

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Barbara Nichols  
**Date Submitted:** 12/07/2020 10:46 AM  
**Council File No:** 20-0600-S83

**Comments for Public Posting:** Clearly, the LAPD needs to have an appropriate vetting process for selecting applicants to the police department that have the commitment and temperament to fairly and justly carryout their duties in all communities. They then need to be properly trained to handle all situations with limited use of force only in situations where their life is clearly threatened. My community has one patrol car with two officers for a vast area of residents. Currently, this is inadequate to our needs. We strongly oppose any reduction in the number of police officers on active duty in Los Angeles. Our crime rate has increased throughout LA and this is the wrong time to reduce active duty police officers serving our communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stacy Stearns

**Date Submitted:** 12/07/2020 12:19 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600-S83

**Comments for Public Posting:** The plans here are vague and stinky. We need MUCH MORE transparency. It is not enough to parcel amounts and attach the words "youth" and "jobs" and "non-profits" to them. City Council is a like a vacuum for funds. Here is a tip: the only way to help youth is for them to be housed. The pandemic is wreaking havoc on our communities. Talking about workforce training etc means nothing in this context. This body needs to get focused on immediate solutions to the crisis around us- take that money that was supposedly reallocated from a proposed budget increase for the LAPD and make meaningful plans. the word "beautification" should fall NOWHERE in this budget, as that is a couched term for efforts to sweep the homeless crisis and unhoused individuals under the rug while pandering to property- owners. The people who put you all in your seats are not plentiful enough to keep you there. To squander this budget and construct these opaque channels is not the way to make bold changes. None of you should be doing anything other than fighting tooth and nail for COVID relief and a rent and mortgage freeze.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Paul Pulido, Interim Executive Director, South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone

**Date Submitted:** 12/07/2020 01:00 PM

**Council File No:** 20-0600-S83

**Comments for Public Posting:** The South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) is a collaborative of more than 71 cross-sector partners. SLATE-Z's mission is to harness the grassroots power and collective influence of civic, business, and community leaders to tackle the root causes of inequality and poverty in South Los Angeles by building opportunities for long-term sustainable economic growth. Earlier this summer, City Council voted to reallocate \$150 million from the LAPD budget into services for disenfranchised communities. While this is a great show of support amid local and national turmoil, to date it has been unclear how or when these funds will have an impact in the city. SLATE-Z and its leadership submit this letter to demand greater transparency and information on these processes. The use of these funds would be used to further develop and strengthen the capacity of local community based organizations to service an over-policed community. Because of the imperative nature of this funding, we are requesting information about the funding strategy and what investments have been made thus far. Transparency is critical to ensure the most effective deployment of resources, community engagement, and accountability. Clarity on the process will also enable local community based organizations to access funding and deepen their collective work to mobilize the South LA Community. As a Federal Promise Zone informed by a resident-centered plan to revitalize South LA, our partners include elected officials, government departments, economic revitalization institutions, and a vast array of community-serving organizations with decades of experience and deep relationships in the community. Our partners have ushered in initiatives that bring together social services with workforce development, career and college track opportunities for youth, trauma-informed programming for justice-involved individuals, and greater access to affordable transit for our residents. The City of Los Angeles is one of the most dynamic communities in the United States, with a leading creative economy and a fast-growing high-tech industry. Yet the South Los Angeles economy shouldered substantial systemic challenges. Nearly 50% of our residents live below the federal poverty line, and with more than two-thirds of South Los Angeles residents further burdened when accounting for the cost

of living in Los Angeles. The devastating effects of COVID-19 further exacerbated historic racial inequities that have plagued South Los Angeles residents for decades. Our residents have particular difficulty accessing public and private resources available to abate the effects of a stalled economy. The moment is now to be able to begin changing this narrative. South Los Angeles is also disproportionately over-policed compared to the rest of the city. The incidence of Part 1 Violent Crimes in South Los Angeles occurs at a rate 34% higher than the rest of the city. This can be attributed to the decades of redlining and disinvestment experienced by the residents in South Los Angeles. Furthermore, the overall arrest rate is 51% higher than the rest of the city, with youth in South Los Angeles arrested at a rate 36% higher than their counterparts in the rest of the city. As reflected by the Promise Zone designation, despite these challenges, the South Los Angeles community demonstrates strong organizational capacity to address these barriers. Clarity and accountability in the allocation process allows our partners to continue developing critical interventions that provide alternatives to justice system involvement. Because of the history and experience of our partners, a clear process is vital to connect additional resources to successful programs within a high-need community. Just and equitable access to these resources is critical in addressing the years of disinvestment that continues to mar the South Los Angeles community. South Los Angeles should receive substantially higher investments to meet the disproportionately more severe adversity endured by our residents. Investment at this level would be the first step in signaling a commitment to an oft-overlooked community, allowing our partners to substantially broaden the impact of their programs and services. These strategies would help accelerate paths towards economic prosperity for the South Los Angeles community and build the necessary resident capacity to continue advocating for equity and justice. Therefore, we call upon our city leaders to update our community on the process for accessing these resources and the steps that are being taken to reinforce equity and justice. This opportunity not only opens up much-needed support for South LA but also sets a foundation for expanded projects and partnerships into the future. Thank you for your work and your consideration of this request.



December 07, 2020

Los Angeles City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, Room 1050  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: City of LA: A Call for Funding Transparency

To the Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee:

The South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) is a collaborative of more than 71 cross-sector partners. SLATE-Z's mission is to harness the grassroots power and collective influence of civic, business, and community leaders to tackle the root causes of inequality and poverty in South Los Angeles by building opportunities for long-term sustainable economic growth. Earlier this summer, City Council voted to reallocate \$150 million from the LAPD budget into services for disenfranchised communities. While this is a great show of support amid local and national turmoil, to date it has been unclear how or when these funds will have an impact in the city. SLATE-Z and its leadership submit this letter to demand greater transparency and information on these processes. The use of these funds would be used to further develop and strengthen the capacity of local community based organizations to service an over-policed community.

