

Communication from Public

Name: budget line 125

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 10:34 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: To: City Council Members From: budget line 125 Date:4/24/25
Subject: Opposition to Budget Cuts and Civilian Staffing
Concerns _____ As

the City of Los Angeles faces ongoing budget constraints, I would like to bring forward significant concerns regarding the proposed budget cuts to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and their potential impact on both our civilian workforce and the overall effectiveness of public safety in our communities. The proposal to lay off approximately 403 civilian employees within the LAPD is deeply troubling. These individuals play a vital role in supporting the Department's daily operations, providing critical administrative, technical, and operational functions. The loss of these staff members would have a profound negative effect on the Department's efficiency and its ability to deliver effective public safety services. In addition, there is growing concern regarding the continued use of sworn officers in civilian-designated roles. Since the financial downturn in 2008, many sworn personnel have been assigned to administrative functions rather than their primary mission: protecting and serving the public. This misallocation of resources limits the Department's ability to respond to the needs of the community while placing sworn officers in positions that do not align with their training and public safety duties. Civilians are also an essential part of maintaining accountability and transparency within the Department. While sworn officers are critical to field operations, civilians provide an unbiased perspective that ensures proper oversight, operational integrity, and support for law enforcement practices. Reducing the number of civilian staff directly impacts the balance of accountability and effectiveness within the LAPD. It is also important to note that the growth in upper management and non-essential salaried positions has created a misalignment between the Department's resources and its mission. In a time of fiscal challenges, it is crucial that the City reexamine the structure of the LAPD and ensure that resources are being allocated where they are most needed—toward civilian staff who are actively supporting operations and helping the Department fulfill its core mission of public service. The LAPD's mission statement stresses "Service, Integrity, and Trust," calling on every member of the Department to "protect and serve." This

mission must align with the crucial role of civilian employees, who play an indispensable part in ensuring the Department functions smoothly and effectively. Without these civilian staff members, sworn officers would face additional burdens, limiting their ability to focus on their primary responsibility: safeguarding the public. We are being asked to do more with less, but the civilian staff who are most integral to the Department's success are those at greatest risk. It is time to realign resources and prioritize the needs of those who are directly contributing to the operational success of the LAPD. Therefore, I respectfully urge the City Council to consider the following actions:

- Redirect sworn officers back to their field duties, where they can more effectively contribute to public safety.
- Reevaluate the need for excess upper management and non-essential administrative roles that do not align with the Department's core mission.
- Protect funding for civilian positions that are essential to the Department's operational and administrative efficiency.

This issue goes beyond budget—it is a matter of the Department's mission and the values we uphold as a city. If we are to truly "Protect and Serve," our staffing decisions and resource allocations must reflect those priorities.

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda Carrozza
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 10:35 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am sending this message as a concerned citizen, an animal lover, and a member of the Angel City Pit Bulls animal welfare organization. Our organization bears firsthand witness to the state of emergency that is animal welfare in Southern California. Mayor Bass promised us that things would get better under her governance. Things have gotten worse, and will continue to do so with further budget cuts. I implore you to prevent these cuts from taking place in the coming fiscal year. Reducing the number of city shelters by half will only exacerbate the existing issue - there will be no fewer animals in need, but only three city shelters to serve them. And the three remaining shelters will be so short-staffed (even more so than they already are) that providing care for the influx of animals will be impossible. The direct result of this is increased euthanasia. It must be a delicate balance to satisfy the needs of all living things in a huge city. But animals don't have a voice. They don't get to weigh in. So please, hear ours on their behalf, and do not cut the LAAS budget for 2025-2026.

Communication from Public

Name: Liz

Date Submitted: 04/23/2025 05:22 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Good Afternoon City Councilmembers, * My name is Liz and I am here today as a member of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition in support of housing resources for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault who are also experiencing homelessness as a result of gender-based violence. * The DVHSC urges you to fully fund CIFD Survivor Services and restore critical funding for gender-based violence programs. * Cuts to Shelter Services will lead to fewer beds, fewer services, and more survivors pushed into homelessness. * With 43% of LA's unhoused population having experienced domestic or intimate partner violence, this cut is unacceptable. * We urge the City to prioritize survivors in this budget and fully fund CIFD with \$12.4 million in General Funds to support the Survivor Services Program in FY 25-26. * Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 11:09 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am asking you to not support the proposed 4.8 million dollar budget cut to LA Animal Services. This department is already stretched thin and any cuts will have dire results for the animals in its care and the neighborhoods these shelters serve. I urge you to:
* Reverse the proposed budget cuts to LAAS. * Ensure shelters remain open and fully staffed. * Explore alternative budget solutions that do not endanger vulnerable animals and neighborhoods. Volunteers will not be able to adequately pick up the slack for any cuts to staff that provide daily hands on care for the animals in LA's shelter system.

Communication from Public

Name: Ashley Flinn

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 11:33 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: For a system that is barely able to keep its head above water, to imagine taking away staffing and funding from LAAS is not only unfathomable, it's unconscionable. Fixing budget problems on the backs of animals who have no voice, volunteers who help keep this system running without receiving a dime in return, and for the staff at each of the 6 shelters who come to work each day knowing just how defeating the work will be is not the way to a balanced budget. It is a path to deepening a crisis that is already unfolding in front of your eyes. I understand that nearly everyone in city government will feel the reverberations of budget cuts--and no one wants to see staff be laid off and budgets slashed. But when cutting the budget means that animals have to die or suffer in a shelter that already cannot contain the constantly growing population, it is imperative that we come up with another way. It does not have to happen this way. These cuts will put incredible strain on non-profit rescues that support your shelters by taking LAAS animals into their programs--very often, this is the only path out of the shelter for some animals. With the proposed cuts, including the potential closure of shelters, these organizations will be tasked with helping even more than they already do--and I can assure you, as both a LAAS volunteer and a volunteer with Angel City Pit Bulls, I cannot imagine how we can do more. Animals will be packed in even tighter than they already are with fewer staff to care for them, creating a sense of urgency that I cannot wrap my brain around. A horrified public will stand by as social media videos circulate of crowded, filthy kennels, of crates with soiled newspaper lining hallways, animals being listed as EOD at an alarming pace and wonder "why isn't anyone doing anything?" Except, there will be no need to wonder. If you cut the budget at the proposed rates, you will know exactly why city employees and animals across the city are suffering.

Communication from Public

Name: Rhetta Alexander

Date Submitted: 04/23/2025 09:06 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Council File Number: 25-0600 / CEMO Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles and I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed budget cuts which will eliminate staffing for the CEMO. The role of CEMO is to mobilize the community for climate action and during emergencies. The disasters of the Palisades and Altadena Fires are recent evidence of the importance of CEMO in the face of climate change and extreme weather events which are only increasing in number and intensity. Therefore I urge you to prioritize climate resilience among the widespread sacrifices you are considering. I cannot attend the Budget and Finance Committee hearing on April 25, 2025 but I want to make sure that my concern is counted in opposition to the proposal to cut the CEMO budget and staffing. Thank you, Rhetta Alexander

Communication from Public

Name: Aurora Gordon

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 10:05 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The cuts that this proposed budget makes to departments like LADOT, City Planning, Animal Services, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Street Lighting, and Bureau of Engineering are abhorrent and placing the City's priorities in the wrong areas. These are VITAL city services that are being cut so that the LAPD budget and liability payouts can soar without accountability. We are in a severe housing crisis and these cuts will only make that worse. This budget seeks to stop implementation of Measure HLA, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters! How many more people will have to die from our unsafe streets before the City sets its priorities straight? This budget proposal is completely and offensively insufficient and should be redone to prioritize the needs and desires of Angelenos for safer streets, more housing, public realm maintained in a state of good repair, and animal services that have enough resources to operate fully. I am absolutely not ok with my tax dollars going to bail LAPD out time and time and time again. NO on this budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Brynn
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:33 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a volunteer at an LA City animal shelter and I am speaking in my own capacity. The proposed budgets to animal services are unconscionable. To cut funding for a beleaguered department that is ALREADY understaffed and unable to provide humane care to its animals, to close three shelters in a city that services millions, will be disastrous both for animals and humans. Instead of addressing the problem-- irresponsible humans, we are putting the onus on the animals and forcing them to pay for the sins of the public. These animals are the most vulnerable members of our society and these decisions will lead to what will essentially be a cull of the innocent animal population. Instead we need to enforce spay and neuter laws, punish pet owners who neglect and abuse their animals. Keep a list of offenders and backyard breeders and do not allow them to adopt, enforce the laws we have on the books and make sentences long enough, fines heavy enough to be a deterrent. Let's introduce education about animal care. Hold humans accountable for the crisis, not the victims who are completely at our mercy. Animals can't speak on their own behalf, but we are watching and the world is watching. I don't think the mayor or the city understands the depth of passion of the community of animal lovers that populate this city and how many eyes are on Los Angeles and its animals crisis because of social media. Are you prepared for the fallout of a decision like this and the amount of attention it is going to garner globally? Especially with the Olympics coming. Lastly, this budget is such a small peice of the massive LA City budget, these cuts aren't going to make a dent. More powerful, louder voices are driving these decisions. Please be a voice for the voiceless.

Communication from Public

Name: Alex
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:12 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to you as a deeply concerned resident who is appalled by Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. If implemented, these cuts will directly result in more suffering, neglect, and euthanasia of innocent cats and dogs — animals that depend on our city for protection and humane care. As you are well aware, Los Angeles Animal Services is already stretched dangerously thin. Shelters are understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide even basic levels of care. Cutting funding now is not just short-sighted — it is inhumane. These budget reductions will lead to increased euthanasia rates, decreased rescue and adoption efforts, and deteriorating conditions in our city's already overwhelmed shelters. Mayor Bass has positioned this budget as prioritizing homelessness and public safety. But there is nothing safe or just about abandoning our city's voiceless and most vulnerable animals. These are not just numbers on a page — they are lives that will be lost if this budget is approved as proposed. I urge you to take a strong stand against these cuts. Use your voice and your vote to demand a humane and compassionate budget that reflects the values of our city. District 11 residents care about animals, and we are watching closely to see who will stand up for them. Please do the right thing and help lead the fight to preserve and strengthen Animal Services in Los Angeles — not dismantle them.

