



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 25-0600

LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>
To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, darren@therosegrp.com

Fri, May 2, 2025 at 8:41 AM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the to Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or rResolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at empowerla@lacity.org.

***** This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. *****

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park

Name: Darren Gold

Email: darren@therosegrp.com

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

Date of NC Board Action: 05/01/2025

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 05/02/2025

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 25-0600

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date: 05/02/2025

Item Number:

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council urges the City to amend the FY25–26 budget to better serve both our local community and the broader needs of Los Angeles. The following ten priorities reflect the voices of stakeholders in Highland Park and Garvanza—but they also speak to challenges facing neighborhoods across the city.

These are urgent, citywide issues that demand equitable, community-driven solutions: 1. Youth Services – Fully fund youth programs like Summer Night Lights & PlayLA. 2. Olympic Spending – Prioritize community benefit and local infrastructure (e.g., Highland Park Pool). 3. Graffiti Abatement – Preserve funding for neighborhood safety and pride. 4. Support for Low-Income Residents – Protect seniors and low-income households from new trash fees. 5. Labor

Agreements – Ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, and multi-year planning. 6. Neighborhood Council Budgets – Reject the \$7,000 cut; adjust NC funding based on size and need. 7. Infrastructure & Safe Streets – Prioritize long-neglected areas like Highland Park and Garvanza. 8. Climate Action – Restore funding to climate departments and clean energy programs. 9. Leadership Accountability – Tie executive compensation to results and public service. 10. AMI Reform – Redefine “affordable” housing to reflect real local income levels.



HHPNC CIS on LA FY25-26 Budget.pdf

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HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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http://www.highlandparknc.com
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

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HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 1, 2025

CIS RE LA FY25-26 City Budget

Council Member Eunisses Hernandez, CD1

Council Member Ysabel Jurado, CD14

cc: LA City Council Members

Mayor Karen Bass

Dear Council Members, Mayor Bass...

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property, or conduct business in the neighborhoods of Highland Park and Garvanza. The HHPNC voted at its General Board meeting held on May 1st to approve this Community Impact Statement following multiple stakeholder-attended meetings and thorough discussion. *This letter was unanimously approved.*

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council urges the Los Angeles City Council to prioritize equity, safety, and sustainability in the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 City Budget. The proposed budget, as currently drafted, falls short in critical areas that impact our most vulnerable residents and undermines the City’s previous leadership on climate and community resilience. We call for the following priorities to be fully funded and protected:

1. Youth Enrichment and Services

Programs like **Summer Night Lights** play a vital role in violence prevention, community cohesion, and youth opportunity. Continued investment in enrichment for young Angelenos, especially in underserved areas, must remain a top priority.

2. Olympic Spending Must Serve Communities

While we recognize that the 2028 Olympic Games are set to take place in Los Angeles, we believe that in a time of deep budget crisis, no spending should be considered untouchable. If Angelenos are being asked to sacrifice essential services, **then Olympic-related expenditures should be critically examined—and should absolutely not come at the cost of neighborhood investment or basic needs.**

If Olympic preparations are to proceed, the funding must be community-first, with infrastructure that serves residents *beyond* the two-week event. A prime example is the Highland Park Pool, which is in urgent need of renovation and could be revitalized to support Olympic programming, while becoming a long-term asset for local families. Similarly, PlayLA and other youth athletic and recreation programs must be fully funded and accessible, ensuring that our youth—not just elite athletes—benefit from the Olympic spotlight.

3. Graffiti Abatement

Graffiti abatement supports neighborhood pride and safety. **Cutting these services will only increase blight and place more burden on already-stretched community groups and city departments.**

4. Support for Low-Income Residents and Seniors

The rollout of new trash removal fees should not disproportionately impact low-income households and seniors. **Assistance programs must be established to protect these residents from unintended financial harm.**

5. Long-Term Labor Planning

We call for open and transparent negotiations on all labor agreements. Angelenos deserve a voice in how their tax dollars are spent, especially when it comes to long-term financial commitments.

