

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Salam Al-Marayati

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**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council, I am Salam Al-Marayati, President of the Muslim Public Affairs Council and former Vice Chair of the Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission. We are in the midst of dealing with racial equality as it pertains to our policies on policing and dealing with the pandemic. People of color suffer disproportionately on issues related to violence and lack of healthcare. It is time to address this issue directly rather than wait for the next crisis. Moreover, we can save valuable time in addressing civil and human rights in Los Angeles. While our cities are struggling with civil unrest, structural racism, and destructive public discourse, Los Angeles took a bold move to establish the Civil Rights Commission in 2019. • But without the formal establishment of the Civil and Human Rights Department and the appropriate funding, the critical work to impact discrimination, level the playing field, equity and empowerment, will not be sustained in a meaningful way with the necessary long-term impact. • This is a moment in history where we cannot in good conscience turn our back on those who have and continue to suffer from inequities, discrimination, and especially not at a time when a pandemic has further exasperated these deep inequities with staggering loss of life. • I urge you to take a bold stand to 1) Establish the Civil and Human Rights Department, and 2) fully fund the department so it is adequately staffed to carry out this important work. • I thank you for your visionary leadership and implore your sense of commitment to ensuring equity starting with the establishment of the Civil and Human Rights Department.