
Today's People's Budget Presentation

1 message

From: Molly Zalman <zalmanmolly@gmail.com>
To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 7:58 PM

Hello,

I am a resident of Los Angeles, CA, and am writing to you to implore you to look at the findings presented in today's People's Budget presentation to the city council, and adjust budgets to defund the police and reimagine public safety. As the group highlighted today, there is an overwhelming demand for investment in Universal Aid and Crisis Management, Built Environment, and Reimagined Community Safety, and only a 1.64% focus on police demand. Please listen to the demands and voices of the people, given that our current / historical police budget is upwards of 50% of our total budget. You serve as representatives of the community and Angelenos from all districts are demanding change. The world is cracked open now and our needs are clearer than ever, so please be on the right side of history.

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Stay safe and healthy,

Molly Zalman
She, her, hers
Writer, Comedian
Emerson College Alum

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Enact the People's Budget LA

1 message

From: 'Brittany Williams' via Clerk Budget and Finance Committee <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>
To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 4:55 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Councilmembers Krekorian, Price, Koretz, Blumenfield, and Bonin,

I write to express my deep concern regarding the Mayor's Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2020-21.

I urge the City Council to amend Mayor Garcetti's budget to reflect the values of our community: we want more social services, employment programs, public health resources, rent relief, and restorative justice programs, not more policing. We request the City Council adopt the People's Budget LA.

While the Mayor recently announced he would decrease LAPD funding by up to \$150M, this symbolic gesture is simply not enough. There needs to be a drastic reduction of LAPD funding and an un-armed, community-based, alternative policing system—on top of more funding for social programs. People are marching through the entire city demanding systemic change and justice for the 600+ black people killed by police in LA County since 2012. We implore you to listen to the demands of your constituents.

Public safety should no doubt be one of the City's highest priorities. But investments in housing and job security, mental health care, and after-school programs are investments in public safety. By cutting these services, this budget will not make Angelenos safer.

Furthermore, protests in Los Angeles following the murder of George Floyd have exemplified the issue of police brutality, including the indiscriminate use of tear-gas and rubber bullets against protesters, demonstrating the need for an overhaul of the LAPD. We are presented with an opportunity to improve upon the past instead of repeating its mistakes. It is in that spirit that I ask you for a compassionate budget—and through it, for a more just, equitable, and humane Los Angeles.

I urge the City Council to adopt the People's Budget LA and amend Mayor Garcetti's budget to shift resources from the LAPD to social services, housing, employment programs, restorative justice programs, rent relief, and public health efforts.

Sincerely,
Brittany Williams

L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs

1 message

From: Neyda Cujcuj <ncujcuj@gmail.com>
To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 3:34 PM

Good Afternoon,

I am a resident of Los Angeles, California from District 9. I write to demand that part of the **\$150 million cuts from the police budget be reinvested to the L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs.**

Our youth deserve to have arts and a safe learning environment. Arts are an essential part of our communities because they become an emotional outlet, passion, and performance opportunities. Use your power and privilege to help Black, Indigenous, and communities of color.

Listen to the community and invest in the L.A. Department of Cultural Affairs.

Best,
Neyda

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Neyda Cujcuj Xoyon
Pronouns: She / Her(s) / Ella
Claremont McKenna College 22'

ADOPT THE PEOPLES BUDGET

1 message

From: 'Maria Beg' via Clerk Budget and Finance Committee <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>
To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 2:56 PM

Hello,

I am writing to you as a Muslim, as a female, as a person of color, and as a very concerned LA resident.

Today is listened to the presentation of the People's Budget by a group of amazing, compassionate and dedicated volunteers. They have each devoted so much time, energy and resources in representing the desires and needs of the LA people. I hope you take their call to action serious and hold your own feet to the fire and take advantage of this moment in history and do what's right.