As new labor contracts are considered, we urge City departments to adopt a forward-looking approach—one that accounts for projected raises and long-term fiscal sustainability, not just short-term budget cycles that lead to recurring deficits. **Multi-year compensation increases must be fully considered during each contract negotiation.**

Finally, **no labor agreement should be approved if it risks pushing the City into a budget deficit. Fiscal responsibility and public transparency must go hand-in-hand.**

6. Neighborhood Council Budgets

Neighborhood Councils are the front line of civic engagement in Los Angeles. Their funding should reflect both the size of the communities they serve and the needs within them. The Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) urges the City to review and equitably adjust NC funding formulas based on population and community impact.

HHPNC consistently invests the majority of its budget in local schools, organizations, and initiatives—putting funds directly into the hands of those creating meaningful

change in our neighborhood. Many beloved community partners depend on this support to bring essential programs and events to life.

The proposed \$7,000 cut is not just a budget adjustment—it's a direct loss to our community and it is unacceptable. It penalizes councils like ours that prioritize public benefit over administrative spending, and ultimately shortchanges the residents we're here to serve.

Additionally, rollovers from one year to the next are essential to allow Neighborhood Councils to best serve their communities and ensure funds stay in our community.

7. Safe Streets and Infrastructure

Street safety, lighting, and infrastructure are not optional—they are foundational to community well-being. **Highland Park and Garvanza were among the first communities annexed by the City of Los Angeles,** yet to this day, we remain among the last to receive equitable city services.

We urge our Councilmembers to **do their utmost—even in this budget-constrained period—to prioritize infrastructure and service improvements in our neighborhoods.** That includes addressing long-standing issues like dangerous intersections, sidewalk gaps, and deteriorating roads. Additionally, we support the transition of **streetlights to solar-powered systems** to prevent repeated costs from copper wire theft and align with broader environmental goals.

8. Climate Emergency Action

This budget **abandons Los Angeles' leadership on climate.** Plans to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and electrify city infrastructure are on the chopping block. Decimating climate programs now will result in an irreversible loss of expertise and momentum.

This budget represents a brain drain of the very leadership and innovation the City has cultivated to fight the climate crisis. Defunding climate departments and initiatives not only jeopardizes progress but sends a troubling message to residents and the world about the City's commitment.

9. Accountability in Leadership Compensation

At a time when difficult budget decisions are being made across departments and communities, **City leadership must lead by example.** In the private sector, executive compensation is often tied to performance and organizational health. While not a company, the City is a large enterprise. We urge the City to explore **incentivizing salaries for elected officials—including City Councilmembers and the Mayor—based on transparent, measurable progress toward key goals,** such as reducing emissions, improving public safety, and increasing service access for vulnerable populations.

Given current fiscal constraints, **a reassessment of high-level salaries and benefits is not only fiscally responsible but necessary** to maintain public trust and demonstrate shared sacrifice. Leadership should not be insulated from the impacts felt by the public and frontline city workers.

10. Redefine AMI to Reflect Real Affordability

While technically outside the scope of the FY 25–26 budget, we must call attention to a fundamental issue that **undermines the city’s housing equity efforts**: the definition of “affordable housing” based on regional Area Median Income (AMI) metrics.

The current AMI calculations include wealthier areas that **skew the data upward**, making “affordable” rents inaccessible to many low-income residents in Highland Park, Garvanza, and similar neighborhoods. As long as the City relies on these inflated metrics, **we are not building affordable housing—we are building exclusion**.

We urge the City Council to **reevaluate and recalibrate AMI calculations based on localized income realities**, so that housing labeled as “affordable” actually meets the needs of Angelenos who are being priced out of their communities. Until this is addressed, housing investments will continue to fall short of their promise, regardless of budget allocations.

We urge the Council to amend the proposed budget to reflect the values of equity, community safety, sustainability, and local representation. Without these adjustments, the City risks regressing on key goals and harming those who rely on its leadership most.

Thank you for your attention to our priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darren Gold".

Darren Gold

President

Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council