

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bill Przylucki on behalf of People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER)

**Date Submitted:** 02/17/2021 01:24 AM

**Council File No:** 20-1202

**Comments for Public Posting:** On behalf of People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER) and our members who are residents of the public housing communities of San Fernando Gardens and Mar Vista Gardens, and in solidarity with members of the Public Housing Committee of the LA Human Right to Housing Collective from Pico Gardens and elsewhere, we respectfully request that you reopen public comment on this item prior to your vote. In June 2020 this item was heard by the HACLA Board of Commissioners. HACLA reports an unitemized 243 comments received based on a digital template our members set up (available at <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-las-housing-authority-defund-lapd>). Additional individual comments constituted 13 full pages of public comment, universally opposing the MOA to allocate an additional \$1.75 Million and a total of \$8.75 Million from HACLA's resident services funding to LAPD for the Community Safety Partnership program. These public comments include many comments from residents of Mar Vista Gardens, San Fernando Gardens and Pico Gardens, including comments on behalf of the Mar Vista Gardens and Pico Gardens Resident Advisory Councils (RACs). These RACs are supposed to be the official resident engagement bodies that have advisory input on important programming and policy issues, such as the allocation of resident services funding. The fact that HACLA chose to approve a resident services funding allocation in direct defiance of public comment received from Public Housing RACs, with no evidence of support from any public housing RAC, is extremely troubling. Since the inception of the CSP program, our members have questioned the wisdom of diverting precious resident services dollars to subsidize the City department that already receives the majority of the City's General Fund. The Community Safety Partnership program must be subjected to rigorous public scrutiny and public debate, and this MOA has received neither, despite the clear effort of hundreds of residents to make their voices heard. In their 2020 Agency Plan, HACLA reported \$20,383,844 in public housing operating funds, and \$37,011,812 in rental income from public housing. Resident services, as well as all other public housing operating funding, comes from these two sources. A total allocation of \$8.75 million represents a significant investment by an agency that cannot meet all of the needs of its residents. In fact, in the response to comments section of the same Agency Plan, a resident asked if transportation would be made available to the Agency Plan public hearing. HACLA's response: "Unfortunately, due to budgetary restraints, transportation is not made available to the Public Hearing." An agency that cannot afford to provide transportation for low-income residents to a single annual meeting that has such a massive impact on residents' life for the entire year should think carefully about the wisdom of investing

millions in a police department whose annual budget is three times that of the Housing Authority's. In 2014, the LA Human Right to Housing Collective held a model Participatory Budgeting program in five public housing sites. Residents named numerous priorities that they wished to fund, including mental health, public health and nutritional education programming, English language and computer literacy classes, programming for children and seniors, and more. Out of the hundreds of public housing residents who participated in our Participatory Budget, none named investing in the Community Safety Partnership nor in other policing programs as a top priority. We believe that HACLA could do a much better job engaging its RACs, the HRAC, and other public housing resident groups in more participatory decision-making, especially around resident services and capital repairs budgeting decisions. We believe the residents of public housing, their direct lived experience as well as their time and talent are HACLA's greatest resource for finding the way forward as an agency that consistently faces budget constraints. We respectfully request that you reopen public comment on this item, and encourage HACLA to engage deeply and authentically with residents to design the most responsive programming possible. Additionally, we request that you amend the Council File for this item to include the public comment received on this item by the HACLA Board of Commissioners at their public hearing in June 2020.

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles  
Board of Commissioners Special Meeting  
**Public Comment Summary**  
June 25, 2020

**Item VI. A 1 – Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Program MOA Extension**

A total of 243 comments received via email with the following message.

I am submitting a written public comment for HACLA's Board of Commissioners meeting on June 25, 2020.

You must vote no on item VI.A.1. Given the pandemic crisis and the massive outpouring of support for racial justice and the demands of Black Lives Matter LA, this is no time to be handing over nearly \$9 million to LAPD, who already receives 54% of LA City's discretionary budget, when residents are desperately in need of services and support that do not involve the police. HACLA should invest in the health and development of residents through public health and education programming. Given LAPD's involvement in driving displacement at a time that LA's homelessness crisis continues to grow, there is no justification to invest housing money into the police. HACLA must defund the CSP program and join its residents in demanding that we defund the police.

**Additional statements made by those who submitted the "standard" comment:**

We demand care, not cops! -Kiley Wolf

My neighbors lived on section 8 and were terrorized by police unnecessarily for years. It must end. -Carter Moon

Please reject item VI.A.1 on Thursday's agenda, and take action to help Los Angeles #DefundLAPD by ending funding for the CSP program from HACLA resident services funding. -Katie Foster

Please do what is right for the citizens of LA. -Madeleine Coleman

Please do the right thing and vote no. Thank you. -Kaycee Felton-Lui

I ask the board to prioritize those whom this housing authority is meant to serve and not the police. -James McKinnie

It is outrageous to even entertain the idea of giving \$9 million to LAPD when LA residents are dying at the hands of police officers. -Cecily Breau

While I do not live in public housing, I firmly believe that the LAPD has little to do with improving housing conditions for low-income and houseless people across LA. -Nina Mohan

I strongly believe in this cause as a resident of Los Angeles and am eager to see our city take progressive steps forward in this moment where so many are not. -Gemma Godfrey

Defund LAPD and fund Public Housing. Thank you. -Brandon Lapins

You exist to help people. This allocation doesn't help, it harms. -Liz Eldridge

This is the only way to honor our citizens and keep them safe. -Charlotte Krone

This can be a moment of transformative moral change for our city. Please help bring us into the light. - Hannah Kushnick

You've got to listen to the people of your city - no one wants this! - Tim Hodgin

PLEASE vote no on VI.A.1, now is the time to reinvest into the communities being hit hardest by the pandemic and subsequent austerity. -Jasmine Delgado

I mean it!! This isn't going away. We aren't going to let this slide. -Brittany Van Horne

Given the pandemic's effect on public budgets, and the increasingly clear demands from advocates to defund the police, this is no time to be handing over nearly \$9 million to LAPD, who already receives 54% of LA City's discretionary budget. – Antonia Price

It is outrageous to devote more funds (especially 9 million) to the police during a public health crisis in an effort to un-house citizens. What a cruel and illegal act against your own people. Instead of sending money to the police to help you un-house people, use that money to HOUSE PEOPLE. – Isabelle Crouch

The LAPD does not need almost \$9 million during a pandemic, it should go to housing, public health, education--cops are last on the list, please prioritize the people of this city who desperately need help. HACLA should invest in the health and development of residents through public health and education programming. Given LAPD's involvement in driving displacement at a time that LA's homelessness crisis continues to grow (and it was bad BEFORE COVID, imagine how much WORSE it is going to get!), there is no justification to invest housing money into the police. – Kelsey DiLaura

Furthermore, police are a primary vector of violence rather than agents of violence prevention. We need to divest from the police and invest in community-led efforts to reimagine safety and change the conditions under which people resort to violence. – Benjamin Kersten

It is unconscionable to invest housing money into the police.- Nick Fernandes

Community care is vital right now, when residents are facing numerous threats to safety and wellbeing. – Erin Rein

I am a social worker in LA and I work every day with residents of public housing. These residents are criminalized in their own homes and there is no place for police in housing of any kind. – Nathalie Dierckx

You absolutely must vote no on Item VI. A.1. – Taylor Davis

You exist to help people. This allocation doesn't help, it harms. – Liz Eldridge

You really need to do this. – Andrew Perrine

Let's spend the money providing enough housing Rather than waste it terrorizing HACLA residents. – Jenna Richman

Please vote no on VI.A.1, now is the time to reinvest into the communities being hit hardest by the pandemic and subsequent austerity. –Jasmine Delgado

You must vote no on item VI.A.1. To do otherwise would be morally reprehensible. – Jessica Teller

I urge you to vote no on Item VI.A.1. Vote no! –Laurel Randolph

**Lillian Farrow**

Pacoima, CA

What an absolutely ridiculous and tone deaf proposal? Take money from the demographic police are already leeching in order to what? What exactly were you thinking? You better look into the People's Budget of LA before you are steam rolled by progress just like this proposal already has been. You must vote no on item VI. A1.

**Team Bub**

Los Angeles, CA

Read the room! No more money for cops at the expense of more important matters! Let's help people instead of oppress them. Let's treat the causes rather than the symptoms, especially since "treating" the symptoms only makes it worse. You must vote no on item VI. A1.