Communication from Public

Name: ALEXANDRA SUTLIFF

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 10:00 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Your choice to reduce funds for shelter is a choice to remove funds for HOUSING when there is a housing crisis. For victims of domestic violence specifically, you are choosing to keep families in dangerous situations. You are also choosing to put people out of work that have chosen a profession and have a calling in helping survivors of domestic violence. Domestic violence causes trauma that runs through and destroys families and communities. Funding these shelters does more than just briefly house people, it can prevent children from becoming future perpetrators and future victims of domestic violence. Sheltering our vulnerable domestic violence clients is money saved for police, medical, and social services. Please do not cut services for the most vulnerable people in our communities and for the people who are serving them.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2025 10:02 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Why keep increasing the budget for LAPD. We don't need that many guys standing around watching some other cops arrest someone.

Communication from Public

Name: Aubrey Lerner

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:25 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose Mayor Bass's proposal to reduce funding and staff to LA Animal Services City Shelters. The shelters are barely surviving now, because we do not enforce spay and neuter laws in Los Angeles, among other reasons. The shelters are constantly overflowing with animals that need our help. Staff is already thin and doing the best they can with extremely limited resources. More and more animals are being killed each day because we do not have the resources to support them. We need more funding and resources, not less. Meanwhile, Mayor Bass has proposed an increase to housing, which an audit found failed to track billions of dollars in spending. I urge you to INCREASE funding and staff to LA Animal Services. If that is impossible, then, at a minimum, I urge you to maintain the status quo. A decrease will be disastrous and cruel to animals in the Los Angeles area and beyond.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:39 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am submitting this comment to highlight how important it is to NOT cut the LA Animal Services budget at this time. I understand that resources are limited, but it is a great disservice to all the animals of Los Angeles to cut funding without a plan to address the overcrowding at shelters. It's vital to start enforcing spay and neutering laws to limit backyard breeders. The amount of strays, dumped litters and owner surrendered animals is alarming and should be the greatest issues highlighted within the LA Animal Services system, not the budget. Enforcing fines and penalties and increasing spay and neutering resources will ultimately address a long standing problem this city has faced. Let us prioritize these beautiful creatures for once, they deserve a fighting chance. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Caneel Fraser
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:42 AM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I write as a lifelong Angeleno, voter, and mother raising children in our great City. Understanding Los Angeles is facing significant fiscal issues and must make hard choices, cutting our City's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) is the wrong move. The work of the CEMO is critical to the long term health and wellness of all of our residents - including my children and the next generation of Angelenos - and to the continued viability of LA as a vibrant, urban center. We need the work of the CEMO; cutting investment in this local climate work is particularly dangerous in the current reality of our nation and our state. My family asks the CEMO be returned to the City budget so they can continue their important work benefiting our entire community.

Communication from Public

Name: Tara Grude

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 08:44 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The schools need to be kept open. There are no other options for me as a working mom. Privately run childcare facilities are simply out of the question. There would be no point of working at all but then how will my bills be paid? Victory Valley has been an amazing place where my son is kept safe, learns new things everyday, has friends and teachers he loves and adores. It's unfair to even consider closing such a great facility. Budgets cuts should be happening in other places, not to the detriment of children.

Communication from Public

Name: Sandra Garcia

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 07:54 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor and City Council Members, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the complete elimination of funding for Day Laborer Community Job Centers/Centros Jornaleros in the recently released city budget. This decision directly contradicts our city's professed values and prior commitments to this vulnerable workforce. It was just in 2019 that Los Angeles proudly declared May 3rd as "Día del Jornalero," recognizing the vital contributions day laborers make to our economy and communities. To now eliminate all funding for these centers represents not just a policy reversal but a betrayal of trust to thousands of workers who depend on these facilities. Day Laborer Community Job Centers provide far more than employment connections. They are essential community hubs that:

- Create safe, organized spaces where workers can connect with employers, eliminating the dangers of street-corner solicitation
- Establish fair wage standards and working conditions, preventing exploitation and wage theft
- Offer crucial educational resources including English classes, literacy programs, and information about health, labor, and immigration laws
- Serve as community gathering spaces that foster dignity, connection, and mutual support
- Function as public safety alternatives, reducing neighborhood concerns while protecting vulnerable workers

Without these centers, we also lose valuable community infrastructure that supports economic mobility and integration. The cost of maintaining these centers is minimal compared to their enormous social and economic benefits. They help ensure that work is performed safely, that proper wages are paid, and that both workers and employers have a structured, dignified system for connecting with one another. I strongly urge you to restore full funding for Day Laborer Community Job Centers in this year's budget. Respectfully submitted, Sandra Garcia, 90059, sandra.garcia@alumni.ucla.edu

Communication from Public

Name: Robert

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 08:03 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose the proposed budget cuts to LA Animal services. This cut will cause the loss of many pets' lives.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 08:10 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Does Mayor Bass not realize that removing a majority of Police's civilian staff will result in sworn having to take over administrative duties - REMOVING RESOURCES FROM THE FIELD AS IF THERE ISN'T A SHORTAGE IN SWORN PERSONNEL ALREADY.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 08:14 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Why are we decreasing the budget for Animal Services but increasing Karen Bass' budget? What has she done so far in office besides try to do more PR stunts, like going to Africa, when there was a fire going on in LA county? These animals deserve justice. No one is fighting for them. Meanwhile, we are wasting so much money on meaningless projects and entities. The only good thing right now is Kenneth Mejia as the City Controller. Thank goodness we have him in office to keep city officials in check, since most of them just want to put more money into their own pockets.

Communication from Public

Name: Stephanie Tong
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 08:27 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. I'm a resident of CD13. The LA City Council has approved funding for the public bank feasibility study. I urge the Council to immediately fund the next phase. This plan will outline how LA can use its own balance sheet to save money, cut borrowing costs, and reinvest in priorities like affordable housing, green energy, small businesses, and community development. As LA faces a \$1 billion budget deficit and thousands of union jobs at risk – this is urgent. Delays will keep costing the city billions in debt service and finance costs. It's time to stop sending public money to Wall Street, reinvest it in our communities, and help prevent future budget deficits. In late-stage capitalism, money is power. It's time to take back our power. The City of LA is facing a \$1 billion budget deficit, with thousands of jobs at risk of being furloughed. At the same time, the city spends over \$1.4 billion every year on debt service, fees, and interest payments to Wall Street banks. That's money that could be going toward affordable housing, public transit, and community programs, but instead, it's ending up in the pockets of bankers. Los Angeles faces over \$250 billion in wildfire damages and a massive rebuilding effort. A public bank would keep recovery funds local, offering low-interest loans to rebuild homes, support small businesses, and upgrade infrastructure without Wall Street's high costs. The \$600 million raised so far from Measure ULA could go much further with the support of a public bank, helping preserve existing affordable housing, create new units, and prevent homelessness. The City of LA currently invests our public funds in banks that support harmful fossil fuel projects, contributing to the climate crisis. A Public Bank would recapture the funds sent to Wall Street and redirect them toward a positive impact. With built-in environmental and racial justice mandates, it would ensure investments and lending align with our values, prioritizing people and the planet over corporate profits. The public bank will prioritize lending to historically marginalized communities. This means they will focus on providing affordable loans to communities that have been overlooked or discriminated against by traditional banks. By doing this, the public bank will help advance racial and economic equity, giving everyone a fair chance to succeed financially. Over 40% of black-owned businesses closed their doors during the pandemic because they

couldn't access capital to stay afloat. Public banking levels the playing field. The Bank of North Dakota, a state-owned public bank in a red state that has operated successfully for over 100 years. It remains profitable while prioritizing residents, earning an 18% return on equity in 2023. The bank has transferred over \$1 billion to North Dakota's general fund, supporting small businesses, schools, infrastructure, and public services. Los Angeles can do the same by creating a public bank scaled to meet the needs of our city. The City of LA invests its Treasury funds in major fossil fuel producers like ExxonMobil and Chevron, undermining its own climate goals and carbon reduction efforts. While promoting green initiatives and public well-being, LA is simultaneously supporting industries driving environmental harm. This contradiction makes it harder to achieve true sustainability and public health. Instead of aligning with its values, the city's investments work directly against them. A public bank can accelerate LA's climate goals with public dollars working for our environment and the public good, not Wall Street profit.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Kolkowicz
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 08:38 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Susan Kolkowicz and I'm writing as a survivor of domestic violence. My ex had destroyed me financially and I had nothing. So when I had the chance to leave I fled domestic violence into homelessness. During the day I would try to find resources and organizations that might be able to help me. At night I rode late night trains and all night buses trying to stay safe. I learned that to have any chance at receiving housing assistance I had had to be homeless for a year. The prospect of surviving outside for a year was so devastating I still don't have the words to describe it. The next 15 months of homelessness were truly the worst experiences of my life. And the misery I saw all around me was heartbreaking. I survived that time and began to receive housing services and currently reside in affordable housing. I began advocacy work because I didn't want any other already traumatized survivor of domestic violence to have to face the trauma of at least a year of homelessness when requesting help. I am also commenting as a member of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), which includes over 800 individuals and 244 organizations working to ensure safe housing and support for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. We are deeply concerned about the proposed cut to CIFD's Shelter Services budget — this reduction will result in the loss of vital beds and services. This comes at a time when 43% of people experiencing homelessness in LA report a history of domestic or intimate partner violence. Cuts to CIFD undermine progress made in building survivor-centered systems and will force more people into homelessness. CIFD's Survivor Services programs rely on General Fund dollars for 68% of their total \$18.3 million budget. We urge the City Council to approve the full \$12.4 million in General Funds requested for FY 25-26 and to restore any cuts to Shelter Services. Victim Service Providers (VSPs) deliver trauma-informed, life-saving support — yet are funded at just \$40 per shelter bed night, compared to \$80 for general homeless shelters. Can you believe that?? Half the funding!! Survivors need more than a roof over their heads; they need access to wraparound services like mental health care, legal support, and case management to rebuild their lives. Programs like Survivors First are already making a difference by offering rapid rehousing with flexible financial assistance and long-term

support tailored to survivors' needs. We ask the City to expand programs like these, formally prioritize survivors for affordable and permanent supportive housing, and invest in building the capacity of VSPs to offer housing-focused services. This is a critical moment to protect and strengthen LA's response to gender-based violence — not to scale it back. Please stand with survivors and ensure full funding for CIFD Survivor Services. Thank you in advance for any help you can provide.

