

Communication from Public

Name: Rita Moreno

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 10:44 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: During this unprecedented event, Covid 19 has dealt a harsh blow to the economy. Placita Olvera deserves a chance to stay in business after this is over. They have been in the city of Los Angeles from the beginning. The only way the stands can stay is to please allow rent forgiveness that the vendors are requesting. I understand 2 months is being considered, but I don't believe that is sufficient. It's an unfortunate event, but even more unfortunate would be to arrive on the other side of this, and not have most of the vendors reopen. Thank you for your consideration

Communication from Public

Name: Jared Olvera

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 06:45 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: My family took me to Olvera Street many many times when I was growing up. It is special to me.

Communication from Public

Name: Tina Vines

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 08:37 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: I've read that a motion is being put forward to assist the merchants of Olvera Street with rent assistance for two months. I'm writing to ask that you please consider extending that to ensure that this amazingly beautiful, historic landmark and vibrant cultural center stays open for generations to come. Olvera Street Market is one of my absolute favorite places in LA. I always recommend it to people asking for ideas of where to visit, while in town. As a lover of history and culture, this place is so special to me. Talking with the lovely merchants & buying their beautiful wares is a highlight of any visit, as is sitting by the fountain or eating on the patio of one of the street side restaurants. This place holds a special magic & Los Angeles history that cannot be replaced. Please consider any assistance that can be allotted to this historic landmark and cultural center. It is simply too precious to be lost. Thank you, Tina Vines

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/10/2020 11:58 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Please help in preserving Olvera Street. This is a historical landmark that is important for the education of future generations. It's a place for people of all backgrounds to gather, learn, enjoy good food, and shop. Olvera Street is LA! It's a place I've known about my whole life, it's a place my family and friends have visited in learning about the historic LA Pueblo. I love seeing this small patch of historic sites among the downtown area. Don't let us die, don't let it become just another high rise or mall. It's important to have historical landmarks in LA! Let's help them out!

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Hanley

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 12:42 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Budget and Finance committee members, My name is Paul Hanley and my wife is a 3rd generation merchant on Olvera Street. She and her mother (82 yrs old) have run the business (Casa California) up until March of this year when the order to shut down was ordered by the Mayor. Her family has been on Olvera since its' inception in 1930. That's 90 years, same as the anniversary this year. Councilman Huizar is putting forward a motion for some relief of 2 months' rent forgiveness which is appreciated. This however should only be a starting point. The financial hardship created by this unprecedented pandemic has a ripple effect that will last for a much longer time period for these merchants of Olvera Street. Much of their survival depends on tourism and discretionary funds of the local public. Tourism will take at least 2 years to have a significant return and the local dollars will not soon return because they will be playing catch-up with their own financial hardship. So, why come to you? Because you are the landlord of Olvera Street. In your hands is the survival of these families of Olvera Street who are the Stewards of living history for the settled culture here. They are your history of Los Angeles. I hope you will see the importance of this historical landmark and the families who maintain your history. We of course understand the hardship that this pandemic has had on the country as a whole and the city specifically. However without your support, this revenue stream that has supported the city for 90 years will cease to exist. The business and sales tax that has come from these businesses will cease. I hope you will see the symbiotic relationship that has existed for 90 years and how it should continue with your help. I hope you will make this request an open dialog to the mutual benefit of both the City of Los Angeles and the Merchants of Olvera Street. Sincerely, Paul M. Hanley

Communication from Public

Name: The Rivero Family

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 01:53 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: In regards to Olvera Street: My Name is Amanda and I'd like to share the importance of Olvera Street to myself as well as my family. I am the baby of three (I'm 41 years old), myself along with my siblings were all baptized at La Placita. My family has been visiting Olvera Street long before I was even born. I have had the blessing of growing up visiting Olvera Street and thru my adult years to be able to take both my two daughter's thru their childhood (one 20 and 16 years old) It is my family's favorite place to visit, shop and meet up for special occasions. It truly saddens myself and my family if the City is unable to negotiate and work with Olvera Streets Merchants and possibly be forced to close. Please, Olvera Street , its restaurants, Merchants , museums are part of us Angelinos. It's a place I've been able to utilize to learn myself and teach my daughters of our culture being Mexican American. I am begging and praying that the City of Los Angeles work with the Merchants to help them survive. Olvera Street is a landmark and the future of it not only affects the Merchants but all of Los Angeles as a community itself. Thank you for reviewing my comment and hopefully taking my family's request into consideration. Respectfully , Amanda Rivero

