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PPD 631

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Final Project Written Analysis

The Los Angeles Police Department employs about 9,000 sworn officers and 3,000 civilian employees to service over 3 million residents within an area of nearly 500 square miles. The Los Angeles population is very diverse, made up of people from many different countries and speaking a wide range of languages. Many residents are not proficient in English, speaking a language other than English at home and within their communities. Spanish is the most spoken language other than English in Los Angeles. However, there are still thousands of residents that primarily speak languages other than English and Spanish in Los Angeles. Given the incredible diversity within Los Angeles, with individual neighborhoods being vastly different than another, how can LAPD leadership best place their foreign language-speaking officers in order to more efficiently service the Los Angeles communities? If LAPD is able to recognize the foreign languages most likely to be encountered in certain regions, other than Spanish, the leadership can better position officers and employees that speak location relevant languages. GIS is an appropriate tool for this challenge as it can be used to create a map that will clearly illustrate the commonly spoken languages within the service of the 21 LAPD community stations across Los Angeles.

In 2009, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California and the Cyprus Chung Ying Tang Foundation published *L.A. Speaks*, a research report illustrating the language diversity and english proficiency by Los Angeles County Service Planning Area. The researchers

used data from the United States Census Bureau's Census 2000. However, the Census 2000 did not provide specific data pertaining to the Los Angeles County, forcing the researchers to estimate missing census tract level data using statistical models. Realizing that the *L.A. Speaks* findings would be the most accurate way to determine languages other than English and frequency in the City of Los Angeles region, I found which Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas fell within LAPD-served regions and used that to direct the creation of my map in ArcGIS.

The language data was acquired from the *L.A. Speaks* document. The LAPD-served regions and Los Angeles County Service Planning Areas shapefiles were acquired from the L.A. Times Mapping L.A. And the individual names of neighborhoods within the LAPD-served regions were found on the LAPD official website. Various data from both *L.A. Speaks* and the LAPD official website were manually joined with the attribute table of the LAPD-served regions shapefile using Microsoft Excel or entered manually into the ArcMap file itself as text in order to be clearly displayed in the end product.

I added both the LAPD-served regions and Planning Areas shapefiles to ArcGIS, making the LAPD-served regions the top visible layer, as to clearly see the boundaries and labels of each LAPD community station within a Planning Area. I then color coded and labeled the Planning Areas, as they would be used to indicate the frequently spoken languages other than English and Spanish. The Los Angeles County Service Planning Area map was much larger than that of the LAPD-served regions map. However, the extra county map was unnecessary as it was not relevant to LAPD. Therefore, I manually removed the excess LA county map by using the editor toolbar in ArcGIS and cut polygons tool. Although time consuming, it resulted in a much cleaner

