

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Palms Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 01/17/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 01/17/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0600-S83

Agenda Date: 01/17/2021

Item Number: VI.a.i

Summary: The Palms Neighborhood Council supports Mayor Garcetti's veto of this measure. Please see the attached document for the details.

January 6th, 2021

Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: CF 20-0600-S83 Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget/ Los Angeles Police Department / Reinvest Funds for Impacted Communities

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council,

The Palms Neighborhood Council supports Mayor Garcetti's veto of the City Council's proposal for the reallocation of \$150 million from LAPD. The proposed plan from the City Council rightly focused the funding on communities most impacted by injustice and structural racism, but, as the Mayor stated, this moment calls for transformative action, not business as usual. The city should allocate these funds toward revolutionary initiatives that begin to honor the convictions and dreams of the racial justice movement that swept our city and our nation this summer.

The Mayor has outlined his recommendations for these funds. We have included comments defining the conditions under which we support these recommendations.

Promoting community engagement through pilot programs related to justice and equity with local organizations.

We hope that the organizations chosen for these pilot programs are led by impacted populations – especially Black and Brown folks in areas that have been impacted by police brutality. These organizations shall be treated as equal partners or leaders in any initiatives, not just superficial partnerships where the city continues to hold most of the power.

Protecting jobs for the most vulnerable City employees, especially those from Targeted Local Hire, who are mostly people of color.

We agree with this recommendation.

Taking strong action to restore peace in neighborhoods that are weathering increases in violence, by accelerating and expanding intervention and prevention work.

The best way to decrease violence is to decrease (or better yet, eradicate) poverty. The city has long allowed structural racism to dictate which parts of the city flourish while others are left to suffer. Part of this “strong action” should include an honest and transparent reckoning of how the city of Los Angeles has reinforced and enabled racial inequity and poverty.

Fund a 24-hour, unarmed crisis response program to dispatch mental health workers to non-violent 911 calls.

The system shall be distinct from law enforcement: As the City develops a new system to respond to non-violent calls for service, it is imperative that this system explicitly supplants the original police system of response. The system cannot be housed within or associated with the LAPD; it should rely exclusively on professionals outside of law enforcement including healthcare providers and social workers.

The system shall be developed through a community-based participatory process: Echoing the motto “nothing about us without us,” the new person-centered system must involve the input of community stakeholders including individual residents, community-based organizations, and local organizers such as the People’s Budget LA coalition. Specifically, the City must engage in continuous dialogue with Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color to ensure our new system of public safety is advancing racial justice and meeting the needs of all Angelenos.

To truly meet this moment, the city will have to do a lot more than properly allocate these funds, which are merely a drop in the bucket compared to what will be necessary to build a more just LA that is safe and healthy for all its residents. However, using these funds properly is an important step in the right direction—it represents a statement of our City’s values and serves as a model for future funding decisions. We strongly urge the City Council to propose a new funding plan in alignment with the above recommendations.

Sincerely,

Eryn Piper Block
President, Palms Neighborhood Council

CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti