

**Los Angeles City Charter Section 909.**  
**Annual City Budget Priorities:**

*"Each Neighborhood Council may present to the Mayor and Council an annual list of priorities for the City budget. The Mayor shall inform certified Neighborhood Councils of the deadline for submission so that the input may be considered in a timely fashion."*

## **Budget Advocates 2021-2022 Educational Presentations Recap**

We have been busy this year engaging and educating Neighborhood Council board members, stakeholders, and members of the public on topics related to the City's budget.

Like the rest of the City, we pivoted due to the pandemic and in late summer 2021 we held our first ever online Budget Day. This long-standing Neighborhood Council event transitioned well from City Hall to Zoom. We offer special thanks to Council President Martinez, Councilmember Blumenfield, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the CAO's office, and the Mayor's Budget team for helping make it such a great event.

We are also focused on holding town halls and forums, having already hosted three this calendar year. Notably, we held the only Controller Candidate forum that had all 7 candidates present.

These online events have been well-attended and, cumulatively, members and stakeholders from 94 Neighborhood Councils, City staff, elected officials, and members of the press participated. It is amazing how many people opt to spend their off times with us to learn about budget topics. Not having straightforward access to our funds has severely hindered our digital outreach capabilities, so we count these high participation numbers as a great success.

Last, but not least, the Budget Advocates also delivered our white paper and departmental reports which you should have received. The Budget Advocates, Budget Representatives, and many stakeholders spent 7 months meeting with department heads, assessing their needs, coming up with recommendations, and writing our reports.

Our next event is Budget Day – mark your calendars for June 18<sup>th</sup>. Budget Day will be virtual once again this year. We are looking forward to a morning of lively and interesting discussions about the City's budget, followed by our regional breakout sessions where neighborhood leaders talk about how the City's budget impacts their local communities.

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES  
THEMES OF THE 2022 WHITE PAPER**

**Where to Find Recommendations by theme:**

**REVENUE & EFFICIENCIES**

Revenue: City Planning, Cultural Affairs, Cannabis Regulation, Economic & Workforce Development, Ethics, Fire, Recreation & Parks, Sanitation

Efficiencies to save funds in the long term: Animal Services, CAO Homeless Initiative, Emergency Management, General Services, Personnel, Police

Efficiencies via technology/automation – Building & Safety, City Controller, Contract Administration, Information Technology, Pensions, Personnel

**PERSONNEL/STAFFING**

Hiring: Animal Services, CAO, Contract Administration, Cannabis Regulation, Neighborhood Empowerment, Economic & Workforce Development, Emergency Management, Ethics, Fire, General Services, Housing, Information Technology, Public Library, Personnel, Police, Recreation & Parks

Retention/Benefits & Salary: CAO, City Controller, Cannabis Regulation, Fire, Police

Telecommuting: Building & Safety, CAO, City Controller

**ADDITIONAL THEMES, alphabetically**

Coordination between Departments & with other governmental entities: Animal Services, CAO Homeless Initiative & Affordable Housing, City Planning, Finance, Fire, Housing, Information Technology, Recreation & Parks

Emergencies: Emergency Management, General Services, City Council

Enforcement: Housing, Sanitation

Financial Procedures: Neighborhood Empowerment, Finance, Fire, Public Library

Homelessness/Housing: CAO Homeless Initiative & Affordable Housing, Fire, Housing, Public Library, Sanitation

Infrastructure: Emergency Management, General Services, Information Technology, Recreation & Parks, Public Library, Sanitation

Investments: Pensions

Neighborhood Councils: Neighborhood Empowerment, City Clerk, Fire, City Council

Reserve Fund: CAO, City Council

Training: Neighborhood Empowerment, Economic & Workforce Development, Fire, Police

Transparency: Building & Safety, City Controller, City Planning, Street Lighting, Youth Development, City Council

Vehicles: Police, Sanitation

Youth: Economic & Workforce Development, Recreation & Parks, Youth Development

## **NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES RECOMMENDATIONS ON REVENUE & EFFICIENCIES**

### **REVENUE**

#### City Planning

- Update the fee schedule to remove regressive fees
- Remove fee tiers based on threshold, and replace with fees based on proportion of a variable
- Fund a grant writing team, especially for the REAP program

#### Cultural Affairs

- Revisit how Cultural Affairs is funded to provide for a more consistent revenue stream and/or increase the department's reserve fund

#### Cannabis Regulation

- Create an enforcement fund up to 5 million dollars to be managed by DCR and for the purposes of funding other departments as needed to fulfill DCR's mission

