Contact Information
Neighborhood Council: Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council
Name: Becky Newman
Phone Number:
Email: becky.newman@ernc.la
The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)
Date of NC Board Action: 05/01/2018
Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information
Date: 05/02/2018
Update to a Previous Input: No
Directed To: City Council and Committees
Council File Number: 18-0600
Agenda Date:
Item Number:
Summary: See attached CIS concerning CF 18-0600 (FY 2018-2019 Proposed Budget).
COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT
Council File: 18-0600

May 2, 2018

Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Committee Members:

We declare that on May 1, 2018, a Brown Act noticed public meeting was held by the Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council (ERNC) with a quorum of 11 board members present and that by a vote of 11 yes, zero no, and zero abstentions, the ERNC adopted the following as a Community Impact Statement:

Regarding CF 18-0600 concerning the Proposed Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget, the ERNC generally supports the following recommendations articulated in the Budget Advocates’ March 2018 White Paper, namely:

- Increase transparency into the City’s budget and finances by holding monthly town hall meetings at times convenient to the City’s working and commuting residents, such as on weekends or after 7 p.m. on weekdays;
- Mandate that labor contracts or other agreements entered into will be revenue-neutral within the term of each contract/agreement, i.e., will not increase the budget gap or result in further diminution of services;
- Develop and implement a ten-year financial plan based on realistic and dynamic assumptions that eliminate the Structural Deficit, provide for the maintenance and repair of the City’s infrastructure, pay for the City’s litigation costs, and begin to reduce the unfunded pension liabilities;
- Develop a comprehensive plan to address all City infrastructure and repair and maintain our streets, including sidewalks, parks, and urban forest. Accidents on City streets and sidewalks that need repair account for a substantial portion of the City’s litigation costs;
- Benchmark the efficiency of the City services, such as Public Works, Recreation and Parks, Building and Safety, and General Services;
- Pilot the idea of outsourcing to private contractors 50% of the repair and maintenance of City streets and sidewalks and compare the results with City-staffed crews. Work performed by independent contractors must be supervised to ensure quality and that the work is on time and on budget;
- Review and analyze the City’s two underfunded pension plans, and develop and implement recommendations to eliminate the unfunded pension liability;
- Build the Reserve Fund and Budget Stabilization Fund to an amount equal to 10% of the General Fund. Unappropriated balances are not considered reserves. [Note: The Government Finance Officers Association suggests reserves equal to 17% of the General Fund.]
Further, concerning the proposed budget for homelessness, the ERNC supports the following:

- Increased resources, beyond the $20 million earmarked for shelters, to fully fund and adequately address the humanitarian crisis of thousands of individuals living in squalor on the streets of Skid Row, as well as appropriate resources to finally establish a long-overdue, City-funded shelter in Northeast Los Angeles. Such resources can support transitional shelter options for individuals, youth, and families while the appropriate accompanying supportive services also identify and facilitate transition to affordable and permanent housing options.

- Additional resources for Clean Streets teams and outreach teams for existing encampments.

- LAHSA’s recommendations for additional funding to help expand the placement of people who are likely to come into the Coordinated Entry System, including through new shelters (see LAHSA’s letter and additional requests).

- The Housing Department [HCID] has asked for additional funding for one position to staff a Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) program to preserve existing non-covenanted affordable housing. This is a very modest request in what needs to be a much more aggressive approach to preserving affordable housing and to preventing the homelessness that results from evictions and the loss of affordable units.

Moreover, as previously articulated in the ERNC’s CIS dated and submitted May 2, 2018 concerning CF 18-0117, Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) / Los Angeles Firefighters and Police Officers / Extended Periods of Time Off / Injuries / Program Status, the ERNC urges the City not to allocate further and increased budgetary resources to DROP without completing a comprehensive investigation of the documented waste, fraud, and abuse and taking appropriate corrective actions.

Respectfully,

Eagle Rock Neighborhood Council

cc:
Office of Councilmember José Huizar
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment