

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

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(14) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 06/06/2020

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 06/08/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0600

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: We, the Board of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, write today to address the motion introduced during the June 3rd meeting of the Los Angeles City Council, which Mayor Garcetti has spoken in support of in his subsequent public comments calling for up to 250 million dollars in cuts from various departments in the city's budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, including the LAPD, to invest in jobs, health, education and healing. While we believe this motion is a good start, we do not believe that 250 million in funds is nearly enough given the many, unprecedented crises currently facing the city. We've tried solving our systemic problems in the past with heavier investments in traditional law enforcement. That approach has not worked. It is time we as a city try a new, bold approach and therefore our board endorses "The People's Budget" for the city's 2020-2021 fiscal year.



June 4,

2020

To LA City Council President Nury Martinez, the Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, and L.A. City Councilmember-elect for CD 14, Kevin De León:

**Re: Council Files: #20-0600 Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2020-2021;
& 20-0482 Climate as Essential Services**

We, the Board of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, write today to address the motion introduced during the June 3rd meeting of the Los Angeles City Council, which Mayor Garcetti has spoken in support of in his subsequent public comments calling for up to 250 million dollars in cuts from various departments in the city's budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, including the LAPD, to invest in jobs, health, education and healing. While we believe this motion is a good start, we do not believe that 250 million in funds is nearly enough given the many, unprecedented crises currently facing the city.

The Covid-19 pandemic, the unrest in our streets in response to the killing of George Floyd, and the threat of a prolonged economic depression call for bold action now, not symbolic gestures, which, in our board's view, is what 250 million in cuts represent. Since the beginning of the pandemic our city's response has been largely reactive—something bad happens and our representatives respond. We've become used to government functioning this way, but our current situation does not afford us that luxury. To that end we encourage the L.A. City Council and Mayor Garcetti, to take inspiration from and adopt as many of the measures as is possible from "The People's Budget LA" (peoplesbudgetla.com). This budget, developed by activists and community members, through survey responses, proactively addresses the systemic problems threatening our city and our Boyle Heights community.

The People's Budget is a budget for the moment we are in now and will prepare us for future crises. The budget allocates 44 percent of funds to "Universal Aid and Crisis Management." This covers basic needs like housing, food, healthcare, economic assistance and emergency relief—all priorities and areas of acute need during the current pandemic.

The budget further allocates 26 percent of funds to our "built environment" or our city's infrastructure: public transit, libraries, parks, public works, and the fire department. With unemployment as high as it is and with no end to the economic hardship in sight, it is time we invest in our infrastructure in ways not seen since the Great Depression. We know from history that investment in our public infrastructure is one of the few ways we can create jobs during times of severe economic hardship like we are currently facing. The benefits of this investment will



be enjoyed by Angelenos for generations and will serve to help put people back to work.

This portion of the People's Budget further details environmental sustainability for the city going forward with consideration for the climate crisis we as a city must reckon with right now. Investment in environmental sustainability now will help us avoid catastrophe similar to what we are now experiencing because we failed to adequately invest in pandemic preparedness. To that end we support the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance's letter to Council File 20-0482, which calls for the climate to be considered an essential service in city budgets moving forward.

The third major category of the People's Budget calls for 24 percent of funds to be allocated to "reimagined community safety," a community-led model that prioritizes public safety without law enforcement. This is where we can invest in family counseling, restorative justice, reparations to victims and families, and community-led crisis responses. The outrage our city has displayed following the George Floyd killing demonstrates how desperate people are for a new approach to public safety. This is our opportunity to invest in just that.

Finally, the budget allocates 6 percent of funds to Law and Enforcement and Policing. We believe this is an appropriate level of investment in traditional law enforcement. We've tried solving our systemic problems in the past with heavier investments in traditional law enforcement. That approach has not worked. It is time we as a city try a new, bold approach and therefore our board endorses "The People's Budget" for the city's 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Respectfully,

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council