

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](mailto: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(11) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 07/01/2020

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 07/02/2020

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-0600

Agenda Date: 07/01/2020

Item Number: VI.g.i

Summary:

Council File: 20-0600

To: City Council and Departments

The Palms Neighborhood Council rises up in opposition to the Mayor's Budget as written. These are very difficult times for our City. The response to the coronavirus shrunk revenues. The awakening of the population following the murder of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis to the need for additional investment in our disadvantaged communities, largely focusing on the black and brown people in those communities, puts further stress on the Budget.

The Mayor is instituting 26 furlough days for the City's civilian employees. There are 260 work days in a year excluding vacations and holidays so this furlough amounts to a 10% pay cut. The Mayor is treating all departments equally, requiring the same civilian sacrifice across the board.

At the same time the Mayor is asking the civilian City workers to sacrifice, no similar request was made of the sworn workforce. The City negotiated large raises for the sworn Police and Fire personnel earlier this year. Even before the financial impact of the coronavirus, these labor agreements shifted the City's Budget position from surplus to deficit. The Mayor indicates that he will take the raise off the table for the Police. The Palms Neighborhood Council requests the same for the Fire Department. It is not right to ask the civilians to take a 10% pay cut while Police Officers and Fire Fighters do not also make a sacrifice. Giving back their raise in this time of crisis is the least they can do. Raises can be re-evaluated when the City's coffers are replenished.

City Council motion 20-0692 rescinds the raise for the Police Department and seeks to identify an additional \$100K in cuts, but there is no plan for what to do with the money. This cut in funding is a start. It is not a solution. The Palms Neighborhood Council addresses the Police Department in that Council File and uses Council File 20-0600 to discuss our other concerns.

In the short term, we need to be smart. Besides the social programs the Mayor promises to deliver with the budget cuts to the Police Department, we need to fund City services that save us money in the long term. The Budget Advocates presented a list of these services to the City Council Budget and Finance Committee.

- Defunding work on the climate crisis can push us into an apocalypse from which we cannot pull back.
- Without adequate funding, our streets and sidewalks will continue to crumble leading to injuries and deaths for which the City will be liable and the resulting settlements will increase the Budget strain.
- The IT department needs money to protect the City from cyberattacks. We also know that employees working on up-to-date technology are more efficient, another cost savings.
- The funding of Animal Services allows us to spay and neuter cats and dogs. It helps reduce our dependence on shelters. By not spaying and neutering our cats and dogs, we will have to spay and neuter their generations of offspring.
- As the economy recovers, we will need a robust Personnel Department to enable hiring. The Personnel Department has been a hiring bottleneck because it has been underfunded. Reducing funding further harms the City more than helping it.

The Palms Neighborhood Council urges the City not to give up on caring for our homeless population. We need to do to help those living on the street and to provide as much housing as we can. The numbers of those experiencing homelessness is increasing and that trend is likely to continue as we work through the economic setback caused by the COVID-19 shut down.

Let's make sure we are spending our limited money where it will have the most impact.