
Deny Garcetti's Budget!

1 message

From: Lauren Bulloch <lauren.bulloch.la@gmail.com>

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 3:45 PM

06/03/2020

Dear Council members Krekorian, Price, Koretz, Blumenfield, and Bonin,

I'm writing 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 understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made. We question the priorities and values that are reflected in the Mayor's Proposed Budget, however, with regard to the cuts he has proposed—and those he has not. Specifically, we are troubled that in a budget that cuts \$230 million in services, weakening vital programs that many Angelenos rely on and imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 city workers, LAPD officer pay is simultaneously being increased by \$144 million. In relative terms compared to last year's spending—despite the great need created by the COVID-19 outbreak—the Mayor's Proposed Budget cuts City investments in housing programs by 9.4%, job programs by 8.9%, and homelessness programs by 6%—all while boosting its expenditure on police by 7.1%. This brings LAPD's share of the City's total budget to a whopping 54%—despite the fact that crime is down. Angelenos are currently facing an economic and health crisis of unprecedented proportions. Even before COVID-19, roughly one in three renters in Los Angeles spent more than half their income on housing, and there were over 36,000 unhoused people in our City. The pandemic will only make matters worse. Over half of Angelenos are now unemployed following the massive job losses stemming from COVID-19. And economists predict that many of the recent layoffs will be permanent. Without bold action from the City, more Angelenos will become severely rent-burdened or fall into homelessness.

We applaud the City's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency: delivering meals to seniors, opening childcare centers for healthcare workers, purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, implementing a small business loan program, committing to providing rental assistance, and setting up testing sites, additional shelters, and more. These are the kinds of interventions Angelenos need at this critical and unprecedented time.

Sadly, the Mayor's Proposed Budget puts some of these very initiatives on the chopping block. The Department of Aging has reported that furloughs and office closures will directly affect seniors trying to enroll in meal services, many of whom do not have internet access and rely on staff to help them enroll in city programs via telephone. (CAO's May 19, 2020 Report on the Impact on City Services of the Furlough Program Included in the 2020-21 Proposed Budget, p. 7.) The Department of Economic Development anticipates that its cuts will cause delays in economic relief and related assistance to the thousands of workers and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. (Id. at 15.) The Department of Housing and Community Investment

predicts that furloughs will reduce its ability to provide services to tenants, prevent poverty and homelessness, and create affordable housing. (Id. at 20.)

In her opening remarks during last Thursday's Council Meeting, Council President Nury Martinez said, "As we start the new fiscal year, it is important to keep in mind the people who need us the most right now—working families, those living in poverty, communities of color that

have long been forgotten, seniors and children." This budget balances itself on the backs of those very people—the most vulnerable among us—largely to provide a raise for LAPD officers. If officers simply received the same pay they did last year, the City could prevent two-thirds of these devastating cuts to critical services.

The cruel calculus of the budget is made all the more unjustifiable by the fact that crime in our city is down 23% percent since the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak. Even before COVID-19, homicides in Los Angeles had reached historic lows. In January, Police Chief Moore observed that this is "one of the safest times in Los Angeles" and the Mayor noted that our crime statistics were "better . . . than we've seen in decades." Increasing spending on policing when crime is down and when other urgent needs are so high simply doesn't make sense. 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.

As Council member Ryu observed in his recent comments on the budget, "If we make cuts to departments and services that

serve low-income and working families, we will be paying for those cuts for decades to come.” The Mayor’s Proposed Budget puts political expediency over the urgent needs of the Angelenos who are suffering most acutely in this time of crisis, and it will cost our City dearly if enacted without significant revision.

Budgets are moral documents that reflect our values. What kind of city cuts services and increases spending on law enforcement when its people are struggling to eat? What does that say about us? Furthermore, protests in LA 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, and demonstrating the need for an overhaul of the LAPD. This abuse of power brings into question why the City is trying to increase funding for LAPD, while decreasing social services. 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 a People’s Budget for 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,

Lauren Bulloch

prioritize education over policing

1 message

From: Duckworth, Naomi <DUCKWON@wlaac.edu>

To: "Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org" <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 2:57 PM

Dear Council Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I understand the City of Los Angeles is in the process of reviewing its 2020-2021 budget for the fiscal year. While I see that there is a need for overall cuts due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is not a time for dire cuts from some of the most important departments including: Emergency Management, Cultural Affairs, Recreation and Parks, Transportation, and Housing & Community Investments. Each of these Departments provide critical resources to the citizens of Los Angeles.

In light of recent events including the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, and their impact globally, this is an important time to critically review the budget of the Los Angeles Police Department as well as strengthening its oversight. The costs of this department overshadow the rest of the city's budget exponentially, more than half of the general fund, and can provide much needed financial support to other, more effective programs.

While the cost of running a department of this size is extensive, it is critical that the LAPD is fiscally review and its budget faces the same level of critical attention as other departments. This is an important time for our city to reflect upon the fiscal management of the LAPD, its oversight and its relationship to its citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely and with hope for change,

Noami Duckworth

Please Adopt The People's Budget

1 message

From: Ethan Lipsitz <ethanlips@gmail.com>
To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org
At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 2:36 PM

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

My name is Ethan and I live in Cypress Park.

I write to advocate for The People's Budget. We must DEFUND the police department and justice system which has been targeting, beating, killing and locking up Black, Indigenous and other People of Color in this city and increase funding for education, ending homelessness, mental health, after school programs, parks, access to health care, housing and food for all city residents.

We are a great city and have an opportunity to take a leadership role in celebrating and supporting our diversity with valuable services.

Thank you for bringing this important issue to the budget vote and I trust you will support our communities and not the Police who are inciting violence across this great city.

In Appreciation of Your Service,

Ethan

--
Ethan Lipsitz Lives

*ethanlipsitz.com
*extremist.love

Pronouns: He / His / Him

Budget Review Needed - Defund LAPD

1 message

From: Kyle Higman <kahigman@gmail.com>

To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 2:29 PM

Dear Council Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I understand the city of Los Angeles is in the process of reviewing its 2020-2021 budget for the fiscal year. Obviously there is a need for overall cuts due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this is not a time for dire cuts to some of its most important departments including: Emergency Management, Cultural Affairs, Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Housing, and Community Investments. Each of these departments provide extremely critical resources to the residents of Los Angeles. Funding should instead be cut from the LAPD, and their budget reallocated to the people and programs that need it most.

In light of recent events including the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many more and their impact nationally, this is an extremely crucial time to critically review the budget of the Los Angeles Police Department as well as strengthening its oversight.

The costs of this department overshadows the rest of the city's budget exponentially, more than half of the general fund, which could provide much needed and necessary support to other programs, programs that serve the public's needs so much more.

It is an imperative time that the LAPD's budget is fiscally reviewed. It is an imperative time that the city reflect upon its management of the LAPD, its overall oversight, and its relationship to its citizens and the harm they inflict upon them. The people of Los Angeles are imploring you to cut the funding for the LAPD.

Thank you for your time.

Kyle Higman
90035

Revise the LA budget for 2020-2021

1 message

From: 'Molly Griffin' via Clerk Budget and Finance Committee <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 1:55 PM

To the members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

We are in the midst of a health pandemic with severe economic consequences. Over 50% of Angelenos are unemployed — and we can expect 42% lasting unemployment. Over 50% of this city is renters — and if folks are unemployed, they cannot pay rent. Prior to the pandemic, there were around 60k unhoused folks; after evictions and economic insecurity due to COVID-19 and its fall out, we can expect thousands more.

In this context, the Mayor is proposing an increase to LAPD, despite the fact that crime has fallen considerably during the past few months. LAPD has seen a rise in overtime which, more often than not, is paid out to officers harassing unhoused folks, and Black, Indigenous, people of color. We are also in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence — embodied by the LAPD — which murders Black folks. We will no longer accept empty gestures and suggestions of “reform.” We need to defund the LAPD. We need to #DefundThePolice.

We need a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of Angelenos during this trying and uncertain time; and we need a budget that supports communities and supports their wellbeing, not which empowers the force(s) that tear them apart.

After City Council cowardly avoided voting or revising the Mayor's draconian budget proposal, the document is now in your hands. I am urging you to completely revise the LA budget for 2020-2021 and fund #CareNotCops.

Sincerely,

Molly Griffin

Please support the Peoples' Budget!

1 message

From: eliseaugenstern <eliseaugenstern@gmail.com>

To: ">" <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@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

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 1:47 PM

Dear Council Members of the Budget and Finance Community,

I understand the City of Los Angeles is in the process of reviewing its 2020-2021 budget for the fiscal year. While I understand that there is a need for overall cuts due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is not a time for dire cuts from some of its most important departments including Education, Emergency Management, Cultural Affairs, Recs + Parks, Transportation, to name a few.

The Mayor is proposing an increase to LAPD, despite the fact that crime has fallen considerably during the past few months. LAPD has seen a rise in overtime which, more often than not, is paid out to officers harassing unhoused folks, and Black, Indigenous, people of color.

After declining to vote on this draconian proposal last week, City Council referred it back to the Budget and Finance Committee. Now, the Committee has decided not to meet, thereby shirking its duty and upholding the racist and white-supremacist structures that underlie both the proposal and City Council as a governing body.

I am urging you to publicly support the People's Budget. The Mayor's disastrous proposal MUST be updated with the priorities of Angelenos. You need to Adopt a People's Budget which defunds the police.

Please defund the police, and make a dramatic change for the better by investing in community- and health-centered services. Public opinion is with me. This could be a serious turning point for society- Please be on the right side of history.

Your constituent,

Elise Augenstern

1643 Cortez St
Los Angeles, CA 90026
617-957-8222

Support for the People's Budget for Los Angeles

1 message

From: Sarah Verity <sarbear800@hotmail.com>

To: "Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org" <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 1:08 PM

Hello,

My name is Sarah and I live in Northridge. I'm writing about Mayor Garcetti's proposed budget. It's inexcusable that this proposed budget increases funding for the LAPD while other city departments are slated for cuts. A budget is an expression of our city's moral values, and we demand a budget that invests in our communities. We need Los Angeles to prioritize housing, health services, job creation initiatives, educational enrichment and food programs, especially in the midst of a global pandemic.

Thank you,
Sarah Collica

Sent from [Outlook](#)

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People's Budget

1 message

From: 'despina stokou' via Clerk Budget and Finance Committee <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 12:46 PM

To the members of the Budget and Finance, Committee,

We are in the midst of a health pandemic with severe economic consequences. Over 50% of Angelenos are unemployed — and we can expect 42% lasting unemployment. Over 50% of this city is renters — and if folks are unemployed, they cannot pay rent. Prior to the pandemic, there were around 60k unhoused folks; after evictions and economic insecurity due to COVID-19 and its fall out, we can expect thousands more. In this context, the Mayor is proposing an increase to LAPD, despite the fact that crime has fallen considerably during the past few months. LAPD has seen a rise in overtime which, more often than not, is paid out to officers harassing unhoused folks, and Black, Indigenous, people of color. We are also in the midst of widespread upheaval over the systemic violence — embodied by the LAPD — which murders Black folks. We will no longer accept empty gestures and suggestions of “reform.” We need to defund the LAPD. We need to #DefundThePolice. We need a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of Angelenos during this trying and uncertain time; and we need a budget that supports communities and supports their wellbeing, not which empowers the force(s) that tear them apart. After City Council cowardly avoided voting or revising the Mayor's draconian budget proposal, the document is in now your hands. I am urging you to completely revise the LA budget for 2020-2021 and fund #CareNotCops.

Reduce funding of LAPD

1 message

From: Sara Simonson <sarasimonson@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 12:39 PM

Dear Committee Members:

As an LA resident and taxpayer, I believe a Los Angeles City budget may never have gotten as much public attention as the one currently under review will receive.

I implore you to use the upcoming June meetings to revise the budget, moving funds from LAPD to much needed services for our youth and underserved populations.

If the budget proceeds with nearly 54% going to LAPD, it will be a slap in the face to our entire community. I am white and live in a privileged area. Increased funding of LAPD makes me feel less, not more, safe.

Our nation and city may be at a crossroads. Please listen to your constituents.

We will remember and we will vote.

Sincerely,

Sara Simonson
Council District 11
[13121 Mindanao Way #2](#)
[Marina del Rey, CA](#)

--

Sara Simonson Lang
917-301-0779

DEFUND LAPD

1 message

From: Mayeli Acuna <acuna.mayeli@gmail.com>

To: "clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org" <clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org>

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 11:47 AM

The Los Angeles Police Department has failed to do their job for years. Abusing their power, allowing white supremacy, doing irrational things to meet their quota, the list can go on and on. I am an eighteen year old, who has seen the constant ignorance of the LAPD. They do not, DO NOT, deserve an increase in their funding. Maybe instead of giving that money to the LAPD, give it to LAUSD schools. Fix the air conditionings, fix the roofing, hire more teachers so classes won't be impacted. It is disgrace to say that Los Angeles has become a city based on power. DEFUND LAPD!

1 / 1

Urgent

1 message

From: Rachel Korajczyk <rachelkorajczyk@gmail.com>

To: Clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 11:30 AM

Hello Mayor Garcetti,

My name is Rachel Korajczyk and I am calling in reference to the Mayor's budget proposal. You have failed your constituents. The public overwhelmingly expressed their opposition to the proposed budget and, in particular, to its over-spending on police. Now, that the City Council has failed to do their jobs and the budget is back in the Mayor's hands, I want to make clear that the Mayor must pass a People's Budget. Mayor Garcetti has an obligation to those they represent to consider an alternative that prioritizes the true needs of Angelenos: Care, not Cops. He needs to defund the police.

Best,

Rachel Korajczyk

1 / 1

disapproval of increased funding for LAPD

1 message

From: Jennie Reyes <j.bellereyes@gmail.com>
To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org
At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 11:23 AM

Dear Councilmember,

I'm writing to express my outrage over the 2020-21 city budget, adopted June 1st, which increases LAPD officer pay by \$144 million while slashing city investments in vital public services, including housing, jobs, infrastructure, mental health care, after-school programs, and gang intervention.

Under this current budget, the LAPD is slated to receive well over half of the City's total budget or 54 percent, while some 16,000 civilian city workers are furloughed and a quarter of Angelinos are unemployed, with even more facing housing and food insecurity during this time of unprecedented health and economic crisis.

Balancing itself on the backs of our city's most vulnerable, this budget was morally irresponsible when Mayor Garcetti proposed it over a month ago. After the events of the past week—namely, the large-scale mobilization of the city's police force with its full arsenal of military-grade riot gear against largely peaceful protesters calling for an end to police brutality against black people and other minorities—it is downright unconscionable. This LAPD deserves a dramatic decrease in funding, along with radical civilian oversight and accountability—not a raise and bonuses to officers with college degrees.

I understand that the lopsided City budget allocations that cut funding to all programs except fire and police are a product of agreements reached between the City and the Los Angeles Police Protective League to raise officer pay two times in the coming fiscal year. Those raises, while always of dubious merit, are entirely inappropriate now, with City revenues disastrously low in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic that has left even more Angelinos reliant on public services, to say nothing of the aggressive (and largely ineffective) policing of the last week. If LAPD officers simply received the same pay they received last year, two-thirds of proposed cuts to other essential services could be avoided. The City must withdraw these scheduled pay increases, even if it means reopening negotiations with the police officers union.

This budget does not reflect my values, or the values of my community, nor will it make our city safer. But there's still time to get this right. In the month that remains before the budget process concludes and this disastrous budget goes into effect, it is incumbent on you and the rest of the Budget and Finance Committee to draft and adopt sweeping amendments that reallocate funds away from law enforcement and into those programs that support citizens. We are counting on you, our elected officials, to create a compassionate, equitable budget that truly serves our city's needs.

Sincerely,
Jennie Belle Reyes

2020-2021 Budget

1 message

From: Joelle Martinec <joellemartinec@gmail.com>

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

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 9:27 AM

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm writing to express my outrage over the 2020-21 city budget, adopted June 1st, which increases LAPD officer pay by \$144 million while slashing city investments in vital public services, including housing, jobs, infrastructure, mental health care, after-school programs, and gang intervention.

Under this current budget, the LAPD is slated to receive well over half of the City's total budget or 54 percent, while some 16,000 civilian city workers are furloughed and a quarter of Angelinos are unemployed, with even more facing housing and food insecurity during this time of unprecedented health and economic crisis.

Balancing itself on the backs of our city's most vulnerable, this budget was morally irresponsible when Mayor Garcetti proposed it over a month ago. After the events of the past week—namely, the large-scale mobilization of the city's police force with its full arsenal of military-grade riot gear against largely peaceful protesters calling for an end to police brutality against black people and other minorities—it is downright unconscionable. This LAPD deserves a dramatic decrease in funding, along with radical civilian oversight and accountability—not a raise and bonuses to officers with college degrees.

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Sincerely,

Joelle Martinec

Defund LAPD

1 message

From: BRYAN WONG <bryanw0ng@g.ucla.edu>
To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org
At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 2:47 AM

Dear Council Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I understand the city of Los Angeles is in the process of reviewing its 2020-2021 budget for the fiscal year. Obviously there is a need for overall cuts due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this is not a time for dire cuts to some of its most important departments including: Emergency Management, Cultural Affairs, Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Housing, and Community Investments. Each of these departments provide extremely critical resources to the residents of Los Angeles. Funding should instead be cut from the LAPD, and their budget reallocated to the people and programs that need it most.

In light of recent events including the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and many more and their impact nationally, this is an extremely crucial time to critically review the budget of the Los Angeles Police Department as well as strengthening its oversight.

The costs of this department overshadows the rest of the city's budget exponentially, more than half of the general fund, which could provide much needed and necessary support to other programs, programs that serve the public's needs so much more.

It is an imperative time that the LAPD's budget is fiscally reviewed. It is an imperative time that the city reflect upon its management of the LAPD, its overall oversight, and its relationship to its citizens and the harm they inflict upon them. The people of Los Angeles are imploring you to cut the funding for the LAPD.

Thank you for your time.

From your constituent,

Bryan Wong

Sent from my iPhone

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LA City Budget

1 message

From: <cindymo31@gmail.com>

To: clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org, -councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, -councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

At: Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 12:34 AM

Dear Council Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I understand the city of Los Angeles is in the process of reviewing its 2020-2021 budget for the fiscal year. Obviously there is a need for overall cuts due to the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this is not a time for dire cuts to some of its most important departments including: Emergency Management, Cultural Affairs, Parks and Recreation, Transportation and Housing, and Community Investments. Each of these departments provide extremely critical resources to the residents of Los Angeles. Funding should instead be cut from the LAPD, and their budget reallocated to the people and programs that need it most.

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Thank you for your time.

Cindy Morales

Budget Proposal Opposition

1 message

Brooke Holland <iambrookeholland@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 2:26 PM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

I'm writing 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 understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made. We question the priorities and values that are reflected in the Mayor's Proposed Budget, however, with regard to the cuts he has proposed—and those he has not.

Specifically, we are troubled that in a budget that cuts \$230 million in services, weakening vital programs that many Angelenos rely on and imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 city workers, LAPD officer pay is simultaneously being increased by \$144 million. In relative terms compared to last year's spending—despite the great need created by the COVID-19 outbreak—the Mayor's Proposed Budget cuts City investments in housing programs by 9.4%, job programs by 8.9%, and homelessness programs by 6%—all while boosting its expenditure on police by 7.1%. This brings LAPD's share of the City's total budget to a whopping 54%—despite the fact that crime is down.

Angelenos are currently facing an economic and health crisis of unprecedented proportions. Even before COVID-19, roughly one in three renters in Los Angeles spent more than half their income on housing, and there were over 36,000 unhoused people in our City. The pandemic will only make matters worse. Over half of Angelenos are now unemployed following the massive job losses stemming from COVID-19. And economists predict that many of the recent layoffs will be permanent. Without bold action from the City, more Angelenos will become severely rent-burdened or fall into homelessness.

We applaud the City's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency: delivering meals to seniors, opening childcare centers for healthcare workers, purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, implementing a small business loan program, committing to providing rental assistance, and setting up testing sites, additional shelters, and more. These are the kinds of interventions Angelenos need at this critical and unprecedented time.

Sadly, the Mayor's Proposed Budget puts some of these very initiatives on the chopping block. The Department of Aging has reported that furloughs and office closures will directly affect seniors trying to enroll in meal services, many of whom do not have internet access and rely on staff to help them enroll in city programs via telephone. (CAO's May 19, 2020 Report on the Impact on City Services of the Furlough Program Included in the 2020-21 Proposed Budget, p. 7.) The Department of Economic Development anticipates that its cuts will cause delays in economic relief and related assistance to the thousands of workers and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. (*Id.* at 15.) The Department of Housing and Community Investment predicts that furloughs will reduce its ability to provide services to tenants, prevent poverty and homelessness, and create affordable housing. (*Id.* at 20.)

In her opening remarks during last Thursday's Council Meeting, Council President Nury Martinez said, "As we start the new fiscal year, it is important to keep in mind the people who need us the most right now—

working families, those living in poverty, communities of color that have long been forgotten, seniors and children.” This budget balances itself on the backs of those very people—the most vulnerable among us—largely to provide a raise for LAPD officers. *If officers simply received the same pay they did last year, the City could prevent two-thirds of these devastating cuts to critical services.*

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BUDGET OPPOSITION LETTER_bh .docx

17K

June 3, 2020

The Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Rm 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org

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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 understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant revenue shortfalls for the City and that cuts in spending must be made. We question the priorities and values that are reflected in the Mayor's Proposed Budget, however, with regard to the cuts he has proposed—and those he has not.

Specifically, we are troubled that in a budget that cuts \$230 million in services, weakening vital programs that many Angelenos rely on and imposing furloughs on nearly 16,000 city workers, LAPD officer pay is simultaneously being increased by \$144 million. In relative terms compared to last year's spending—despite the great need created by the COVID-19 outbreak—the Mayor's Proposed Budget cuts City investments in housing programs by 9.4%, job programs by 8.9%, and homelessness programs by 6%—all while boosting its expenditure on police by 7.1%. This brings LAPD's share of the City's total budget to a whopping 54%—despite the fact that crime is down.

Angelenos are currently facing an economic and health crisis of unprecedented proportions. Even before COVID-19, roughly one in three renters in Los Angeles spent more than half their income on housing, and there were over 36,000 unhoused people in our City. The pandemic will only make matters worse. Over half of Angelenos are now unemployed following the massive job losses stemming from COVID-19. And economists predict that many of the recent layoffs will be permanent. Without bold action from the City, more Angelenos will become severely rent-burdened or fall into homelessness.

We applaud the City's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency: delivering meals to seniors, opening childcare centers for healthcare workers, purchasing personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders, implementing a small business loan program, committing

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Budget Proposal Opposition

1 message

Brooke Holland <iambrookeholland@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2020 at 2:26 PM

To: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org, mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, david.ryu@lacity.org, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org

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