Communication from Public

Name: Isabelle Clark

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 08:57 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing as a concerned resident of Los Angeles regarding the proposed cuts to our city's animal services—specifically the plan to eliminate 111 positions and close three shelters, including the North Central Animal Services Center. This decision would be devastating for the animals who rely on these shelters for safety, care, and the chance to find a loving home. Our shelters are already overwhelmed and under-resourced. Cutting staff and closing facilities will only worsen the crisis and lead to more suffering, neglect, and unnecessary euthanasia. We need more support for these services, not less. I urge you to visit our local shelters, speak with the dedicated staff and volunteers, and see firsthand how vital these centers are to our communities and to the lives of the animals they serve. Please reconsider this proposal. The people of Los Angeles want to be a city that protects and uplifts its most vulnerable residents—including the animals who cannot speak for themselves.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not support the Mayor's budget cuts to animal services.

Communication from Public

Name: Marianne Gutierrez
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:15 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: I have attached my comments urging the restoration of day laborer community job centers.

Public Comment: Restore Funding for Day Laborer Community Job Centers

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the complete elimination of funding for Day Laborer Community Job Centers/Centros Jornaleros in the recently released city budget. This decision directly contradicts our city's professed values and prior commitments to this vulnerable workforce.

It was just in 2019 that Los Angeles proudly declared May 3rd as "Día del Jornalero," recognizing the vital contributions day laborers make to our economy and communities. To now eliminate all funding for these centers represents not just a policy reversal but a betrayal of trust to thousands of workers who depend on these facilities.

Day Laborer Community Job Centers provide far more than employment connections. They are essential community hubs that:

- Create safe, organized spaces where workers can connect with employers, eliminating the dangers of street-corner solicitation
- Establish fair wage standards and working conditions, preventing exploitation and wage theft
- Offer crucial educational resources including English classes, literacy programs, and information about health, labor, and immigration laws
- Serve as community gathering spaces that foster dignity, connection, and mutual support
- Function as public safety alternatives, reducing neighborhood concerns while protecting vulnerable workers

Without these centers, we also lose valuable community infrastructure that supports economic mobility and integration. The cost of maintaining these centers is minimal compared to their enormous social and economic benefits. They help ensure that work is performed safely, that proper wages are paid, and that both workers and employers have a structured, dignified system for connecting with one another.

I strongly urge you to restore full funding for Day Laborer Community Job Centers in this year's budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Marianne Gutierrez

1332 N. Sycamore Ave, Unit 4

Los Angeles, CA 90028

Mguti160@ucla.edu

626-347-2340

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 09:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to oppose the budget cuts to our streets and road maintenance and improvement services in the proposed budget. With doubled deaths from unsafe roads, and more traffic than ever before with the Olympics approaching, cutting these services will kill Angelenos and visitors alike. We should instead be making deeper cuts to LAPD, the source of many of the enormous liabilities that have caused the deficit. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Richard poore

Date Submitted: 04/21/2025 06:01 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please explain how Bass is going to pay for the Olympics when the City is \$1 Billion in the hole. I already sweep my Street. The Sidewalks haven't been repaired in Mount Washington for twenty years. Fifty percent of past City Council members are incarcerated for "Pay to Play". I haven't an ounce of sympathy for the mismanagement & the fiscal debacle that is ensuing. Recommendation, City Council members receive a Stipend for being on City Council. The balance of money would go toward balancing the Budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Hennessy

Date Submitted: 04/22/2025 01:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: You can submit public comment on the LA City budget here: [?https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/?cfnumber=25-0600](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/?cfnumber=25-0600) 3
Key Points: ****1. Protect Life-Sustaining Services****The proposed budget cuts endanger disabled, chronically ill, unhoused, aging, and immunocompromised Angelenos. Services like in-home caregiving, paratransit, HIV care, and housing support are essential. Cutting them will cost lives as demonstrated in the recent past. We also need more incentives for schools and buildings to upgrade indoor air quality to ASHRAE 241 standards and/or purchase air purifiers and air filtration devices. This helps reduce airborne illness spread, clear the air of pollution, toxic chemicals, and wildfire smoke. ****2. Remote Access Is a Civil Right****Limiting public comment to in-person-only prevents access for those most impacted, which likely violates the ADA, Brown Act, and CA Constitution. Remote options (phone, video, written) must be restored for all hearings, including on April 25 and 28. This online form is not a substitute. Excluding disabled and high-risk residents is structural harm. ****3.****The City must disclose if and how it applied the Budgeting Rubric and MADE Index tools to the proposed cuts. These tools exist intentionally to prevent harm to high-need communities. Transparency and legal compliance are non-negotiable.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/22/2025 05:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: In regards to the proposed layoffs in the FY 25/26 budget: Why can't the City first try doing furloughs rather than immediately laying off employees? Personally, I would agree to take furlough days if it meant saving my fellow coworkers' jobs.

Communication from Public

Name: Elin

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 06:03 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't cut funding for the animal shelters! Those dogs and cats and other animals need staff, community outreach programs and medical technicians to support them. It's terrible to shut down shelters and euthanize more animals while continuing to increase the budget for police who literally do not come when called.

Communication from Public

Name: Clarissa M

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 06:39 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed cuts to the LA Animal Services department, both in staffing and funding. These resources are absolutely vital and the proposed cuts would decimate the already struggling department. I am writing as a concerned resident to urge you to oppose Mayor Karen Bass' proposed city budget. Specifically, I ask that you reject the significant increase in funding for the LAPD and stand against the proposed cuts to animal welfare services. Increasing the LAPD budget while reducing essential funding for animal care and protection sends the wrong message about our city's values. Public safety cannot be achieved through policing alone—it requires investment in community services, prevention programs, and compassion for all living beings in our city. TNR and Spay/ Neuter services for the community are VITAL. Animal shelters and welfare programs are already stretched thin. Cutting their funding further would lead to more suffering, strays, overcrowded shelters, and reduced services for our most vulnerable animals. Please vote NO on this budget unless these priorities are revised. We need a budget that reflects equity, care, and real community investment. This budget is harmful and irresponsible. Thank you for your time and consideration. My best, Clarissa - North Hollywood

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 07:00 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Subject: Urgent: Oppose Mayor Bass's Inhumane Budget Cuts to Animal Services
Dear LA City Council, I am writing to you as a deeply concerned resident of Los Angeles, who is appalled by Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. If implemented, these cuts will directly result in more suffering, neglect, and euthanasia of innocent cats and dogs — animals that depend on our city for protection and humane care. As you are well aware, Los Angeles Animal Services is already stretched dangerously thin. Shelters are understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide even basic levels of care. Cutting funding now is not just short-sighted — it is inhumane. These budget reductions will lead to increased euthanasia rates, decreased rescue and adoption efforts, and deteriorating conditions in our city's already overwhelmed shelters. Mayor Bass has positioned this budget as prioritizing homelessness and public safety. But there is nothing safe or just about abandoning our city's voiceless and most vulnerable animals. These are not just numbers on a page — they are lives that will be lost if this budget is approved as proposed. Councilmembers, show some empathy and backbone and take a strong stand against these cuts. Use your voice and your vote to demand a humane and compassionate budget that reflects the values of our city. Residents of every district care about animals, and we are watching closely to see who will stand up for them. Please do the right thing and help lead the fight to preserve and strengthen Animal Services in Los Angeles — not dismantle them. Thanks,
A Deeply Concerned Resident of Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Martha Chaffin

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 07:08 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Restore unappropriated funds to Los Angeles Animal Services
Los Angeles Animal Services is not currently properly staffed to operate the six centers. There are 40+ vacant positions waiting to be filled. With the number of positions proposed to be eliminated, the Department would need to close three shelter facilities. The need for services in the areas of closed facilities would not cease. Animal intake in these communities would still continue. Residents of those communities would need to visit a facility not close to them, which could cause hardships for those who do not have transportation or other financial hardships. Animals may be left on the streets to fend for themselves, causing many safety issues for the animals and community members. The three remaining shelters will quickly run out of space for animals. This would require the Department to return to antiquated euthanasia processes, and many animals will be killed. The number of animal killings will increase dramatically, including young, healthy animals. As a former volunteer at the East Valley Animal Shelter for 8 years, I witnessed firsthand the filth, lack of water, and inhumane treatment the animals suffer when the shelter is over capacity and understaffed. The closures will also result in longer animal control officer (ACO) response times. High traffic times in Los Angeles will cause delayed responses to all animals in need, including urgent and emergency situations. Calls for assistance from the LAPD can be delayed up to three hours. Closing the West LA shelter facility will propel the need for termination of the agreement the Department has with the city of Beverly Hills to provide animal control, enforcement, enforcement and care services. With the elimination of the Public Relations team, the Department's website function and maintenance will be impacted. Citizens will not be able to search for a lost pet. Animals will not be able to be posted for adoption. Services such as spay/neuter will not be able to be promoted. The elimination of clerical support throughout the Department will cause significant delays for most city services: adoption/foster transactions, tag/license renewals, payroll processing, answering phone calls from the public and rescue groups. Please do not reduce the Los Angeles Animal Services budget. Please show compassion to LA city's most vulnerable, innocent citizens — who cannot speak for themselves: the animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Daphne Sajor

