



Councilmember
Joe Buscaino
Fifteenth District

May 21, 2020

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

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

Thank you for your close attention to the FY20-21 proposed budget, one of the most difficult City budget years to date. Although resources are scarce, I write to relay my support for various departmental requests that will ultimately result in cost-savings for the City of Los Angeles.

First, as a matter of general feedback, I ask that you consider affording General Managers of departments that have either increased revenue or increased productivity and efficiency of service delivery over the past several years, with the flexibility to make decisions about where to reduce expenditures in their departments. The experienced individuals that lead our departments know their staff and the inner-workings of their agencies better than anyone else, and it is important to recognize and reward those departments, managers and employees with a track record of providing the highest level of service to the City's residents, as efficiently and effectively as possible. If these department heads are able to identify equal cuts in other areas that are preferred to the proposed hiring freezes and furloughs, I implore you to closely examine those proposals and cooperate with our City's General Managers as much as possible.

One such area that I request your specific consideration is support for the Los Angeles Fire Department's request for additional funding, as detailed in the Fire Chief's letter, dated April 24, 2020. The Department's requests will help strengthen public health and safety citywide and, as referenced in the letter, will help prevent a more costly use of staff and resources, such as overtime and sworn personnel backfilling necessary civilian work.

Finally, General Manager Ted Ross issued several formal requests as detailed in the Information Technology Agency letter, also dated April 24, 2020, that I request your close review for the FY20-21 budget. Two requests, involving substantially strengthening the City's cybersecurity, are of utmost importance. As you know, the City continues to rely more heavily upon technology, including the recent need for the majority of City employees to telecommute, which will continue for months to come.

Thank you for your consideration, and, furthermore, your dedication to adopting a lean, judicious budget during one of the most fiscally trying times in the City's history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Buscaino'.

JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District
President Pro Tempore