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## Public Comment CF # 25-0600

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Janna Smith <smith.janna@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 11:38 AM

To: "clerk.cps@lacity.org" <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, cityclerk@lacity.org

Good Morning, I am writing to submit my public comment on Council File #25-0600 via email, as I cannot find my submission posted on the City Clerk website (attached and copied below).

Honorable Council Member Yaroslavsky and Budget and Finance Committee Members,

I am a resident of the City of Los Angeles in Council District 13, a Supervising Transportation Planner with the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, a member of the Engineers and Architects Association, and have worked with the City for 8 years. I am writing in response to Council Item 25-0600 ("Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2025-26") to express my concerns about how the layoffs proposed by the Mayor in the 2025-26 City Budget would adversely impact Angelenos.

**This budget proposes major cuts and layoffs to City Departments that will jeopardize the City's ability to provide the basic services it's intended to as a local government.** These layoffs will eliminate programs and projects that proactively increase public safety, work towards sustainability improvements and ensure public health, mitigate the effects of homelessness, and provide safety nets for our most vulnerable Angelenos. Diverting our limited City funds to law enforcement communicates that the City wants to control its constituents and address issues reactively, not proactively support, encourage, and empower constituents.

**Proposed layoffs will disproportionately affect younger and lower-paid City employees.** While the list of proposed positions to be eliminated includes a number of senior positions, the vast majority are staff not in supervisory roles. Additionally, in a large number of cases, someone in an eliminated senior position was likely promoted from a previous civil service class. Those staff members will not find themselves unemployed, they will actually just revert back to their previous civil service position, leading to someone else in the lower class being displaced or laid off instead (<https://personnel.lacity.gov/city-workforce-reduction-resources.html>). This will create a ripple effect where a disproportionate amount of employees actually laid off will be younger, come from the lower-paid civil service classes, won't have years of paid time off saved up to cash out when they are terminated, and will be more likely to be City of Los Angeles residents. **These layoffs will directly lead hundreds of younger residents to move elsewhere for employment opportunities or lower rents, and leave us with an aging City workforce and result in disastrous effects we may not feel until a decade from now.**

**Many of these impacted employees are your constituents and voters.** City Employees making under \$100,000 are more likely to live within Los Angeles City limits than those making over \$100,000, and even more likely to do so if they make less than \$50,000 (<https://controller.lacity.gov/landings/2022-employee-residence-analysis>). **81% of LAPD staff live outside the City of Los Angeles**, and yet the demands of their union are driving the discussion about how to overcome budget deficits largely brought about by their own Department, and political decisions are driving this proposal to lay off employees in other critical City Departments, as well as civilian LAPD employees who are members of other unions. These layoffs will disproportionately affect your own constituents who work for the City, and will create even more strain on already limited public services available to low-income residents, and will be especially disastrous at a time when support for public services from the Federal Government is dwindling and unstable.

I urge members of this committee to reject the Mayor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, and consider proposals and other innovative ideas proposed by City Departments, by employee unions, and the public to avoid laying off hundreds of critical City employees.

Thank you.

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Janna Smith  
[smith.janna@gmail.com](mailto:smith.janna@gmail.com)

April 28, 2025

Honorable City Council  
c/o City Clerk, Room 395, City Hall  
Attention: Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky,  
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee

Honorable Council Member Yaroslavsky and Budget and Finance Committee Members,

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**This budget proposes major cuts and layoffs to City Departments that will jeopardize the City's ability to provide the basic services it's intended to as a local government.**

These layoffs will eliminate programs and projects that proactively increase public safety, work towards sustainability improvements and ensure public health, mitigate the effects of homelessness, and provide safety nets for our most vulnerable Angelenos. Diverting our limited City funds to law enforcement communicates that the City wants to control its constituents and address issues reactively, not proactively support, encourage, and empower constituents.

