



JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

May 15, 2018

Budget and Finance Committee Members
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: CF# 18-0600 - Consideration of the Mayor's Proposed (FY) 2018-2019 Budget,
CF# 17-1121 - Homeless / Trash Pick-Up Pilot Program**

Dear members of the Budget and Finance Committee:

In partnership with Councilmember Blumenfield, I co-presented a motion requesting the City Administrative Officer (CAO) with the assistance of various departments to report back with recommendations on establishing a pilot program that would employ homeless individuals to proactively clear litter from our City's streets. The motion was adopted by the Public Works and Gang Reduction and Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice committees on October 27, 2017 and November 1, 2017 respectively.

While the CAO report is currently in a draft format and not yet available to the public, it is crucial that the matter be considered in the FY 2018-2019 Budget deliberations.

While Mayor Garcetti has proposed more than \$350 million in spending to address homelessness, only \$1 million of that is dedicated to job development activities for homeless individuals. We must tackle the problem of homelessness with a comprehensive approach that not only brings homeless individuals off the street and into housing, but also prepares and trains them to re-enter the workforce and ultimately become self-supporting members of our City. A citywide homeless litter abatement pilot program is anticipated to cost approximately \$2.9 million per year - a small investment that could, in the long term, generate revenue for the city by creating more tax-paying members of our workforce.

By allocating funding in the Unappropriated Balance for the proposed pilot program as outlined in Council File #17-1121, the City would be supporting its homeless population, expanding local and transitional hire goals, increasing the cleanliness of our City's streets, and ultimately saving money by achieving multiple objectives through this innovative pilot program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District