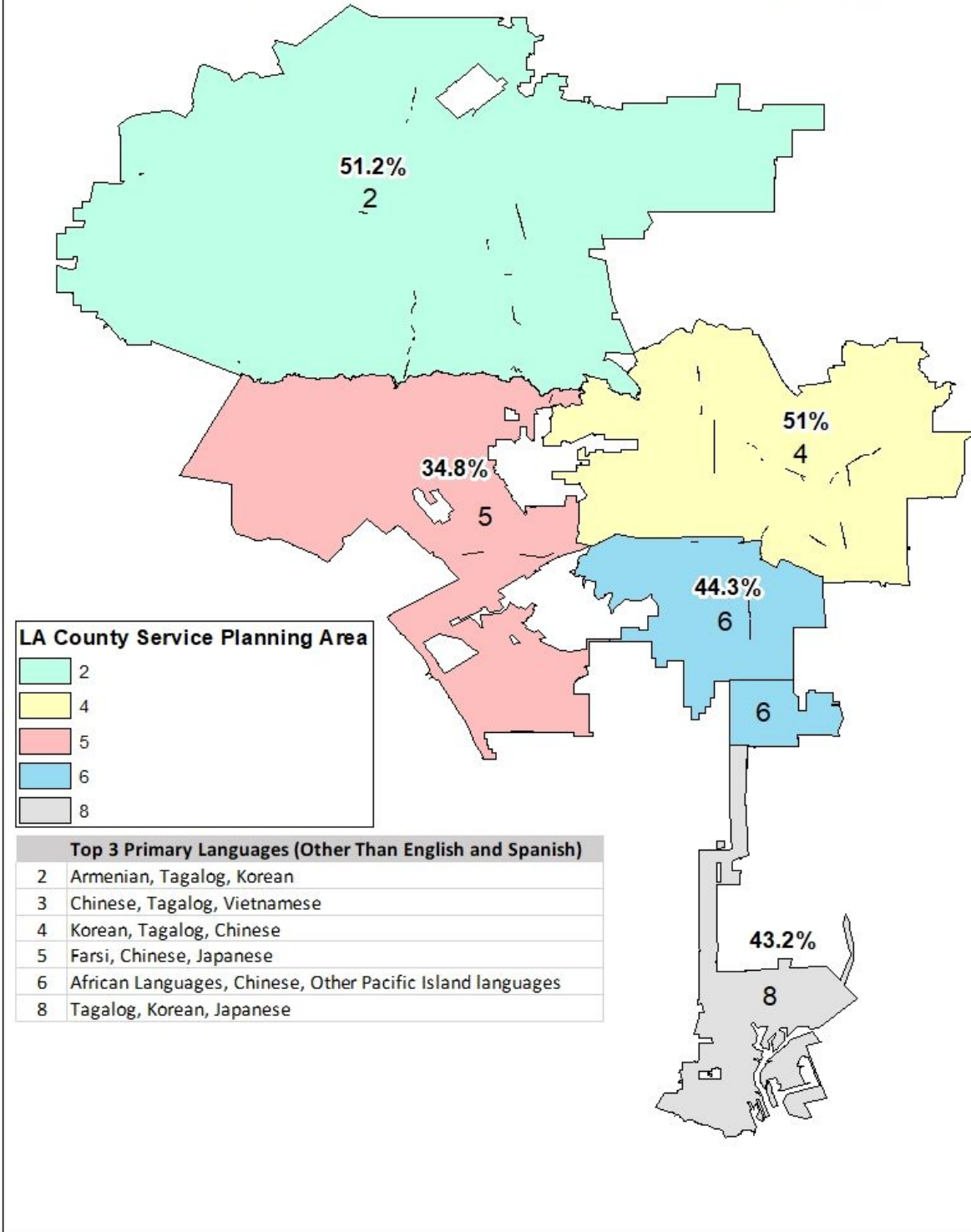
end product. I wanted to indicate in the map, or at least the shapefile, the individual neighborhoods that fell within each LAPD region. However, as it would make the map too cluttered with names, I joined the neighborhood information to the attribute table of the LAPD-served regions shapefile. Possibly once more data is collected in the future on a neighborhood level, the map can be further expanded by LAPD region and indicate the primary spoken language by neighborhood.

There are a few **limitations** to the map products. One immediate limitation is that the data was collected in 2000, thus the Los Angeles population and individual ethnic group population has changed in nearly 19 years. The Los Angeles Service Planning Areas are also much larger than that of the City of Los Angeles itself, covering much of the Greater Los Angeles region, therefore the populations and language analysis that *L.A. Speaks* has produced covers a much greater area than just that of the City of Los Angeles and likely results in inconsistencies with language concentrations in the actual City of Los Angeles area. There are also parts of the City of Los Angeles that LAPD does not service, as some small cities, such as Beverly Hills, employ local police forces but the census information still includes them. Additionally, as many neighborhoods fall within Planning Areas and neighborhoods are very different from one another, one neighborhood may have a spike in a specific language frequency compared to another. In order to most efficiently place multilingual LAPD officers, the most recent language and population data is critical.

My end product produces a clear picture of the vast language diversity within Los Angeles and can be used to improve more effective policing and community engagement practices. Although limited by available data, I believe that I was able to produce a map similar