#### Economic & Workforce Development

- Expedite hiring of key personnel to provide support for the multiple programs funded with state and federal dollars [assures program compliance in order to maintain EWDD's programs; safeguard against loss of reimbursement dollars; potential savings of overtime expense]

#### Ethics

- Raise the fines for ethics violations

#### Fire

- Pursue funding for expanded use of Advance Fire Response units in high call-volume areas such as Skid Row (scalable cost, potentially significant savings)

#### Recreation & Parks

- Apply for State of California Grants for fire prevention and maintaining open space

#### Sanitation

- Create an enforcement mechanism to compel all buildings are brought up to Code including a sliding scale of fines that will escalate for continued non-compliance

## **EFFICIENCIES TO SAVE FUNDS IN THE LONG TERM**

### **Animal Services**

- Fund the Animal Sterilization Fund in the amount of \$2.9 million, to save the City tens of millions of dollars in the future.
- Fund the Community Cat Program in the amount of \$1.4 million, to partially make up for no funding for 10 years, and to save the City millions of dollars in the future.

### **CAO Homeless Initiative**

- Require LAHSA to improve data collection as to exits from housing projects serving the homeless [Appropriate funds to maximize successful exists]
- Identify and limit duplications of service as the city replaces some of LAHSA's homeless engagement services. [Conserve funds so as many individuals as possible are served]

### **Emergency Management – Recommendations to the City**

- Learn how to work efficiently and productively with the Department to address emergencies such as COVID
- Establish an emergency fund that can be tapped immediately so as not to delay crisis response [time is money and, in this case, can be lives]

### **General Services**

- Expedite contracting procedures including single source contracting [provide efficiencies]

### **Personnel**

- Moving forward during harsh economic times, insist the Mayor and Council DO NOT slide rule cut the department, causing years of rebuilding

### **Police**

- Require the Personnel Department to upgrade their processing so that each class of trainees for sworn officers has a minimum of fifty qualified trainees enrolled in the class

## **EFFICIENCIES VIA TECHNOLOGY/AUTOMATION**

### **Building & Safety**

- Continue to find efficiencies that can come from automation and virtualization, such as the virtual inspection program [increase productivity]

### City Controller

- Complete the transition to Workday, the new payroll system for the City
- Explore ways to digitize more City services and partner with ITA to make it happen

### Contract Administration

- Approve budget provisions to allow Contract Administration to continue to move towards a complete electronic working environment.

### Information Technology

- Stop other departments initiating technological systems and change without primary ITA involvement [savings from avoiding duplication/cost of trouble-shooting conflicts]
- Fully fund and let the ITA take point on developing a citywide procurement system
- Fund upgrade of 311 system [essential for stakeholders to communicate to City]

### Pensions

- Improve IT capabilities

### Personnel

- Approve funding for IT needs in order to streamline record keeping for efficiency and cost savings

## **Concerns Expressed by Budget Day 2021 Attendees**

After the Budget Day plenary session, attendees are invited to attend a discussion of the City services they see lacking in their neighborhoods. The people who participate in these discussions are primarily Neighborhood Council board members who are bringing with them the insights they gained from their positions as board members.

The attendees are divided into 7 rooms (in 2021 the rooms were virtual Zoom rooms) depending on the region of the City in which their Neighborhood Councils reside. The full descriptions of the regions along with the Neighborhood Councils in each one can be found at <https://empowerla.org/councils-by-service-region/>.

The Budget Advocates use the concerns brought to these sessions to help formulate the questions we ask during the Department meetings that are the source of our Departmental reports.

The main areas of concern in 2021 were, in no particular order, housing, homelessness, public safety, public health, infrastructure, and budgeting.

The remainder of this report provides some of the comments from the attendees. The language and grammar reflect what was said and who took the notes. The Budget Advocates suggest the City Council, as it is working on the budget, take into account the concerns of its constituents.



## HOUSING

### Southeast and Southwest Valley

- The city is spending money on things that could be done by the private sector, such as housing units on Chandler and Oxnard
- Wants to know if the budget for Project Room Key includes Project Home Key, which includes people outside of the homeless segment.
- Affordable housing is a very pertinent issue for all neighborhoods. The housing market is out of whack. He talked about the city's plan to build affordable housing, but wonders if there is infrastructure to support this? He added, "We are all aware of the old 100-year-old plumbing, traffic, and lack of maintenance for our roads." He thinks infrastructure should be a part of the plan for more affordable housing.
- Is very concerned that the City Planning Department has no vision for 2100 L.A. He feels they should be doing a better job of planning for the future. He said, "Nobody is asking for 34-story, high-rise buildings all over the place. We should think of the future."
- Said the problem is that the City doesn't allow for developers to build. In Newhall, approvals are much easier. In L.A., there are too many roadblocks.
- The problem with planning and housing is that no one is taking into account what will happen after new housing is built. It is always more expensive to put more infrastructure in afterward
- city should use private contractors for housing units such as tiny houses rather than use city funds. That should be tiny houses
- City makes it very hard to build anything.

