

Representing Healing A.P.E. Company (Healing Artists Preserving Earth)

1 message

Michael Berkowitz <info@everyactioncustom.com>
Reply-To: info@healingape.com
To: Clerk.CPS@lacity.org

Mon, Aug 10, 2020 at 7:53 AM

Dear LA City Clerk,

I am writing as the founder of a new collective of artists who are coming together to raise awareness about climate crisis and how to take action to prevent global warming from devastating our planet. Incredibly, most people are still not aware that according to the October 2018 U.N. report of the International Panel on Climate Change- the leading scientific body in the world on this crisis- we only have 12 years to reduce global warming to their recommended levels or face "irreversible" and "cataclysmic" climate crises. We have already lost 2 of those years! We are writing in support of the recent letter signed by 43 organizations requesting funding for the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO), the Climate Emergency Commission (CEC), and Community Assemblies be fully protected in the 2020-21 budget. We strongly urge you to consider moving the excessive funds allocated to the police for funding these urgently needed departments. Please understand that we are not opposed to the proper and peaceful policing of our city. However, it has become painfully apparent that we are wasting exorbitant amounts of money on militarizing our police, and using the police and criminal justice system to address issues like homelessness which would be best addressed through mental health services, subsidized housing and other more humane approaches.

In regards to the issue of homelessness, an issue that is clearly intersectional with climate crisis: the citizens of Los Angeles voted to allocate massive financial resources to this problem, and your administration is failing abysmally to adequately deploy these resources. There are many non-profit organizations in Los Angeles that have successfully worked with getting the homeless off the streets. Get these funds into their experienced hands. Work closely with them. Stop cozying up to the developers that may be building a sparkling new L.A., but are not the solution to our affordable housing crisis or homelessness crisis. Homelessness is rapidly destroying the quality of life in countless neighborhoods, including many affluent neighborhoods! Your failure to significantly address this problem will not only be your "Achilles' heel," it has the potential to destroy the future of liberalism itself, as conservatives will seize upon our failure to maintain a semblance of order on our streets and sidewalks to advance their inhumane and punitive objectives.

We know you face difficult choices that impact the well-being of Angelenos, including how to manage a budget deficit provoked by pandemic-induced economic shutdown. Rethink the police budget not to reduce necessary policing, but by cutting the waste! We also appreciate your aspiration to be forward-thinking, and your recognition that we will create a "new normal" when we finally get past this crisis. That "new normal" must include preparing our city for inevitable crises of the future – other pandemics predicted to be more common and the impacts of climate change, which could be more severe than COVID-19.

With a genuine crisis of leadership at the federal level, LA has the opportunity to lead on climate by offering a model of deep democracy and bold vision for the rest of the country and the world. We support Councilmember Koretz's motion (#20-0482) to classify as essential emergency services any efforts to reduce greenhouse gas and toxic emissions. Consistent with that, we look forward to working with the Mayor, the City Council President, and the Budget and Finance Committee to secure these funds.

Incentivize "work from home" with tax incentives- reduce traffic and improve air quality.
Make the 1% pay their fair share of taxes.
Reimagine how budgets are spent. Yes, we need police. No, we don't need to militarize them!
Prioritize climate crisis preparedness and becoming a model green city.
End homelessness. Don't talk about it. Do it.

Please see our attached letter for further details.
Thank you!

Sincerely,
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