**Jason Sywak**

Los Angeles, CA

The biggest crisis Los Angeles faces is not COVID-19 but homelessness. I was shocked when I read LAPD could get almost a \$9 million increase all while we saw results from the homeless count go up by at least 13% from last year. How can anyone even thinking of funding the police more and giving less to homeless and social services?

It is important you vote no on item VI.A.1. That money is needed in things that boost the community, address homelessness, and improve the health and livelihoods of Los Angeles residents. Divesting housing money in favor of increasing LAPD funding is an outrageous idea. It's even more offensive when considering LAPD's role harassing our homeless neighbors and adding to the crisis. Vote no on item VI.A.1. Thank you.

**R. Chris Lim**

Los Angeles, CA

You must vote no on Item VI.A.1. This is no time to be handing over nearly \$9 million to LAPD, who already receives 54% of LA City's discretionary budget, when residents are desperately in need of services and support that do not involve the police.

HACLA should invest in the health and development of residents through public health and education programming. Given LAPD's involvement in driving displacement at a time that LA's homelessness crisis continues to grow, there is no justification to invest housing money into the police. In addition, I am quite

sure that the LAPD causes much more harm than good, that we are already overpoliced, and, as a recent study from the University of Chicago makes clear, that the LAPD's use-of-force policies do not meet international human rights standards.

As an attorney with some experience with the criminal justice system, I am appalled at the degree to which bad actors in the LAPD remain in uniform, even after the City is forced to pay civil judgments in the millions for their bad deeds. I am also appalled at the degree to which their video cameras from their MVARs (dash cams) are routinely and conveniently missing when it would suit the officer's purpose.

HACLA must defund the CSP program and join its residents in demanding that we defund the police. There must be real and substantial reform of the LAPD. We cannot keep throwing good money after bad onto this conflagration.

**Alyssa Bierce**

Los Angeles, CA

I am writing to urge you to VOTE NO on Item VI.A.1. To consider giving \$9 million to the LAPD right now as they continue to assist in ILLEGAL evictions during the COVID-19 pandemic is an insult to residents of the city.

Your agency provides housing to vulnerable communities of Los Angeles. The same vulnerable communities that are currently fighting for their right to continue housing, and against the violence the LAPD inflicts on them. The residents you serve deserve DIGNITY above all else. Honor their dignity by committing to your own agency's mission, not propping up the continued terror and harassment of the LAPD. Vote NO on this item. Thank you for hearing us.

**Alex Fofonoff**

Police will not solve the housing crisis. Funding community programs and support will. As a Los Angeles resident, I am embarrassed and ashamed. Fix this immediately.

**Elliott Lamborn**

Los Angeles, CA

I do NOT support Item VI. A.1! Year after year we do not allocate enough money to public and mental health services which actually materially improve the lives of people who are otherwise criminalized by police, who already received 54% of LA City's discretionary budget. HACLA should invest in the health and development of residents through public health and education programming. HACLA must defund the CSP program and join its residents in demanding that we defund the police.

**Mia Logg**

Los Angeles, CA

I demand that you vote no on Item VI.A1. This is absolutely the WRONG time to give more money to the LAPD. We are out here fighting against them, and fighting for solutions to homelessness. That is your job. Do not fund the LAPD. Invest in the health and development of residents through public health and education programming. There is absolutely NO justification to invest housing money into the police. HACLA must defund the CSP program and join its residents in demanding that we defund the police.

**Ruth Pierich**

Los Angeles, CA

Why are you giving \$9 million to the LAPD? This could CLEARLY go to a better resource to solve homelessness! Vote no on item VI.A.1.

**Jeremy Belanger**

West Hollywood, CA

I am submitting a written public comment for HACLA's Board of Commissioners meeting on June 25, 2020. Please vote no on Item VI.A.1.

**Haley Hepworth**

Los Angeles, CA

You must vote no on Item VI.A.1. I worked on an emergency response team with members of the LAPD and witnessed countless officers over several years participating in inappropriate action that resulted in residents facing eviction and being denied their rights. The LAPD operates with disdain for this community and cannot be trusted to serve their best interests.

**Meara O'Reilly**

Los Angeles, CA

Defund the police! I am continually horrified by the seemingly endless stories of community members being routinely slaughtered and abused by the officers sworn to protect them. They have proven that the system cannot be reformed. The Community Safety Partnership is nothing but a PR move to direct funding towards state-sanctioned abuse and murder. You don't make programs that fund abusers to interact with their victims more, you take the abusers out of the picture. There are countless places that the money could go that would support communities in need and actually reduce crime, such as housing and food support. You must vote no on Item VI.A.1.