### Central

- Affordable housing is a priority right now
- How much money we are going to spend paying for people's rent.
- Vacancy ticket to landlords who are not able to fill their apartments, office spaces because of high rent. No activity is bad for the city
- Does the city have a watch dog for people who threaten tenants?
- 2% of the budget only on housing is too low.
- We absolutely need a vacancy tax!
- My neighborhood is full of empty houses. It's outrageous

### East and Northeast L.A.

- Switch from gas to electricity in buildings
- Larger developments by the LA River are bringing pollution
- Vouchers take too long, 6 to 18 months for multi-family housing
- Should be a provision for emergencies
- Takes a year of being on a list for housing to get housed

- Rampart Village and other neighborhoods are very rent burdened, and people have to double up
- The LA Housing Element identifies the need for 260,000 additional affordable units
- Suggestion – Use redundant designs which could streamline construction
- Find ways to shorten the housing timeline because time equals money. Shorten the timeline to say housing dollars. Identify fewer financing sources to shorten the time line'
- Density Bonus units should be available for affordable units only, not for market rate housing.
- More incentives are needed to build housing
- Not enough affordable housing leading to homelessness
- Density bonus projects are supposed to provide affordable housing
- LA housing supply is insufficient
- The housing stock shortage can't be resolved profitably.
- The LA River should be a natural habitat, not where large developmenst should be built.
- Developers Make promises such as to limit the pollution by diesel trucks, then sell the property to another developer; developers appear to be manipulating NC people
- Density bonus developers who want to keep rents low, nonetheless attract tenants with 2 or 3 cars and park on the street, creating a quality of life concern
- Concern that a proposal to raise filing fees for appeals may again be proposed; this would increase income inequities in the City.
- Spend less money on developer subsidies

#### South L.A.

- Money for HCIDLA to increase number of workers resources to combat rise in illegal evictions and improper cash-for-keys agreements.

#### West L.A.

- Gentrification and loss of long-term assets in our community.
- concerned about the zoning policies the City is proposing
- I'm big on promoting affordable housing.
- if you report a grievance of something like a developer not keeping to their guidelines, they can't police this
- who are the affordable housing units actually going to? No one is policing that, either
- I'd be looking at the budget of LAHSA and of non-profit groups getting millions of dollars, with no results to be shown. I can't find anything saying how effective they're being. I just see numbers that don't mean anything.
- Follow the contractors and developers. Make them pay their fees. Stop giving them variances, allowing them to not pay their fees.
- Make affordable housing affordable.

- I can tell you a number of developers and contractors get away without paying their fees. I've seen a contractor have a \$100,000 fine reduced to \$20,000. This affects the area.
- When developers come before us as a Land Use Committee, they frequently claim variances based on that they're doing things that the public sees as socially rewarding and that they want us to do. Like providing low-income housing. The City has a homeless problem. I see nothing wrong with asking a developer to accept a little less profit and put in one or two more units of affordable housing. As a Neighborhood Council, I think we could get together with other Neighborhood Councils and petition our City Council to provide more affordable housing in these developments. But I don't hear of many developers who would proceed with a project if it were without some profit
- One of the side effects is that we're not even keeping a list of those units. There's no overall plan with City of L.A. to keep track of these. What are we getting in return? We have to face the possibility that they might be affordable for only a year or two. I don't know.
- The WRAC (Westside Regional Alliance of Councils) has been asking for the statistics of the low-income units all these developers have been building over these past 10 years. I have never gotten this information.

