
Fwd: Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget - Council File20-06001 message

From: Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>
At: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 10:44 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Christine Rowe <crwhnc@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 7:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget - Council File20-0600
To: <CityClerk@lacity.org>

To Whom This May Concern:

I tried to submit this on the Council Form. Could you please attach it to the Council File.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Christine L. Rowe

From: Christine Rowe <crwhnc@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 6:41 AM
Subject: Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget - Council File20-0600
To: Councilmember Paul Krekorian <Councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org>, Curren Price (councilmember.price@lacity.org) <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, Paul Koretz <Paul.Koretz@lacity.org>, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield <Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org>, Mike Bonin (mike.bonin@lacity.org) <mike.bonin@lacity.org>
Cc: Councilmember John S. Lee <Councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>

Dear Councilmembers Krekorian, Price, Koretz, Blumenfield, and Bonin,

I recognize what happened to George Floyd was inexcusable. I recognize the need for education for everyone - not just the LAPD - but everyone in our society starting at an early age in school regarding the history of racism in our Nation.

But it is wrong to call out our LAPD because of an incident in Minnesota that "set our country on fire" - literally.

I received multiple emails this past Friday regarding the proposed Budget Cuts to the Fiscal 2020 - 2021 Budgets for the LAPD.

I was not aware until late last night that the Budget Committee meeting was actually today!

I went to the Council file, and I saw this as an agenda item. I went into the public comments, and I saw that you had hundreds of emails - some of them duplicative, regarding the "People's Budget". **I do not support the "People's Budget" or the request to reduce funding to the LAPD.**

I am writing as a 43 year resident of the San Fernando Valley. Over those years, I have had to reach out to the LAPD on many occasions for many things.

I began attending Neighborhood Watch meetings and Neighborhood Council meetings around 2006. At that time, West Hills north of Roscoe was actually covered by the Devonshire Division. Can you imagine that response time for West Hills?

West Hills South was covered by the West Valley Division.

When the Topanga Station opened, I attended their open house. I am aware of programs that they have to work with the youth including the PALS program.

Years ago, the Boy Scouts used to have pancake breakfasts with the LAPD. As a former Scoutmaster, I took my Scouts to the West Valley Station (decades ago) for their mandatory rifle training.

When my kids were growing up, the DARE program was active in their elementary school.

This past week, as the result of the City being opened up, and because of the "Peaceful Protests", I have seen the impacts on my community in the West San Fernando Valley.

- 1) The Topanga Plaza, The Village, and The Promenade - Westfield properties have been guarded by the National Guard.
- 2) The Wells Fargo Bank in West Hills that we recently visited - I was told it was boarded up this weekend.
- 3) The Walgreens pharmacy on Topanga and Saticoy has had reduced pharmacy hours from a 9:00 pm closing time to a 5:00 pm closing time.
- 4) A pharmacy that I currently have a prescription at in Councilmember Koretz's District downtown was closed for 5 days. When I reached them last Thursday and asked if they would be open on Friday, I was told: "I don't know."
- 5) Posts on FACEBOOK show Topanga Division officers deployed to Hollywood this past week.
- 6) Posts on FACEBOOK show Topanga Division officers at a private home in Woodland Hills waiting for a team due to a "Honey oil lab"?
- 7) Are you aware that when the Topanga Police Station first opened, that they went from one Neighborhood Council to another to ask the Neighborhood Councils to fund needed supplies for their station?

<https://www.winnetkanc.com/Documents/newsletters/2009-03-VVN.pdf>

I believe that the West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC) funded something called "Tac lights"? Please note my name as a member of the WHNC in that document above.

8) While I support training and also very intensive background investigations into those hired for the LAPD, I do not support "throwing them under the bus as if they are the only cause of the problems in Los Angeles. The problems are systemic, and there are failures at every level of government from the Federal, State, and Local levels.

9) I went to "Transparent California" and I looked up the salaries of some of the City Elected Officials. I would like to know why a column called "Benefits" went up about 7 - 10 times depending upon the individual from about 2017 to 2018? Why are you paying so much for benefits?

10) I recognize and respect everything that our City did in terms of "Safer at Home" orders, housing the homeless, etc, during the COVID - 19 outbreaks. But that disease has not gone away, and I believe that opening our parks and our streets to large gatherings while people like me are "Staying at Home" is only going to create the "Second Wave".

11) We need the City Council to support our LAPD. Yes we need reviews in any cases that are questionable. But just as some call all City Council members "corrupt" because of the actions of possibly two, we can't call all LAPD officers "Bad" or "Racist" because of the actions of some.

There is a place for community policing, and for those LAPD members who are of a particular ethnicity or something similar, their skills could be used in communities that would trust them more.

12) As the wife of an Anthropologist, we find the term "Race" to be inappropriate. Race is a name that is not based in science. If you study genetics, you will see the various genes and how people throughout the world have migrated and the gene pool has intermingled over thousands of years.

13) If the City Council needs to cut the Budget, I would support a Salary cut to all City Employees who make over \$200,000 a year of 20%. I would support a salary decrease for all those above \$150,000 of 15 %. I would support a 10% cut for employees making above \$125,000 a year. But I do not support any cuts for any City employees who make less than \$125,000 a year. I believe that you need to make at least that much to own a home in Los Angeles, and I am concerned about City Employees losing jobs or being furloughed. No City Employees should be losing jobs at this time of unemployment due to COVID - 19.

14) I believe I heard that there was a request for Tasers for all LAPD officers? If that is true, I would support the funding of any less lethal equipment.

In conclusion, I reiterate, that I **do not support the proposed funding cuts to the LAPD. If anything, we should be hiring more LAPD officers who would go through new training, cost the City less in salary and benefits, and it would reduce the overtime of the more senior officers.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Rowe

Former West Hills Neighborhood Council Board member

Fwd: Public Comment RE: Council File No. 20-0600

1 message

From: Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>
At: Mon, Jun 8, 2020 at 9:07 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ana Bedayo <a.bedayo@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jun 6, 2020 at 10:22 AM
Subject: Public Comment RE: Council File No. 20-0600
To: <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Hi. I tried using your online form, but it wouldn't post. Here is the original letter:

I am a resident of Mid City and I stand with Black Lives Matter, Justice LA, and Reform LA Jails. I support the People's Budget. You need to meet with these groups (among others) IMMEDIATELY and often. If this was in-person, we would be screaming in your faces (masks on), and our voices would be deafening.

You are COMPLICIT IN THE BETRAYAL AND COMPLETE LOSS OF TRUST between LA citizens and LAPD.

I challenge you to examine your own lives, your civic duty, and responsibilities on this committee. You need to be anti-racist, not just because that is your job, and as a US citizen, but as a fellow human being. WHY aren't you, along with the LAPC and the LASD COC, holding public hearings daily to address the injustice inflicted on the Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities?

The LAPD in its current iteration CANNOT BE TRUSTED.

They have KILLED 601 people in the last 7 years.

Since the protests began, they have used cars to mow down PEACEFUL protestors and SHOT RUBBER BULLETS (which can PERMANENTLY BLIND PEOPLE) AT ANGELENO'S FACES.

WHY have you not called to BAN USE of tear gas, pepper balls, and pepper spray that cause respiratory distress DURING A PANDEMIC that is spread through saliva droplets, tears, and discharge from the nose when people sneeze and cough?! Your INACTION and CALLOUSNESS astounds me.

To address the needs of the city and restore justice to our Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, you MUST DEFUND THE POLICE and enact/call for the following reforms:

- Reduce the overall budget of LAPD, divest from police unions, and reinvest all funds into Black, Brown and Indigenous communities
- Fund and support public education, mental healthcare, public access and resources for the differently-abled, drug treatment, affordable housing, and other community programs that offer alternatives to incarceration
- Start decarceration efforts in our jails NOW so that more people do not die from our dangerous jail system and COVID outbreaks
- Enact economic consequences for police officers who abuse their positions. Taxpayers SHOULD NOT have to pay civil litigations against LAPD employees that the LAPD can't get under control. If officers are fired and not reinstated, the cost of the litigation should come out of their pensions
- DEMILITARIZE the police force and END ALL CURFEWS as they are an excuse for more racist mass arrests
- Immediately STOP the use of tear gas, pepper balls, pepper spray, rubber bullets and cars against American citizens.
- FIRE Michel Moore. His comments on June 1 were abhorrent and reflect the institutional racism of the organization we PAY to protect us
- Names of officers who commit misconduct must be publicized immediately into a state and national database and
- END the use of paid administrative leave for cops under investigation
- Cap overtime accrual and overtime pay for military exercises
- END participation in police militarization programs
- Reduce the size of the police workforce
- REGULARLY MEET with BLM, Justice LA, Reform LA Jails, as well as victims

- Officers who witness crimes perpetrated by other officers (like assaults and murders) need to be held accountable
- Officers should not have a license to kill
- Officer training must be more than six months long. Enact stricter educational requirements before being accepted into the academy
- Officers must live in (for a period of at least six months) in the low-income communities it purports to protect
- Open an investigation into the Sheriff's Department's excessively violent treatment of protestors

With great power comes great responsibility. I implore you to meet this moment on the right side of history.