



**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM**

Date: November 2, 2016

To: Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall

From: Douglas Guthrie, HACLA President and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Guthrie".

**Subject: Request for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Waiver for
\$2.4 Million to Provide Services to Public Housing Residents**

Summary

The Housing Authority seeks authorization from the City of Los Angeles to waive Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) in the amount of \$2.4 million to provide funds for the provision of summer jobs to public housing youth, to provide drought tolerant landscaping; to maintain cameras and computer labs in connection with our programs with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the City's Department of Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and to provide public gardens for public housing residents to grow healthy food alternatives.

Background

By agreement, the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA), although exempt from paying property taxes, provides an annual amount to the City for its consideration on how it might be used to support public housing. The annual amount is based on the level of rents collected from public housing residents. The City has typically granted the Authority waivers allowing the use of these funds for the support of services providing direct benefit to the residents of the various housing developments.

The HACLA Board of Commissioners has approved this request for the \$2.4 million of accrued PILOT funds to be used for the activities listed above.

Current Request

HACLA has supported the SYEP through PILOT for a number of years. Last year's request of \$1 million, which was subsequently approved by the City Council, provided funding for the hiring of public housing youth during the summer months. 530 youth received jobs through this program which was supplemented by additional funds from the City and County of Los Angeles which added another 503 jobs. HACLA proposes to use \$1 million of the PILOT funds to support the program in 2017.

An additional request for \$571,000 for landscaping would be used to replace turf at all remaining sites that were not included in this year's initial program. Previously, the City Council approved the use of \$750,000 of PILOT funds to provide drought tolerant landscaping at three of our sites with large land areas. HACLA has already reduced water consumption to exceed the goals of the Mayor's water consumption reduction plan.

However, HACLA recognizes that it is one of the largest residential users of water in the Los Angeles and the expansion of this landscaping program will provide further and long lasting reductions in HACLA's water use.

Another \$773,000 is proposed in use with City programs. HACLA has worked with LAPD for a number of years with the Community Safety Partnership Program (CSP) which is now at seven public housing sites. At the same time the CSP program was rolled out, HACLA spent over \$7 million of a federal grant to install cameras, per LAPD design, to monitor activities at HACLA sites and designed a system by which activity recorded by the cameras is directly fed into LAPD stations. The police use the system not only to deter crime and respond to emergency situations but also to solve criminal activity that may occur. \$490,000 would be used to meet the maintenance costs for the system which includes both equipment replacement as needed as well as the support of the communication infrastructure that is required to continue communication to the police stations.

The remaining \$283,000 of the \$773,000 is proposed for the various computer centers at each of the sites. These centers are an important tool for the EWDD WorkSource center located at the Imperial Courts public housing site. The centers were originally established by the City through federal BTOP grants. The centers, which were recently upgraded with new equipment, provide facilities in which WorkSource center clients at all sites may search and apply for jobs and can also use online programs to assist their completion of their GED. The computer centers are also used by students both high school and college to do research and complete educational assignments. The proposed budget is largely for the cost of interns who assist both adults and students and will also be used to place kiosks at HACLA sites to provide easier access for residents. Through the kiosks, residents will be able to pay rent, place work order repairs and complete required HUD documentation as part of their continuing eligibility requirements.

The final \$56,000 would be used for the establishment and refurbishment of community gardens. HACLA is responding to the request from residents to locally grow healthy food alternatives. Community gardens will be established at sites based on the availability of land area. HACLA will also work with its communities to explore the possibility of using available land space around individual units for this same purpose.