## HOMELESSNESS

### Northeast and Northwest Valley

- Mostly homelessness is discussed. He wants to hear about more creative ways of how to deal with the homeless as it will create a structural deficit.
- The property of SoCal Gas (Aliso Canyon Storage Facility) is unoccupied. Is any thought given to using that land for housing the homeless?
- He is concerned about the amount spent on the homeless

### Southeast and Southwest Valley

- On the homeless issue, many in Studio City are violent. This is a mental health issue
- Regarding the comments on homeless with mental issues, she noted that County USC is available as a facility, according to the Sheriff's Department. In Venice, they were able to clean up the area by following the ordinances
- As far as the County health services, he said the City still seems to be spending a great deal of money on the homeless issue. There is no "Homeless Czar" coordinating this effort for the City.
- Is concerned with the public health issue and the unsightliness of the homeless encampments. She is wondering if there could be an ordinance to limit the amount of trash or have trash collections in these encampments. There should be fencing or a way to keep the homeless in their own area to improve safety for others. She would like to see an effort to solving this piece of the puzzle while a solution is being worked on for long-term housing.
- People need to know what different agencies are charged with, for example County is health. Still spending a lot of \$ on homelessness, response is not
- Various depts. dealing with pieces of homelessness situation, is there a better way to organize city services?
- Homelessness, public health, unsightly encampments, can there be an ordinance to limit amount of stuff in the encampments, builds up unsafe situation.
- Homelessness top issue
- Police gets 30% of the money and homelessness gets 2%. We need to spend better on homeless and housing

### East and Northeast L.A.

- Not enough affordable housing leading to homelessness
- Agencies appear to have overlapping services
- Need for mobile showers
- The answer is 100% supportive housing with services.
- Need to understand that housing for the unhoused population will never be resolved with market-based solutions

South L.A.

- CD9 continues to experience major homelessness of communities of color.

West L.A.

- Issues of homelessness and un-housed individuals are big in our community.
- My concerns are homelessness
- My home state offered homelessness assistance for those wanting to move back to their home state.

Harbor

- We have similar concerns like homelessness. Many people are camping on the street.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### Northeast and Northwest Valley

- Is there any discussion about changing or modifying the budget in regards to the police department?
- He commented on the need for emergency management in case of a natural disaster, etc.
- An emergency alert plan for evacuation is needed.
- He discussed having social workers come to 911 calls to resolve problems.
- There is no program in place for people to evacuate animals in times of crisis. He would like to see trained members of the community to help out in times of crises like an informal network or provided with short wave radios and a coordinated effort.
- LAPD as stated in the plenary session we've lost 600 officers due to early retirements, reduction in force, defunding the police and down to 9500 officers. An unresolved expense as to how social workers are going to take on those new duties. His concern is that the social workers are going to demand police protection when they are available 24 hours a day.
- People are parking in the fire lanes so fire trucks cannot go through. Many signs are outdated. Street signs are messed up all over the city and they are not enforced.

### Southwest and Southeast Valley

- Said there has been an uptick in crime and the criminals know how certain thefts are just misdemeanors. There is so little police presence. She would like to see a budget for more police officers and a better response rate.
- She noted that when they did Coffee with the Cops, they heard that LAPD is not getting support from the City and from legislators. They feel their hands are tied. Crime is up; it is based on a crime of opportunity environment. The criminals know there is no one going to come arrest them; they know that they will get away with property theft.
- top issue, uptick in crime. There is so little police presence response time is too slow, need budgeting for more patrol

### Central

- The elephant in the room is LAPD takes a chunk of the budget. They also don't also take COVID seriously.
- Funding of the police is tricky
- I support more money going to the police department.
- I am concerned that when we negotiate with the police and union, we need them to be transparent
- Institute hiring freezes especially for the police if we can't get to retire.

- One of my unanswered questions in the plenary was how we justify spending 30% on the LAPD when they aren't taking our biggest crisis COVID seriously.
- Also mentioned in the last session was the fact that we moved away from LAPD handling traffic about 10 years ago, yet there was NO REDUCTION in the LAPD budget. Not at all.
- In 2013, there were 12,763 LAPD employees with a budget of \$2.25B. In 2020, there were 13,033 LAPD employees with a budget of \$3.02B.

#### East and Northeast L.A.

- Bike cops are essential; they can go where helicopters cannot go.
- Restore funding for bike patrols along the LA River; SLO said there's no money because of the defund the police movement.
- Need for transparency on the police budget

#### South L.A.

- money for victims of the 27th street firework incident in South Central LA
- Increase Taxes NO, Cutback Services NO, Reallocation of funds from Law Enforcement YES
- Our NC is really working on getting ingrained in the local LAPD departments and working on getting them to understand these demands at the hyperlocal level. It's so much work to work on all these fronts but I guess that's how it's gotta be done
- I'm looking at police overtime (why it's so much) and overtime for the Fire Department.