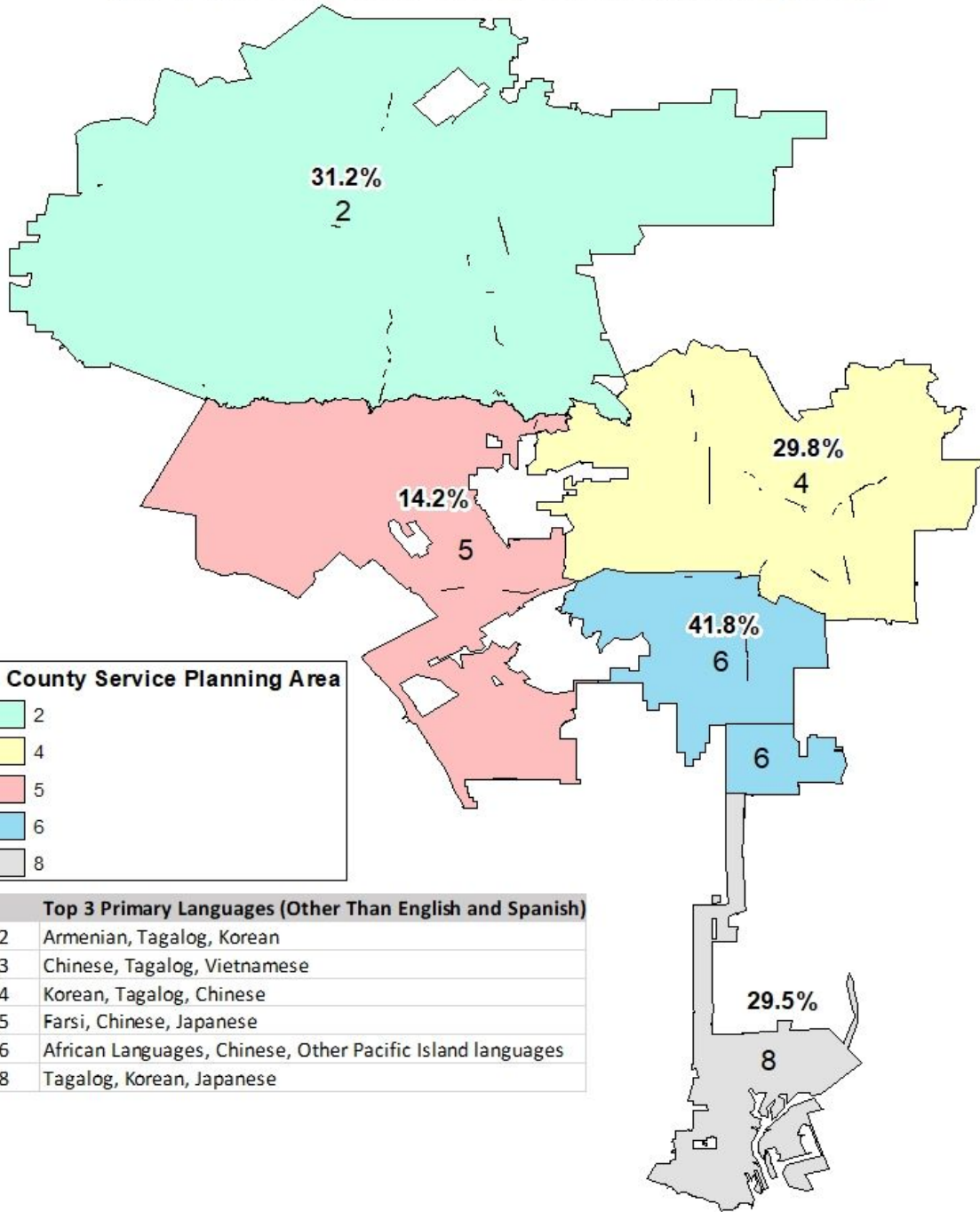
to what I had envisioned when I first had the idea for this project. Many police departments in America do not have the need to recruit multilingual officers, nor think about the strategic placement of multilingual officers. However, Los Angeles is a city unlike any other in the world. *L.A. Speaks* indicates that 2.5 million residents in Los Angeles County region had limited english proficiency. As the Los Angeles County and City populations have risen considerably in the past 19 years, my map, further language surveys and research, and strategic multilingual officer deployment, are more important than ever before.

Percent of Population With Primary Language Other Than English  
(per LAPD-Served LA County Service Planning Area)



The first map, titled *Percent of Population With Primary Language Other Than English*, displays the percent of the population within the LAPD-served LA County Service Planning Areas that speaks a language other than English at home or within their local communities. As illustrated by the map, a significant portion of each Planning Area's populations primarily speaks a language other than English. A majority of the populations of Planning Areas 2 and 4 even have a majority population that primarily speaks a language other than English, indicating the large diversity and immigrant populations in Los Angeles.

Percent of Population With Spanish As Primary Language  
(per LAPD-Served LA County Service Planning Area)