Because of the imperative nature of this funding, we are requesting information about the funding strategy and what investments have been made thus far. Transparency is critical to ensure the most effective deployment of resources, community engagement, and accountability. Clarity on the process will also enable local community based organizations to access funding and deepen their collective work to mobilize the South LA Community.

As a Federal Promise Zone informed by a resident-centered plan to revitalize South LA, our partners include elected officials, government departments, economic revitalization institutions, and a vast array of community-serving organizations with decades of experience and deep relationships in the community. Our partners have ushered in initiatives that bring together social services with workforce development, career and college track opportunities for youth, trauma-informed programming for justice-involved individuals, and greater access to affordable transit for our residents.

### **The Specific Need in South LA**

The City of Los Angeles is one of the most dynamic communities in the United States, with a leading creative economy and a fast-growing high-tech industry. Yet the South Los Angeles economy shoulders substantial systemic challenges. Nearly 50% of our residents live below the federal poverty line, and with more than two-thirds of South Los Angeles residents further burdened when accounting for the cost of living in Los Angeles. The devastating effects of COVID-19 further exacerbated historic racial inequities that have plagued South Los Angeles



residents for decades. Our residents have particular difficulty accessing public and private resources available to abate the effects of a stalled economy. The moment is now to be able to begin changing this narrative.

South Los Angeles is also disproportionately over-policed compared to the rest of the city. The incidence of Part 1 Violent Crimes in South Los Angeles occurs at a rate 34% higher than the rest of the city. This can be attributed to the decades of redlining and disinvestment experienced by the residents in South Los Angeles. Furthermore, the overall arrest rate is 51% higher than the rest of the city, with youth in South Los Angeles arrested at a rate 36% higher than their counterparts in the rest of the city.

### **An Opportunity to Tackle Inequity and Highlight Justice**

As reflected by the Promise Zone designation, despite these challenges, the South Los Angeles community demonstrates strong organizational capacity to address these barriers. Clarity and accountability in the allocation process allows our partners to continue developing critical interventions that provide alternatives to justice system involvement. Because of the history and experience of our partners, a clear process is vital to connect additional resources to successful programs within a high-need community. Just and equitable access to these resources is critical in addressing the years of disinvestment that continues to mar the South Los Angeles community.

South Los Angeles should receive substantially higher investments to meet the disproportionately more severe adversity endured by our residents. Investment at this level would be the first step in signaling a commitment to an oft-overlooked community, allowing our partners to substantially broaden the impact of their programs and services. These strategies would help accelerate paths towards economic prosperity for the South Los Angeles community and build the necessary resident capacity to continue advocating for equity and justice.

Therefore, we call upon our city leaders to update our community on the process for accessing these resources and the steps that are being taken to reinforce equity and justice. This opportunity not only opens up much-needed support for South LA but also sets a foundation for expanded projects and partnerships into the future. Thank you for your work and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Pulido". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Pulido  
Interim Executive Director  
South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z)



### **Signatories to the SLATE-Z Memorandum of Understanding:**

**Nonprofit Organizations** | Asian American Drug Abuse Program | Alliance for Community Transit LA | All Peoples Community Center | A Place Called Home | Amity Foundation | Anti-Recidivism Coalition | Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (AYE) | Bixel Exchange | Brotherhood Crusade | CD Tech and CD9 Coalition | Center for Powerful Public Schools | Coalition for Responsible Community Development | Community Build | Community Coalition | Community Partners | City of LA Council District 9 Business Resource Center | City Year | Economic Roundtable | Friends Outside LA County | Going Beyond Boundaries (GBB) | The Grantsmanship Center | Holman CDC | LA County Bicycle Coalition | LA Black Worker Center | LA Conservation Corps | LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council | LA Promise Fund | LA Opportunity Youth Collaborative convened by Alliance for Children's Rights | LA Job Corps | LA Neighborhood Initiative | LA Urban League | LA Voice | Life After Uncivil Ruthless Acts | LIFT - LA | Living Advantage | Local Initiatives Support Corporation | Managed Career Solutions Business Source Center | Esperanza Community Housing/Mercado La Paloma | Move LA | The Natural History Museum | Nuevo South | OmniWorks | PVJOBS | Soledad Enrichment Action | Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing | St. John's Clinics | Strategic Actions for a Just Economy | Social Action Partners | Synergy Academies | Transportation Workforce Institute | TRUST South LA | United Auto Worker Labor and Employment Training Center | Urban Peace Institute | United Methodist Urban Foundation | US Vets | Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation | Volunteers of America | Worksite Wellness LA | YouthBuild Charter Schools of CA | YWCA of Greater LA

**Public Sector/Government Organizations** | City of LA: Mayor's Office, Building and Safety Department, Bureau of Contract Administration, Business Assistance Program, Economic and Workforce Development Department, Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD), Mayor's Office Great Streets Initiative, Housing and Community Investment Department, Personnel Department, Planning Department, Police Department, Mayor's Promise Zone Office, Department of Public Works, Mayor's Office of Reentry Services, Mayor's Office Veterans Coordinator | LA Area Chamber of Commerce | LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority | LA County Sheriff's Department | LA Unified School District

**Academic Institutions** | Cal State University Dominguez Hills | LA Trade Technical College | University of California, Los Angeles | University of Southern California