#### West L.A.

- We tried to contact the Community Relations Office of the LAPD Pacific Division and it took four days to get a response. When we finally spoke to someone, they said they were short-staffed and didn't have enough people to answer the phones. They said they would be able to handle things better if they were able to have 600 officers on staff to handle those types of duties. And then that would give you 100 more trained officers on the street. Instead of that, they had 22 trained officers handling civilian jobs that civilians could be doing. I was shocked at this.
- The answer is that they're on standby, but they still get full pay. But they still get \$100,000 per year for working as a clerical.
- With LAPD, the problem is that the City grossly underutilizes technology.
- Over 20% of our budget is going to LAPD and LAFD. Both are overpaid. And the grunt work for LAPD was done by prison labor, at 10 cents an hour.
- I would cut the LAPD and LAFD. I know they're overstaffed. And they're underutilizing technology, which creates more inefficiencies and costs
- I think it's unconscionable that fire chiefs are getting paid \$300,000 a year in overtime. I think that's ridiculous. Someone should be reducing the amount of overtime these guys spend, unless it's absolutely necessary.

## Harbor

- When you call 877-ASK-LAPD most of the time you can't get through. They need to answer the damn phone. He also noted that LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) response time is measured by the calendar, not the stopwatch. However, response time is much faster in Lakewood and Beverly Hills, cities where he once lived. There is a built-in structural issue based on underfunding because of Proposition 13. Politicians don't want to reverse that spending cut. When you ask about eliminating Proposition 13, they act as if you were discussing devil worship.
- We need more civil workers in the Police Department
- hire people without cutting the LAPD budget. That would make sense.
- We need more civil workers in the Police Department
- We want a bigger police presence. The LAPD says that due to budget funding already allocated, they don't have enough staffing to provide a bigger police presence on the street. There has been rising crime over the past year.
- LAPD budget, is about \$3 billion, about half of main budget. It was cut by \$20 million. That's nothing. The idea about police defunding is a big lie. We have a group of public safety chairs that meets occasionally, which met this week, and that came up. We are somehow supposed to be cheerleaders for the police to help them get their money back. I'm just a farm boy but I can smell bullshit.
- At the beginning of Mayor Garcetti's first term, the famous seismologist Lucy Jones went to see him. That conversation led to a one-year hiatus where she worked with City to examine our emergency preparedness regarding a major earthquake. We don't have much besides the LAPD and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and Emergency Management Department. There are about four million people in Los Angeles knew next to nothing.
- One thing they did accomplish was to require landlords to upgrade living quarters above parking lots. Historically, those are the buildings that collapse and people die. The City passed an ordinance to fix those. My apartment building was one of the earlier ones. They added a support frame. It cost the landlady about \$70,000. The City transferred the cost of earthquake upgrades to landlords. The City has done very little. That's where we are now.



## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Northeast and Northwest Valley**

- mental health has limited access. The Hope Team in the San Fernando Valley was removed.
- The city received a 10.5 billion dollar budget for the city of Los Angeles. We have an unsustainable potential three quarters of a billion dollar increase to a historic high 11.23 billion dollar budget, which is going to be unsustainable because we are experiencing a surge of Covid related hospitalizations. There has been no consideration as to what we experienced last year. Things slowed down in the Summer and increased in the Fall and Winter so there is a potential unknown. It is important to shore up emergency funding but instead emergency funds have been reduced

### **Southwest and Southeast Valley**

- Disparity in the health care system especially with covid. We are at risk of tapping into healthcare funds to help with other issues.
- On the homeless issue, many in Studio City are violent. This is a mental health issue
- Regarding the comments on homeless with mental issues, she noted that County USC is available as a facility, according to the Sheriff's Department. In Venice, they were able to clean up the area by following the ordinances
- As far as the County health services, he said the City still seems to be spending a great deal of money on the homeless issue. There is no "Homeless Czar" coordinating this effort for the City.
- Is there a plan to address these mental health issues, not only for the homeless, but for isolated homeowners who have been restricted in their movement for over a year due to Covid-19?

### **Central**

- Disparity in the health care system especially with covid. We are at risk of tapping into healthcare funds to help with other issues.

