

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: After writing a previous public comment, I received a detailed response by email outlining efforts by the Mayor to address police reform in the city budget. I was appreciative of the email, but highly shocked at the lack of awareness in the response. Mayor Garcetti's response to the public's demand of police defunding was to compare the LAPD's budget to more expensive budgets such as the Metro system. In addition, he highlighted the "groundbreaking programs" that have cut fatal officer shootings in half. Firstly, the loss of life at the hands of police should not be applauded if it exists in any form. Cutting systemic murder in half is not an accomplishment. The police should not be killing any form of life; that is not their job. And if that department of city governing continues to kill, it should be broken down not lauded. Secondly, to compare one program with another is entirely meaningless. The Metro system in the city of Los Angeles served over 370 million rides to citizens in the year of 2019. The LAPD in 2019 received 979,592 calls for service and 30,000 incidents of violent crimes. If you want to equate services then perhaps we should equate the number of citizens they are benefitting. The Metro system benefits over 370 times more citizens than the LAPD. I would like to emphasize that this is a ridiculous comparison: the number of annual violent crimes cannot be compared to the number of bus rides. But then again, one system seems to provide much more positive results to the city than the other. And the Metro system has yet to kill anyone by gun violence. And anyway, it was the Mayor who decided to make the comparison between the two programs. All this to say, please listen to the Peoples' Budget LA and stop making excuses for why the LAPD needs 1.8 billion dollars from a budget that the citizens it represents do not support. And please listen to these comments and do not send weak excuses in response. Thank you, Jeremy