Communication from Public

Name: Sylvia Rua

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 04:12 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my concern about the financial hardship that has put the future of Olvera Street in jeopardy. This vital cultural landmark is an essential part of not just Los Angeles, but our nation. Angelinos are no doubt aware of the significance and importance of this cultural center. On a personal level, countless families like mine have visited Olvera Street for generations. Some of my earliest memories were of walking with my dad among the stalls and stores, having a modest and affordable lunch as we sat outside to listen to live music, and of leaving with a toy treasure at the end of the day. As I grew older, we continued to visit, purchasing fiesta dresses for parades. Lunch at La Golondrina was a special treat I looked forward to every year. Now that I have a family of my own, I love to bring my daughter to Olvera Street to recreate the special memories with my father. I want her to be able to bring her own children so another generation of our family can feel the connection we have to the place. I am also a US History teacher. Olvera Street's preservation is crucial to preserving our individual and collective history. Maintaining Olvera Street as a living cultural landmark makes it so much more tangible and significant to students. Its continued existence is such a point of pride for the students I teach. I wish there was a way to convey how salient the past becomes to young people who learn about a place from the past that is relatively the same as it has been for decades. The visible joy of learning about history continues in them as we arrive at the end of the unit and they are told they can visit this special place whenever they have the chance. It is my feeling that the city must do everything in its power to maintain this national treasure. It cannot go by the wayside of history to be diminished and eventually forgotten. The modest requests by merchants to have rent reductions and repayment plans should be met. However, it is my additional feeling that these requests do not go far enough. The city should take a bold initiative to ensure that rents are charged with cultural preservation, not profits, in mind. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Maria Goretti Jaramillo
Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 09:01 AM
Council File No: 20-0500
Comments for Public Posting: Please allow Olvera Street to re open!

Communication from Public

Name: Samuel Tendai Chanaiw

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 09:18 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Samuel Tendai Chanaiwa. I am a native Angeleno and have been visiting Olvera Street for over 40 years! I love being able to visit the individual shops and interact with the shop owners (Murillo Leather is one of my favorites). Olvera Street is important to me because it is part of my personal history, as well as that of the city of Los Angeles. It would be devastating to me if the City were unable to offer the merchants of Olvera Street at least four months of rent forgiveness, to give them time to get back on their feet and return Olvera Street to its pre-coronavirus vibrancy. It is important to me to support locally-owned small businesses in this time of economic uncertainty. It saddens me that I will not be able to return to Olvera Street on Memorial Day to watch the special events, wander the shops, dine, and purchase (yet another) leather product from the Murillos to add to my collection! Please help to support Olvera Street!

Communication from Public

Name: Rosie Dominguez

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 09:24 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: This comment is sent in support of the merchants of Olvera street and Olvera street community as a whole. I live in the surrounding community and have grown up going to Olvera street. I am asking the city to please work with the merchants and to honor their requests for assistance with rent and to not let developers and the city take advantage of the covid 19 situation and buy out Olvera street. Olvera street supports so many in the community such as Aztec Dancers (Xipe Totec) who have been dancing there for years. I am one of those dancers and feel now us the time to protect historical Olvera street and it's vendors. This place is truly of the community and not just for tourists. Some of the vendors have been there for generations. I submit this respectfully and please help. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Annie F Gutierrez

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 09:30 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: We are living in a world today that has so many uncertainties for our future. I am a granddaughter who's grandmother had a stand across from the water fountain back in the late 50's. I recall all my childhood memories going to church on Sundays and going across the street to the Placita to have a meal after with my parents. I am 44 years old and the richness of mi cultura is what brings me here every time I come back home to visit with my children. Please preserve our community for the future generations to come and see how L.A rose up so many times throughout its long history. It's endure during so many difficult times in the past should show and teach it's surrounding city's that yes we can come out of this difficult situation again. Please do not let a huge part of Los Angeles history go away. Everyone's livelihood is essential to the future of our city's heartbeat.

