

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Adriana Melara  
**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2020 01:22 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Los Angeles City Council, My name is Adriana Melara, I am a 23 year-old young woman who was born and raised in Los Angeles. I need to use my voice as a citizen to make a comment today about the future state of our city. There needs to be change. \$150 million is not enough of a cut from the LAPD's budget. It is disgusting the amount of money - OUR tax payer money - that is invested into a police force that has made a horrible reputation for itself with their acts of brutality, violation of citizens' rights, and racial targeting of black and brown communities. We must cut more funding from the LAPD and invest it towards services that serve to help the community of Los Angeles. We must invest in affordable housing and services for unhoused individuals. Los Angeles is the capital of our nation's homeless population, it is our responsibility to do our part and help them, just because they do not have a home does not make them any less of an individual. That being said, having a drug addiction or mental illness does not make someone less of an individual either. Mental health is another area that needs more investing and attention. If we truly wish to help our community and build it from the ground up we need to focus on creating new programs and services that focus on mental health and addiction and are accessible to the people of Los Angeles. We need to build black and brown communities from the ground up. It would be beyond ignorant to deny the fact that these communities are constantly targeted and effected negatively the most by the excessive force and violence done to them by no other than the LAPD. Invest in Grassroots, in community-led interventions to help underserved black and brown communities. Let us invest and place more resources into these communities, such as hospitals, libraries, parks, etc. instead of police. We need to invest in our education! Why are so many Los Angeles public schools underfunded, yet LAPD gets billions of dollars? Why do our teachers in poorer communities have to struggle with their own salaries to provide materials and tools for their students? I want black and brown children in East L.A. or Van Nuys to have the same resources and opportunities like white children in the Pacific Palisades or Brentwood. There is such a disproportionate amount of neglect of resources and sustainability between communities and schools that must be repaired. Invest in training for social workers and specialized services to replace

police in non-violent situations. We the people of Los Angeles, deserve to have the police replaced with unarmed TRAINED PROFESSIONALS for calls about unhoused individuals, mental health, and substance use emergencies. How can a man with 6 months of training and a gun properly deescalate an individual trying to commit suicide? Do they have the proper crisis prevention training? Do they have training or education on mental health and depression? How can we ensure these individuals are non biased? Given the fact that Garcetti only recently announced the police will now be required to receive crowd deescalation training is extremely concerning regarding the fact that should have already been implemented in their training. What else are they not being required to be trained on? How can we be positive each individual who joins the force is non prejudice towards others? How can you read the countless horror stories of the manner in which LAPD treated peaceful protestors and not think there needs to be serious reform? We have over 10 million people in the city of Los Angeles. We have 84 different languages spoken in this beautiful city filled with diversity. We need to make sure every single individual from every background and every area of the city is given proper resources and protection. I plead with you- beg you - please cut more of the LAPD's budget and invest it towards: -Grassroots, community-led interventions to help underserved black and brown communities -Training for social workers/specialized services to replace police in non-violent situations -Affordable housing -Services for unhoused individuals -Public health -Mental health services -Addiction treatment services -Education Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Daria

**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2020 06:06 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The motion to divert calls and service provision away from the LAPD is an important first step, but we need to reimagine public safety to a greater extent. City Council must work closely with BLMLA and People's Budget LA to truly defund the police. Furthermore, the proposed \$100-150 million cut, to LAPD is not enough. You are still leaving the majority of our budget for law enforcement. As Dr. Abdullah shared in her BLM/People's Budget LA testimony, your choices in this moment show us clearly who you serve – the people, the police, or your ambitions. In regards to my Council Member PAUL KORETZ, it is clear that you do not serve the people. You have shown no interest in substantive racial justice in Los Angeles. Your transparent and empty posts about George Floyd are meaningless when you uphold inequality in this city.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lola Smallwood  
**Date Submitted:** 06/22/2020 03:43 PM  
**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** This comment is addressed to the first item no. (20-0600) on the agenda from the budget and finance committee meeting. My Name is Lola Smallwood Cuevas, co-founder of the Los Angeles Black Worker Center and director of the CARE at Work, an initiative of the UCLA Labor Center A grassroots center in los angeles working to create a world where Black workers and their families can thrive in an equitable economy that sustains vibrant communities. Our mission is to expand access to and retention on quality jobs, free of discrimination, harrassment and retaliation... All workers in California deserve employment opportunities and a fair and dignified workplace. Discrimination has created a crisis for Black workers. The moral and economic crisis of racism affects our entire state. The convergence of current crisis points to the need for immediate solutions to racial and economic inequities, particularly on Black working-class communities. • Black workers are more educated than ever before, yet they still face persistent employment and pay gaps. • Black workers with a high school or less education have doubled the unemployment of white workers with the same educational attainment. • Black workers are underrepresented in professional jobs and have lower rates in manager and supervisory positions. • Whether working full or part time, Black workers earn only three-quarters of what white workers earn. For Black women, the wage gap is even more severe. • Wealth gap • nickel The consequences of the jobs crisis in the Black community are enormous. The ripple effects touch every Californian. • Job discrimination is one root cause of health and mental health disparities in the Black community. Black families are locked out of healthy food choices, health care, and safe housing when Black breadwinners experience racism and discrimination in employment. • Black youth are in crisis as they are disconnected from school and work opportunities, widening the school to prison pipeline. This budget must include the \$3 million commitment to provide robust and vibrant enforcement of civil rights enforcement particularly in the workplace as more than 36 million Americans have applied for unemployment. Black workers are unemployed nearly 60 days longer than other average length of unemployment insurance and are often the hard to employ. We want to ensure discriminatory practices are not in place during the right to recall in Los Angeles. Additionally, we

know that Black renters are being displaced at higher rates. All of these factors requires this department to be up, running and staffed. We know the city of Seattle's Civil rights Office operating budget was nearly \$5 million. In this time of great inequity and disparate outcomes in Los Angeles, we must have a department that can meet the need. As the city begins to reallocate funds to support Black communities ensuring job creation through targeted local hire and protecting the civil rights is urgent and must be prioritized with funding now.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stephanie Morris

**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2020 10:01 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The council needs to take concrete steps toward creating a better Los Angeles by defunding the LAPD and considering the People's Budget, which invests in our communities and services rather than policing. The money to make impactful change exists - it just needs to be reallocated from the LAPD budget and applied to constructive efforts. In addition to reforming the budget, the council needs to consider the importance of keeping people housed in the midst of a pandemic. Rent needs to be cancelled for people whose income is impacted by COVID-19, and those in our communities who are unhoused need a roof over their heads. This is not only a moral imperative, but a public safety issue, and time is of the essence.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/23/2020 10:05 AM

**Council File No:** 20-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Adopt a Peoples Budget and Defund the police. Let's reimagine public safety.