

Communication from Public

Name: Gavi Klein

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 04:08 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Adding an additional \$100,000 to the LAPD budget to expand their Through Our Eyes program and partnership does not address the underlying misuse of funding and resources allocated to the LAPD. The LAPD already has ample money in its proposed \$3 billion budget to fund this program. Community partnerships and organizations have made it abundantly clear that they do not wish to collaborate with the LAPD, as the LAPD is responsible for continued trauma and death in BIPOC communities. The LAPD itself has made it clear that it is disinterested in repairing or addressing that harm, and unwilling to reduce the amount of harm it does even fractionally. Another "outreach" program is not going to address that harm, and will only bring officers in closer contact and afford them more opportunities to harm BIPOC communities. The proposed cuts to LAPD -- \$150 million -- are nothing compared to its already outlandish budget. Do not continue to fund LAPD terrorism against BIPOC communities. Defund the LAPD.

Communication from Public

Name: Julissa Medrano
Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 01:54 PM
Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: It is very disappointing to see that the Through Our Eyes program that was created with the great intentions of the youth in this community is basically being taken and molded into something it wasn't designed to be, which is a partnership with the LAPD. This program was not designed to be a partnership with the LAPD, especially considering that the community has trust issues with the justice system. Rather, it was created and led by the youth in the Boyle Heights community to combat and make a change towards the violence, tension, and fear that is often found occurring between the police and our communities. It is a program created FOR the community and BY the community so my question is, why does it seem that LAPD is trying to hijack a program? Especially considering that their attendance to scheduled workshops was non-existent? Why is it just now, during a time of civil unrest that they not only want to take part in the program but they also claim it as their own? It doesn't make sense to me and it really makes me question the true intentions of the police department's sudden desired involvement for something that has meant so much to the individuals in the community for so long. We ask that you reestablish yourself with the true purpose, the goal, and the vision of Through Our Eyes so that the program can be carried out with it's true intended purpose. In order to do that we ask that you revise your current motion in a way that makes sure that Through Our Eyes is recognized and carried out as a community based effort and NOT a partnership with the LAPD.

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle Benavides

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 02:32 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Michelle Benavides and I am one of the youth that has been apart of the "Through Our Eyes" Program and for over 5 years now. For those who may not know or fail to recognize, the Through Our Eyes program was actually CREATED by THREE INSPIRING RAMONA GARDENS YOUTH named Eddie, Amanda, and Marlene OVER A DECADE AGO when they were in high school. These 3 powerful youth lived and witnessed first hand the power struggle and unwelcoming, complex relationship between LAPD and our low-income, community of color; Ramona Gardens. For the past 10 years these three dedicated youth have made it their mission to utilize their program to take transformative steps forward into improving police officer and community relationships and ultimately revisioning public safety by: 1. Creating a safe and healthy/ healing dialogue between both parties 2. Creating a collective and collaborative work plan together 3. Expanding this program to help other similar communities as well A few weeks ago I was excited to see that the City Council moved a motion to amend the Mayor's Budget to provide funding for the Through Our Eyes program BUT I was disappointed and furious to see that the public statement FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THE HISTORY BEHIND THE PROGRAM AND IT DID NOT GIVE CREDIT TO THE YOUTH FOUNDERS OF THE PROGRAM. Let me repeat what the City's statement sated " CAO Report and Motion (Rodriguez-Martinez) relative to amending the Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY 2020-21 to provide \$100,000 funding to expand the LAPD's Through our Eye's program partnership to all Community Safety Partnership Sites and identify additional youth-serving organizations to build similar engagement and relationship based programs." The fact that the statement said " LAPD's Through Our Eye's program" is unacceptable because that implies like LAPD created the program when that was not the case. I feel that the City highlighted the title, "LAPD's Through Our Eyes Program" to use it as a publicity stunt to try to ease some of the tense police brutality backlash LAPD and the City has been recieving. Please hold this accountable and highlight the history of the program and give recognition and credit to the Ramona Gardens Youth who founded the program and have been creating, training, and facilitating Through Our Eyes Workshops for the

past decade when the City didn't believe in them and back when they did it with no funding.

Communication from Public

Name: Y'all are a bunch of assholes
Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 01:56 PM
Council File No: 20-0600-S39
Comments for Public Posting: Y'all are a bunch of assholes and you know it.

