

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Hello, My name is Nikole Luebbe Sherman and I am a resident of Van Nuys. I often drive down Van Nuys blvd and think about the destitution and how this city needs funds to invest in business owners and community building programs to help boost the local economy and make Van Nuys a city people can be proud to call home. Last Tuesday, 6/2/2020 - as a few hundred folks protested peacefully in front of city hall, while another dozen citizens committed acts of violence and looting, there were hundred of police cars deployed down Van Nuys blvd. The ratio of police to protester and non-affiliated rioters was outrageous! And such a slap in the face to see resources finally coming to Van Nuys in the form of an unyielding police force ready to battle this already underserved community! I'm reaching out to call for the defunding of the LAPD. 54% of the unrestricted General Fund is currently allocated to LAPD. We want a budget that invests in our priorities and needs. It has been proven time and again that police do not make our communities safe—we want services that help and strengthen our communities. Recently, both Mayor Garcetti and City Council have unveiled proposals to cut the LAPD's funds by up to \$150 million; this is a great start! Thank you for listening to us and hearing us out! However, that would still leave over half our budget going to policing. We demand more resources be invested in our communities and not the LAPD. City Council and the Mayor please adopt the people's Budget to reflect what Angelenos truly want. The results are clear: we want more low-income housing and more services for unhoused Angelenos; more mental health services; rent suspension and cancellation during this pandemic; more funding for public schools and resources to ensure all students can continue learning during these uncertain times; and investments directly benefiting Black communities. We want human-centered services. We do not want more police. Read the People's Budget proposal: <https://peoplesbudgetla.com/>