Communication from Public

Name: Todd Schneberk, MD, MS, MA

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 09:42 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed a persistent fracture in public health policy between federal authority and community health. This challenge can be complex with cases like Medicaid where increases in state authority have needlessly restricted access to health care or when federal policy preferences have prevented local governments from implementing evidence-based overdose prevention strategies like safe consumption sites. In COVID-19 case, we are seeing multiple examples the federal-state fracture in guarding the safety of populations. One of the less addressed fractures relates to federal detention of asylum seekers, detainees, and migrants in Southern California and Tijuana. Immigrants held in federal Adelanto Detention Center are at great risk of contracting and dying of COVID-19, as are all incarcerated populations. While local jails and state prisons in California release thousands of incarcerated people, people in ICE detention facilities languish for weeks, months, or years in overcrowded close quarters. Now, with the threat of COVID-19, immigration detention may become a death sentence. Conditions inside detention facilities, coupled with limited access to soap and sanitizing agents, create high risk for rapid spread of this dangerous virus. People held in Adelanto share sleeping, eating, bathroom, showering, and living areas. They are, therefore, likely to subject others to the type of repeated and high-dose exposures that are more likely to result in infection, and, potentially, to cause more serious illness. As over 300 doctors stated in a recent open letter to ICE, “an outbreak of COVID-19 in immigration detention facilities would be devastating.” These already perilous circumstances have been exacerbated by what a federal judge recently described as “callous indifference to the safety and wellbeing” of detainees. Many people in Adelanto have preexisting medical conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to severe illness or death should they contract COVID-19. The population of detained immigrants is likely to be disproportionately indigent compared to the national population, likely having little or no access to high-quality health care. And the frequent transfer of individuals through the immigration detention system poses unique threats to the rapid spread of the virus throughout the entire detention system. Although, ICE has indicated that it is beginning to release a limited number of

particularly vulnerable people from its facilities, the agency's response has been woefully inadequate. While advocacy on the part of the legal and human rights advocates is beginning to have an impact, releases have been slow and piecemeal. It may be too little too late for the vast majority of those currently in detention have likely already been exposed to the virus or will be as the outbreak continues to spread. Any detainees who remain must be provided adequate distancing, personal protection, and sufficient hygiene measures while in detention, guided by public health expertise. Other necessary strategies include widespread testing of the detainee population, and those that work and interact with the detention center. In addition, testing results and case tracking needs to be submitted to local health authorities and transparently coordinated with the public health authorities. Local government can also protect the health and safety of immigrants in detention by continuing to provide them with lawyers and advocates. With Mayor Garcetti's continued leadership and support, the Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF), provides critical legal services people facing deportation, including for those in detention. LAJF is critical to securing release for immigrants in detention and is needed now more than ever. We must remember that the pain of unnecessary detention in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic will be borne by local communities, far from Washington D.C. Aligning local policies of releasing, whenever possible, incarcerated persons serves the public health and is a sensible, humane approach to the unprecedented challenge that is the COVID-19 pandemic. Without delay, ICE must release all vulnerable people detained at Adelanto immediately so they can quarantine safely at home with family or with friends. The federal authority must take steps to protect the vulnerable among and repair the disconnect between public health and federal action.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 09:45 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Eugenia Nicole and my family has been merchants at La Placita since the 70's. What Placita holds for our Latino community is vital to our city and it's important to hold the city accountable to preserve, support and help our merchants during this time. The city should continue to hold rent forgiveness until our merchants can get back on their feet and sustain their businesses. Please keep our merchants' traditions alive by negotiating a fair and just agreement.

