

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council

Name: Damien Burke

Phone Number: 323-301-4818

Email: damien.burke@hsdnc.org

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(2) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/22/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against unless Amended

Impact Information

Date: 06/23/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0600

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council urges the City to amend Mayor Garcetti's budget to reflect the values and needs of our community. We want investments in social services, employment programs, rent relief, urban greening and beautification efforts, and transit and mobility. We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made, and we believe that additional cuts to the LAPD must be made in order to provide the funding necessary for programs to thrive that result in a safer, more secure, and happier community.

**HOLLYWOOD STUDIO DISTRICT
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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Vacant
Vice Chair
Anthony Conley
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Damien Burke
Secretary

5500 Hollywood Blvd. #313
Los Angeles, CA 90028
info@hsdnc.org
www.hsdnc.org



**ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR**

CALIFORNIA



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Guy Langman	Theodore Wachtel
	Grace Cotangco

The Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

Re: The Mayor's Proposed Budget

Dear Councilmembers Krekorian, Price, Koretz, Blumenfield, and Bonin,

The Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council urges the City to amend Mayor Garcetti's budget to reflect the values and needs of our community. We want investments in social services, employment programs, rent relief, urban greening and beautification efforts, and transit and mobility.

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made, and we believe that additional cuts to the LAPD must be made in order to provide the funding necessary for programs to thrive that result in a safer, more secure, and happier community.

Crime in our city overall is down significantly since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and even before COVID-19, violent crime in Los Angeles had reached historic lows. The Hollywood Studio District's own senior lead officer has also articulated several times over the past year that violent crime continues to drop, and while gang activity remains a concern for the area, we believe gang intervention and youth and transitional youth programs and services will have a more positive and long-lasting effect on the community than an increased police presence.

The recent report of a 14% increase in homelessness in LA City is deeply troubling, and we fear that homelessness will continue to worsen should layoffs due to the pandemic become permanent and once evictions are again permitted. Police are not equipped to effectively interface with the unhoused community, especially where mental health and drug and alcohol abuse issues are present, so we are advocating for expanded services from outreach and counseling to housing, job training, and employment.

The Hollywood Studio District suffers from poor air quality resulting from congestion on the 101 freeway and major intersections along the Western Avenue corridor from Hollywood to Melrose. We need greater investment in urban greening efforts to combat poor air quality and the ever-present threat of the climate crisis and to bring beauty to our neighborhood.

The Hollywood Studio District also represents a transit-oriented community. With pedestrian and cyclist deaths increasing, we believe more funding is necessary for initiatives that bring safer and more efficient transit and alternative mobility infrastructure to the City. One intersection in our district (Hollywood & Western) is listed by Vision Zero as a priority intersection, while other intersections present similar safety issues for pedestrians and non-drivers. Investments in protected bike lanes, scramble crosses, and dedicated bus lanes will help to serve our community as well as the greater Los Angeles community.

In her opening remarks during the May 21, 2020 Council Meeting, Council President Nury Martinez said, “As we start the new fiscal year, it is important to keep in mind the people who need us the most right now—working families, those living in poverty, communities of color that have long been forgotten, seniors and children.” And Councilmember Ryu observed that “if we make cuts to departments and services that serve low-income and working families, we will be paying for those cuts for decades to come.” The Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council represents many such working families and vulnerable individuals who will see their daily lives negatively impacted by the Mayor’s proposed cuts. We as a community and neighborhood council believe that Black Lives Matter.

Public safety should be one of the City’s highest priorities, and investments like the ones we have outlined *are* investments in public safety because they invest in the people and the potential of our great City.

The coronavirus outbreak has laid bare many hard truths about the fragility of our healthcare system and our economy, the vulnerability of the many Angelenos living paycheck to paycheck, and the inequality in our society and in our City. We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to improve upon the past instead of defaulting to the patterns that in part led us to this moment.

It is in that spirit that our Neighborhood Council asks you for a compassionate budget—and thus, for a more just, equitable, and humane Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

The Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council

CC: Hon. Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, 13th District
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 480
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Hon. Nury Martinez
City Council President
Councilmember, 6th District
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Steet, Ste 470
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

This letter was discussed, amended, and approved as a Community Impact Statement on CF 20-0600 by a majority of a quorum of Board members at an official HSDNC Board meeting. I am signing it on behalf of the Board.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Franklin Sierra".

John Franklin Sierra
Chair, HSDNC