

homies unidos

March 14, 2023

Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez
L.A. City Council District 1
200 N. Spring Street, Room 460
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: In support for CF 17-0026 Rodriguez Settlement Extension

Dear Ms. Hernandez,

In 2011 Public Counsel along with other attorneys sued the city of Los Angeles for violations conducted by LAPD during their implementation of the gang injunctions, which forbid individuals constitutional rights. The city of Los Angeles settle the lawsuit and agreed to set aside \$30 million to provide employment and educational opportunities to over 6,000 claimants. We are writing this letter to demand the city to continue the enrollment of claimants into the program and to hire appropriate organizations that have the experience doing outreach and case management with this population to fulfill the commitment by the city to do what they committed to do when they settle the lawsuit.

Since 2013 to this day only under 1000 claimants have benefited from the settlements. More than 5,000 have not benefited for what is righteously theirs. Representatives of the settlement said they send out letters to all the claimants. But for the most part it never got to their hands let alone understand what this letter meant, many no longer lived in their homes, others were in prison or deported. Mailing the letters alone was a method that was not realistic. There are 26 street organizations named in the lawsuit not all of them have been reach out to.

Homies Unidos and Detours were hired by **Los Angeles Reconnections Career Academy (LARCA)** to do outreach in late 2020, unfortunately COVID-19 put a stop to the outreach being conducted. Since then, we have been constantly enrolling individuals. But as of last year, even as LARCA cancelled our contract. Every year there is an effort to cancel the program, which will leave out over 5,000 claimants.

Every March 27 we were expecting the program to end, for some reason it kept going. The claimants went on for months without their while the agencies waited for the contracts to be sign and the funds allocated to the agencies contracted to do case managemet.

We are asking the city to reevaluate their strategy and hire organizations who have been working withing those street organizations named in the gang settlement. Such as healing Urban Barrios and 2nd Call among others. They have been doing case managing, outreach and gang violence intervention. This gang settlement has brought many individuals that wouldn't had come to our doors another way. They are getting employment experience while we are helping them think about how they can use the benefits to advance in their life. These benefits have also been able to reduce violence, we have been able to hire some

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of these individuals to access their respective communities and they lead the way to providing services.

We have found some of these claimants within the homeless encampments. And we are helping them get out. Some of these individuals have passed away and their families are entitled to the benefits, we have individuals in prison who would like to pay their restitution if their money is given to them or transfer their benefits to their loved ones. We have done all this with just a stipend for each person we have enrolled during the contract. We are just respectfully demanding what righteously belong to the people that had their constitutional rights violated.

We thank you for your time and consideration, and hopefully you can join us as a in advocating for the rights of your continuants on this issue. We look forward for your answer to our request. If you have any questions, please contact me asanchez@homiesunidos.org.or (213) 793-1050.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AS' followed by a stylized flourish.

Alex Sanchez
Executive Director