In this email I have also included language from a letter you have probably already received a lot of, in the effort to be crystal clear about our demands. I have heard that lots of letters like that get removed via filters, which is clear obstruction of democracy. Don't ignore the many voices of your citizens who may have time to continuously fight your disingenuous efforts towards public safety, or individually speak on every last bit of corruption in this city. If someone sends you a form letter it means they stand with the group that is speaking for them. Do the right thing, defund the Community Safety Partnership.

**Coral Frederick**

Los Angeles, CA

I join many other voices demanding you to vote no on Item VI.A.1. We are in the middle of an ever-worsening housing crisis, accelerated by COVID. We are also in the middle of a police brutality crisis. The last thing these funds should be spent on is more policing. Please stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and take this step to help defund LAPD by voting no. HACLA must defund the CSP program and join its residents in demanding that we defund the police.

**Brandon Edmark**

Please vote no on Item VI.A.1 and consider entirely defunding the CSP! In an age of mass unemployment and housing crisis, there are much better ways to spend the money than the LAPD.

I am a fully-employed, law-abiding LA resident. I love LA but I've already been a victim of two baseless "swatting" attacks in my time here. LAPD suddenly entered my residence without warrant and coerced me outside with rifles pointed directly at my head. I got this treatment simply for living near some nosy neighbor who claimed to hear unusual noises nearby. (I made none and heard none, and the SWAT teams determined nothing was wrong as well.) These sudden intrusions were terrifying and must've cost the city at least several thousand just to execute, for no benefit to anyone.

As for the CSP, what little favorable "research" on the program exists consists almost entirely of data and testimonials from LAPD itself. This information cannot be trusted. Take for example the Van Nuys incident last March, in which officers prepared to register a minor as a gang member off specious information later disproven by a review of the officers' body cams. The LAPD is historically more than willing to fudge data and persecute innocent people to make themselves look better on paper. Thus the CPS program is playing the HACLA for fools.

The more LAPD is deployed for nonessential purposes, the more damaging and fatal errors they will make, feeding the cycle of civil unrest we've seen in recent weeks. Please help break this cycle by defunding the Community Safety Partnership program. Those funds could be directed to programs such as:

- More local/accessible testing for COVID and other communicable diseases, for public housing residents who often struggle to afford and use transportation
- Increased testing of public housing conditions, to ensure that the materials, air and water in these buildings is healthy for growing children
- Providing more subsidized English, math and computer classes to public housing residents to build their value in the job market

Virtually anything would be better than giving it to an already unaccountable and bloated department that decides the fates of vulnerable Angelenos on a whim. Please make the right decision and vote no on Item VI.A.1!

**Emily Heller**

Action Network  
Los Angeles, CA

My heart breaks when I consider how much we could do for our neighbors with the money that's currently going to the police. We vote for the money to go to help them. We research all the ways that homelessness and poverty could be alleviated - the answer is not policing them. And then it doesn't happen. You must vote no on Item VI.A.1.

It's about protecting our neighbors, yes. But it's also about the risk we run by not taking action now. People are paying attention, they are making their demands clearly and thoughtfully. We risk disenfranchising an entire generation of young people by not acting. I'm in my mid-thirties now, and the kids who are a

generation behind me impress me so much with their activism and thoughtfulness, even though their generation is the most vulnerable to climate catastrophe and poverty of any in recent history. If we fail them, we will be failing a basic test of our humanity.

**Camille Ashbaugh**

Los Angeles, CA

I am writing to urge you to vote no on Item VI.A.1. The inappropriately named "Community Safety Partnership" between HACLA and the LAPD should be disbanded. Increasing their budget is truly unfathomable. If your core mission as an organization is to reduce homelessness via the provision of public housing, increasing police contact with unjustly criminalized communities is not only ineffective but immoral.

The police are trained to profile Black and Brown citizens, who are overrepresented in public housing relative to the population due to systemic racism. Increased police presence falsely increases "crime" rates in public housing, contributing to societal stigma, and (often false) recidivism of those formerly incarcerated.