### **East and Northeast L.A.**

- Air pollution is terrible, noise pollution too in Boyle Heights where there are 5 adjacent freeways
- Address freeway pollution in freeway-adjacent parks
- Helicopters flying over that are fossil fuel intensive; suggests substituting drones

## South L.A.

- the zoning is not only polluting the streets in terms of trash, its polluting our air. We have high levels of lung cancer, asthma and other and other particulate matter in the air.
- We need to look at increasing spending to look at the environmental impacts of some of the zoning implications in our area specifically as it relates to clean air, toxins and any type of public health issues that may arise from zoning and lack street cleaning.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### Northeast and Northwest Valley

- street services, new construction, cars parking, is there budget cuts on painting things or safety issues, parking and health and safety of the city?
- would like to see more upgrades and maintenance at city parks.
- Recs and Parks generate own revenue and fund their own payroll based on the Incomes they receive from the Greek Theatre or park fees, etc. We should be advocating for better maintenance in the parks. There is so much brush and high risk for brush fires. There is a million dollars in state money addressing wild fires, which a lot of it is maintenance. It's important that the city go after that money.
- We need to advocate for more money to the Sanitation Department so they can keep up with the homeless degeneration of trash with bins, and more Hope Teams and outreach people.
- regarding the untenable parking disaster with no parking in apartment parking facilities. Permit Parking has been denied on Aqueduct Street. As a result there is no parking available for residents to park in front of their single family residences. Other streets have signs waiting to be posted. It is pushing the problem West into other communities- so not solving the problem. Add ADUs that don't require any parking requirements, developers who are having to reduce parking for new construction, etc. Solutions are needed instead of pushing the problem onto innocent people who now are receiving the brunt of being pushed Westward. The rumblings are clearly starting to be heard.
- Building and Safety –there is no enforcement or follow through. There are 20 plus years of signs left up with the business name. It makes the community not desirable and brings the community down, creates more crime, homeless. Storage of vehicles, storage of items out is illegal. We are not the only community with this problem. It could be very helpful to increase the vibrancy, making the businesses that we have, who have invested here, want to do more.
- In terms of the fires she would love to see some cleanup. There's still some dead trees and burnt trees around the area. Maybe some sort of cleanups around the neighborhoods that were affected by the fires could be arranged. Cleanup around the freeways is needed.
- They have had issues with Building and Safety who say it's not their problem. The departments don't work together.
- Urban forestry-there are big stumps everywhere, a lot of dead trees, and tree trimmings.

### Southwest and Southeast Valley

- Also, there is only a one-year street moratorium on building for each street, while other communities have a five-year moratorium.

- Is there the infrastructure to support affordable housing? infrastructure approval for affordable housing
- major issue is water affordability and availability.
- We should be paying attention to the trees along the streets. There needs to be better maintenance with removing dead trees. More attention to tree maintenance would keep trees healthier so they would help cool down our area on those 115-degree days.
- As far as the trees go, there is no enforcement of people cutting down trees because the investigators have to actually see the person cutting down the tree to issue a citation.
- more attention to neighborhood street trees - many are dead, need maintenance. Valley needs more street trees.
- is there a better way to organize city services?

#### East and Northeast L.A.

- Removing traffic lanes from 3 down to 1 on York and Colorado will increase pollution
- Removing bus lines could add to pollution
- Increase the use of gray water
- Enforcement for illegal dumping is lacking; as a misdemeanor enforcement must see the crime so only a sting operation would result in an arrest; should be charged as either a misdemeanor or a felony.
- Increase fines for illegal dumping to at least the County level (eliminate going across the boulevard to dump)
- How can murals be cleaned of graffiti and repaired once again?
- Why does the Bureau of Engineering charge 40% for a capital project? This seems a huge overhead expense.
- Universal broadband Important for education and also for the homeless
- Further develop the gray water system to irrigate open spaces
- For 2 years – talking about preferential parking permits; delays are astounding; DOT should have more than one person taking charge of this; no accountability from CD 13 or CD 1.
- Assess needs including for deferred maintenance and ADA upgrading for Elysian Valley Rec Center and reopen the Rec Center.
- Westlake North & Boyle Heights – illegal dumping is not being addressed
- Trash by the 101 freeway – who is responsible for cleaning up? e.g. under the freeway at Silver Lake Blvd
- Revisit installing cameras at known illegal dumping sites; address this as a health hazard.
- Removing bus lines is not helpful
- We've been waiting a year for the last mile program – what is happening?