Communication from Public

Name: Amairani Pineda

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 04:42 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Amairani Pineda, and I am one of the youth that have been part of the "Through Our Eyes" program. For those who may not know or fail to recognize, the Through Our Eyes program was created and developed by three youth leaders who were born and raised in Ramona Gardens. Eddie, Amanda, and Marlene are the three inspiring youth leaders who founded this program when they were in high school. This program came as a response to an increase of tension between Ramona Gardens residents and officers that had led to the criminalization of youth, racial profiling, and even fatalities. The three youth have made this program their goal to create transformative steps to improve relationships of both parties and, ultimately, revision of public safety. This program has in a lot of work and dedication; therefore, when I heard that the city council moved a motion to amend the Mayor's budget to provide funding for the Through Our Eyes program, I was thrilled. However, I was disappointed and angry that the public statement FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THE HISTORY BEHIND THE PROGRAM AND DID NOT GIVE CREDIT TO THE YOUTH FOUNDERS OF THE PROGRAM. The statement said, "LAPD's Through Our Eyes program," this is intolerable because it implies that LAPD created the program when that is not the case. I feel the City highlighted "LAPD's Through Our Eyes program" to use it as publicity since LAPD and the City have been receiving a backlash of police brutality. As a youth facilitator of this program, I am entirely against this, and the City should hold this accountable and highlight the history of the program and give credit to the Ramona Gardens youth who founded and have been training, creating and facilitating Through Our Eyes.

Communication from Public

Name: Samantha

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 04:23 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: The Through Our Eyes program is a great YOUTH-led program that has done a lot of work towards building a bridge of communication between community members and cops. It is very unfair that the same department the TOE program had to ask officers consistently to attend TOE workshops, is now trying to claim it as their own. TOE is a program that serves community members and police rather than a “partnership” with LAPD. Please revise the current motion to reflect language that demonstrates TOE as a community based effort rather than in partnership with LAPD.

Communication from Public

Name: Mia Logg
Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 10:43 AM
Council File No: 20-0600-S39
Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT approve Item 20 from the agenda. We do not want an expansion or continuation of this program. Stay the hell away from our youth and end this program.

Communication from Public

Name: Patti Kilroy

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 11:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Patti Kilroy and I live in District 14. I very strongly oppose the motion to provide \$100,000 funding to expand the LAPD's "Through our Eyes" program and ask that you do not give another cent to the LAPD. This is extremely tone deaf, insensitive, and disrespectful to the many protesters and advocates that have been asking you to defund the police for over a month and more. Allocate this money instead to grassroots and community organizations that are doing the work to help people instead to a racist organization like the LAPD. No amount of community outreach is going to change the toxic relationship between the LAPD and the community. They are not effective and must be defunded.

Communication from Public

Name: Leiza T Castillo
Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 11:15 AM
Council File No: 20-0600-S39
Comments for Public Posting: I don't understand how this item was on the agenda when Angelenos have been calling in for a month to DEFUND THE POLICE. This is incredibly disrespectful. No more funding for the police. Fund social, mental health, and community services. Adopt the People's Budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Mickie Torres-Gil

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 11:31 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: I do not support giving the LAPD more funds. Funds for the community should be given to grassroots and community organizations, not to LAPD for its propaganda campaigns. The LAPD cannot be trusted with the billions they already have - they do not put the safety of the community first. Do not give the LAPD more money that will ultimately go to waste. This money should be put into public services apart from any relationship with the LAPD.

Communication from Public

Name: Gabriel Womark
Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 10:41 AM
Council File No: 20-0600-S39
Comments for Public Posting: Do not provide \$100,00 to expand the LAPD's Through Our Eyes program. Funds for the community should be given to community-based and grassroots organizations. Not orgs run by the cops. As I've mentioned in previous comments, the criminal justice system and its various constitutive institutions are inherently racist. Criminality is used as an alternative for slavery in the 13th amendment. We can't allow an institution that creates criminals out of thin air to have its fingers in our city.

Communication from Public

Name: katy hammer

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 11:06 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Expanding the LAPD "Through Our Eyes" Program is not defunding the police, which is what the people of Los Angeles have been loudly and unitedly asking you to do for the last two months. The LAPD has caused incredible harm to communities of color--particularly Black communities--in Los Angeles, and they have not in any way decreased crime. An investment in youth would be a divestment from the police and an investment in the services that strengthen the communities in which youth live and thrive--housing, education, health care and mental health care, built environment, and transportation. The People's Budget LA coalition has done the work for you--please listen to the pain and urgency in the voices of your constituents and adopt the People's Budget. We appreciate your willingness to consider the \$150 million in cuts to the LAPD budget, and we need you to go further. This is a watershed moment, as Dr Melina Abdullah said; the world is cracked open, and we are all looking to you to do the right thing by your city. What sort of legacy do you want to leave on Los Angeles? Who do you want to be remembered for representing?

