

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alyssa Bell

**Date Submitted:** 06/15/2020 01:27 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to urge you to include full funding of at least \$700,000 for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, Climate Emergency Commission, and Community Assemblies in the FY-2020-21 budget. As the City considers what a truly just economic recovery from COVID looks like and how to uproot deep-seated structural racism -- all while meeting the urgency of the climate crisis -- these initiatives are more important than ever to ensure working class communities of color have a central role and that justice and sustainability are core principles. Thank you

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jen Willis

**Date Submitted:** 06/18/2020 11:42 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** DEFUND THE POLICE. I strongly support a budget that PROTECTS the developmental disabilities service system and public education and their funding. I STRONGLY support DEFUNDING the \$20 billion spent annually on the law enforcement in CA and allocating those funds to support developmental disabilities service system and the education system. Thanks for hearing my concerns, Jen Willis

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/18/2020 11:46 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a constituent in the 4th district of Los Angeles. I am writing as one of the millions of city dwellers that is asking that you defund the police and redistribute those dollars into a reimagined community safety system among many other community services. LAPD fails to protect and serve; instead they intimidate, attack, murder, and degrade us. In opposition to police funding, there are many places where this money can suit the public in a meaningful way: universal aid crisis as we still see the effects COVID19 has on our economy, rent cancellation as many inhumane landlords are in the process to evict tenants that were barely able to afford ridiculously high rent as it is, grant programs and funds to encourage/support the development of new Black-Owned businesses, the creation of a rent cap that correlated DIRECTLY with the actual wages that angelenos are making (not with the amount of rent landlords wish to charge). We need to put money back into the hands of the real individuals that make up this city's livelihood and business, not into the hands of the departments that kill us. Defund police now.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Central City Association  
**Date Submitted:** 06/18/2020 04:22 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached letter.



June 18, 2020

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Budget & Finance Committee  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: City Budget – Measure R Funds, LAFD Staffing for Case Processing and Civic Center**

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

Established in 1924, CCA is a membership-based advocacy organization committed to Downtown’s vibrancy and increasing investment in the region. We appreciate the hard work you are doing regarding the city’s budget and understand the enormous fiscal challenges ahead. We are writing this letter to raise concerns about three pending items before you: Measure R funds, Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) staffing for case processing and the Civic Center Master Plan.

**Measure R Funds**

The first item is regarding Measure R funds that were allocated for Downtown mobility and the motion to reprogram these funds to support infrastructure investments through other citywide programs like sidewalk and pavement restoration and elements of the mobility plan. These infrastructure improvements are important and need to be funded. However, repurposing funds intended for transportation projects and acceleration of those already in the pipeline is misguided and does not support the intent of the voter-approved Measure R sales tax. \$30 million in local return funds have been allocated to the Downtown Los Angeles Streetcar and we believe it is paramount to retain these funds for mobility improvements in Downtown.

Downtown is the transportation hub for the region. We understand that some districts feel that these funds should not be directed to Downtown, given major projects already underway like the federally mandated 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. However, we know that investments in Downtown support our entire region, and transportation infrastructure in DTLA improves access for the tens of thousands of people who move through Downtown every day to access economic opportunities, cultural attractions and essential services across the county.

On just one percent of the city’s land, Downtown accounts for nearly 20 percent of the city’s employment and more than 30 percent of apartments built over the past decade. Downtown will also provide a third of the city’s projected housing growth by 2040. Supporting mobility options in Downtown is essential to furthering our goals of encouraging this significant share of workers and residents to give up their cars and instead walk, bike, use a scooter or take transit.

Downtown also receives more than 22 million visitors annually, almost half of the 50 million visitors that come to LA each year. With one out of every eight and a half people in LA County employed in tourism and \$2.9 billion produced in local and state taxes from tourism, the industry is fundamental to our economic and fiscal health – mobility within Downtown is central to strengthening this critical industry.



We know sidewalk and pavement restoration is important. Instead of reallocating these funds that were committed for Downtown, we believe they should be funded by the significant increases in the Street Damage Restoration Fee that were recently adopted by City Council. Lastly, we believe it is inappropriate to reallocate funds from Downtown at a time when we lack voting Council representation to weigh in on this issue.

For these reasons, we ask that the Measure R funds remain committed to enhancing connections to Downtown and mobility within Downtown.

#### **LAFD Staffing for Case Processing**

The second item we would like to bring to your attention is a request from the LAFD to finish the hiring process for four administrative interns and establish a case processing unit within their department to review and permit housing projects more expeditiously. We believe this should be fully funded and call on the Council to continue to deepen its commitment to provide housing especially to those most in need. Additionally, this is a smart investment as it will help deliver housing quicker and prioritizes city resources. As we have stated in [a previous letter](#) regarding streamlining housing at this time, we believe housing is the most important upstream strategy to address the fiscal damages from COVID-19 for the city and its residents.

#### **Civic Center Masterplan**

Our final request at this time is regarding the Civic Center Masterplan which includes the redevelopment of the former Parker Center site. We understand the Civic Center Masterplan position has been removed from City Planning and that the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) will instead issue a Request For Information (RFI) for this work. We think this could be a real opportunity for the city to leverage private real estate expertise to develop this RFI and fully leverage the resource of city owned land in Downtown to provide housing, educational and child care facilities and new revenues for the city's general fund. We ask that you support EWDD to complete this plan as a public-private partnership.

We appreciate your consideration and hope that you recognize the challenge much of Downtown is facing in this budget cycle without voting Council representation. We stand ready to work with you and the entire city to accelerate the construction of housing, increase the city's tax base and the creation of good paying jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Lall".

Jessica Lall  
President & CEO

Cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Council President Nury Martinez  
Honorable Members of the Budget & Finance Committee