**Proposed layoffs will disproportionately affect younger and lower-paid City employees.** While the list of proposed positions to be eliminated includes a number of senior positions, the vast majority are staff not in supervisory roles. Additionally, in a large number of cases, someone in an eliminated senior position was likely promoted from a previous civil service class. Those staff members will not find themselves unemployed, they will actually just revert back to their previous civil service position, leading to someone else in the lower class being displaced or laid off instead<sup>1</sup>. This will create a ripple effect where a disproportionate amount of employees actually laid off will be younger, come from the lower-paid civil service classes, won't have years of paid time off saved up to cash out when they are terminated, and will be more likely to be City of Los Angeles residents. **These layoffs will directly lead hundreds of younger residents to move elsewhere for employment opportunities or lower rents, and leave us with an aging**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://personnel.lacity.gov/city-workforce-reduction-resources.html>

**City workforce and result in disastrous effects we may not feel until a decade from now.**

**Many of these impacted employees are your constituents and voters.** City Employees making under \$100,000 are more likely to live within Los Angeles City limits than those making over \$100,000, and even more likely to do so if they make less than \$50,000<sup>2</sup>. **81% of LAPD staff live outside the City of Los Angeles<sup>2</sup>,** and yet the demands of their union are driving the discussion about how to overcome budget deficits largely brought about by their own Department, and political decisions are driving this proposal to lay off employees in other critical City Departments, as well as civilian LAPD employees who are members of other unions. These layoffs will disproportionately affect your own constituents who work for the City, and will create even more strain on already limited public services available to low-income residents, and will be especially disastrous at a time when support for public services from the Federal Government is dwindling and unstable.

I urge members of this committee to reject the Mayor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, and consider proposals and other innovative ideas proposed by City Departments, by employee unions, and the public to avoid laying off hundreds of critical City employees.

Thank you.



Janna Smith

c: Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Committee Vice Chair  
Honorable Heather Hutt  
Honorable Tim McOsker  
Honorable Eunisses Hernandez

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<sup>2</sup> 2022 City of LA Payroll Employee Residence Analysis:  
<https://controller.lacity.gov/landings/2022-employee-residence-analysis>



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## 25-0600 PC 04-30-2025

1 message

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**City Clerk Council and Public Services** <clerk.cps@lacity.org>  
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 3:35 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>  
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Date: Wed, 30 Apr 2025 10:35:07 -0700  
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)  
Email: [taranwhitney@mac.com](mailto:taranwhitney@mac.com)  
Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'TARA WHITNEY' via Clerk - CityClerk** <[cityclerk@lacity.org](mailto:cityclerk@lacity.org)>  
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 10:33 AM  
Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)  
To: <[katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org](mailto:katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org)>, <[CityClerk@lacity.org](mailto:CityClerk@lacity.org)>, <[Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org](mailto:Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org)>  
Cc: <[Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org)>, <[heather.hutt@lacity.org](mailto:heather.hutt@lacity.org)>, <[councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org)>, <[councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org)>, <[DOD.Contact@lacity.org](mailto:DOD.Contact@lacity.org)>, <[controller.mejia@lacity.org](mailto:controller.mejia@lacity.org)>

Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members,

Please accept this email as my official public comment for inclusion in the record for Council File 25-0600 regarding the Fiscal Year 2025–26 City of Los Angeles Budget.

In the face of a \$1 billion budget shortfall, it is essential to act strategically. I urge you to reverse the proposed \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability and to allocate a \$5 million Long COVID Response line-item as a critical fiscal stabilization and cost-containment measure.

Key facts:

- \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability proposed
- \$5 million requested dedicated for Long COVID case management, benefits navigation, public outreach, prevention, and more
- \$3 billion in projected five-year economic losses if Long COVID is ignored<sup>1</sup>
- \$5 million investment now is less than 0.2% of projected losses over the next five years
- 268,000 Angelenos living with Long COVID (and growing)<sup>2</sup>
- Over 20× the number impacted when the City first funded AIDS services<sup>3</sup>

By Harvard economists estimations, Long COVID will cost Los Angeles over \$3 billion in five years<sup>1</sup>. Globally, Long COVID is already costing more than \$1 trillion per year<sup>4</sup>, and U.S. losses exceeded \$152.6 billion in 2024 alone<sup>5</sup>. Without intervention, these costs will continue to rise and directly undermine the City's tax base and services.

