leadership staff on multiple occasions over the past year to explain our concerns for the impact of his policies and to hear his thoughts and rationale for his policies; and

Whereas, the District Attorney's new policies include routinely not prosecuting, but instead referring many misdemeanor criminal suspects to diversion programs in hopes that the suspects will not commit additional crimes within a 12-month period, thus effectively giving criminal suspects a "free first pass" for criminal activity; and

Whereas, the District Attorney's leadership staff has acknowledged that only a small number of these suspects not prosecuted in a sample of Lakewood-related criminal cases have "succeeded" in not being re-arrested for another offense, and that a disturbingly high number of these suspects have instead recommitted crimes or failed their diversion program within a short period of time, thereby unnecessarily victimizing additional residents of our community and thereby supporting the view that the District Attorney's policies amount to "giving a free pass" and that not prosecuting people for a wide range of misdemeanor criminal actions is not working; and

Whereas, an astonishing 98% of the D.A. Office career Deputy District Attorneys recently voted "No Confidence" in District Attorney Gascón's policies and leadership, and District Attorney Gascón surprisingly declined to even speak to a meeting of Deputy District Attorneys before the vote; and

Whereas, the city councils of 33 cities in Los Angeles County have now voted "No Confidence" in District Attorney Gascón's policies and leadership; and

Whereas, the Lakewood City Council has approached this issue carefully and judiciously, having rational and reasonable dialogue with District Attorney Gascón and his leadership staff, and we have now regrettably reached the conclusion that District Attorney Gascón is not open to substantively changing or modifying his policies, despite one recent exception he made to one policy, which was not a broader change to the full range of his policies; and

Whereas, we believe that District Attorney Gascón's policies have now been shown to be detrimental to public safety in Lakewood and Los Angeles County, and also detrimental to the goal, which we share, of rehabilitating people away from criminal activity, as shown by the high failure rate of District Attorney Gascón's policy of not holding people accountable for their criminal acts; and

Whereas, the Lakewood City Council supports intervention, prevention, diversion and rehabilitation but that does not preclude the need, which we also support, for constitutionally sound law enforcement; and

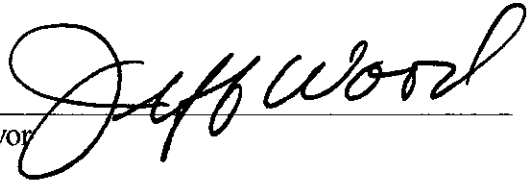
Whereas, it is an essential role of government to protect those who live, work and visit in our community, and the criminal justice system must work to protect the innocent and ensure justice for victims;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** The City Council of the City of Lakewood affirms a vote of no confidence in Los Angeles County District Attorney George Gascón and his policies and hereby directs staff to transmit said resolution to applicable and interested offices and organizations.

Section 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and is directed to forward a copy hereof to the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS 8TH DAY OF MARCH, 2022.

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Mayor 

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk 