



February 22, 2021

Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst  
Richard Llewelyn, City Administrative Officer  
200 N Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 20-0600-S83

Dear Ms. Tso and Mr. Llewelyn,

As you may recall, the Mayor's proposed budget, which was released in April 2020 during the COVID-19 public health and financial crisis, reduced the budgets of many City departments, including the Housing and Community Investment Department, the Economic and Workforce Development Department, and the Cultural Affairs Department, while simultaneously increasing the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) budget by over \$120 million.

In May of last year, the nation saw yet another murder of an unarmed Black man – this time in the case of George Floyd, who was murdered by a sworn police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, while three of his fellow officers, similarly sworn to protect and serve, stood by and did nothing. This tragic event sparked a summer of peaceful protests across the country calling for a drastic re-imagining of how public safety is handled within communities and a critical eye on how, and to what extent, police departments are funded. Within the City of Los Angeles, it was no different.

In June 2020, the Los Angeles City Council heard a presentation led by Black Lives Matter LA (BLMLA) on the "People's Budget LA" (Presentation). This presentation called for a city budget that invests in systems of care with priority given to supporting the underserved and marginalized. Within the presentation, BLMLA suggested to the Council that a portion of the LAPD budget be reallocated and focus on initiatives like ***universal aid and crisis management, improved infrastructure, and finally, a re-imagined public safety model.***

In response to the call to action and the City's financial crisis, the Council proposed a \$150 million cut to the LAPD budget along with other policy proposals focused on improving public safety within the City of Los Angeles. The \$150 million cut was approved by the Council in July 2020. The \$150 million was allocated as follows:

- \$50 million to address the City's budget deficit and to save City jobs, positions that are primarily held by people of color;
- \$10 million to establish a summer youth jobs program for kids in disadvantaged communities;
- \$1.1 million to launch the Office of Racial Equity within the Civil, Human Rights and Equity Department; and
- \$88 million was set aside with the goal of reinvesting in disadvantaged communities and communities of color.

In December, the Council acted on a report from City departments that recommended allocating the remaining \$88 million to Council Districts based on a needs assessment, taking into account poverty rates for each census tract. That report was approved by the Council and was vetoed by the Mayor.

The ultimate objective of the Council was to invest these funds in a manner that uplifts the voices and needs of their residents. The Council should affirm its intention that these funds be used to address areas of most concern to our residents, including youth programming, city services, jobs and economic development, community and non-profit investment, reimagining public safety, and homelessness.

Chief among these concerns is the homelessness crisis which, for too long, has plagued Los Angeles. It is well documented that people of color are most at risk of being, or becoming, homeless. Although Black people represent roughly 8% of Los Angeles' population, 34% of the unhoused population in Los Angeles is Black. Moreover, Latinos make up 36% of the unhoused population. Combined, Black people and Latinos make up approximately 70% of the homeless population. It is largely understood that our first responders are often called upon to deal with homeless-related incidents, a protocol that often does not result in the most efficient path to ensuring the homeless individual(s) receive appropriate services. In light of all of this, the homelessness crisis is ground zero for addressing racial injustices, and inequity more broadly, across Los Angeles.

Consequently, the Council has an opportunity to reimagine these resources in a manner that makes meaningful investments in Black and Brown communities and disadvantaged communities. Therefore, we request you prepare a report by February 25, 2021, with recommendations and controller instructions to effectuate the following list. It is this Council's intention to utilize the categories of spending outlined in the CAO/CLA report dated December 3, 2020, to address homelessness and its root causes, including addressing and preventing poverty as well as reimagining public safety, which are areas in which deep-seated racial disparities abound.

- Instruct CLA and CAO to work with Council Offices to prepare a report with a list of appropriations by the new deadline March 5, 2021, utilizing the categories of spending outlined in the CAO/CLA report dated December 3, 2020, to address homelessness and its

root causes, including addressing and preventing poverty, racial disparities, and reimagining public safety.

**Reimagining Public Safety:**

- Instruct CAO to create a trust fund entitled Unarmed Response to Homelessness and Non-Violent Calls Trust Fund and allocate a total of \$7,754,000, as follows:
  - \$3 million from Council District 6
  - \$1.6 million from Council District 8
  - \$2.1 million from Council District 9
  - \$420,000 from Council District 10
  - \$334,000 from Council District 13
  - \$300,000 from Council District 14
- Instruct CAO to make a GCP appropriation for the research cost associated with Alternative Traffic Enforcement Study (CF 20-0875) and allocate a total of \$360,000, as follows:
  - \$120,000 from Council District 8
  - \$120,000 from Council District 9
  - \$120,000 from Council District 10
- Allocate \$2,150,000 to hire and train Community Intervention Workers in Council Districts 8, 9, and 10 through the Urban Peace Institute (UPI), as follows:
  - \$1 million from Council District 8
  - \$1 million from Council District 9
  - \$150,000 from Council District 10
- Transfer \$250,000 from Council District 8's portion to EWDD and authorize the department to increase Contract No. 135,288 with the Coalition for Responsible Community Development and designated subrecipient(s) by \$250,000 for the Prison to Employment Reentry Program for areas of Council District 8 that have been affected by the early release of prisoners due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Transfer \$200,000 from Council District 8's portion to the Office of Community Beautification to fund LANI in providing tree trimming in Council District 8 for visibility, public safety and pedestrian safety related to sex and drug trafficking along Florence, Western and Figueroa Avenues among other corridors in Council District 8.
- Transfer \$1,000,000 to Community Build for additional Safe Passages in South Los Angeles in Council Districts 8 and 9, as follows:
  - \$500,000 from Council District 8
  - \$500,000 from Council District 9
- Transfer \$1,026,962.50 from Council District 6's portion for a youth development and intervention program for at risk youth with the GR818ERS.
- Transfer \$700,000 of Council District 14's portion to non-profit partners for gang intervention, youth development, re-entry services for formerly incarcerated individuals, economic development initiatives, and job creation programs.
- Transfer \$627,353 from Council District 14's portion to the Bureau of Street Lighting to upgrade street lights for increased visibility and public safety purposes in areas of Boyle Heights where there has been an increase in crime.

### **Homelessness/Prevention:**

- Transfer \$1 million from Council District 6's portion to North Valley Caring Services for homeless services and outreach in Council District 6.
- Transfer \$1,500,000 of Council District 10's portion to non-profit partners and service providers, in order to create "Encampment to Home" Initiatives in Koreatown, Mid-City and Leimert Park/Crenshaw Corridor.
- Transfer \$500,000 of Council District 10's portion to support the operations of the South Los Angeles Homeless Street Engagement and Coordination Hub.
- Transfer \$500,000 of Council District 10's portion to augment the Stay Housed LA program, administered by the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, for Eviction Defense Services to prevent eviction and homelessness for residents and prevent business closures in CD10
- Allocation of \$100,000 from Council District 10's portion to support activities associated with the Center for Interagency Policy and Action on Homelessness.
- Transfer \$400,000 from Council District's 8 portion to expand existing contracting with LA Conservation Corps to provide jobs and much needed community beautification in Council District 8.
- Transfer \$150,000 from Council District 8's portion to the Coalition for Responsible Community Development to hire and train youth for community beautification in Council District 8.
- Transfer \$200,000 from Council District 8's portion to Community Build to hire and train Community Intervention Workers to assist Council District 8 Homeless Multidisciplinary Outreach Teams.
- Authorize an increase of funding for Gang Alternative Programs (GAP) by \$100,000 from Council District 8's portion to employ Council District 8 young adults in providing graffiti removal, supplemental community beautification services as well as job training.
- Transfer \$6,000,000 from Council District 9's portion to the Housing and Community Investment Development Department (HCID) for a CD9 Universal Basic Income pilot program for single-parents and instruct HCID to report back with program details.
- Transfer \$420,000 from Council District 9's portion to LAHSA to expand and enhance the CD9 Homeless Multidisciplinary Team with HOPICS.
- Transfer \$1,152,290 to Housing and Community Investment Department from Council District 6's portion to launch Children's Saving Account Program citywide to all first graders within the City of Los Angeles with a focus on disadvantaged communities and communities of color to receive priority in year one of the program. The program will increase equity in education and encourage school attendance and achievement and is part of a broader homelessness prevention strategy.
- Transfer \$750,000 from Council District 13's portion to Visionary Youth Center for mental health services.
- Transfer \$2,257,093 from Council District 13's portion to Bresee Foundation for youth development and poverty prevention services.
- Transfer \$1 million from Council District 14's portion to the Department of Recreation and Parks for public safety improvements and homeless hygiene services at Hollenbeck Park in Boyle Heights.

- Transfer \$550,000 from Council District 14's portion to Urban Alchemy to provide jobs to district residents and assist with community beautification and homeless outreach.
- Transfer \$550,000 from Council District 14's portion to Gang Alternatives Program (GAP) to provide jobs and community beautification services for Council District 14.
- Transfer \$500,000 from Council District 14's portion to the Department of Recreation and Parks for sports and cultural programming for underserved youth at recreational facilities in within the district.
- Transfer \$550,000 from Council District 14's portion to the LA Conservation Corps for a local jobs program.

With these allocations, the Council has an opportunity to use these funds in a deliberate and intentional matter to reinvest in Black, Brown and disadvantaged communities in order to lift them up. While \$88 million may seem like a small amount to undo decades, if not centuries, of neglect, the commitment that this reinvestment represents is only the beginning.

Sincerely,



NURY MARTINEZ  
Council President, 6th District



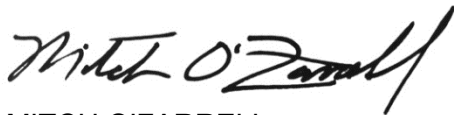
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.  
Councilmember, 9th District



MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Councilmember, 10th District



MARQUEECE HARRIS-DAWSON  
Councilmember, 8th District



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