Communication from Public

Name: Tania Sawczuk

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 10:08 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: LAJF has demonstrated through the pilot period the power of public-private partnership to expand the safety net to the one-third of Angelenos who identify as immigrants. During the two years of the fund, LAJF not only met its goals but exceeded them. The initial goal of the fund was to serve 500 people and grantees surpassed the number while also bolstered existing removal defense capacity of providers in the region and shifted the culture of advocacy in Los Angeles immigration courts. LAJF improved access to due process to well over 1,000 immigrants, their families and social networks and directly represented 546 Angelenos. Representation has had radiating impact far beyond those people directly served. Roughly half of adult clients have minor children in the United States, the vast majority of whom are U.S. citizens. LAJF clients have deep ties to the United States, with 55 percent of adult clients having lived here for more than 10 years and an average of 14 years in the United States. In addition, almost all clients confronted additional vulnerabilities beyond their precarious immigration status and risk of removal. LAJF attorneys have achieved a lot of success. They have prevailed on behalf of their clients in a high number of cases, demonstrating the crucial importance of representation in immigration. Sixty-three percent of completed cases have resulted in clients being able to stay with their families in the US and attorneys have helped secure release from custody for 48 percent of their initially detained clients. Through this work, LAJF has built a critical deportation defense infrastructure across Los Angeles City and County communities, which has led the organizations to develop collaboration procedures and structures that have changed the landscape of legal services, as well as improved coordination with County and City agencies that serve immigrants. Clients have expressed to Vera that LAJF services were critical to protecting their families and stability, and that being treated with respect and dignity alleviated their anxiety about immigration court processes. They also highlighted how access to counsel allowed them to preserve their limited resources for other critical expenses as their families struggled with finances during a loved one's detention. Vera conducted public opinion polling across Los Angeles and the United States, and the results demonstrate that the public overwhelmingly supports government investment in programs like

the Los Angeles Justice Fund. Ninety-two percent of people in Los Angeles support government-funded attorneys for people in immigration court. LAJF organizations provide indispensable services to historically vulnerable populations that otherwise would not have access to many needed services.

Communication from Public

Name: Guadalupe Garcia

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 10:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Guadalupe Garcia, I am the Day Labor Program manager at IDEPSCA. We operate five day labor centers in Los Angeles, and serve about 1,000 day laborers and household workers throughout our five centers. Besides employment support in our centers workers can get assistance to apply for other resources, health education, english classes and even free health screenings on site. Our staff has been trained to assist workers who are facing wage theft. During this pandemic, although our centers are closed we have worked remotely and coordinators have provided one on one assistance, providing on site free food and hot meals distributions. Our centers are the first place many workers reach out to ask for information and support. Because this pandemic we are expecting an increase of the number of day laborers who will come to our centers to ask for assistance and look for employment support. I am writing to request to restore the budget assign for Day Labor Centers in Los Angeles. We thank Mayor Garcetti for including us on his budget, and we would like that the amount day labor centers receive to be restore so we can provide the assistance and services will be need, especially after this public health crisis we are facing. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Sonia Fukumoto
Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 12:43 PM
Council File No: 20-0500
Comments for Public Posting: Please save Olvera Street

Communication from Public

Name: Edward (Juanitas cafe) Flores

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 11:58 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember, I Edward Flores, Olvera Street Merchant ,request your Support for Councilman Huiza's ,motion for Merchant rent forgiveness. Us Olvera Street merchants need further assistance, as it is obvious, Olvera street that is reliant on tourism, local visitors and is know for its fiestas and as a gathering place of people of all ethnicities. Olvera street has been ordered shut down by Mayor Garcetti in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving the merchants with no ability to generate sales and income. We will need further support during the recovery phase, we clearly know that business will be restricted in many ways. Number of visitors will be limited, visitors who do visit will likely be recovering financially as well. Fiestas will be cancelled. Events such as The blessing of the animals have been already cancelled, The culturally rich Dia de los Muertos and Las Posadas will be too! A new rent structure is needed during the recovery phase to adapt to the stifled sales to allow merchants to gradually rebuild their businesses. El Pueblo will need subsidizing to be able to offer the services expected and to ease financial burden placed on the merchants by the current unsustainable rent. My family , The Guerrero's have been founding Olvera Street Merchants since 1934, 86 years. Please support the Olvera Street merchants during the recovery ,to help build in partnership , the gem Olvera street has been to locals and world travels for the 90 years , to continue to maintain the hispanic / mexican traditions and enrich the lives of those fortunate to experience, Olvera Street. Sincerely, Edward Flores Juanita's Cafe.

Communication from Public

Name: Edward (Juanitas cafe) Flores

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 11:59 AM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmember, I Edward Flores, Olvera Street Merchant ,request your Support for Councilman Huiza's ,motion for Merchant rent forgiveness. Us Olvera Street merchants need further assistance, as it is obvious, Olvera street that is reliant on tourism, local visitors and is know for its fiestas and as a gathering place of people of all ethnicities. Olvera street has been ordered shut down by Mayor Garcetti in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving the merchants with no ability to generate sales and income. We will need further support during the recovery phase, we clearly know that business will be restricted in many ways. Number of visitors will be limited, visitors who do visit will likely be recovering financially as well. Fiestas will be cancelled. Events such as The blessing of the animals have been already cancelled, The culturally rich Dia de los Muertos and Las Posadas will be too! A new rent structure is needed during the recovery phase to adapt to the stifled sales to allow merchants to gradually rebuild their businesses. El Pueblo will need subsidizing to be able to offer the services expected and to ease financial burden placed on the merchants by the current unsustainable rent. My family , The Guerrero's have been founding Olvera Street Merchants since 1934, 86 years. Please support the Olvera Street merchants during the recovery ,to help build in partnership , the gem Olvera street has been to locals and world travels for the 90 years , to continue to maintain the hispanic / mexican traditions and enrich the lives of those fortunate to experience, Olvera Street. Sincerely, Edward Flores Juanita's Cafe.

Communication from Public

Name: Edward Garren

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 12:04 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: The Covid-19 crisis has had a radical effect on our city. While I acknowledge the need to reduce the city budget due to revenue shortfall, I would ask the city to consider all things related to mitigating the Climate Crisis as "essential services" and NOT reduce or eliminate any budget item relating to moving away from the consumption of carbon based fuels. In addition to returning clean air to the Los Angeles basin, this pandemic has demonstrated that any economic system that is not built on sustainability will collapse easily if one feature is pulled out. I would propose that instead of eliminating the Climate Emergency Commission and the departments that support it's mission, the city should consider adding a tax to all carbon in the city. This would include natural gas, gasoline and diesel fuel, new gas appliances sold for domestic and commercial use, etc. The tax could be introduced as a very small addition to devices that use petroleum, such as cooking ranges, water heaters and heating devices. Water heaters specifically are often the principle device in most homes that generate Carbon Dioxide. The tax could be very small in the beginning, that would serve to specifically be used to fund the Climate Emergency Commission and related departments and their work mitigating the Climate Crisis, and increase the education of the community as to why we must change our thinking on very small items like petroleum powered appliances and transit. Later, as the economy regains strength it could be increased as a direct incentive to think twice about continuing the use of petroleum based appliances and automobiles. I believe this approach will both provide needed revenue to directly mitigate the climate crisis, and it will also enhance efforts to move the city away from carbon based energy. As an Angeleno who has moved my entire life away from carbon (all electric home in South Los Angeles and TWO electric cars, as well as a 5 Kilowatt solar system) it is essential to push daily life away from all appliances, home heating and air conditioning and our transit (personal and public) away from carbon usage, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !! We have less than 9 years to transform our energy usage away from carbon. This is a planetary imperative. Mary Nichols, Chair of the CA Air Resources Board is an associate of mine, and we have had conversation about how using carbon is literally killing babies in other parts of the planet.

We have several billion “climate refugees” already on the planet (including the massive numbers fleeing Honduras where a 7 + year drought has reduced food production to 20% of “normal”). We know the city is facing a shortfall of revenues, but this is NOT the place to save money. If anything, there is a probably connection between the Climate Crisis and increasing pandemics around the planet. If less than two months on “lockdown” can devastate the economy of our city, state and country, imagine what ocean rise is going to do? Imagine what worsening droughts are going to do? We MUST stop thinking of the Climate Crisis as a small, marginal issue, something that is a plaything for the wealthy. I am a moderate income, 70 year old who makes less than “six figures” annually. But I was able to transition my home and personal transit mostly by educating myself, and looking at the big picture, and imagining life 20 years from now (I plan on still being alive that long). Regards, Edward G. Garren, M.A., L.M.F.T.

Communication from Public

Name: Andres & Amelia Guerrero

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 12:24 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Olvera St. Merchants need financial assistance due to the Covid economic depression. 2 months of rent forgiveness is NOT Enough assistance; please, consider 6-9 months rent forgiveness and whatever additional financial assistance matters. I and my parents, brothers and sisters (family of 11) have been visiting Olvera St since 1959. The traditional events, museums, architecture, etc., are necessary; we are a people with a history/culture that needs to continue to be communicated to our next generations. "Somos un Pueblo." We CANNOT afford to further "alienate our people." The sense of belonging, having a history is of great importance, just as being American gives us pride to be a "Democratic Pueblo."

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda Donahue

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 01:37 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: This is in support for further rent assistance for Olvera Street, which has and will continue to face financial hardship due to the quarantine. The times I've gone to visit Olvera have been so much fun, going in to visit the different stores and vendors and experience the history and culture of the area. The owners should not have to fear for their lives and livelihoods while trying to keep safe like everyone else during this incredibly stressful time. I hope that the city is able to see this and prioritize these small local businesses above larger chains that don't need the bailout.

Communication from Public

Name: Gustavo Herrera

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 01:05 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: The proposed changes to the Transient Occupancy Tax jeopardizes the primary funding source of the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), and puts LA's arts and cultural sector at risk. Artists and arts and cultural organizations play a vital role in the local economy—the sector generates \$203 billion in annual output and one in six jobs in the region are in creative fields. Along with hospitality, entertainment, travel, and dining, COVID-19 has decimated earned income streams of arts and culture institutions, and our city needs the DCA now, more than ever to provide equitable arts opportunities throughout the city of Los Angeles. Please do not make changes to the Transient Occupancy Tax that will adversely impact arts and culture funding in Los Angeles. Our city relies on the DCA to provide community arts, cultural grants to families and youth, and public art, all of which is critical to maintaining the city's reputation as the creative capital of the world. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Blackburn

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 03:10 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: My grandmother was a docent for Olvera Street when I was growing up. My grandfather worked in the fire station. We are the decedents of Jose Vincente Feliz and his niece Petra, from the establishment of the pueblo of Los Angeles. Olvera Street is not only the history of all Angelinos, but my own personal history. The culture and life that is Olvera Street is pivotal to keeping the history of Los Angeles alive. Many people have dedicated their lives to work there and their livelihood is reliant on Olvera Street. The art, food, merchants, musicians, performers, exhibits, etc. are a part of a long standing history and tradition that is LA. If the city doesn't help to persevere the livelihood of those that keep Olvera St. what it is, a part of my history and of Los Angeles histories dies. Please, I ask that the city negotiates with the merchants to help them survive.

Communication from Public

Name: Taifha Alexander

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 01:52 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: The current COVID19 global pandemic has crippled businesses big and small, alike. However, the devastating sociocultural impact the virus will have on Olvera Street's small business owners will be felt long after the war against the virus quells. Olvera Street's small business owners will be unable to continue to serve an integral cultural need to educate visitors of the Latinx roots at the foundation of Olvera Street and the rest of the city if the area's small business rent payments are not canceled for the remainder of the year. Due to the COVID19 outbreak, it is likely that when the Olvera Street businesses are allowed to reopen that visitors may be hesitant to visit in the same numbers before the pandemic crippled the area. As a result, many businesses may not be able to make their rent payments. Further, unlike many other businesses, Olvera Street's small businesses serve both an important and educational sociocultural purpose. As a transplant from New York City, which is a hub of sociocultural significance in its own right and is also grappling with similar COVID19 strategies as it relates to moratoriums on rent, I have never experienced anything like the sociocultural events at Olvera Street. The small businesses on Olvera Street are part and parcel of the experience for each person that visits. Failure to cancel rent on all Olvera Street small businesses may have a detrimental impact not only on the local economy but also on the advancement of knowledge as it relates to Latinx influence on the area.

Communication from Public

Name: V Murillo

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 02:05 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Vanessa Murillo and I am the daughter of Armando Murillo, owner of Murillo Leather on Olvera St. My grandfather and grandmother opened this business in the 70s and it has been one of the many striving shops since then. I have been visiting since I was in diapers and I see the hard work that goes through being a business owner as I've watched my family keep the business moving along. I enjoy the atmosphere, because it's like you step into another world when you're on Olvera St. Olvera St is important to me because it is something that has been a part of my family for years. If the city cannot support the business' through this critical time, I'm afraid it will severely impact the street and many business owners will not be able to catch up. These people are hard workers who deserve a helping hand. They not only have beautiful and unique products but they bring a lot of business to the city of LA as tourists come from all around the world. It's time for the city to give back, because without Olvera St, it would be very different. Please negotiate with the merchants so that you can help them survive these trying times.