Additionally, the police contribute to evictions and displacement. In the continuing pandemic, many people have lost their source of income and evictions are suspected to rise significantly. I am a medical student, and I see the destructive physical effects of homelessness daily in the hospital. As public servants working to end homelessness, your budget should not contribute to the criminalization of poverty. By defunding the CSP, HACLA could use this nine million dollars to support existing public housing residents, expand community services, and increase housing for those experiencing homelessness. HACLA must defund the CSP program and join its residents in demanding that we defund the police.

**Nick Weinmeister**

Los Angeles, CA

I work with LA's unhoused population, those at risk of losing their housing, and even those who have been able to secure housing. The idea that HACLA should volunteer up its funds for an already over-funded police force is asinine.

Our neighbors who live in public housing need as much funding as possible to provide them with locally-accessible, high quality wraparound services that will help them retain their housing and live a good life. Many folks who are eventually able to access public housing have had bad interactions with law enforcement in the past. These troubling interactions may have resulted in any number of traumas, which can be triggered by the very presence of law enforcement. Encouraging a tighter connection between LAPD and public housing puts those folks at risk every single day, while doing little to nothing to assist those residents.

Additionally, we have seen for years how LAPD chooses to violently engage our unhoused, street-based neighbors. LAPD clearly lacks compassion or humanity regarding their will to honorably serve LA residents, regardless of their housing status. Continuing to invite these same law enforcement agents into public housing encourages them to look for "crime" and to intimidate folks who have finally been able to escape homelessness.

**Kristen Chicco**

Sandwich, Massachusetts

Hello. You must vote no on Item VI.A.1. As I'm sure you know, \$9 million could do so much good for resident programs and homelessness prevention! Residents need resources and services, not more policing! Please choose to divert this money, and show your community you care by reinvesting in the people, not the police.

**Nomi Stolzenberg**

I strongly urge HACLA's Commission to vote NO on Item VI.A.1 on Thursday, because we don't need to give \$9 million more to LAPD when public housing residents need crucial services that do not involve police.

**Vlad Tikunov**

Los Angeles, CA

I don't know what kind of math course you guys took that made you think the LAPD, which already receives 54% of LA City's discretionary budget, deserves an ADDITIONAL \$9 million but maybe that just shows public education deserves more funding.

If this was before the pandemic, I'd say it's a gross misuse of funds and showing lack of empathy. Now, I'd say it's needlessly cruel and actually evil.

Maybe instead of victimizing people who are down, you work to uplift them. Maybe we can try to build a better society? But that would require an actual display of compassion and as the pandemic and protests have shown, politicians are unable to do that. I hope I'm wrong. Please, prove me wrong.

**Sarah Michelson**

Los Angeles, CA

Vote no on Item VI.A.1! We need to invest in community, NOT cops.

**Bailey Brown**

Los Angeles, CA

People are in need of homes, real measures of safety. Not funding the police who engage in the harassment and unqualified interference of our homeless population. You must vote no on Item VI.A.1.

**Thomas Webb**

Los Angeles, CA

Look... The rent in this city, in this county, and in most of California is too damn high. We are likely about to see a skyrocketing number of unhoused folks, as tenant protections expire. Now is not the time to give millions of dollars to the police. They're not going to solve anything related to housing, that's for sure. And

if you disagree, try asking unhoused people what they think about it. Is more money for things like police sweeps really going to help them? You must vote no on Item VI.A.1.

**Sarah Marinello**

Los Angeles, CA

This is me personally urging you to listen to your city. You have the responsibility to the public, whose needs have become more and more urgent as the years of ignoring them go on.

What exactly is the LAPD going to use this money for that would be worth leaving people on the street? More "less lethal" weapons? Absurd amounts of overtime pay? Generous pensions? Or maybe it will go right back into the pockets of the people who have the power to hold the LAPD accountable, but refuse to do so.

This money could be used to directly benefit the people of Los Angeles. The LAPD has made it clear that homeless people in this city have no right to live with dignity, so rather than give fund their abuse, invest in getting people into homes. Relieve hardship in Los Angeles, and you relieve the need for an over-funded police force. One person moved into affordable housing, one less person getting evicted, is one less person the LAPD can harass and bully without fear of oversight.

**Geoff Williams**

Los Angeles, CA

There is no reason to give this money to the LAPD rather than using it to directly support the people who live in public/subsidized housing. Especially considering that such a large portion of the LA city budget already goes to the LAPD anyway. This money could be much better spent addressing health, education and child care, not to mention just actually providing more housing for the growing number of homeless people in our city. Defund the CSP program (and the police in general), and re-invest that money in the residents.