For far too long we have ignored the struggle of our black sisters and brothers. We have ignored the racism and prejudice they experience on a day to day basis. You now have the power to change that. Defunding the police and divesting the budget to other resources that needs our attention- community development, mental health, homeless crisis, EDUCATION- is has been needed for far too long. So many areas need your attention. History has shown us that increasing policing does not lead to less crime and its negatively affects communities of color!

Nelson Mendal said "Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great." Well, we are that generation. You can be part of that generation. You have the power to be great. You have the power to show the people of LA and really the world, that Black Lives Matter is not just a catch phrase but that black lives really do matter and the sense killing and overfunding of the police needs to end. You have the power to reimagine a society in where black and brown communities receive the funding and attention they deserve. You have the power to reimagine a society where schools get more funding than the police. You have the power. Use it. Do not shy away from it. Be on the right side of history. If not, your actions will be remember. You will be remembered as the committee that continued to fund systemic racism that targets black and brown communities. Is that how you want to be remembered?

We can be better and need to be better. Adopt the People's Budget.

Thank you,
Maria Beg
LA City Resident

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ADOPT THE PEOPLE's BUDGET!

1 message

From: Lidia Orozco <lidiarzco@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 1:13 PM

Dear LA City Council,

I am emailing as a concerned citizen and an educator in our beautiful city of Los Angeles.

I demand that you listen to your constituents, reimagine public safety and the well being of Angelinos.

I demand that as paid leaders you be courageous and defund the LAPD, prioritize Black lives and implement the People's Budget. We need humane services-- more trained health and social services workers. We need more educators and mental health professionals. We need THESE public servants to be paid for their work-- WE DO NOT NEED OR WANT THE POLICE.

Defund the police, adopt the People's Budget!!

- Lidia Orozco

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DEFUND THE POLICE

1 message

From: Lidia Orozco <lidiarzc@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 1:12 PM

Dear LA City Council,

I am emailing as a concerned citizen and an educator in our beautiful city of Los Angeles.

I demand that you listen to your constituents, reimagine public safety and the well being of Angelinos.

I demand that as paid leaders you be courageous and defund the LAPD, prioritize Black lives and implement the People's Budget. We need humane services-- more trained health and social services workers. We need more educators and mental health professionals. We need THESE public servants to be paid for their work-- WE DO NOT NEED OR WANT THE POLICE.

Defund the police, adopt the People's Budget!!

- Lidia Orozco

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REDEFINE LA AS A CITY OF PROGRESS | DEFUND THE POLICE

1 message

From: Lidia Orozco <lidiarzc@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 1:10 PM

Dear LA City Council,

I am emailing as a concerned citizen and an educator in our beautiful city of Los Angeles.

I demand that you listen to your constituents, reimagine public safety and the well being of Angelinos.

I demand that as paid leaders you be courageous and defund the LAPD, prioritize Black lives and implement the People's Budget. We need humane services-- more trained health and social services workers. We need more educators and mental health professionals. We need THESE public servants to be paid for their work-- WE DO NOT NEED OR WANT THE POLICE.

I demand you defund the LAPD and adopt the People's Budget!

-Lidia Orozco

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Please Adopt People's Budget, Defund the LAPD

1 message

From: Sarah Krausse <sarah.krausse@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 12:09 PM

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Los Angeles. I urge you to immediately adopt the People's Budget, and channel funding to support underserved communities and Defund The Police. I firmly support BLMLA's important, necessary work to bring attention to the inequities that the current budget further enacts.

Please make these necessary, systemic changes NOW. This is history in the making, and we have a chance to move this city to a less-racist place, and lead the country in change.

Adopt the People's Budget. Defund the Police and create a community-based policy-making group to be involved in further, ongoing budget-making.

