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Public Comment - Item 20 (18-1800-S2) July 31, 2018

Rafael González <rgonzalez@first5la.org>   Tue, Jul 31, 2018 at 12:46 PM
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Please include the following public comment to today's City Council meeting on Item 20 (18-1800-S2). Unfortunately we were not allowed to speak on our item and want to make sure it's noted on the public record. Thank you.

Public Comment from First 5 LA

On behalf of First 5 LA, we are here to support the City Council's efforts to create a dedicated funding source to support children and youth programs in the City of Los Angeles.

Over the years, children and youth organizations have asked the City to make funding for children and youth programs a priority. Recently, we advocated for a Cannabis Reinvestment Trust Fund that would set-aside funding for child and youth programs which we now understand will not be moving forward on the November ballot. We want to underscore the urgency of looking at other options that will prioritize youth programs and secure funding in the 2019-2020 budget and beyond.

As the City Council explores an alternative budget policy, we would like to emphasize that the Council look at making these funds sizable, secure and sustainable. For First 5 LA, a focus on early childhood development and the opportunity to fund these programs at a sufficient level, will have a meaningful impact on the lives of children and families throughout Los Angeles.

In closing, we ask that the City Council prioritize funding for programs and services that support early childhood and youth well-being. We look forward to working with you on this front.

Thank you.

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