For comparison, during the AIDS crisis, Los Angeles began allocating dedicated funding in 1987, and by 1990 independently invested from its general fund—even though annual AIDS diagnoses in the County peaked at roughly 4,000 cases in 1992. Today, over 267,000 adults in Los Angeles are living with Long COVID, which is more than twenty times the peak impact of AIDS. Targeted investment at scale is again urgently needed.

A \$5 million starter investment today would stabilize residents, reverse critical service cuts, prevent escalating liabilities, and position Los Angeles to leverage future State and Federal pandemic recovery funds. This small, targeted investment today is a cost-saving, revenue-protecting action for the City's future. It strengthens our workforce, protects public health infrastructure, and positions Los Angeles to leverage additional State and Federal recovery funding. And, it's the right

thing to do.

Investing now is responsible governance. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical measure.

Respectfully,  
Tara Whitney  
92692

References:

- <sup>1</sup> Cutler, D. (2022). The Economic Impact of Long COVID. Harvard Kennedy School.
- <sup>2</sup> CDC Household Pulse Survey. (September 2024). Long COVID Prevalence Estimates.
- <sup>3</sup> Los Angeles Times. (1990). City Council Approves Funds for AIDS Prevention.
- <sup>4</sup> Nature Medicine. (2024). Global Economic Cost of Long COVID Estimated at \$1 Trillion Annually.
- <sup>5</sup> Economist Impact. (2024). Incomplete Picture: Understanding the Burden of Long COVID.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>  
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Date: Wed, 30 Apr 2025 10:13:57 -0700  
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)  
Email: [dkagel@comcast.net](mailto:dkagel@comcast.net)  
Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Denali Kagel' via Clerk - CityClerk** <cityclerk@lacity.org>  
Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 10:04 AM  
Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)  
To: <[katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org](mailto:katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org)>, <[CityClerk@lacity.org](mailto:CityClerk@lacity.org)>, <[Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org](mailto:Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org)>  
Cc: <[Councilmember.Blumenfeld@lacity.org](mailto:Councilmember.Blumenfeld@lacity.org)>, <[heather.hutt@lacity.org](mailto:heather.hutt@lacity.org)>, <[councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org)>, <[councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org)>, <[DOD.Contact@lacity.org](mailto:DOD.Contact@lacity.org)>, <[controller.mejia@lacity.org](mailto:controller.mejia@lacity.org)>

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and position Los Angeles to leverage future State and Federal pandemic recovery funds. This small, targeted investment today is a cost-saving, revenue-protecting action for the City's future. It strengthens our workforce, protects public health infrastructure, and positions Los Angeles to leverage additional State and Federal recovery funding. And, it's the right thing to do.

Investing now is responsible governance. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical measure.

Respectfully,  
Denali Kagel  
90068

References:

- <sup>1</sup> Cutler, D. (2022). The Economic Impact of Long COVID. Harvard Kennedy School.
- <sup>2</sup> CDC Household Pulse Survey. (September 2024). Long COVID Prevalence Estimates.
- <sup>3</sup> Los Angeles Times. (1990). City Council Approves Funds for AIDS Prevention.
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- <sup>5</sup> Economist Impact. (2024). Incomplete Picture: Understanding the Burden of Long COVID.

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**2 attachments**

 **Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600).eml**  
15K

 **Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600).eml**  
15K



## Fwd: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

1 message

Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 1:17 PM

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sara Z <petfriendlysara@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 1:17 PM

Subject: Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

To: <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

Cc: <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <controller.mejia@lacity.org>

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