Communication from Public

Name: Karina Munoz

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 02:28 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, My name is Karina Munoz and I'm a second-generation Olvera Street merchant. My family has been in Olvera Street for well over 30 years. My father and mother started as employees at different shops on Olvera Street, eventually meeting and getting married at Our Lady of Los Angeles church, and starting their own business in Olvera Street. Today, my father and I have 3 businesses: C-5, C-19, and W-14. For my family, Olvera Street has been our home and livelihood for as long as I've been alive. Cinco de Mayo, Christmas, New Year's Eve, and birthdays, we've our most significant days in Olvera Street. Other folks spend these special days at home, we've spent them at Olvera Street among the merchants and visitors. For me, this is a place close to my heart. When I was in school at the University of California, Riverside, I won a grant to do a year-long search project on Olvera Street. I brought together stories from administration, merchants, and visitors into my thesis - Olvera Street: Building Towards the Future. My mom has left the business due to health reasons, but my father and I have continued to pour our energy and lives into Olvera Street. When the COVID-19 crisis started, I asked my father to stop going to Olvera Street. As a diabetic, he's at higher risk. I also had to take a step back to protect my mother, who lives with me. It was less than one day later from this decision that the city closed all non-essential businesses. Returning to Olvera Street is a concern - will we be able to? How will we overcome the economic challenges of the COVID-19 crisis? We look forward to returning to Olvera Street but we, along with the other merchants of Olvera Street, are faced with the likelihood of not being able to push our businesses through this hurdle. We understand that Councilman Huizar had put forward a motion for 2 months of rent forgiveness for the Olvera Street merchants. We are thankful and supportive of the motion. However, we want to make the City aware that this will not be enough to help us recover this unprecedented crisis we are all going through. We will be one of the last places to recover because we rely so much on tourism which is non-existent now, and our local customers will have very little expendable cash for quite some time.

Communication from Public

Name: Veronica

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 09:46 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: The city needs to do whatever it needs to do to help Olvera Street and help their tenants. Olvera Street is more than just businesses . Olvera street keeps the history of L.A alive. Olvera Street keeps the real history of L.A alive and I have visited Olvera Street for over 15 years.

Communication from Public

Name: Brenda Dueñas

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 10:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to offer my comments regarding the rent forgiveness for Olvera Street. I have been a patron for more than 40 years. My parents brought me here after church when I was little and I continue to visit regularly, even in my adult years. The businesses are a staple to the community and need any and all help that the City Council can offer. I implore you to help the business owners with rent forgiveness. I can't imagine what Olvera Street would look like in the future if these businesses are left to suffer and then shutter their businesses. This is an extraordinary time in our history and it deserves extraordinary measures to ensure we all survive and live through this. Olvera Street is a special place. It is Los Angeles's history and needs to remain so that it can be a part of its future.

Communication from Public

Name: Agustín Mccord
Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 05:27 PM
Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to advocate for rent forgiveness for the businesses of the historic olvera street during the time of the covid 19 pandemic. It is shameful that the city of LA would expect to collect rent from the historic businesses that have been closed and thus earning zero income since March 2020. The existence of this narrow slice of history is integral to the lifeblood and culture of the Pueblo of Los Angeles and it's demise would be a huge loss to current and future Angelenos. We want to remain tied to our roots and our ancestors and to treat them with admiration and respect. I've been visiting olvera street regularly since I moved here in 2015 because it gives me a feeling of authenticity and honor that many parts of the city frankly lack. It's a special thing to be able to enjoy the shade and the structures that generations of angelenos have before us. The ability to experience this is what makes LA special to me, because it's not just a city that belongs to developers, it also belongs to us. I urge the city to look past the greed and to negotiate with the merchants of olvera street so that they can survive this economic and spiritual blow and come back as an integral part of the city's heart.

Communication from Public

Name: Kathleen Michael

Date Submitted: 05/11/2020 06:06 PM

Council File No: 20-0500

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I was born and raised in the South Bay and have been visiting Olvera Street since I was probably 6 years old. The first time I went was on a school field trip in elementary school to learn about the history and culture associated with the amazing treasure that is Olvera Street. My husband and I go to the Dia de Los Muertos celebration every year. The city of Los Angeles would not be the same without it. I employed you to work with the vendors and businesses to work out some way to keep them all open so that the cultural history will be there for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration, Kathleen Michael Carson, CA