I grew up in low-income housing in the late 90's/early 2000's, and had childhood friends who ended up dropping out of school, joining gangs, etc. They didn't need police to keep that from happening, they needed a teacher/mentor figure to take an interest and help them figure out what they were passionate about, and encourage them to develop skills; they needed a home where their parent(s) didn't have to work multiple jobs just to make ends meet. That is the kind of thing that can be solved by defunding the police and using that money to actually provide services for the residents.

**Margaret Totty**

Los Angeles, CA

I have personal experience with CSP while working as a construction project manager at the Jordan Downs redevelopment in Watts. They did not speak well of the residents. I heard CSP make very disparaging remarks.

We worked hard to create jobs there. The Sergeant told me our jobs program was a lost cause.

Other CSP officers told me about how parents in Jordan Downs wouldn't let their kids go on trips with them to museums and marine activities. I asked how they could expect that, considering they incarcerated

everyone's brothers/uncles/fathers and sons? They acted like those parents were bad but they were just fearful and protecting their families.

Put that \$\$ towards Project Fatherhood and activities in the Jordan Downs gym again. Without LAPD!!

You must vote no on Item VI.A.1.

### **Robin Chang**

My name is Robin Chang and I live in Van Nuys, CA. I am writing to you in my individual capacity as a resident of this city.

I am requesting for you to reject the proposal in Item VI.A.1 to increase LAPD's allocation by \$875,000. Furthermore, I am requesting that you deviate from how you've done things in the past by terminating the Community Safety Partnership program (CSP) altogether. As I'm sure you are aware, residents of Los Angeles have been demanding for weeks now to defund the police. At this point in time, to not only continue CSP in partnership with LAPD but also increase LAPD's funding would be a gross and unethical misrepresentation of what the people want.

This is what the people want:

We don't want or need more police involvement in HACLA. Your (HACLA's) core mission is to prevent homelessness and provide housing to our most vulnerable neighbors. How is it possible, then, for you to partner with LAPD? Their goal is to police; your goal is to provide relief and shelter. These two goals are inherently incompatible and contradictory to one another. If you are truly invested in your core mission, then reject this proposal. Terminate your partnership with LAPD by terminating CSP. Enact programs and changes that the people truly want. We will work with you to make it happen, but first you must relinquish this method of addressing homelessness in our city. Think first of our unhoused neighbors and their needs: real care, NOT police.

For all the police who are involved in CSP, there are also police performing sweeps in the streets; I've seen police officers habitually and routinely terrorizing my unhoused neighbors next to the Burbank exit of the 405 South and in my neighborhood. Where are these unhoused residents supposed to go? How did policing help them? I struggle to understand how police getting increased access to public housing communities and unhoused peoples will be beneficial to anyone. It is in the name: POLICE. Merriam Webster defines the verb "police" as "to control, regulate, or keep in order by use of police." I think it is sufficiently clear that there is no place for care in "control" or "regulation" or "keeping order", especially not in the hands of an organization that has killed over 600 Los Angeles residents since 2012.

Please reconsider the decision that you carried in your hearts coming into this meeting. You are always in power to break from precedent in order to make the ethical and humane decision; you are in power of your "now." Right now, it is in your hands to REJECT the proposal. Terminate CSP and all partnership with LAPD.

### **Kerry Truong**

My name is Kerry and I am a resident of Los Angeles. I am writing in an individual capacity to urge you to REJECT Agenda Item VI.A.1 which seeks to add an additional \$875,000 to funding for the Community Safety Partnership Program with LAPD.

Although I have not personally experienced being unhoused, I have been too close to it for comfort. I am also acutely aware of the instability that others like me--those of us who are LGBTQ and of color--face when it comes to our housing situations. I am frankly baffled as to how police presence will serve or protect my unhoused neighbors. They require gentleness and care, not scrutiny and control.

Will members of LAPD be providing mental health services for folks who are traumatized by their living circumstances and the reasons why they became unhoused? Will they be teaching English and computer lessons so that people can build the skills they need to embark on a path towards financial stability?

How, exactly, does a force which has murdered over 600 people since 2012 provide relief and shelter for the most vulnerable in our city?

Once more, I urge the Board of Commissioners to REJECT the motion to increase funding for the Community Safety Partnership Program. Not only that, I urge you to END the program and your partnership with LAPD. Like HACLA, I too want to provide relief for unhoused Angelenos. It is from that place of commonality that I ask you to re-think HOW you provide that relief: it is time for care, not cops.

**Shawn Grover**

Hi, I do not live in public or subsidized housing but want to comment on item VI.A.1. I call on the HACLA Board to reject the proposal to increase the contract with LAPD by \$875,000, and to instead join the #DefundLAPD movement and end funding for the CSP program from HACLA resident services funding entirely. Public budgets should go towards resident services that could be supporting public housing residents - such as initiatives for public and mental health, for senior citizens, and youth and immigrant residents - not police.

**Erika Lizardi**

Los Angeles, CA

Please stop funding the police and pay attention to all the protests happening across LA County. We want to defund the police.

**Faramarz Nabavi**

Encino, CA

Vote no on Item VI.A1. As an alternative to spending money on police, please use the nearly \$9 million in resident services funds for more social workers, nonviolent conflict resolution/de-escalation training, nonviolent communication training, and mental health support.

**Jose Estrada**

Mar Vista Gardens

My name is Jose Estrada. I am a Community Organizer for POWER, in Mar Vista Gardens and San Fernando Gardens. I want to express my disagreement with HACLA funds that come from the payment of rents that so many residents work so hard to pay are being used for the police. This is unfair especially after the bad image that the police are showing. HACLA funds should be used for other programs that benefit the community instead of giving more money to the police. I hope you are paying attention to our comments and concerns. I hope this does not become our reality. This is illegal. It should be illegal to give money to an organization that already has millions and their programs are ineffective and they don't want to change the way the program. We are against you giving these funds to the police.

**Andrea Lopez**

Mar Vista Gardens

I am a resident of Mar Vista Gardens. Mar Vista Gardens is a good area. But ever since May or June, all of these young people have been popping fireworks. These are not the legal fireworks, these are the illegal fireworks that sound like the entire city is blowing up. In addition, there are abandoned cars that people are selling drugs out of. The youngsters do donuts in the middle of the streets late at night. I am afraid they will crash into my apartment. There has been a recent spike in robberies. I have been living here for 21 years and the police is nowhere to be found. What is their place in our community? We have cameras but the police still don't do anything. They are not taking care of our community. So why would you give them more money when they are already not doing a good job.

**Anonymous Caller**

San Fernando Gardens

I am against the police. Don't give them additional funds. They don't provide good services and their programs are inadequate.

**Daisy Vega**

My name is Daisy Vega (RAC President, HARAC Representative, Leader and Organizer of Organization Power).

No more budgeting for the police. Our needs are not met, there are no programs in all projects, and community police officers refuse to go to our communities to have contact with our people. The city gives a lot of the budget and HACLA invests a lot of money in failed programs. The current budget should be maintained and we need to bear witness to a change in our communities before we give them more money.

**Lilia Gomez**

San Fernando Gardens

I am against HACLA giving more money to the police. Why would you give them more money so they can keep killing more people?

**Maria Chavarria**

Mar Vista Gardens RAC

I am against you giving money to the police. They are not doing a good job the way they should be doing.

## **Pico Gardens RAC**

Regarding the amendment to the memorandum in accordance with the Los Angeles Police Department, we oppose the budget that will be approved. It is an amount that could benefit the community. \$ 875,000 is a lot of money for the service they provide, however the basic needs of our residents is the most important thing right now.

### **General Public Comment**

#### **Maria Jaime**

My name is Maria Jaime. I don't have a place to live. I was living in a church but they told me I can't live there anymore. My son has Down syndrome. I was living in the church because I can't pay my rent. I only get Social Security. I heard about them helping an African-American lady return to her apartment after leaving. I just left my apartment because I could not pay my rent. My rent was doubled. I want to return to my home. I cannot live on the street. I am 74 years old and my son is 34 years old. I left my apartment at Mar Vista Gardens on 2018. I went to Napa Valley to live with my son but I could not handle the weather. It was too cold. It gave me pneumonia. So I came back to Los Angeles. My daughter lives in Fresno. I lived in Mar Vista Gardens for 8 years in apartment 477. Please have someone help me move back to Mar Vista Gardens.

#### **Andrea Lopez**

Mar Vista Gardens

I am calling in support of Maria Jaime. She needs your help. She is very depressed. She was evicted because of her son. She wants to return to Mar Vista. She is living on the streets. However you can help her would be great. She is in a very unfortunate situation. It's unfortunate how some parents lose their home behind their kids.

#### **Maria Veronica Lopez**

Mar Vista Gardens

I am calling in support of a person you left on the streets because she comes from a mixed status family. This is not fair. She did not want it that way. A lot of decisions are not our own. I give her my support. Don't put us out on the streets. We are not bad people. We are all humans.

#### **Jose Estrada**

Mar Vista Gardens

Please accept Mrs. Maria Jaime's request to return to her apartment where she lived. She lives on the street with her son with Down syndrome. It is a highly humanitarian act, just as they did with an African American lady.

#### **Francisco Rodriguez**

This email is regarding Maria Jamie (70 years old), an ex-tenant of Mar Vista Gardens. Maria and her son (33 years old) with Down syndrome have been homeless for over 2 years now. They once lived in Mar Vista Gardens until her ex-husband forced her to move out. He was physically and emotionally abusive during their marriage. He forcibly wanted to leave the community, but Maria didn't. Unfortunately, she and her son had to leave Mar Vista Garden and since then haven't found a home. Maria is asking for help finding another home within Mar Vista Gardens. There have been cases where old tenants have been granted access back into the community. Maria was a good tenant who paid her rent and had no issues with housing authority. She and her son need a place to live where her son can receive the services needed for his down syndrome. Currently, he isn't receiving any help. I know the board has approved similar circumstances for others in the community. Maria wants to make sure her son is safe, has the services he needs to become an independent adult. Please I ask of you to reflect and see if there is a possibility of Maria and her son to return to the community.

### **Daisy Vega**

My name is Daisy Vega (RAC President, HARAC Representative, Leader and Organizer of Organization Power).

My public comment is regarding Ms. Maria Gallegos, resident of Mar Vista Garden. I personally have been reviewing her account since 2013 to find out how and where the problem comes from. The problem is (1) gas leak and repetitive gas charges, (2) rents not applied in the corresponding months: July 2019, January, April, May of the year 2020 (3) Charging \$20 late rent that is not justified, the rents are on time and the \$20 is not discounted; also charging since the month of March, April, May 2020 when we are in the pandemic (4) Collection of \$ 3,383.89 that was on May 20, 2015 and this collection appeared until 11/26/2019 and appeared by an audit Mrs.

The administrators who have been to Mar Vista are not entirely to blame for mismanagement, I am not referring to Miss Wendy and Carlos, but to the previous ones. This is unfair there are many errors in this account. Also where the checks arrive there are many complaints that the rent is not applied in time and the \$20 is charged without fault of the resident. The lady has the card but it did not work. She is an elderly, disabled person, very ill and they are pressing for an eviction. I hope gentlemen/gentlewoman of the board of directors and the President/CEO will do internal audits at the sites because this case is very common. The lady does not refuse to pay but wants what is fair and a payment plan that she can pay. This HACLA tactic has been carried on for a long time by merging electricity payment and rent payment. This has to be more transparent and not leave it too long, causing residents to be unable to pay and get evicted. In the lease it says that if you do not pay the electricity you will be evicted and this is affecting our Latin and African American people when they are transferred to other housing developments and apartment transfers.

No to the mass eviction of mixed families in this time of the pandemic. This order begins this month of June 17, 2020.

Let's help Mrs. Maria Jaime and her son who has Down syndrome and is intellectually disabled with an apartment. She was a resident in Mar Vista and has a good record, the price of the rent payment led her to leave and she did not know that she could ask for help or a more comfortable apartment for her. This is a humanitarian case and this has already been done with an African American woman who was evicted because of her daughter and returned to her apartment. She is living on the street.

**Maria Gallegos**

Mar Vista Gardens, Unit 525

I am still having a problem with my housing. I gave a comment last month about my \$3,000 electricity bill. Wendy Ortiz, the manager, has not helped me. I have \$800 in late payments and I still have a \$3,000 electricity bill. I need to see my bill from Water & Power to pay them. Wendy is not helping me.

**Maria Chavarria**

Mar Vista Gardens

I am calling regarding Maria Jaime. Please help her. It's unfair how she had to leave her apartment at Mar Vista. She doesn't have a place to live. She is living on the streets. She has a son with Down syndrome. We are waiting for you to do the right thing and allow her to come back.