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 12:21 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: The Through Our Eyes program is YOUTH-led program that has helped community members and police officers communicate effectively. TOE has never been in a partnership with LAPD, if anything, it has had to beg LAPD officers to attend meetings and workshops in order to keep the program running. Please revise the current motion to reflect language that demonstrates that TOE is a community based program and not a partnership with LAPD.

Communication from Public

Name: Valentina

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 12:26 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: The Through Our Eyes program is an incredible YOUTH-led program that has done a great amount of work towards building a bridge of communication between community members and police officers. The TOE program had to constantly ask & beg for officers to attend the program's workshops, and now the department is trying to claim it as their own. TOE is a program that serves COMMUNITY MEMBERS and POLICE. It's is not a partnership with the department. Do not discredit the efforts the community made in order to bring up and continue the TOE Program. Look over the current motion and revise it, so it can demonstrates that the Through Our Eyes Program is COMMUNITY BASED effort and not a partnership with LAPD.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 12:41 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Over time, members of the community have worked together to establish a youth-led program called Through our Eyes (TOE). Through our eye's main goal was to build a bridge between our community and cops. Although it has been difficult to get the cops on board with the program's goals, it has been a raising concern that the LAPD is trying to claim it as their own. With that said, we would like to clarify that TOE serves as a community based program rather than as a partnership with LAPD. Please revise the current motion so that it does not take any value from what the program stands for and what it promotes.

Communication from Public

Name: Elianne Melendez

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 12:49 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: No, we want LAPD to be defunded not to for them to get money via sideways means. Making children of color spend MORE time with the people who terrorize their mothers and father, their sisters and brothers? To make them have to be NICE and listen to these people tell them " If you're good, you won't die" as if that saved Tamir Rice? No to this. Defund LAPD and get police out of LAUSD and fully fund after school programs instead. Give them sports teams they don't have to fundraise themselves. Give them AP classes, give them trips abroad, give them libraries, give them school laptops. Not time with police.

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Adery

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 12:14 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Funds for the community should be given to grassroots and community organizations, not to LAPD who have shown they cannot convert this funding support into effective initiatives to ensure public safety. We need to reimagine and give this money to those who are actually qualified to do this work.

Communication from Public

Name: Sophie Weingarten

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 11:36 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Sophie and I'm writing from District 5. I'm echoing my fellow callers and demanding that a 5% decrease of a multibillion dollar budget to LAPD funding is frankly insulting. Week after week your constituents have been calling in to demand the passage of the people's budget and reinvest in Black and Brown lives through supportive housing projects, employment opportunities, healthcare during a pandemic and ending homelessness in a city with the worst homelessness crisis in the country. Are you listening to us? Who do you serve? Regarding Item 20, we are sick and tired of this façade of a solution. Quote "community safety partnerships" with the LAPD is a sham of a solution to a systemically racist, overfunded, militarized police force. We already have several examples of attempted "police reform" around the country, Minneapolis being the prime example, pouring millions of dollars into these programs of de-escalation that have only led to the continued murders of innocent Black and Brown people. Do you think that will stop police murders here? Look at this past weekend alone, with the murdering of Andres Guardado who was RUNNING AWAY from police who still shot him. Do you think this was a successful form of de-escalation or an effective result of "community safety partnership?" We are sick and tired of this. Pass the People's Budget LA and reinvest in the very constituents you so claim to serve.

Communication from Public

Name: Molly Bernitz

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 11:35 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: I reject the proposal to add \$100,000 in funds to expand the LAPD's "Through our Eyes" program. Funds for community safety should be given to nonprofit, grassroots, and community organizations that actually help to build stronger and safer communities. The LAPD does not keep communities safe, it terrorizes and kills people in them. It is outrageous that the city is considering giving them an extra 100K for further propaganda and PR. We need to hold them accountable for the violence and terror they have already inflicted on LA's citizens, not give them more money for fake programs to further their bullshit messaging while avoiding accountability.

Communication from Public

Name: Lucy Herrera

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 11:53 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Lucy Herrera and I have been involved in the grassroots program "Through Our Eyes" for several years. This was a project started by youth to address issues with law enforcement in their community of Ramona Gardens. This innovative project has been very difficult to build over the last few years and I am shocked that it appears as a LAPD program. This takes away all the hard work and years of dedication that the youth have put into this project. We ask that the language be clear and illustrated that the program is independent from LAPD. We also ask that this project does not bring more funding into LAPD and instead is included as a line item that they are required to find the money for. This not only hurts the youth who have dedicated their time, reputation, and commitment to this program but it also takes away from the authenticity and why this program was created in the first place.

Communication from Public

Name: Colleen Evanson

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 10:39 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of District 2 and do not support the "Through Our Eyes" program and think the funding would be better used elsewhere. It seems extremely tone deaf to invest more money into an LAPD program right now. Maybe we could use the money to deal with the trauma the LAPD has caused to the youth that deal with them. The money should be used in areas that need it like mental health, healthcare, affordable housing, dealing with the rising homelessness issues or any of the many areas the Black Lives Matter advocates presented to you via The People's Budget. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Grace Cotangco

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 10:27 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: It is in very poor taste to add this \$100k funding for a LAPD program partnership. If you have been listening at all to people who have been protesting, we do not want better relationships with police - we want you to DEFUND the police

Communication from Public

Name: Allie Kiekhofer
Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 10:17 AM
Council File No: 20-0600-S39
Comments for Public Posting: The Through Your Eyes program is basically propaganda and does not deserve \$100,000 in funding. It should be removed from the budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Samantha Smart

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 09:51 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Samantha Smart and I strongly oppose this motion to give MORE money to the LAPD at a time when so many people are demanding they be defunded. We do NOT want community safety programs in the hands of police!!!! Have you not been listening to anything we've been saying for weeks? I am outraged at this ridiculous move to go against the public's wishes. The whole conversation has been about DIVERTING funds away from the police. We do not trust them to run community programs. I am so angry to see this item on the agenda today. I appreciate wanting to put money into community programs but those programs need to be run by outside organizations. I am sickened to think that you all are misinterpreting EVERYTHING we've been saying. The public quite obviously does not want these programs run by cops. Listen to your constituents and DEFUND the police or lose your seats when you are up for reelection. The people are watching closely and we will not forget the choices you make at this time.

Communication from Public

Name: Ashley Brim

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 09:14 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose this agenda item funding the LAPD kid targeted propaganda program "Through our eyes". As the people passionately demand you Defund the Police, this budget item for a program that brings more kids in contact with police feels aggressively tone deaf. If the police want kids to trust them, they need to quit killing them and members of their community.

Communication from Public

Name: Shawn

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 07:53 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: We do not want to see more funding for LAPD programs, nor do we want to see policing reform like #8CantWait which are band-aid solutions. Now is the time to divest in LAPD and invest in communities and programs without LAPD involvement. It is incredibly telling that the youth development organization that LAPD is working with on the Through Our Eyes campaign, Legacy LA, has also been pushing for the People's Budget and defunding the police. Look at their twitter page, @LegacyLA, and you'll see that it was they have been posting about over the past couple of weeks. So defund the police further, say NO to funding of more LAPD programs, and adopt the People's Budget. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Zoe Brown

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 09:16 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Don't add funding for LAPD programs. Now is the time to divest in LAPD. Invest in communities without LAPD involvement. I specifically would advocate for more funding in public education, comprehensive child care, and ending homelessness—which affects over 65,000 children in LA alone. And there will be money leftover if we are seriously defunding the police department, and the rest should go into every other public service that intends to actually serve the public.

Communication from Public

Name: Collin

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 09:05 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to urge city council to reject this motion. The last thing we need is to give LAPD more money to infiltrate communities. What we need is for city council to adopt the People's Budget and invest in actual community building that serves to strengthen our city, instead of a police force that harasses and discriminates. You can identify "youth-serving organizations" without funding LAPD and instead by simply going into the communities you serve and getting to know the volunteer organizations that are putting in the work. They will be the ones to tell you how you can build better engagement and relationships because they are a part of that community. Stop trying to give LAPD money and start investing in the essential services that promote care in our city. Reject this item and adopt the People's Budget today.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 06:09 AM

Council File No: 20-0600-S39

Comments for Public Posting: Vote NO on item 20!!!! We do not want our money to go to what is ultimately a public relations program for cops. Divest! Divest! Divest from the LAPD!! Invest in a program that could ACTUALLY help our youth!!

Communication from Public

Name: Rocio Alvarado
Date Submitted: 06/22/2020 07:24 AM
Council File No: 20-0600-S39
Comments for Public Posting: My name is Rocio, I am a resident of district 9. I oppose the \$100,000 funding to expand the LAPD's Through our Eyes program partnership. This program is dangerous propaganda and is a slap in the face to our active goal to defund LAPD.