



April 26, 2017

Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
200 North Spring Street, Room 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Date: 4/26/17
Submitted in Budget and Finance Committee
Council File No: 17-0600
Item No.: 1

~~Item~~ Communication from the Public

RE: Restore Department of Recreation and Parks Funding and Staffing in 2017-2018 Budget (Council File 17-0600)

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee:

As organizations working to promote the health, safety, and vibrancy of our communities, we are committed to fighting for **park equity** so that all Angelenos—regardless of race, income, or zip code—have access to safe, clean, well-maintained, and well-programmed parks in their neighborhoods. Unfortunately, we live in a city where two out of every three Angelenos are park-poor, and low-income communities of color bear the brunt of the health, environmental, social, and economic consequences. This status quo is unacceptable.

That’s why we are deeply troubled by the proposed 2017-2018 Recreation and Parks (RAP) budget, which makes severe cuts to park maintenance, negatively impacting how safe and clean our parks are. This year’s budget continues a disturbing trend from the past decade, whereby the department has been asked to do much more with much less. Compared with a decade ago, RAP’s staffing authority has decreased by 34 percent, while the City’s population has grown by nearly 5 percent. Moreover, in 2007, 92 percent of RAP’s budget was spent on core services and programs; under the proposed 2017-2018 budget, that proportion falls to 62 percent—the lowest levels in the past 10 years. This means one-third of RAP’s budget will be spent on things *other than* vital public services.

Specifically, the proposed 2017-2018 budget:

- Eliminates 53 critical positions to maintain safe, clean parks, thereby reducing trash pickup, bathroom cleanup, and park safety
- Increases the City’s long-term exposure to liability by not funding important preventative maintenance services
- Defunds RAP’s response to the homelessness crisis in our city parks
- Does nothing to prioritize the severe gaps in park access and quality across Los Angeles

We ask the committee to:

- Restore the 53 critical maintenance positions and direct staff to investigate the true, necessary cost of adequate staffing to operate and maintain the park system
- Fully fund RAP’s efforts to help people experiencing homelessness, including initiatives that refer people to other City programs that assist with identifying long-term housing

- **Increase RAP's General Fund Appropriation commensurate with its mandated General Fund Reimbursements and skyrocketing utility expenses**
- **Invest in RAP in order to provide safe, clean, well-programmed parks to every Los Angeles resident regardless of race, income, or zip code**

Los Angeles ranks 51st out of the 100 largest U.S. cities in per capita spending on its park system. We must invest, not disinvest, in LA's park system to ensure that it no longer languishes toward the bottom of national rankings and instead becomes a world-class park system for all. There is no greater opportunity than this budget to align the City's priorities on the health, safety, and vibrancy of LA's diverse communities with its actions.

We look forward to your leadership on this issue, and we are counting on you to make it clear that parks are an indispensable part of the community fabric of Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

Mark Glasscock, MPH
 Director of Special Projects
 Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Elva Yañez
 Director of Health Equity
 Prevention Institute

Ramya Sivasubramanian
 Staff Attorney, Environmental Justice
 Natural Resources Defense Council

Tori Kjer
 Los Angeles Program Director
 The Trust for Public Land

John Kim
 Executive Director
 Advancement Project

Sandra McNeill
 Executive Director
 T.R.U.S.T. South LA

Veronica Flores
 Chief Executive Officer
 Community Health Councils

cc: Council President Herb Wesson, CD 10
 Councilmember Mitchell Englander, CD 12
 Councilmember Nury Martinez, CD 6
 Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, CD 3
 Councilmember Mike Bonin, CD 11
 Councilmember Gil Cedillo, CD 1
 Councilmember David Ryu, CD 4
 Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5
 Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, CD 8
 Councilmember Curren Price, CD 9
 Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, CD 13
 Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14
 Councilmember Joe Buscaino, CD 15
 Barbara Romero, Deputy Mayor of City Services
 Michael Shull, General Manager, Department of Recreation and Parks

4/26/17

LOCAL 721



PETITION TO RESTORE

Date:

Submitted in Budget Board Committee

Council File No: 17-0600

Item No.: 1

~~Request~~ Communications from the public

SERVICES:

STAFFING AT THE ZOO

We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Molly Sgriccia	<i>molly</i>	Animal Care	2/22/17
Krista Anderson-Mallet	<i>Krista</i>	animal care	2/23/17
Samantha Demmon	<i>S Demmon</i>	Animal Care	2/24/17
Heather Thompson	<i>HT</i>	Animal Care	2/24/17
Jeanne Y. Muro	<i>jeanne y muro</i>	Animal Keeper	2/24/17
Diane Mangalis	<i>Diane Mangalis</i>	Animal Care	2/24/17
Allison Rigger	<i>Allison Rigger</i>	Animal Care	2/24/17
Sarah Hernandez	<i>Sarah Hernandez</i>	Animal Care	2/24/17
Mallory Pebles	<i>Mallory Pebles</i>	Animal Care	2/24/17



PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO

We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Dill Werner	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Danila Cremona	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Dean Lofgren	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Lauren Sharp	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Francisco Moran	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2-22-17
Dave Coste	<i>[Signature]</i>	Sr. Gardener	2-22-17
Stephanie Zielinski	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2-22-17
Crystal LaCone	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2-24-17
Elizabeth Krissy Parada	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2-24-17

PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO



We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Kristina Willis	<i>Kristina Willis</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Debra Dadomo	<i>Debra Dadomo</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Kevin Gorowski	<i>Kevin Gorowski</i>	Animal keeper	2/21/2017
Susan Edwards	<i>S E</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Bryan Martinez	<i>Bryan Martinez</i>	Animal Keeper	2/22/17
Jim Haigwood	<i>JH</i>	Senior Animal keeper	2/28/17

PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO



We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Art Gonzales	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Care	2-21-17
Sam Abundis	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal care	2/21/17
RYAN ROTTER	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2-21-17
Mario Pineda	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Jeremy Barlow	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Care	2/22/17
Michael Bona	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Care	2/23/17
Robin Noll	<i>[Signature]</i>	Senior A. Keeper	2/23/17
Elaine Chu	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal Keeper	2/23/17
Sennifer Gnerewald	<i>[Signature]</i>	Animal keeper	2/24/17

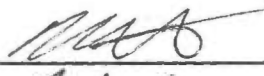



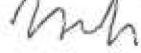


PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO

We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight, however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action, not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Micah Hagan		Aquarist I	2/22/17
Greg Pontoppidan		Animal Keeper	2/22/17
Byron Wusstig		Animal Keeper	2/23/17
Jeremy Chenault		Animal Keeper	2/23/17
THOMAS TRIPA		Aquarist I	2/23/17

PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO



We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Charles Spires	Charles Spires	SPA II	2-20-17
NORMA L. GUEVARA	^{Norma L.} Guevara	GROUND MAINTENANCE	02/23/17
Ruby Cepallo	Ruby Cepallo	LED	3-2-17
David Perdue	David Perdue	SPA II	3-3-17
Nobuyoshi Takano	Takano	Gardener	3-3-17
MARTIL ALVARENGA	Martil Alvarenga	SPA II	03-02-17
MARCO P. GUILLOT	Marco P. Guillot	11021 (ART) Specialist	3-2-17
Louis P. Marquez	Louis P. Marquez	11021 (ART) Specialist	3-2-17

PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO



We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels" - 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Tangerine Leong	T. Leong	Animal Keeper	2/23/17
Kelly Garcia	Kelly A. Garcia	Animal Keeper	2/24/17
Caitlin Coffey	Caitlin Coffey	Animal Keeper	2/25/17
Barbara Grisham	B. Grisham	Animal Keeper	2/25/17

PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO



We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

Print First and Last Name	Signature	Job Classification	Date
Melina Palacios		Animal Keeper	2/26/17
Julia Sweet		Animal Keeper	2/26/17
Carlos Tirado		Commissary	3/1/17

PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO



We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

<u>Print First and Last Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Job Classification</u>	<u>Date</u>
KATHRYN VINCENT		ANIMAL CARE	2/26/17
Dmetri Domerick		Animal Keeper	2/26/17
Cristney Vargas		Animal Keeper	2/26/17
DARRYL MITCHELL	Darryl Mitchell	PSA-II	2-27-17
Alan Ball		zoo Keeper	2-27-17
Sarah Hernandez		Animal keeper	2-27-17

PETITION TO RESTORE SERVICES: STAFFING AT THE ZOO



We the undersigned employees of the Los Angeles Zoo submit this petition to the City and our Department demanding an increase in the full time staffing position at the Zoo.

- As a result of our Contract ratification and current MOU the City has agreed to job restoration bringing back jobs to "pre-recessions levels"- 5,000 jobs citywide. We want to ensure the Zoo gets its fair share!
- Increase full time positions at the Zoo for positions including but not limited to Animal Keepers, Grounds Maintenance and Custodians
- Convert long standing part time employees full time

These problems did not develop overnight however have gone on long enough, we trust the City will address this matter expeditiously with action not words. We want the Zoo to be even more safer and cleaner; the City has officially been placed on notice by the members at the Zoo of this Union.

<u>Print First and Last Name</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Job Classification</u>	<u>Date</u>
Amy Rossan	Amy Rossan	Animal Keeper	2/21/17
Kathryn Gilmore	K Gilmore	Lead Animal Keeper	2/21/17
LOWELL M. TAYLOR	lowell m. Taylor	Custodial	2/23/17
Tania Prebble	Tania Prebble	animal care	2/23/17
Leigh Ann Fletcher	Leigh Ann Fletcher	Animal Keeper	2/23/17
Jennifer Hansen	J Hansen	Animal Keeper	2-23-17
Megan Fox	Megan Fox	Animal Keeper	2-23-17
Valentina Ranzetti	Valentina Ranzetti	Animal Keeper	2-23-17
Colleen Rae	Colleen Rae	Animal Keeper	2-23-17