Thank you,
Sarah Krausse
Los Angeles Resident, Los Feliz

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Los Angeles Budget & Finance Meeting - Today 12pm

1 message

From: Alyssa Harberger <alharberger13@gmail.com>
To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 12:07 PM

Hello,

I am a resident of Chatsworth, CA, and am writing to you to implore you to look at the findings presented in today's Peoples Budget presentation to city council, and adjust budgets to defund the police and reimagine public safety. As the group highlighted today, there is an overwhelming demand for investment in Universal Aid and Crisis Management, Built Environment, and Reimagined Community Safety, and only a 1.64% focus on police demand. Please listen to the demands and voices of the people, given that our current / historical police budget is upwards of 50% of our total budget. You serve as representatives of the community and Angelenos from all districts are demanding change. The world is cracked open now and our needs are clearer than ever, so please be on the right side of history.

Thank you,
Alyssa Harberger

Sent from my iPhone

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SAVE the DCA

1 message

From: iris yirei hu <iris.yirei.hu@gmail.com>

To: councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, controller.galperin@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 12:05 PM

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Councilmembers,

Our names are iris yirei hu and David Bell and we are visual artists in Los Angeles. We are writing to urge you to DEFEND the Department of Cultural Affairs and locate more city funds to support this vital cultural resource that we have.

We and many members of our arts community have shown our work at Barnsdall Art Park, and we see it as one of the only civic venues and departments that is committed to working towards equity and inclusive practices. As working artists, we feel that the mere fact that budget cuts aimed at the DCA is even on the table for discussion is humiliating, invalidating, and unacceptable. The people of Los Angeles are suffering from the lack of equitable cultural spaces to learn, to share, to show their art, to speak, to connect. In a city so diverse and beautiful as ours, it is both a civic service (from you) and cultural service (from you AND artists) to have platforms and funding to support art that connects individuals, communities, and cultures. Cutting the DCA's budget would be not only a complete disservice to the City of Los Angeles, but would be a statement to the broader world that art and humanity are not prioritized (yet, clearly, policing humanity is). As a government, you should entrust artists to model a world we wish to see by creating space and allocate funds for imagination and manifestation. Culture-making is a FUNDAMENTAL human and societal experience, and we need MORE money and support from you. We pay way too much in taxes for the defunding of the DCA. We demand that you identify more funds from the proposed LAPD budget to reallocate into education, arts and culture.

DCA is a VITAL resource for the artistic community here in LA. You would be putting artists in danger and in even more precarity if you defund the DCA. Respect what we bring to the society and respect our stories, otherwise, without us, the city's future will be even more grim.

In possibility,
iris yirei hu & David Bell

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iris yirei hu
iris.yireihu.com
626.590.8560

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET OF LA. SAY YOU'LL DEFUND THE POLICE.

1 message

From: Gabby Carroll <gabrielle.carroll72@gmail.com>

To: councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 11:44 AM

Hello all,

I was able to catch the People's Budget Discussion today with the city council and the People's Budget of LA and I so appreciate that they were invited to present their budget and that you all see it as a continuing conversation. I'm emailing again to support the People's Budget and to demand that you all defund the LAPD and put that money towards social services to fix the major issues of housing and healthcare in this city. We need a commitment to this action, not just a vague commitment to help Los Angeles. Commit to defunding the police. Say it loud and clear.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Carroll
District 4

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An Update To The Budget Please

1 message

From: Megan Salinas <megan.m.salinas@gmail.com>

To: Bob Blumenfield <bob.blumenfield@lacity.org>, Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, curren.price@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, paul.krekorian@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 11:28 AM

Hi all,

Happy Monday! It's the start to a new week, which means that there's a lot of work to be done! But if we can all get the week off to a good start, we can all be productive and make a lot of progress in the work that needs to be done on behalf of the Black community and other communities of color.

That being said, I can't say that I'm particularly pleased with the lack of progress up to this point. As you may have guessed, I am writing to you today to once again urge you to defund the police and invest that money in other areas of the city that are in dire need of additional funding. By reducing the vast amount of the city's budget going to militarize the LAPD, that money could instead be used to improve the LA Unified School District, help the homeless, extend healthcare, reinforce infrastructure, aid social services, and assist in other community programs that ultimately would make this city a better place to be for everyone.

Though the police are an essential service to the city when a crime is committed, they are being asked to do too much. By divesting in them, we could put other systems in place so that they police only have to worry about crime, rather than having to be responsible for services they are not equipped or trained to deal with. That being said, our trust in the police can only be reestablished when the people responsible for breaking that trust are held accountable for their actions. As such, I am asking you all to hold Police Chief Moore and the entire LAPD accountable for the numerous acts of police brutality against peaceful protestors. In order to do this, an independent investigation must be launched to make sure that each and every officer guilty of these horrific acts of violence against innocent people is brought to justice. I love Los Angeles, but after witnessing the horrific violent acts that the LAPD inflicted on innocent people, I can no longer say that I am proud to be a member of this community. Chief Moore and the LAPD have made me ashamed to be a citizen of Los Angeles, and they should make you all feel ashamed as well. But it is not too late to start to make amends. We're a long way away from rebuilding trust, but it starts with defunding the LAPD and bringing the perpetrators of these heinous acts of police brutality to justice.

Do the right thing. Adopt a people's budget to invest in our communities of color. Ask yourselves how you would like history to look back on your actions during these turbulent times. I know if I was in your position, I would want to be remembered as an advocate for justice and equality. So remember that history has its eyes on you.

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All the best,
Megan Salinas

People's Budget

1 message

From: Rebecca Rice <rebeccarice.soprano@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 11:00 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of the Black Lives Matter Los Angeles movement and the People's Budget. I urge you to adopt the proposal of the People's Budget for this year. It is imperative that we spend most of our city budget on services to communities rather than spending on a police department that has failed to enact meaningful reform despite decades of "trying." Clearly, their large budget has not worked to stop the unequal treatment black communities have withstood from the police. Instead, use the funding for violence prevention, housing, education, healthcare, food security, and other supportive services.

Thank you for your time,
Rebecca Rice
Palms, Los Angeles

Special Council Mtg: Budget and Finance Today

1 message

From: Jazmine Hill <jaydeeaach@gmail.com>
To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 10:39 AM

Hi Mandy,

My name is Jazmine and I am a resident of Los Angeles and I'm writing regarding the special council meeting budget and finance. I am writing you in case I do not get a chance to speak during the public comment portion of today's mtg. I am reaching out to let you know that I oppose the LA millions of dollars budget, which still pours the majority of our funds into LAPD. I would like you to defund the police department and reconfigure it into something we can be more proud of. LAPD is too abusive to continue the way they are in its current state. The mayor's "work to identify \$250M further investments into community programs" is simply not enough. There have been cities (like Camden, NJ though I understand much smaller than LA) who have adopted defunding and reconfiguring their police departments and they have good results. Nothing is or will be perfect and each city in America will need to make their own version out of it. But, keeping things the same will literally not do anything.

I would like our money going into quality housing to get rid of the remnants of redlining, proper education for all (not based on people's zip code), free and quality public transportation, sustainable climate changes, mental healthcare, social and health care workers for things like non emergency domestic violence and homelessness and drug abuse, small business resources, and using the police for things like emergency violent situations, when a life that is in danger needs protecting, filing reports for damaged property. The mayor's current budget proposal which gives the majority of the funds to the LAPD is too excessive and I ask you to please allocate less to the police and more toward other systems. I understand this will be a slow process but hoping this turns into progress and a safer city for the black and brown community that I am part of. Please listen to your community.

I am black and deeply disappointed and saddened of not only the recent events but of the continuous poor treatment of black and brown people. Please be a good example. And if there's anything you can do to help the Louisville mayor bring justice for Breonna Taylor and arrest the 3 cops who viciously and unjustifiably killed her, please do.

Thank you for your time

Written Comments - Finance and Budget Committee - June 15,2020. Please Enter into Public Record

1 message

From: <idatalalla@aol.com>
To: Mandy.Morales@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 10:32 AM

The Hon. LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee Meeting- Special Meeting, June 15,2020.