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 07:10 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon. My name is Daphne Sajor, a West LA resident who supports day labor centers and the critical resources that they provide for our immigrant workers. I am writing this public comment today in support of day labor centers and demanding that day labor centers be added back in the city budget and continue to be funded. Day labor centers such as IDEPSCA and CARECEN provide training, financial support, education, basic needs and a community space for workers who are often neglected and left out of our social service structures. Not only do these workers contribute so much to our economy, they are also human beings who deserve and have the right to access these resources. Now more than ever, we as a city need to protect our day laborers and immigrant workers/community members. Our LA leaders say that LA is a sanctuary city. Let's do the right thing by continuing to fund day labor centers so we can continue supporting our immigrant communities. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Joe O'Neill

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 07:11 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a volunteer with and serve on the board of the Sidewalk Project, a skid row based art and peer empowerment group that exists to create wellness for people who live outdoors. I am commenting in strong opposition to the city's proposed budget cuts to the Department of Disability, especially HIV prevention and harm reduction programs. The department of disability provides services to some of the cities most vulnerable and most marginalized residents. The impact on them will be catastrophic. The city is giving a \$126 million increase to the police department, paid for huge cuts to other city departments. The police already get \$3 billion, a massive piece of the city budget. In addition payouts from police misconduct cost the city millions each year. To give them even more money while increasing the suffering of an untold number of Angelenos is unconscionable. Thank you for your consideration. I really hope you do the right thing here. Sincerely, Joe O'Neill The Sidewalk Project

Communication from Public

Name: Margaux Hernandez
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 03:08 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Margaux Hernandez, and I'm writing as a member of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), which includes over 800 individuals and 244 organizations working to ensure safe housing and support for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. We are deeply concerned about the proposed cut to CIFD's Shelter Services budget — this reduction will result in the loss of vital beds and services. This comes at a time when 43% of people experiencing homelessness in LA report a history of domestic or intimate partner violence. Cuts to CIFD undermine progress made in building survivor-centered systems and will force more people into homelessness. CIFD's Survivor Services programs rely on General Fund dollars for 68% of their total \$18.3 million budget. We urge the City Council to approve the full \$12.4 million in general Funds requested for FY 25-26 and to restore any cuts to Shelter Services. Victim Service Providers (VSPs) deliver trauma-informed, life-saving support, yet are funded at just \$40 per shelter bed night, compared to \$80 for the general homeless shelters. Survivors need more than a roof over their heads; they need access to wraparound services like mental health care, legal support, and case management to rebuild their lives. Programs like Survivors First are already making a difference by offering rapid rehousing with flexible financial assistance and long-term support tailored to survivors' needs. We ask the City to expand programs like these, formally prioritize survivors for affordable and permanent supportive housing, and invest in building the capacity of VSPs to offer housing-focused services. This is a critical moment to protect and strengthen LA's response to gender-based violence, not to scale it back. Please stand with survivors and ensure full funding for CIFD Survivor Services. Sincerely, Margaux

Communication from Public

Name: Megan Zaldivar

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 03:52 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE DO NOT MAKE THESE CUTS. DOD is so important, valuable, and essential!!!! I work at Independent Living Center in DTLA and DOD is a partner of ours. These cuts would devastatingly effect thousands and thousands of people in the disability community, homeless population, elderly, & people living with HIV. MANY programs and services offered would be horribly affected. These programs give people the capacity to access services that every person rightfully deserves, without them, people's lives can quickly spiral in a negative turn. Access and accessibility are a human right!!! Please do your due diligence in evaluating what is truly and foundationally important to the American population as a whole.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 03:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: There is a complete disconnect between the decisions being made at the top and the realities on the ground. Worse still, our own management often lacks a clear understanding of what civilians do. If they do understand, they're either unsuccessfully addressing issues or lack the resources to address them. How can you propose eliminating hundreds of us without first conducting a thorough analysis of our roles, responsibilities and the operational fallout that will result.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 03:35 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in regards to the budget cuts proposed by Mayor Karen Bass. Specifically how this will impact Los Angeles Animal Services. The six animal shelters located in Los Angeles already experience overcrowding and subpar level of care for these animals. These cuts that are being proposed would result in the layoff of 62 staff positions which in turn reduces services offered at the shelters to the community. The communities rely on the shelters in order to get information on spaying/neutering, microchipping, and where to get low cost veterinary care, and some shelters run pet food pantries that help the community who are low income. It educates the community on animal welfare and keeps pets in their homes. Where will the community go for information if they cannot go to their local animal shelter? The shelter is also a safe haven for homeless and abandoned animals, who otherwise would be on the streets. The cuts will also potentially lead to more animals being put on the euthanasia list, since these cuts might result in closures of some these shelters. Animals are already put on this list for reasons that make no sense, such as having an ear infection, skin condition or just for being afraid of being in an unfamiliar place. These cuts would mean more animal deaths. Animals would not be given a chance to find a home. They make no sense and will not only hurt the animals, but the community itself. Why should they have to suffer because of us humans? They are already suffering enough being at these shelters. If shelters are closed, animals will be housed together in the already small kennels. This is inhumane. As a volunteer at the shelters, I have seen first hand how overcrowding affect these animals. How they have had to live in small crate in hallways when there is no more kennels available. This cannot continue to happen and we cannot let it get worse. The cuts proposed by Mayor Bass would make this worse. No more budget can be cut from the Los Angeles Animal Services. There are other departments that receive way more budget that they do not need or wouldn't even notice if it were to be cut. Instead of cutting budget from Los Angeles Animal Services, budget should be redistributed from departments that have more. Please do not approve these cuts. Come up with another proposal that does not affect theses animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Lily Sanchez

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 03:43 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the City of Los Angeles, and someone who both lives and works in this city, I strongly urge you not to cut funding to the Department on Disability. I speak not only as a professional who works directly with people with disabilities, but also as a person living with a medical condition, and as someone with family members who have disabilities. The Department on Disability is an essential resource for our community. It provides critical services, advocacy, and support that empower Angelenos with disabilities to live with dignity, independence, and full participation in society. Cutting funding to this department would not only weaken our city's commitment to equity and accessibility, but it would also directly impact the lives of countless residents—those who rely on the Department for support with housing, employment, legal protections, assistive technology, and more. We cannot afford to undermine the progress we've made in building a more inclusive city. I urge you to protect the Department on Disability and continue investing in the vital services it provides to one of our most vulnerable communities.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:11 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The cuts that this proposed budget makes to departments like LADOT, City Planning, Animal Services, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Street Lighting, and Bureau of Engineering are abhorrent and placing the City's priorities in the wrong areas. These are VITAL city services that are being cut so that the LAPD budget and liability payouts can soar without accountability. We are in a severe housing crisis and these cuts will only make that worse. I truly cannot believe how tone-deaf and unaligned with the vast majority of Angelenos this proposed budget is. Honestly, the mayor and all who have worked on this budget should be ashamed of themselves for setting the city up for failure in this way. Finally, this budget seeks to stop implementation of Measure HLA, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters! How many more people will have to die from our unsafe streets before the City sets its priorities straight? This budget proposal is completely and offensively insufficient and should be redone to prioritize the needs and desires of Angelenos for safer streets, more housing, public realm maintained in a state of good repair, and animal services that have enough resources to operate fully. I am absolutely not ok with my tax dollars going to bail LAPD out time and time and time again. NO on this budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda McDaniel
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:15 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The cuts that this proposed budget makes to departments like LADOT, City Planning, Animal Services, Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Street Lighting, and Bureau of Engineering are abhorrent and placing the City's priorities in the wrong areas. These are VITAL city services that are being cut so that the LAPD budget and liability payouts can soar without accountability. We are in a severe housing crisis and these cuts will only make that worse. I truly cannot believe how tone-deaf and unaligned with the vast majority of Angelenos this proposed budget is. Honestly, the mayor and all who have worked on this budget should be ashamed of themselves for setting the city up for failure in this way. Finally, this budget seeks to stop implementation of Measure HLA, which was overwhelmingly approved by voters! How many more people will have to die from our unsafe streets before the City sets its priorities straight? This budget proposal is completely and offensively insufficient and should be redone to prioritize the needs and desires of Angelenos for safer streets, more housing, public realm maintained in a state of good repair, and animal services that have enough resources to operate fully. I am absolutely not ok with my tax dollars going to bail LAPD out time and time and time again. NO on this budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Diane DeStefano
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:01 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing today not just as a resident of Los Angeles, but as a volunteer for LA Animal Services for over 10 years! The proposed \$6.4 million budget cut to Los Angeles Animal Services is not a simple adjustment. It is catastrophic. It threatens to shut down three shelters, eliminate over 60 vital staff positions, and leave thousands of animals—and the neighborhoods they live in—at serious risk. This is not an exaggeration. This is what will happen: Shelters that are already overcrowded will collapse under the weight of demand. Euthanasia rates will skyrocket. In April 2022 alone, LAAS euthanized 215 cats and dogs—a 26% increase from the previous year. That number will only rise dramatically under further strain and we will become a HIGH KILL CITY! Animals will continue to suffer in kennels, often sitting in their own waste due to a lack of staff. Stray populations will surge in our neighborhoods, increasing bites, property damage, and disease transmission—costing the city more in the long term. The system is already broken. These cuts don't fix the problem—they pour fuel on a fire. The city has long depended on volunteers and community partners to keep this system afloat. But no amount of goodwill can replace trained professionals, safe shelter space, or daily care. Community members have stepped up again and again. It's time for the city to do the same. We urge you to: Reverse the proposed budget cuts to LAAS. Ensure shelters remain open and fully staffed. Explore alternative budget solutions that do not endanger vulnerable animals and neighborhoods. Please stop this before it's too late. Do not shut our shelters. Do not silence the cries from behind those kennel doors. Do not turn your backs those of us who carried this broken system on our backs for far too long. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Megan

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:02 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi - I do not support the mayor cutting the Los Angeles Animals Services budget. The LAAS does amazing work in rescuing animals and this budget cut would have horrific implications for city run shelters and the animals living there. There is no reason the LAAS budget needs to be cut by this much and it's insane that the mayor even proposed it.

Communication from Public

Name: Courtney Davis
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:39 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am commenting because this proposed budget for 2025-26 is a disaster for road safety and even basic services. This budget will result significantly more broken streets and sidewalks. New pedestrian and bike projects, including many Olympics projects, will be delayed. All streetlight repairs will be paused until 2027. Billions in grant funded street safety and mobility projects may be lost. And there may be no staffing to support open streets events like CicLAvia. Cutting funding for our streets will lead to more crashes, costing the City even more in liability payouts – part of why the city is in such financial distress to begin with. This budget would also lead to a near pause of any new projects, and delay existing ones – freezing our infrastructure during a time period when we are about to host the World Cup and Olympics. With this budget, our streets become more dangerous and more people will be killed. You must UNDO these catastrophic and shortsighted cuts to LA street safety. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:42 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing as a volunteer at the west la animal shelter. The news I recently heard about budget cuts to animal services and potential closure of 3 out of 6 LA shelters is extremely concerning. What happens to all the dogs, they just get killed? This is grossly inhumane and disappointing to even be considered in the city I call home. I hope there is some sense and backbone in our city officials to fight this proposal and save countless animal lives in the process. I actually thought the shelters would be getting more support as they are at capacity a lot of the time and conditions are worsening. Yet here we are about to cut the number of facilities in half? It doesn't make sense to me, the great people that I volunteer with, or the people of Los Angeles. Cruelty knows no bounds and we must decide whether to give in to it, or fight back with compassion. I sincerely hope this is read by someone who actually cares for the animals, who cannot voice themselves. Please consider the lasting impacts as well as the dogs you would be condemning. Will Los Angeles be seen as a "high kill" city? Or will we be better than those who would like to see it become one. Disappointing I even have to write this. Please choose the right thing.

Communication from Public

Name: Chris Sanz-Agero
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:43 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Subject: URGENT: Ongoing Systemic Overtime Fraud by Fire Inspectors Impacting the City Budget by Millions Over Time. Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council, Due to the serious City budgetary issues, I am writing with the utmost urgency to save the City millions due to long-standing and active abuse of taxpayer funds within the Los Angeles Fire Department, specifically involving Fire Inspectors (not regular firefighters). As a recently retired LAFD Fire Inspector, I witnessed many inspectors and supervisors are routinely paid significant overtime while failing to perform the inspections or work the hours they are being paid for. On my final day of service, June 29, 2024, I filed a Fraud Awareness Report (see attached) with then Fire Chief Kristin Crowley. To ensure accountability, I also sent copies to Genethia Hudley-Hayes (President, Board of Fire Commissioners) and Kenneth Mejia (LA City Controller, Fraud Waste & Abuse Unit). This report documents decades of systemic fraud, costing the City millions of dollars. After receiving no follow-up, I re-sent my report on March 2, 2025, this time directly to Councilmember Bob Blumenfield and Mayor Karen Bass, again requesting immediate action. To date, no one from the City has contacted me. According to several colleagues who remain within the LAFD Fire Prevention Bureau, nothing has changed—the fraudulent behavior continues without interruption or the requested reform. This is far more than mismanagement—it is an ongoing betrayal of public trust, an active theft of public funds, and a serious threat to the integrity and effectiveness of our fire prevention system. I respectfully urge the City Council to give this issue top priority. I am attaching my LAFD Fire Prevention Bureau Fraud Awareness Report (dated June 29, 2024) for your immediate review, and I remain fully available to provide further details or testify as needed to assist in a proper investigation. Due to clear conflicts of interest outlined in my report, this matter cannot be investigated internally by the LAFD—it must be referred to an independent outside agency to ensure transparency and accountability. The time to act is now. This cannot be ignored. You have both the authority and the obligation to stop it. Sincerely, Chris Sanz-Agero Former LAFD Brush Fire Inspector

June 29, 2024

Kristin M. Crowley
Fire Chief
Los Angeles Fire Department
200 N. Main St., 17th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chief Crowley,

Enclosed you will find a comprehensive report detailing observations and findings related to fraud, waste and abuse within the Los Angeles Fire Department. I write to you today with a sense of duty and commitment to leaving our organization better than I found it.

With over three decades of service across various law enforcement and fire inspection roles, I've dedicated my career to upholding integrity and accountability. My tenure with the US Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID), the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD)¹ has equipped me with a keen eye for detecting irregularities and ensuring compliance.

The decision to submit this report now is driven by my unwavering commitment to transparency and organizational improvement. Despite previous attempts to address concerns through my local chain of command, the necessary actions were not taken to address the issues of fraud, waste and abuse that have persisted within our ranks. This delay was exacerbated by my unfortunate injury in Q2 of 2022, which, regrettably, has resulted in my forthcoming permanent retirement from active duty.

In submitting this report, my goal is simple yet profound: to shed light on practices that compromise our organization's integrity and to pave the way for corrective measures that will strengthen our foundation. It is my hope that the insights and recommendations contained within this report will spark meaningful dialogue and prompt decisive action among our leadership.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served alongside dedicated colleagues and professionals throughout my career. It is out of respect for their commitment and dedication that I bring these matters to your attention. My intent is not to sow discord but rather to ensure that our organization operates at the highest ethical standards, thereby safeguarding its reputation and mission.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I remain optimistic that together we can enact positive change for the betterment of the LAFD and all those it serves.

Warm regards,

Christopher J. Sanz-Agero, Fire Inspector
Los Angeles Fire Department
Christopher.SanzAgero@gmail.com

cc: [Dane Broesel](#) (Captain, Medical Liaison Unit)
[Christopher Thyfault](#) (Captain, Brush Clearance Unit)
[Ricky Crawford](#) (Battalion Chief, Industrial & Commercial Section)
[David Perez](#) (Deputy Chief and Bureau Commander, Fire Prevention Bureau)
[Kristina Kepner](#) (Assistant Chief, LAFD Professional Standards Division)
[Genethia Hudley-Hayes](#) (President, Board of Fire Commissioners)
[Kenneth Mejia](#) (LA City Controller, Fraud Waste & Abuse Unit)

¹ My relevant work experience and report history is attached in Exhibit 1 for context.

Exhibit 1

Christopher J. Sanz-Agero Relevant Work Experience

- **Fire Inspector with 36 years of government service:**
 - **US Army (10 years):** CID Special Agent / General and Economic Crimes Team Chief – Chief Warrant Officer II with US Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID). Recognized as a Federal Agent, performed felony criminal investigations, supervised and trained Special Agents, and worked joint investigations with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.
 - **LAPD (6 years active duty, 9 years reserve duty):** Police Officer and Collision Investigator.
 - **LAFD (20 years):** Fire Inspector, 11 years in the Fire Prevention Bureau, and guided external vendor 3Di in developing mobile inspection application (also known as the Vegetation Management System) crucial for identifying the reported FW&A.
- **Additional Relevant Training:**
 - Completed the Advanced Fraud Investigations Course with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in 1994.

Report History

1. **Previous Reports with negative results:**
 - **June 2021:** Reported verbally to the Brush Clearance Unit (BCU) commander.
 - **September 2021:** Reported in detail to the BCU commander who stated he and the chain of command agreed there was no FW&A.
2. **Report Delayed due to Injury/Health:**
 - I went off duty in Q2 of 2022 due to a serious injury with the anticipation of returning to full duty for further observations and documentation. My injury has recently been classified as permanent, forcing me to retire instead of return to work.

FPB Fraud, Waste, & Abuse (FW&A) Awareness Briefing

June 29, 2024

Summary:

Fire Prevention Bureau (FPB) members (Inspectors and Captains) are consistently paid overtime for hours not worked. Members work a fraction of the day but are paid overtime for a full day. Over the years (decades), management has fostered an environment conducive to FW&A by setting inspection quotas for members working 8 to 12-hour overtime days without regard to the time it actually takes to complete those inspections. Members often complete these quotas in less than two hours, take off the rest of the day, but are still paid for the full day.

The most egregious violations occur when members conduct the “additional” inspections on a normal workday and wait to enter them in the system until their assigned overtime day, thus getting paid without having to work on the scheduled overtime day. Management only checks the system to verify the member entered their daily quota. Management does not conduct any type of regular field checks or after-audits to ensure the member actually worked the full day or the inspections were completed to a professional standard.

Goals:

1. **Improve Safety:** Make LA safer through better, more thorough, and supervised inspections by discouraging early dismissal for hastily conducted inspections.
2. **Prevent Financial Loss:** End the loss of funds due to FW&A.
3. **Protect Members:** Prevent members from unwittingly committing felony time theft.

Origin of Loss: Widespread systemic time theft, with members paid for unworked overtime hours, has cost the City millions over the years. This loss is conservatively estimated at about 50% of the overtime pay allocated for special inspections, notably Brush and R1R2 inspections.

Time Period of Loss: The practice of time theft is ongoing and has persisted for at least a decade, with some claiming it has always existed.

