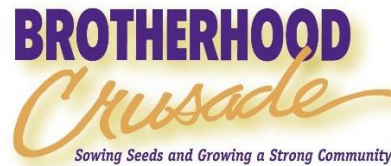


Communication from Public

Name: Making Los Angeles Whole Coalition
Date Submitted: 05/06/2021 02:09 PM
Council File No: 21-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Letter to Budget and Finance Committee from Making Los Angeles Whole Coalition



DATE: May 6, 2021

TO: Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Honorable Kevin de Leon
Honorable Monica Rodriguez
Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.

SUBJECT: Mayor's 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

We appreciate the work and dedication of the Budget and Finance Committee. It is not easy to dissect the details of the programs, policies and spending contained in the Mayor's extraordinary community-focused budget proposal this year.

The Budget and Finance Committee is poised to manage the extraordinary circumstances and responsibility associated with this year's budget. More than ever, Angelenos depend on the economic and social justice that is possible with the substantial resources that have been proposed.

We are obligated to each other to steer away from traditional methods for approving and allocating resources; we must act extraordinarily to ensure we protect our communities. To ambiguously direct funding to the Unappropriated Balance without a framework to ensure justice, the committee may be passing on an opportunity to demonstrate how far the City has come to serve its constituents. As a City, we can continue to lead by acting boldly and providing assurance that the issues we have struggled against will not be sidelined any longer.

We ask that you continue to show good faith to implement the programs outlined in the Mayor's Proposed Budget by taking the following actions:

- Create a designated fund "Community Investments for Women and Families Trust Fund" where funding for specific community investments can be appropriated.

- Structure the fund so year-end balances are not subject to annual reversion but remain dedicated to community investment.
- State your intent to schedule appropriate Council policy hearings during June to clarify the policy goals and steps for implementing these programs.
- State your intent to have enough specificity for each program in place to allow for staffing as early as July 1, 2021.

It is not enough to support the principles of community reinvestment; the Committee must take meaningful action to demonstrate the Mayor and Council's commitment to earmark and use these funds in a manner that truly benefits the under-served within Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Alberto Retana, President & CEO, Community Coalition

April Verrett, President, SEIU 2015

Charisse Bremond Weaver, President & CEO, Brotherhood Crusade

Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle