

Comment Letter - CF# 20-0600 Defund LAPD Invest in Park Equity

1 message

Anisha Hingorani <AHingorani@advanceproj.org>

Sun, Jun 28, 2020 at 7:51 PM

To: "councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org" <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, "councilmember.price@lacity.org" <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, "Paul.koretz@lacity.org" <Paul.koretz@lacity.org>, "councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org" <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, "councilmember.bonin@lacity.org" <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>
Cc: "mandy.morales@lacity.org" <mandy.morales@lacity.org>, "Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org" <Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Martinez@lacity.org" <councilmember.Martinez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.rodriiguez@lacity.org" <councilmember.rodriiguez@lacity.org>, "councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org" <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, "councilmember.Wesson@lacity.org" <councilmember.Wesson@lacity.org>, "Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org" <Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, "councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org" <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, "councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org" <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, "david.ryu@lacity.org" <david.ryu@lacity.org>, "darryl.ford@lacity.org" <darryl.ford@lacity.org>, "barbara.romero@lacity.org" <barbara.romero@lacity.org>

To the members of the Budget and Finance Committee and members of the City Council,

Please accept this letter signed by park equity, public health, and housing justice advocates into the official record urging the Los Angeles City Council to defund from law enforcement and invest in parks, community-led health, infrastructure, and safety in order to repair the legacy of racist budget policies that have divested from Black communities and other communities of color for far too long.

The signing organizations look forward to working with you to address these issues. Please reach out if you have any further questions.

Best,

Anisha

Anisha Hingorani

she/her/hers

Senior Policy and Research Analyst

Direct Line: 213-406-9140




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Don't forget April is CENSUS month. Did you complete your form?

WE COUNT LOS ANGELES

Our Community. Our Census.

 **LA City 20-21 Budget CF 20-0600 Park Equity Letter.pdf**
59K

June 28, 2020

Chair Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 1010
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via email: mandy.morales@lacity.org

RE: CF # 20-0600 Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2020-21

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and are committed to undoing systemic and anti-Black racism in our society, starting with the built environment. We are also committed to efforts to defund LAPD and reinvest in the services and programs that Black, Indigenous, people of color communities need to thrive. **We urge the Los Angeles City Council to defund the police and invest in community-led health, infrastructure, and safety in order to repair the legacy of racist budget policies that have divested from Black communities and other communities of color for far too long.**

The People's Budget LA--which reimagines our city's budget that centers community values--envision a quarter of the General Fund going to the built environment, which includes parks, libraries, transportation, public works, and the fire department. Park equity advocates have seen time and time again that when the city faces a fiscal deficit, elected officials choose to defund vital community services to communities of color while maintaining or increasing funds to policing and incarceration. In the aftermath of the Los Angeles Uprising of 1992, the mayor redirected park and street services funding into LAPD and used equity-based CDBG funds to backfill general services. The city's Recreation and Parks Department was forced into a 10-year hiring freeze during the Great Recession, which drastically impacted the department's ability to maintain and operate the city's parks. This year's proposed hiring freeze comes at a time when a quarter of Recreations and Parks staff are eligible to retire; if the hiring freeze is instated, we fear that large parts of the city's park system would lack the necessary staffing to serve park users. While other departments were forced to make cuts and furlough staff, the police department continued to grow, leading us to the militarized, violent police state that Black communities, and other marginalized communities, live in every day.

The proposal to reinvest \$250 million of the city's budget, including the police budget, into Black and other communities of color is a good start, but is still a fraction of the true cost of public disinvestment of health-promoting services and programs and overinvestment in toxic and environmental burdens in these same communities. According to the [Park Proud 2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#) the City of L.A.'s Department of Recreation and Parks' serves as one of the "City's most comprehensive social service providers, offering an array of diverse, interesting and enriching recreational, educational, and cultural programs that serve youth, adults and seniors." Our organizations agree with that statement and also believe that parks and recreation centers in Black communities and communities of color serve as multi-benefit public spaces that promote community cohesion and safety. From providing jobs to local

area youth and opportunities to develop them into parks professionals, to providing public programming and access to nature, the Department of Recreation and Parks has been a beacon of hope and source of respite for generations of Angelenos.

The undersigned organizations, in solidarity with the People’s Budget LA and demands to defund police, urge the City Council to:

- Defund the police department and create a short-term plan to eliminate sworn positions.
- Protect the Recreation and Parks Department budget from further cuts and hiring freezes and ensure funds are invested in culturally responsive programming, maintenance, and development resources for Black communities and other communities of color.
- Oppose any attempt to arm the City of Los Angeles park rangers (CF # 20-0190) and encourage the City Council to invest in alternative approaches to ensure community safety at parks such as increased programming, jobs and design improvements. [See our previous letter.](#)
- Ensure all CDBG funds are protected to create affordable housing, community services, and jobs in historically marginalized communities.
- Eliminate the \$89 million in city funds earmarked for LAPD on the Metro system. The public transportation network has seen a significant decline in ridership and estimates suggest it will take months to return to normal service levels. Public transportation users need sanitation and frequent service, not policing.
- Eliminate the \$12 million earmarked for police overtime.
- Support the redirection/reallocation of funds from LAPD to departments that work to provide basic City services, such as housing, transportation, parks and street services.
- Prioritize the participation of the Department of Parks and Recreation staff in conversations/efforts to reimagine public safety in the City of L.A.

Signed,

Anisha Hingorani
Advancement Project California

Viviana Franco
From Lot to Spot

Laura Raymond
Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles

David Levitus
LA Forward

Heng Lam Foong
Asian Pacific Islander Forward Movement

Grace Cotangco
National Health Foundation

Sylvia Arredondo & Dilia Ortega
Communities for a Better Environment

Veronica Padilla-Campos
Pacoima Beautiful

Rabeya Sen
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

Manal J. Aboelata, MPH
Prevention Institute

Azucena 'Susy' Hernandez
Promesa Boyle Heights

Cynthia Strathmann
Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE)

Yvette Lopez-Ledesma
The Wilderness Society

ACTION NOW!!! LISTEN TO YOUR RESIDENTS NOT THE POLICE

1 message

From: Melissa Silva <melissa.wool28@gmail.com>

To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org, paul.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, mike.bonin@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

At: Sun, Jun 28, 2020 at 10:58 PM

Hello, My name is Melissa Silva and I live in Whittier, 90603. 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.

You've Taken LAPD Dollars, Now Defund the LAPD

1 message

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

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

At: Sun, Jun 28, 2020 at 6:47 PM

Hello,

My name is Bethany and I live in 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.

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2 messages

From: Angela Snyder <alovesawashington@gmail.com>

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

At: Sun, Jun 28, 2020 at 6:43 PM

Hello,

My name is Angela Snyder and I live in 90043. 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.

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Angela Snyder

1 / 2

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At: Sun, Jun 28, 2020 at 6:44 PM

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2 messages

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

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Angela Snyder

People's Budget

1 message

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

To: Bob Blumenfeld <bob.blumenfeld@lacity.org>, Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@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.rodriquez@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: Sun, Jun 28, 2020 at 12:27 PM

Hi all,

I have to ask why is it that you are so resistant to the requests of change and reform to help our city flourish? Given that a member of the city council was busted this week for his illegal activities, it kinda seems like you all are just doing whatever you can to hold on to your wealth and power, and adhering to the status quo is the best way for you to do that. If that is the case, then shame on all of you! If it isn't the case, then you need to step it up and prove to your constituents that we are your main priority. Need I remind you, you work for us, so start acting like it. Listen to the people's cry for reform.

As a citizen of Los Angeles living in District 4, I am writing to you today to demand that you adopt the People's Budget LA for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and revise the current budget accordingly, because honestly it's the only way you're all going to be able to earn back the trust of your constituents.

Studies have shown that providing more funding to certain areas of our society, such as education, actually are far more effective in preventing crime. This is a wide-known fact, so why on earth are we spending billions of dollars on law enforcement when that money could make a world of difference in communities that desperately need it? Unlike the Mayor's budget, which — even with cuts and proposed reapportionments — gives more than half of unrestricted funds to the LAPD, the People's Budget LA gives only 5.7% to the police. Survey takers determined that 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. You 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.

Over the past several weeks, our city has shown its overwhelming support for defunding the LAPD. It has made clear — through both physical and digital actions— that LA must not use its money to fund the murderous LAPD.

Throughout this time of mass protest, the police have reacted with extreme violence and unwarranted escalation towards peaceful protestors and our unhoused neighbors. LAPD Commander Cory Palka flashed a White Power signal on television. Chief Moore blamed the police murder of George Floyd on LA protestors. Many police officers have hurt, abused and maimed. An independent investigation needs to be launched to hold the perpetrators of police brutality accountable for their actions. Anything less than defunding the LAPD and punishing the officers responsible for inciting violence is shameful.

This is unacceptable and LAPD must be defunded, now. I urge you to support the People's Budget LA.

I will say good job on making masks mandatory, that was a good call. Credit where credit is due. Now get back to work on the budget!

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All the best,
Megan Salinas