Problematic Practice: Supervisors are inappropriately approving the payment of overtime based on a quota (minimum number of inspections) rather than actual hours worked. Members mistakenly believe they are being paid for meeting quotas, not for the hours worked.

Detection Methods:

1. Checking the timestamps of inspections in the system which disclosed members were entering all of their daily quota inspections within a few minutes or within the first few hours of the scheduled overtime day.
2. Interviews and discussions with current, past, and retired members corroborated the pattern of misconduct/fraud.²

² **NOTE:** I have documented names, dates/times, and results of interviews and prefer not to release them (unless ordered to by law enforcement authorities). At the time (September 8 & 14, 2021), my supervisor attempted to discredit my detection methods with various excuses, suggesting that I did not fully understand the brush inspection mobile application. I painstakingly explained how each of his explanations was either unreasonable or entirely incorrect. What he didn't realize was that I had been part of the team that collaborated with the software developer (3DI) in creating the application, and I possessed in-depth knowledge of the mobile app's functionality and capabilities.

Responsibility:

It is crucial to understand the conditions leading to this situation and educate members and leaders to prevent its continuation. The extent of this fraud is so widespread and enduring that it has become an established operating procedure. While ignorance is no excuse, many members firmly believe they are being paid for inspecting the quota and not for actually working the hours they are being paid. They do not seem to understand that Time Theft (Payroll Fraud)³ is unethical and illegal. For instance, a supervisor interviewed on August 19, 2021, saw no issue with approving 10 hours of overtime pay for a member who worked only a couple of hours, provided the quota was met.

This behavior is best defined as Deviant Normalcy. Sociologist Diane Vaughan described this phenomenon as occurring when people within an organization become so desensitized to deviant practice that it no longer feels wrong. Insensitivity occurs insidiously and sometimes over years because disaster does not happen until other critical factors line up. People grow more accustomed to deviant behavior the more it occurs. To people outside of an organization, the activities seem improper; however, people within the organization do not recognize the deviance because it is seen as a normal occurrence. In fact, many of my former colleagues shunned and ostracized me for bringing it to our supervisor's attention.

If there are problems, corporate or public agency administrators tend to blame individuals. However, organizational characteristics – cultures, structures, politics, economic resources, their presence or absence, and their allocation, put pressure on individuals to behave in deviant ways to achieve organizational goals. In order to correct a problem, it is not sufficient to replace a single responsible person. It is critical to repair the systems within the organization, or the next person to take the job will just experience the same pressures. This is why the LAFD needs outside assistance to remedy this deviant and costly practice.

Investigation Warranted:

I am advocating for an independent outside agency investigation due to the pervasive and long-standing nature of this issue. I have tried to report this via my channel of command on two separate occasions. My first complaint, made to my supervisor in June 2021, was not only dismissed but inspectors were told how to make their entries in the mobile app so they would not appear to be conducted at one time. My second complaint, in September 2021, was escalated up the chain of command, with promises of audits and preventive management. I provided detailed guidance on identifying red flags indicative of FW&A and suggested methods to prevent them. However, the only visible long-term action taken was my supervisor(s) requesting the software developer remove the timestamps from the mobile inspection application. I believe this action was taken in an attempt to conceal ongoing fraud by eliminating the method that I specifically told my supervisor was key in identifying FW&A.

³ **What is Time Theft?**

Time theft occurs when an hourly employee is paid for work they have not actually performed, or for time they were not actually working. The theft can be deliberate, accidental, or merely negligent. Notable cases include an [Irvine Police Officer sentenced to a year in jail in 2021](#) and the [prosecution of 54 CHP officers](#) for overtime fraud in 2022. The LAFD fraudulent overtime hours at issue here would easily exceed the \$950 threshold for felony Grand Theft - pursuant to [California Penal Code Section 487\(a\)](#).

Contributing Factors:

1. Metrics-driven management with no direct oversight other than checking the inspection quota was entered in the system.
2. The few members who recognize the FW&A issue fear retribution and are afraid to speak up about the rampant Time Theft.
3. Members participating in the FW&A get wrapped up in the culture of the accepted deviant practice and then are reluctant to report what they have taken part in.
4. Neglectful management procedures developed over decades.
5. Supervisors with past participation in the FW&A are also reluctant to report or effectively investigate this matter. An interview with a seasoned inspector on May 17, 2022, revealed that immediate and higher-level supervisors are reluctant to correct this issue because they participated in similar behavior previously in their careers (either when they were Inspectors or FPB captains).
6. Supervisors often struggle with misguided loyalty, leading them to dismiss or discredit the reporter early in the process. They are more concerned with protecting the reputation of their command and department than with addressing the serious issue at hand.
7. The belief that one person can't change a common practice that has persisted for decades leading to an attitude of, "You can't change it, so enjoy the overtime money as a perk of being an inspector."
8. There is a misconception that supervisor oversight must be overbearing and cumbersome. In 2014, the FPB tried to implement a time-tracking method requiring inspectors to complete an online daily journal, documenting every six-minute increment. This approach was so overreaching and time-consuming that it was quickly abandoned. While a similar method is applied in the LAPD, it is unnecessary in the LAFD with the current mobile inspection application, which can automatically time-stamp inspections and violation photographs without adding extra work to an inspector's day.
9. Internal investigations often meet with negative results because LAFD members reviewing the matter lack FW&A or Economic Crimes experience and formal training in interviews and interrogations.
10. FPB supervisors sometimes view their overtime budget as a unit slush fund to solve issues. For instance, on August 21, 2023, the FPB sent an email effectively authorizing two inspectors to be paid five hours of overtime each per week to clean the gym. This amounts to approximately \$1,000 per week, with no mention of how long they actually need to spend cleaning.
11. Supervisors are concerned that enforcing the law and requiring inspectors to work the full shift (or only be paid for hours worked) will discourage members from working overtime shifts at all, thus negatively impacting the mission of the department.

Recommendations for Remedial Action: The encouraging news is there are solutions that can be easily implemented. On September 14, 2021, many of the below solutions were provided to my unit commander. I have again outlined my suggestions below and would be happy to discuss them further.

MEMBER TRAINING:

1. Due to the seriousness of the matter, initial formal training should be conducted in a group auditorium setting with a guest speaker from either the LA Controller's Office (Fraud, Waste & Abuse Unit), or District Attorney's Office, or the LAPD Metro Finance Unit.
2. Follow-up online with courses, tests, and acknowledgments.

3. Members shall understand the distinction between hourly and salaried employees, emphasizing that LAFD Inspectors are paid hourly.
4. Members shall understand the differences between overtime hours paid by the City (e.g., Brush and R1R2 inspections) and overtime hours paid by private entities (e.g., developers/construction companies/film companies).
5. Members shall understand that critical overtime inspections (like Brush and R1R2) are conducted outside of a member's normal work schedule and are paid by the City for the actual hours worked.
6. Members should complete annual online Fraud, Waste, and Abuse training that specifically focuses on Time Theft.

SUPERVISOR TRAINING:

1. Require FPB unit supervisors to commit one hour per week to spot-checking the timestamps of inspections for red flags indicative of FW&A.
2. Monthly (or at least quarterly) spot checks of units by a separate/independent review team of senior inspectors working directly under the Fire Marshal to ensure the integrity of the unit commanders.
3. Implement unannounced field spot checks by unit supervisors, similar to LAPD practices. (this does NOT happen in the LAFD and I never witnessed this in my 11 years as an inspector).
4. Establish an MOU with UFLAC to avoid litigation over allegations of singling out an inspector for spot checks (In 2013/2014, two supervisors informed me separately that the reason they do not conduct field checks on inspectors is because UFLAC would initiate a complaint alleging they are targeting a specific member).

SYSTEM APPLICATIONS (Brush and R1R2):

1. Reinstate the timestamps for inspections and violation photographs.⁴
2. Mandatory photograph of any observed violation with date/time stamp. The current mobile application allows for a photo to be taken and entered in the system in less than a minute.
3. Recommended (not required) to have the software developer (3Di) add a Supervisor Summary Page to make reviews easier. The generated page should list by inspector the properties inspected, timestamps of the inspection, violations, and photographs. Further, having the system randomly generate inspections for review would reduce allegations that a supervisor was cherry-picking inspections or singling out/targeting a specific inspector.

In conclusion, I have identified the long-accepted past practices that have fostered an atmosphere of FW&A and I have proposed the means to correct it. Please have the convening investigative authority contact me if clarification or further explanations are required.

⁴ **Note:** This tech already exists and is being used. The developer can easily reinstate the time stamps as I was present when they were developed as part of the tech, and I verified with 3Di in May 2022 that the data is still accessible.

Communication from Public

Name: Auguste Miller

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:44 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cutting funding for our streets will lead to more crashes, costing the City *even more* in liability payouts – part of the vicious circle of why the city is in such financial distress to begin with. This budget would also lead to a near pause of any new projects, and delay existing ones – freezing our infrastructure during a time period when we are about to host the World Cup and Olympics.

Communication from Public

Name: UNITE-LA

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee: On behalf of UNITE-LA – a nonprofit co-founded by, and with a 27-year history of partnering with, the City of Los Angeles to improve economic mobility and well-being for our rising workforce— we write to highlight the importance of maintaining a comprehensive and coordinated youth development strategy as the City navigates an unprecedented fiscal crisis and makes difficult decisions about the future of its services and infrastructure. Please find our public comment letter regarding the FY 2025-26 proposed city budget attached to this email. Thank you for your leadership; we stand ready to collaborate on creative solutions that acknowledge budgetary considerations while advancing equitable economic mobility solutions. UNITE-LA



April 24, 2025

The Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FY 25-26 PROPOSED CITY BUDGET

Dear Chair Yaroslavsky,

On behalf of UNITE-LA – a nonprofit co-founded by, and with a 27-year history of partnering with, the City of Los Angeles to improve economic mobility and well-being for our rising workforce— we write to highlight the importance of maintaining a comprehensive and coordinated youth development strategy as the City navigates an unprecedented fiscal crisis and makes difficult decisions about the future of its services and infrastructure.

While we recognize the potential benefits of improved alignment and administrative efficiencies, we are deeply concerned about the risk of losing the expertise, leadership, and infrastructure that have been foundational to the City’s youth development efforts. The potential elimination and consolidation of the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and Youth Development Department (YDD) leadership could jeopardize the programs, infrastructure, and partnerships that support the success of Los Angeles' youth, especially those with the biggest barriers to high-mobility careers in growing sectors.

PROGRAMS THAT EMPOWER YOUTH AND STRENGTHEN OUR CITY

Programs such as HIRE LA's Youth, Angeleno Corps, and various other career readiness and employment initiatives administered through EWDD are crucial for providing young Angelenos with paid work experience, financial literacy, career exposure, coaching, and mentorship. These programs equip youth with the practical tools and support systems needed to access post-secondary opportunities and high-mobility careers.

At the same time, YDD plays an essential role in coordination and advocacy, elevating youth voice in public decision-making, promoting healing-centered practices, and ensuring that youth-focused policies and services respond to the lived experiences of Los Angeles' diverse young people. YDD has developed and is actively implementing a citywide, three-year Youth Development Strategic Plan in collaboration with City departments, regional agencies, community organizations, youth, and their guardians. Rooted in community input and built through a trauma-informed, violence prevention lens, this plan, along with EWDD’s efforts, serves as a complementary pillar in the City’s youth-serving infrastructure.

The success of this collective work relies on a system that is well-resourced and sufficiently staffed, and built on deep institutional knowledge and trusted relationships with the community. As the City undergoes transitions, it is essential to retain staff who have a history of collaboration across sectors and who understand the complexity of serving opportunity youth and other vulnerable communities. The EWDD and YDD leadership and teams carry the continuity, cultural competence, and community trust necessary to sustain and evolve youth-focused programs that are responsive, equitable, and impactful.

WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE OUR COLLECTIVE VISION

We are particularly concerned that in a structural transition, the strategic frameworks that guide our collective youth equity work risk being overlooked or abandoned. These include:

- **Los Angeles Five-Year Workforce Development Plan: A Path Forward**, which outlines the City's goal to place 50,000 Angelenos into high-quality, living-wage jobs, registered apprenticeships, paid work experiences, and training as critical pathways to economic stability and success by 2030.
- **Citywide Youth Development Strategic Plan**, which outlines how the City can create and sustain a citywide focus on Positive Youth Development that delivers equitable outcomes for 1.2 million Angelenos aged 0-25 across 26 different City departments.
- **Horizons 32K: Los Angeles' Blueprint for 32,000 Opportunity Youth Dreams**, a collaborative, regional initiative embedded in the City's five-year workforce strategy, that aims to significantly improve economic opportunity for young adults during the critical ages of 16-24.

Each of these plans reinforces the City's long-standing commitment to systemic coordination, youth empowerment, and a future-ready workforce. It is critical to protect and advance these efforts as our City navigates reorganization and budget constraints.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

We respectfully urge the City Council to:

1. **Safeguard the infrastructure and funding for youth workforce development programs** that provide job readiness, paid work experience, mentorship, and wraparound supports for young Angelenos.
2. **Protect the staffing and operational capacity of YDD and EWDD to preserve youth development goals and service delivery.** The proposed 47% cut to the Youth Development Department would severely impair the City's ability to implement its own Youth Development Strategic Plan and fulfill its commitments to young people across Los Angeles. These cuts threaten the infrastructure needed to coordinate youth-serving efforts across departments and to sustain critical programs rooted in equity, healing, and opportunity. Similarly, EWDD must be

resourced to continue its core functions and partnerships that support youth employment and workforce development. Maintaining staffing and operational capacity across both departments is essential to ensure continuity of services, compliance with funding requirements, and preservation of the trusted community relationships that are foundational to effective youth engagement.

3. **Reaffirm and institutionalize the strategic plans** of EWDD, YDD, and Horizons 32K to guide the City's work with youth and ensure accountability through any departmental restructuring.
4. **Ensure a collaborative and transparent planning process before advancing departmental consolidation.** While we understand the urgency of addressing the City's fiscal challenges, we urge leadership to pursue a collaborative and comprehensive planning process before moving forward with any proposed consolidation of EWDD and YDD into the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD).

Guided by the principle of trust, UNITE-LA is committed to serving as a thought partner in support of our rising workforce. Recognizing education, workforce, and economic development as interconnected, we urge your critical investment in EWDD and YDD for Los Angeles' future economic competitiveness. We ask that your decisions reflect the City's values of opportunity and pathways for all youth, especially those with the most barriers. Thank you for your leadership; we stand ready to collaborate on creative solutions that acknowledge budgetary considerations while advancing equitable economic mobility solutions.

Sincerely,



Alysia Bell
President
UNITE-LA

CC: VICE-CHAIR, COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD
COUNCILMEMBER HEATHER HUTT
COUNCILMEMBER TIM McOSKER
COUNCILMEMBER EUNISSES HERNANDEZ

Communication from Public

Name: Mandy

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:57 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We need to be INCREASING funds for LA Animal Services, not cutting the budget. LA already murders thousands of innocent cats and dogs due to lack of resources. THAT IS DESPICABLE. YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED. I voted for you, Ms. Bass. If you cut the budget for this department, I certainly will not vote for you again and will make sure nobody else I know does either. This is disgraceful.

Communication from Public

Name: Connie
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:59 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a City of Los Angeles employee, a taxpayer, and someone who adopted a senior, visually impaired dog from a city shelter less than a year ago to prevent her from being euthanized, I strongly oppose the proposed \$6.4 million budget cut and layoffs affecting the Department of Animal Services (LAAS). Shelters are facing overcrowded kennels, high euthanasia rates, and limited staff stretched beyond capacity. Cutting 62 filled positions and eliminating 49 vacancies will only deepen this crisis, risking the lives of animals and putting staff and public safety in jeopardy. At a time when the City promotes equity and well-being, these cuts contradict that vision. Animals are part of our greater community, and the dedicated staff — and residents who care deeply for them — deserve better. This department needs more support, not less. As we enter the hotter months, these vulnerable animals cannot speak for themselves. They rely on us — city leaders and residents alike — to be their voice and their advocates. We must act now to prevent future tragedies, not react to them after it's too late. The compassion and urgency shown in addressing homelessness should also be extended to the animals in our city's care. This is not just a budget decision or policy — this is a reflection of our city's values. Our animal services need more resources, more space, and more support to ensure safe, humane conditions and increase adoptions. I respectfully urge the Mayor's Office and City Council to reconsider these cuts and restore full funding to LA Animal Services in the final FY 2025–26 budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Tomczeszyn

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 10:46 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed elimination of the Los Angeles City's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO). Climate change threatens LA's most vulnerable residents. Under LA's current climate conditions, extreme heat already kills more people than all other weather-related causes combined -- particularly Angelenos who happen to be low-income, elderly, people of color, outdoor workers, unhoused, or have chronic conditions such as heart and kidney conditions. The hottest heat waves kill dozens of our neighbors, but this tragedy rarely makes the news because their deaths are largely invisible. CEMO is an expression of the City's commitment to combat this harsh reality and stand up for our most vulnerable communities. Since its founding, CEMO has coordinated intelligently to advance policy action, partnering both within and outside of the City family to conduct research and move forward equitable policy to protect Angelenos. CEMO has raised awareness of the threat that heat poses to community health and how to combat it in safe and effective ways. Eliminating CEMO would remove those community protections and put people in harm's way, resulting in heat-related illnesses and deaths that are avoidable. While we all must understand that the City's budget is in crisis and drastic measures are necessary, I urge the Budget and Finance Committee NOT to attempt to fix one crisis while causing another. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 10:31 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed elimination of the LA City's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO). Climate change threstens LA's most vulnerable residents. Under LA's currant climate conditions, extreme heat already kills more people than all other weather related causes combined - particularly Angelenos who happen to be low-income, elderly, people of color, outdoor workers, unhoused, or have chronic conditions such as heart and kidney conditions. The hottest heat waves kill dozens of our neighbors, but this tragedy rarely makes the news because their deaths are largely invisible. CEMO is an expression of the City's commitment to combat this harsh reality, and stand up with our most vulnerable communities. Since its founding, CEMO has coordinated intelligently to advance policy action, partnering both within and outside of the City family to conduct research and move forward equitable policies to protect Angelenos. CEMO has raised awareness of the threat that heat poses to community health and how to combat it in safe and effective ways. Eliminating CEMO would remove those community protections and put people in harm's way, resulting in heat-related illnesses and deaths that are avoidable. While we all must understand that the City's Budget is in crisis and drastic measures are necessary, I urge Budget and Finance Committee NOT to attempt to fix on crisis while causing another. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: S Bennett

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 11:33 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. My name is S Bennett, and I'm a LA resident in Council District 4. The LA City Council has approved funding for the public bank feasibility study. I urge the Council to immediately fund the next phase. This plan will outline how LA can use its own balance sheet to save money, cut borrowing costs, and reinvest in priorities like affordable housing, green energy, small businesses, and community development. As LA faces a \$1 billion budget deficit and thousands of union jobs at risk – this is urgent. Delays will keep costing the city billions in debt service and finance costs. It's time to stop sending public money to Wall Street, reinvest it in our communities, and help prevent future budget deficits. As an affordable housing professional, it is clear to me how much LA's housing crisis could be alleviated with the functions and resources a Public Bank would provide. The benefits are numerous, including: lower-cost acquisition financing for land or naturally occurring affordable housing; keeping ULA earnings in the City's control and stretching those funds further; speed recovery and rebuilding from natural disasters and helping us achieve a more sustainable future by partnering with Community Land Trusts and CDFIs. We need this study to move forward with creating a powerful mechanism to help the City's budget crisis at a time when County, State, and Federal funds are at risk.