To you and Council Committee Members, thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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Comments:

As a Senior and at that of an elderly Senior involved with Senior issues at a number of levels, I speak for myself and not for the organizations I am involved with.

At this moment, given the impact on health, consequences of poverty and malnutrition, I am making a plea to make no cuts to the LA Department of Aging.

A great deal of effort has been made to get a fair and equitable budget to meet the needs of all segments of the City's operations and also meet community needs. The City is also handling the battering of a pandemic with no known cure at the moment. However, past cuts have impacted Senior services and further cuts during this pandemic have grave implications.with serious consequences for the City's aging population.

Please no cuts to Senior Services and Programs.

Thanks for your kind consideration,

With all good wishes,

Respectfully,

Ida Talalla

I support BLMLA and the Peoples Budget LA

1 message

From: Ellis Bahl <ellisbahl@gmail.com>
To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org
At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 10:05 AM

Hello,

My name is Ellis Bahl and I live in Highland Park, Los Angeles. I am writing in the hopes that you will consider the People's Budget LA (peoplesbudgetLA.com) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Please listen with willing hearts and open minds when BLMLA presents the People's Budget today.

I fundamentally disagree with the Mayor's budget which as you know allocates more than 50% towards policing. Strategically, this approach is flawed. Just like in medicine, prevention is the best tool. I strongly encourage you to look at the facts and act accordingly. Please limit budget allocation to policing to under 10%. The people's budget LA gives only 5.7% to policing which I think is a good goal. With the newly freed up funds, the city should prioritize universal needs. (such as housing, childcare, healthy food, clear air and water), pandemic recovery, built environment, and reimagined public safety over the police department. We need to engage directly with communities, especially Black and Indigenous communities — the most at risk of police brutality and murder — to create a budget that serves ALL Angelenos.

Disarming and defunding the police is THE ONLY WAY. Weak reforms and petty budget cuts (i.e. "finding 250 million") will have no effect on police brutality and systemic racism, but will result in continued unrest and further protesting. Please act swiftly and DO THE RIGHT THING NOW. I urge you to support the People's Budget LA.

Thank you for your time,

Ellis Bahl



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You've Taken LAPD Dollars, Now Defund the LAPD

1 message

From: Bethany Heykoop <bet.heykoop@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, paul.krekorian@lacity.org

At: Mon, Jun 15, 2020 at 8:58 AM

Hello, My name is Bethany and I live in Los Angeles, 90016. I am writing to amend the budget for the LAPD, and redirect the excessive amount of funds to programs committed to healing the community the police regularly abuse. I also see that almost the entire committee has accepted funds from the LAPD union, which is why you must examine why you took office and pledge to uphold the voice of your constituents. If the average Angeleno spent like the City of LA, their monthly budget would be: \$177 for housing, \$80 for transportation, and \$1831/mo ON GUNS. PAUL KREKORIAN You received \$24,998.91 from the LAPD. I urge you to redirect those funds to bailout, mutual aid, and organizations that benefit the black community. CURREN PRICE You received \$7,378.07 from the LAPD, and I urge you to redirect that money to bailout, mutual aid, and organizations that benefit the black community. PAUL KORETZ: You received \$56,061.42 from the LAPD, and I urge you to redirect that money to bailout, mutual aid, and organizations that benefit the black community. MIKE BONIN: You received \$26,553.43 from the LAPD, and I urge you to redirect that money to bailout, mutual aid, and organizations that benefit the black community. Bob Blumenfield, you haven't (at least on public record) taken money from the LAPD, and I would urge you to hold your fellow council members who are clearly bought by the LAPD accountable. Moving forward, it is your utmost duty to stand with your fellow community members and refuse donations and endorsements from the police union. We urge you to commit to a future in which senseless acts of police violence no longer go unheard, and we hope that you uphold George Floyd's legacy to seek justice alongside us. Because we won't stop. Defund the LAPD and redirect funds to care for the community.