

Communication from Public

Name: Liz Amsden

Date Submitted: 05/15/2019 12:09 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Before the coming fiscal year's budget is finalized, please revisit the Ethics Department's request for Project level personnel – this is a smart use of budget dollars, allowing for necessary expertise and flexibility so the same human resources can cover multiple jobs as the department's needs fluctuate, increasing the pool of skills available and giving people the hands-on experience needed for promotion from within when management positions open.

Communication from Public

Name: Liz Amsden

Date Submitted: 05/15/2019 12:08 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: In regards to the Emergency Management Department's budget, the City should add funds to address significantly expanding the department so it can meet the needs of Los Angeles if a major disaster hits. WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT ITSELF SEES THE NEED OR NOT. The first responders from the LAFD and LAPD took care of the Woolsey Fire but in a citywide emergency, the EMD must be able to provide oversight and management that is clearly beyond its capabilities with its current resources and manpower.

Communication from Public

Name: Milena Jankovic
Date Submitted: 05/15/2019 09:35 PM
Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to ask you to include the funding for Justice Fund in this year's final budget. For the last year I've been regularly visiting folks detained in Adelanto immigration center. Most people I meet don't have representation. Some ask for English dictionaries to be sent to them and most ask for legal clarifications though they know I am not an attorney. One fellow described to me that when one person from the dorm returns from a hearing they immediately sit down with the others and tell them everything that happened in the courtroom. They try to learn from each other so they can represent themselves in cases having to do with some of the legal areas second only to tax law in complexity. One immigration attorney that I spoke with described these hearings as "death sentences being discussed in traffic court". I believe that everyone should be entitled to due process and that with should treat issues of asylum and deportation with the utmost respect for lives of the people. Attorney representation should be priviledge of the rich, it should be accessible to everyone. Justice Fund is a crucial resource that we should continue to fund it re-affirming our commitment to our immigrant communities. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Ma'ayan Dembo
Date Submitted: 05/15/2019 04:39 PM
Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Budget and Finance Committee, My name is Ma'ayan Dembo. I would like to voice my frustration with the 2019-2020 City of Los Angeles budget, particularly with regards to the amount of money and resources invested in the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). LAPD recently came under fire for a number of racist practices it is upholding. An LA Times investigation concluded the LAPD South LA Metropolitan Division was disproportionately stopping black drivers, at rates of 65 percent, while the black population in the area is only 31 percent. Additionally, Inspector General Mark Smith's recent 52-page review of the predictive policing programs found officers used inconsistent criteria to identify people with criminal histories who are most likely to commit violent crimes. These programs also had a racial bias embedded in them, and often these statistics resulted in heavier policing of blacks and Latinos. Racially-based practices are incredibly harmful to communities, feeding individuals into cycles of incarceration, putting immense financial and emotional strain on families, and instilling distrust and animosity in neighborhoods. At a time when police protocol is questioned, we need to take a step back and rethink the way we enforce laws and safety in our city, rather than further investing in these problematic practices. This year's budget does exactly the opposite, by increasing the department's allocation by \$47 million, and investing in the opening and staffing the Harbor Jail in San Pedro (\$1.9 million). This year's budget sets aside funds for police to enter spaces traditionally not enforced by uniformed officers, such as libraries (\$1.4 million) and BRIDGE housing (\$3 million). Libraries in Los Angeles do not need 77 more police or contract officers, cameras, and panic buttons, they need high-quality programming and more books! Moreover, the Los Angeles Police Department currently accounts for 41% of all city employees, and has the largest amount of funding of all departments in the City of Los Angeles (\$1.6 billion appropriated in 2019-2020). LAPD is one of the largest entities in the City of Los Angeles, and the Budget and Finance Committee must rethink how we are prioritizing our resources and personnel. Resources invested in the police inherently mean resources divested from other large and pressing problems. The housing crisis is leading to more and more individuals experiencing

homelessness, being severely rent burdened, and generally having housing precarity. The City of Los Angeles's Vision Zero initiative is faltering, and could greatly benefit from more than just one additional staff person on the LADOT team in 2019-2020. Many other departments, such as Parks & Recreation, provide vital service that enrich the quality of life for residents more than the LAPD does. I urge the Budget and Finance Committee to not fund the Harbor Jail opening, remove police presences from libraries and BRIDGE housing, and reinvest those resources in other departments that are not already receiving a \$47 million expansion in their allocations. Sincerely, Ma'ayan Dembo

Communication from Public

Name: Liz Amsden

Date Submitted: 05/15/2019 12:11 PM

Council File No: 19-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Budget and Finance Committee and CAO should STRONGLY recommend the Mayor and his office to initiate action on suggestions from the Budget Advocates and others that would increase the City' efficiency and transparency that are currently outside the scope of the budget itself. These include but are by no means limited to directing departments work with the Ethics and City Attorney's office to reduce liability claims, revising the contracts with the RecycLA franchisees, initiating more efficient resource-sharing between departments and agencies and evaluating what makes the highest functioning areas and departments work so well and be proactive in spreading those skills and structures.