

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 08/10/2026 12:46 PM

Council File No: 20-1084-S4

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council: I write on behalf of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles' Board of Directors. As you may be aware, LAFLA's Board is comprised of attorneys in private practice, leaders of prominent local and national law firms, in-house counsel, accounting and compliance professionals, and members of the community who qualify for LAFLA's services. We wish to address the City Attorney's "Report in the Public Interest," published July 2, 2026 (the "Report"). The Report supplements a similar report dated June 15, 2026 (together, the "Reports"). The Reports discuss and raise questions about LAFLA's administration of contracts for eviction defense and tenant assistance, work that LAFLA proudly accomplishes as a leader of the City's Stay Housed LA coalition ("SHLA"). We understand that LAFLA has already responded to the substance of the Reports in a June 17, 2026, letter, which can be found in File No. 20-1084-S4. The Board writes separately to express its complete support for LAFLA's leadership and management teams in their administration of SHLA contracts, and to provide the Council with some relevant information about LAFLA's audit and tax preparation processes. It bears emphasizing that the Reports do not make any specific claims of any financial improprieties or misapplied funds. We wish to note that LAFLA endeavors at all times to be a careful steward of public money and private donations. The organization engages a qualified, independent accounting firm to prepare and file its tax returns. LAFLA also engages a qualified, independent auditor to conduct annual audits of its financial statements. The Board oversees both the tax preparation and the audit, and the Board's finance and audit committees receive direct reports from those professionals regarding their work outside the presence of LAFLA's management. Based on the reports we have received, we are confident that LAFLA has spent SHLA funds appropriately, and to the extent any error were ever discovered—and, to be clear, no such errors have been discovered—LAFLA would act to correct it. Having overseen LAFLA's audits and tax returns, the Board wishes to confirm to the Council that it is aware of no misspent funds, nor any other impropriety related to LAFLA's administration of SHLA. In the end, as the City Attorney correctly acknowledges, the SHLA

contracts are vital to funding “critical eviction defense services,” and we are glad they have been signed. LAFLA is proud of its work, and we support the Council’s continued focus on delivering much-needed benefits to the Angelenos who need them most.



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Executive Director

Silvia R. Argueta, Esq.

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Contract C-138260

Council File Nos: 20-1084; 20-1084-S4; 18-0610-S3; 19-0685-S1; 20-0401; 20-0505; 22-0414; 23-0038; and 23-0038-S7

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In the end, as the City Attorney correctly acknowledges, the SHLA contracts are vital to funding "critical eviction defense services," and we are glad they have been signed. LAFLA is proud of its work, and we support the Council's continued focus on delivering much-needed benefits to the Angelenos who need them most.

Sincerely,

Lynette M. Jones
President, Board of Directors

cc: LAFLA Board Executive Committee; Executive Director Silvia Argueta

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