

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

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(21) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/24/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Neutral Position

Impact Information

Date: 06/27/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0600

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: This motin



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**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 (CF: 20-0600)

Dear Councilmember

Krekorian, Price, Koretz, Blumenfield, and Bonin,

Mid City West Community Council writes to express our concern regarding the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-21 and urges you to revise the budget so that it reflects the values of our community. At this critical time of converging health, economic, and racial justice crises, our city budget should be increasing funding for the vital social services on which so many Angelenos depend, not cutting those services to offset raises for police officers.

We appreciate that the City Council and the Mayor appear to be moving in the right direction on this issue with the recent vote to cut between \$100-150 million from LAPD's budget to reinvest back into disadvantaged communities and communities of color. The fact remains, however, that even with this cut, the LAPD budget will still consume over 50%¹ of the City's unrestricted revenues for the coming fiscal year.

The Mayor's Proposed Budget cuts \$230 million in services, weakening vital programs that many Angelenos rely on and imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 city workers while simultaneously increasing LAPD officer pay by \$144 million. Even with the newly-announced \$100-150 million cut to LAPD's budget has the potential to mitigate the effect of these raises, the Mayor's Proposed Budget still cuts City investments in housing programs by

¹ <http://cao.lacity.org/budget20-21/SupportInfo/index.html>



Don Whitehead
Roque Wicker



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9.4%², job programs by 8.9%,³ and homelessness programs by 6%⁴—despite the 14.2% increase in people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles last year.⁵ A number that has likely further increased due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

We applaud the City's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency: delivering meals to seniors, opening childcare centers for healthcare workers, purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, implementing a small business loan program, committing to providing rental assistance, and setting up testing sites, additional shelters, and more. These are the kinds of interventions Angelenos need at this critical and unprecedented time.

Sadly, the Mayor's Proposed Budget puts some of these very initiatives on the chopping block. The Department of Aging has reported that furloughs and office closures will directly affect seniors trying to enroll in meal services, many of whom do not have internet access and rely on staff to help them enroll in city programs via telephone.⁶ The Department of Economic Development anticipates that its cuts will cause delays in economic relief and related assistance to the thousands of workers and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.⁷ The Department of Housing and Community Investment predicts that furloughs will reduce its ability to provide services to tenants, prevent poverty and homelessness, and create affordable housing.⁸

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made. However, we urge you to rework the 2020-21 budget so that it meets the needs of this moment and shift significant resources to vital social services. Budgets are moral documents that reflect our values. This is a moment for us to

² <http://cao.lacity.org/budget20-21/SupportInfo/index.htm>

³ <http://cao.lacity.org/budget20-21/SupportInfo/index.htm>

⁴ <http://cao.lacity.org/budget20-21/SupportInfo/index.htm>

⁵ <https://www.lahsa.org/news?article=726-2020-greater-los-angeles-homeless-count-results>

⁶ CAO's May 19, 2020 Report on the Impact on City Services of the Furlough Program Included in the 2020-21 Proposed Budget, page 7 found at: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0500_rpt_CAO_05-19-2020.pdf

⁷ CAO's May 19, 2020 Report on the Impact on City Services of the Furlough Program Included in the 2020-21 Proposed Budget, page 15 found at: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0500_rpt_CAO_05-19-2020.pdf

⁸ CAO's May 19, 2020 Report on the Impact on City Services of the Furlough Program Included in the 2020-21 Proposed Budget, page 20 found at: http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-0500_rpt_CAO_05-19-2020.pdf



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recognize that investments in housing and job security, mental health care, and after-school programs are our best investments in public safety.

Right now, Los Angeles is presented with an opportunity to improve upon the past instead of repeating its mistakes. It is in that spirit that our Neighborhood Council asks you for a budget that reflects the values of our community and a more just, and equitable, Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Scott Epstein, Chairperson
Mid City West Community Council

CC:

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