LA County Service Planning Area

- 2
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 8

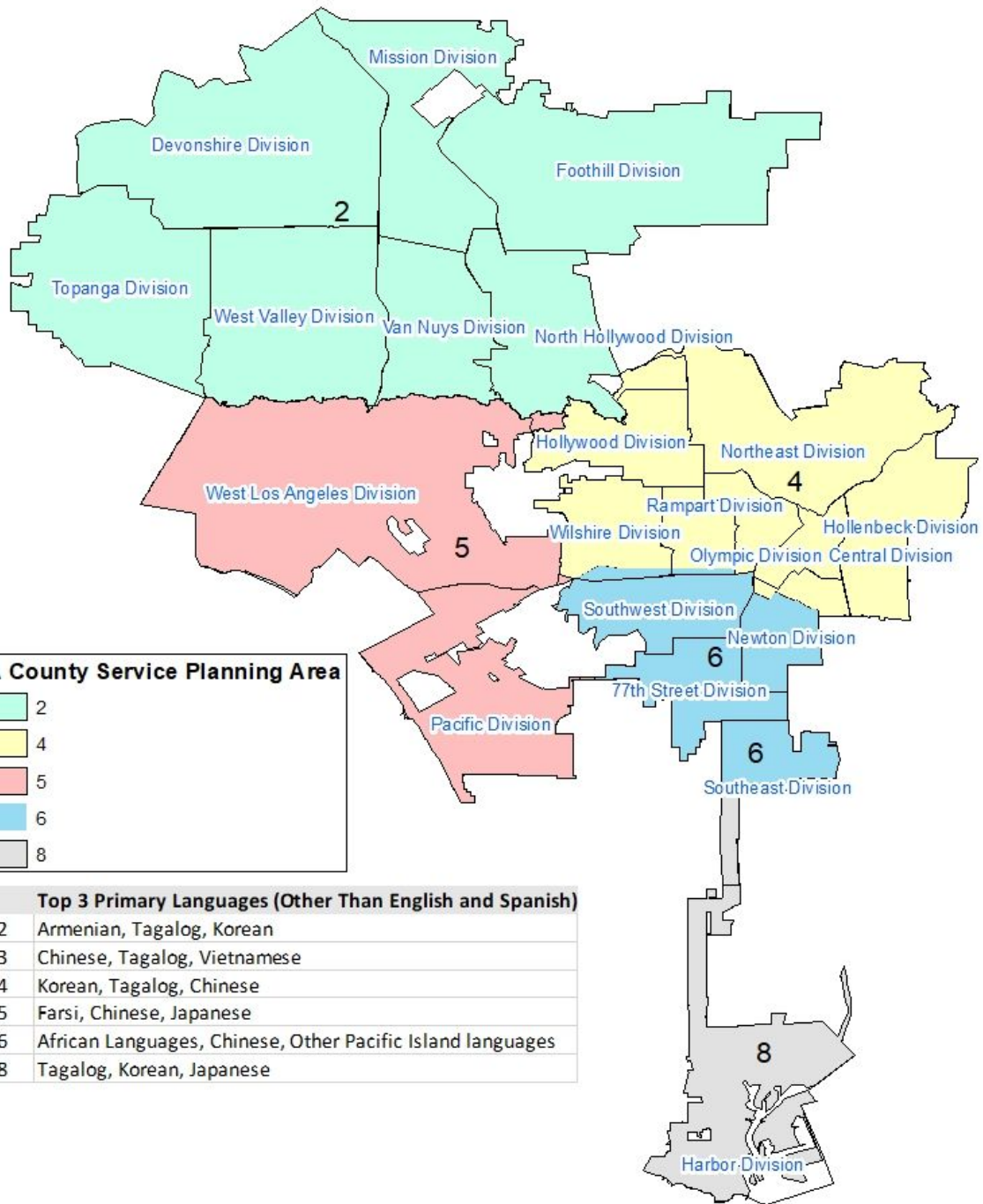
Top 3 Primary Languages (Other Than English and Spanish)

2	Armenian, Tagalog, Korean
3	Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese
4	Korean, Tagalog, Chinese
5	Farsi, Chinese, Japanese
6	African Languages, Chinese, Other Pacific Island languages
8	Tagalog, Korean, Japanese

It is a fact that Spanish is the most common language in Los Angeles after English. The second map, titled *Percent of Population With Spanish As Primary Language*, displays the percent of the population within the LAPD-served LA County Service Planning Areas that primarily speak Spanish at home or within their local communities. As illustrated by the map, a significant portion of the population that primarily speak a foreign language are speaking Spanish. However, LAPD is aware of the large Spanish-speaking population within Los Angeles and provides many programs in Spanish. According to the 2018 *LAPD Sworn and Civilian Report*, nearly 47% of LAPD employees are Hispanic, providing a steady number of Spanish speakers. However, the problem lies with employing and distributing employees that speak languages other than English and Spanish.



# Primary Language Diversity in LAPD Served Regions



The third map, titled *Primary Language Diversity in LAPD Served Regions*, displays the three most common primary languages in each LAPD-served Los Angeles Service Planning Area, other than English and Spanish. This map shows the wide diversity of primary languages across Los Angeles, as no Planning Area has the same three most commonly spoken languages. As these languages are according to large Planning Areas, the diversity within a smaller area, such as the specific division regions and neighborhoods, would be even more different. Chinese, Korean, and Tagalog are some of the most common primary languages in Los Angeles, If those three languages are indicative of a growth trend of populations of Chinese, Korean, and Filipino descent, then LAPD must actively recruit employees that speak those languages. Recently, LAPD has removed the salary bonus for multilingual officers and do not actively deploy multilingual officers strategically by language, policies that may need to be changed going forward.