Communication from Public

Name: Luis Lopez

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 11:16 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Greetings, My name is Luis Lopez, and I am a Planning Assistant with the City of Los Angeles and an EAA Union Member. I process land use entitlements in the Venice Community Plan area and I help expedite projects in an area of the City that has a reputation for being difficult to develop in. My work is essential to bringing projects to life and creating communities people want to live in. The Mayor's proposed layoffs would affect my livelihood and hurt the Venice community. Without planners for this community, housing development would grind to a halt, further hurting the city, and making housing even more expensive. I urge you to please amend the budget, reject these cuts, and save City Planning.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 02:40 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Seriously? You guys decided to give more money to the notoriously corrupt LAPD (we paid out 300 million this year for their fuck ups) and to housing (of which there is absolutely no oversight or accountability for where the money goes) instead of saving animals? You're cutting funding for one of the actual good things in this world. You are all terrible at your jobs and failures. I'm sure your parents are ashamed of how monstrous you are. Your family should be embarrassed. Fuck you guys

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 01:54 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing as a deeply concerned resident of Los Angeles and the parent of a child currently enrolled in one of the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) licensed childcare centers. I was alarmed to receive the letter dated April 7th, 2025, outlining the plan to transition eight of these vital centers to private providers. The RAP program has been an invaluable support, providing excellent care for my child. The prospect of this program being privatized raises significant concerns for my family and many others in our community. Therefore, I respectfully request immediate intervention and urge you to direct RAP to revise its proposed 2025–2026 budget to ensure the continued public operation of these eight childcare centers by RAP and its dedicated staff. Specifically, I ask that you: (1) Revisit the proposed 2025-2026 budget for the Department of Recreation and Parks. I urge you to explore all possible avenues for maintaining public funding for the existing licensed childcare centers. (2) Evaluate alternatives to privatization. I believe a thorough assessment of other options should be conducted before a decision is made to transition these essential services to external providers. (3) Maintain the current level of quality and accessibility. My child has flourished in the nurturing, community-rooted environment provided by the RAP center and its trained staff. It is crucial that any alternative model upholds these standards and remains accessible to families like mine. (4) Prioritize the needs of families and the community. These childcare centers are more than just care facilities; they are vital community hubs that support early learning, civic engagement, and strong family connections. I ask that the city prioritize these benefits in its decision-making process. Additionally, I call on you to investigate the way public funds were used. Investing \$20 million to establish these childcare centers only to then hand them over to private interests certainly raises serious questions. It has the appearance of misusing taxpayer money, essentially building infrastructure with public resources for private gain. Please do not allow these centers to be quietly pushed out of existence. We're calling on you to protect them—for the families and teachers who depend on them now, and for the future of Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Herrera
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 02:36 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: WE NEED ALL AND EVERY PROGRAM THAT HELPS THE ELDERLY COMMUNITY.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah B Watson Ophuls

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 12:56 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Funding for animal service must be preserved.the state of play for animal services in this city is abhorrent! Cutting funding any further is unacceptable!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Megan Wachter

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 01:10 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. My name is Meg, and I'm a LA resident / Council District 13. As a resident of LA during a budget crisis, it behooves the city to fund the feasibility study for a public bank which would divest the city's funds from wall street and save the city over a billion dollars a year in fees. It's time for a public bank so LA can stop lining the pockets of big banks and start investing in its own people!

Communication from Public

Name: Giuliana Rankin
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 01:10 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not decrease funding for LA Animal Services. As a volunteer at the South LA Shelter, I am truly shocked by the proposed budget. LAAS is already so underfunded.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 05:50 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I have worked in the Planning Department, in the City of Los Angeles, for two years as a Planning Assistant and the area assigned to me is in West Los Angeles. My work involves helping applicants process their plans for development, whether this be an addition to a single family residence, such as an Accessory Dwelling Unit, whether it be a change of use in a commercial district, or a request to process entitlements for more complex projects involving multi-family housing, including Affordable Housing under Executive Directive 1 (ED1). My work deals with multiple items and includes liaising with the public to help them reach their dreams, hopes and plans reflected in the built-environment. Reducing staff in this department will be detrimental to the progress of the City, and will affect so many livelihoods as the applicants we work with involve a variety of users: from owners of commercial spaces and vet clinics, to seasoned developers, signage specialists, and our neighboring Angelenos looking to add an extra bedroom to their house. All applicants are looking to transform a part of a building, build a new project, provide rental units, and perhaps even a more spacious restaurant to make their dreams a reality. Applicants want to keep the city thriving, through their creative use of the city and through offering better services to the neighborhood. Should I lose my job due to the proposed cuts and restructuring, I'll probably have to leave the city of Los Angeles immediately after the news, as I live paycheck to paycheck. As a worker in the City of Los Angeles, in the Planning Department, I qualify as an 'affordable' tenant, as my current salary is less than the average salary in this expensive city and I'll take my knowledge and expertise elsewhere to another city. I hope the Mayor and the Council will reconsider the impact that job cuts in the Department of City Planning will have on the city they live in, the additional impact that the elimination of jobs will have on so many residents and workers and there will be greater delays in responding to an already existing backlog. Not only will the people suffer, yet also the services provided by the city to its residents. We can do better, if we really want to.

Communication from Public

Name: Jeff Collins

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 05:54 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Halting progress on transportation projects and funding is going to make LA an embarrassment (and hell to be in) for the Olympics. Aside from the humiliation, we need safer streets for the good of the residents and visitors of LA and safer streets means less liability costs for the city. Please reject this budget!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 05:40 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut animal services budget. Save the animals!!! I am against cutting the animal services budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Lilian

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 04:36 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Budget and Finance Committee My name is Lilian, and I'm writing as a member of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), which includes over 800 individuals and 244 organizations working to ensure safe housing and support for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. We are deeply concerned about the proposed cut to CIFD's Shelter Services budget — this reduction will result in the loss of vital beds and services. This comes at a time when 43% of people experiencing homelessness in LA report a history of domestic or intimate partner violence. Cuts to CIFD undermine progress made in building survivor-centered systems and will force more people into homelessness. CIFD's Survivor Services programs rely on General Fund dollars for 68% of their total \$18.3 million budget. We urge the City Council to approve the full \$12.4 million in General Funds requested for FY 25-26 and to restore any cuts to Shelter Services. Victim Service Providers (VSPs) deliver trauma-informed, life-saving support — yet are funded at just \$40 per shelter bed night, compared to \$80 for general homeless shelters. Survivors need more than a roof over their heads; they need access to wraparound services like mental health care, legal support, and case management to rebuild their lives. Programs like Survivors First are already making a difference by offering rapid rehousing with flexible financial assistance and long-term support tailored to survivors' needs. We ask the City to expand programs like these, formally prioritize survivors for affordable and permanent supportive housing, and invest in building the capacity of VSPs to offer housing-focused services. This is a critical moment to protect and strengthen LA's response to gender-based violence — not to scale it back. Please stand with survivors and ensure full funding for CIFD Survivor Services. Sincerely, Lilian

Communication from Public

Name: TEHANA

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 05:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose the proposed cuts to the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability. It is unacceptable that in this climate, a city that claims to care about its residents would horribly slash the budget of the department responsible for serving the most vulnerable among us. As reported, these reductions will negatively affect our city's capacity to assist people with disabilities, the unhoused, older adults, and individuals living with HIV. I understand that cuts might be necessary at this time, but this damage must be prevented. Instead of crippling the Department on Disability, major reductions should be made to the bloated budget of the Los Angeles police department. The LAPD is overused for mental health and unhoused situations, and much of their money belongs with entities like the Department on Disability. I emphatically urge the city to rectify this proposal by ensuring the Department on Disability retains at least eighty percent of its funding.

Communication from Public

Name: Danielle Davis

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 05:28 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. As a resident of LA, a public bank would greatly benefit our city and community, offering an alternative that will help alleviate our city budget crisis, retain money locally for disasters, give the community more agency and power, benefit people and small businesses, fund green energy, give folks affordable housing options, and be more values-driven. Please fund the next phase of this project. Danielle Davis

Communication from Public

Name: Melina Rodriguez
Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 06:01 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, My name is Melina Rodriguez and I am a resident of Council District 10, speaking today in strong support of funding for day labor centers in the city budget. I am a public health researcher at UCLA. In my work, I focus on understanding and addressing the occupational health impacts experienced by day laborers and domestic workers in Los Angeles. Through this work, I have seen firsthand how vital day labor centers are—not only as places for workers to access fair employment, but as trusted community spaces that provide essential services, support, and protection. These centers offer education and training to ensure workers understand their rights and know how to protect themselves while on the job. They also provide material resources that promote workplace safety, such as personal protective equipment, and serve as critical points of contact during emergencies, particularly wildfires, which have become increasingly frequent and destructive, as we witnessed earlier this year. Since these wildfires, many day laborers and domestic workers have served as an informal second response workforce, hired to clean up debris, smoke, ash, and other hazardous materials from damaged homes and buildings. Without the support of day labor centers, many of these workers would face even greater exposure to health and safety risks. Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to allocate funding for day labor centers in the city budget. By doing so, the city will affirm its commitment to public health by investing in a critical resource that safeguards workers, strengthens community resilience, and helps mitigate long-term costs for the city. Thank you for your time and for considering this request. Sincerely, Melina Rodriguez, MPH

Communication from Public

Name: Carey Reisz

Date Submitted: 04/24/2025 06:01 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please please do not cut the budget for LA's Animal Services anymore, it is urgent that we take care, and do what we can to help helpless animals and to prevent unnecessary animal births in our county!