#### South L.A.

- in South LA, we have an issue with city services with street services more specifically

- when we go to the commercial corridors, they are often blighted, filled with trash and more so now that the city street cleaning services have gone from once a week to once every 2 weeks. She would like to advocate for more city budget allocation for services to keep our streets clean, particularly the commercial corridors in South LA
- agreed and mentioned he lives in region 9 in South LA the services are very shitty. He mentioned that there is about the American Rescue plan generated about \$3B and feels that money should be going to city services to repair streets recs & parks, sanitation, and fixing infrastructure.
- it is not fair that the entire city basically contributes their tax money towards all these services but not every part of the city gets these services. He would like to see the City step up and be more proactive rather than reactive to seek out issues
- instead of waiting for people to call in. For example, there is graffiti everywhere in both commercial and residential areas. Also, there are a lot of the corporations that come into the communities don't care enough to tell their employees to call city services. They should be required to call city services
- She also suggested to make the My311 app more translatable. Many of her neighbors are Spanish and have difficulties calling in a request. She suggested to also have surveillance cameras to be able to identify who is bringing trash and illegally dumping in our area
- wants to see more street clean up. She said We deserve clean streets, whether it's street sweeping, or someone is hired individually to come and take care of it. We can put many people to work by hiring them to take care of a certain area.
- illegal dumping in district 9 and Central Alameda. He mentioned that a lot of the problem is from the industrial zoning and that the local companies are not enforcing or reporting these issues. He believes they are leaching off our public funds and don't have that social responsibility. A lot of the dumping happens right outside their buildings, but they don't have any type of responsibility since they don't live in the area
- CD9 continues to experience an influx of illegal dumping
- Funding for LA Dept of Public works if they don't provide services equally to the areas (Graffiti, street dumping removal)
- I would like more money to improve active transportation infrastructure. We have plans already for more bike lanes, improved safety corridors, safer sidewalks, etc but often do not implement.
- "Spend more on street repair. Hold the developers responsible for street repair when they build units. They leave the road rough that destroys our cars."

West L.A.

- My major concern right now is water. We need to look into de-salinization, regardless of the cost. This can be through the public enterprises that provide resources to the City of L.A.

- My concerns are the aging underground infrastructure, deteriorating roadways, lack of street cleaning and the spending priorities in L.A. that are not family-friendly.
- My concerns are regional infrastructure. How can we get the funding and at least do something about infrastructure? Also sidewalks, trees and streets.
- Trash
- I'm concerned about the state of the sidewalks. I only see them make temporary repairs to the sidewalks and they last about six weeks, depending on how heavy the traffic is. We haven't had paved streets for a while. Also trimming tree services: some people haven't had them trimmed for about 30 years. I think infrastructure is the big issue. How is it that we're paying for this and we don't get our infrastructure repaired?
- the City grossly underutilizes technology. This is why you can't figure out when your street sweeper will arrive. That's why this situation could happen at all. The City is working on an assets management system for sidewalks, trees and streets. This would allow you to look online and see when your issue will be attended too. But it's a little far out in development yet.
- There's no money left for infrastructure.
- trees and infrastructure are a priority. The buckling sidewalks are negligence for anyone in the area, especially for people with mobility issues, but also for people with baby strollers and everyday walkers. I think a time frame for getting these things done needs to be communicated. It could cause an accident to people and cause them permanent damage. I have a map of the areas that have caused problems and that need repair
- I think the City Council keeps adding more projects, rather than focusing on the basics, like unrepaired streets, potholes, damaged sidewalks. They're focusing more on infrastructure, rather than on the greater good.
- There are so many added programs, with no accountability or results. And they're only servicing a handful of Angelenos. We need to go back to basics and focus on streets, sidewalks, trees.
- I want to see what we can do on a macro level regarding trimming trees, repairing sidewalks, etc.
- Make infrastructure projects corridors where developers have to update it. And make them pay for it, not the City. So it's using their money to help the city.
- I'm concerned about the double taxation Metro is trying to impose on us by proposing a toll road on the 405, between the 10 Freeway and the 101 Freeway. What about our increased taxes? Aren't those paying for it?

## Harbor

- My biggest concern is illegal dumping. There is so much that there are groups that clean it up, and then ask Sanitation to come pick it up, including hazardous wastes.
- lack of tree canopy for the heat islands in our area. We need increased services, including street sweeping.

- She added that lights under underpasses go out
- spend more on roads and highways. The system is outdated. We need major highway repairs. City streets too.

## **BUDGETING**

### Northeast and Northwest Valley

- There could be a steep drop off the year of not getting federal funds.
- Federal Rescue Plan is not being wisely used to shore up our emergency. Next year there will be a huge deficit.
- Last year Federal money received took care of a lot of expenditures. In absence of Federal money, what are the plans for that amount?

### Southwest and Southeast Valley

- The city is spending money on things that could be done by the private sector

### Central

we need to make sure we have a balance budget first. Not just about where to spend the money, where is the money coming from.

- Please incorporate budget balance in the city.
- Form a pension commission to get a better understanding and come up with recommendations as how to stabilize pension plans.
- Cut some city employee pay. Some employees make 200k/year
- We need more participatory budgeting in the city
- We just got 1.2 billion from the feds. We also had an opportunity to get reimbursed from FEMA to buy hotels. Did NCs put pressure on CC to see that happen?

### East and Northeast L.A.

- In 2016 the Office of the Petroleum Administrator hired a manager; Budget & Finance Committee asked what do you need; does she have the funding she needs to move forward?
- 40 % of funding from the American Rescue Act is part of the CAO's budget. How are these funds spent – On Homelessness? On Administration?
- Why is the budget impact not filled in on Council File matters?
- Negotiate better on pensions
- Don't do a Separation Incentive Program (SIP) again – 30% of Emergency Management Dept retired, loss of institutional knowledge
- Opposed to slashing Departmental budgets.
- Increase spending on social services.
- Let the people decide what to do with the funds much more often
- The City organization is obscenely bloated.
- Tax/increase fees for the oil industry and other industries to raise funds
- Cut back on services first, before increasing taxes.



## South L.A.

- Money allocated to city council offices specially district 9
- when it comes to budget is the money being properly used? He went to a couple other NC and there was a representative from District 9 who mentioned that money was going to be used to help the victims of the 27th street event. He is not sure if this is a proper usage of these funds.
- Also wanted to mention that the city also likes to make the NC spend money on things that the city should be taking care of, and we need to hold them accountable to spend the city funds.
- Corporate Taxes with a little less tax incentives and tax breaks to those that have a lot of money, individuals, or corporations.
- make sure corporations that own property but are not paying enough property taxes. The tax break is great for the homeowners but for corporations should not be able to pay low or no taxes on property that have only increase in value. We should advocate for the city to take this loophole away for these corporations
- Unfortunately it's a balance between getting more money and scaring away corporations from deciding to stay in LA or start offices here, etc. So many states or cities have really low tax rates for corporations
- Corporate Taxes with a little less tax incentives and tax breaks to those that have a lot of money, individuals, or corporations.
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- We should not be using increasing taxes; the community is already overtaxed which is why there is so much homelessness. We should not be cutting back on resources because they are not using enough of them as it is. There are reserve funds that we can use. She stated that she was very upset that they used millions of dollars of the reserve fund for people to get a COVID vaccine she believes this was a waste of taxpayer funds

## West L.A.

- There need to be better checks and balances against the Public Sector Union.
- So many people are still unvaccinated. Let's put this on the record that the budgets should be allowed to be combined, in the case of another pandemic.

## OTHER

### Northeast and Northwest Valley

- He has been hearing concerns that animal services needs to get involved because veterinary services are not being made available to animal lovers on a 24 hour basis. That could be a strong budgetary issue as well.
- You could have a liaison back to the LAPD. You have to think about Cal Trans and the County because they are responsible for mental health. The freeways are a mess. We also need to think about having a committee that interacts with the other departments that are not the city, like the county and Cal Trans.

### Southwest and Southeast Valley

- Rec&Parks needs more funding and staffing
- NC and CERT Bureau Coordinator, said while CERT has been on hold during Covid-19, they have taken this time to build up the Neighborhood Team Program. This is a grassroots effort to get neighbors helping neighbors in each of the battalions across the city. Neighbors can get training and set up staging areas for CERT which will allow them to support neighbors in a two-mile radius.

### Central

- Metro needs to continue to be free

### East and Northeast L.A.

- The concern is that oil and gas companies have an inordinate amount of influence in the City.
- Revenue is up 70%; how can cannabis revenue be funneled back to the communities?
- Violence (shootings) at Cannabis stores
- Temporary cannabis licenses were issued with no input from neighbors.
- GM Barbara Romero was really responsive to the Valley.
- Business processes are decentralized and departments appear to not work together.
- Spend less on any industry which relies on fossil fuels

### South L.A.

- I'm concerned about protecting small businesses as we emerge from the pandemic. Permits and fees for business who want to re-open, etc.
- Increased spending in community programs. Arts programs, park, and communal facilities, and such also help with that prevention.
- In 2018 a council member resigned because of corruption and money laundering and stealing. And a current council member is under investigation for the same

thing. It's because of things like this that are causing a lack of services. The money is there but council members are using these funds to enrich themselves and the communities are lacking. He has asked them to come to the meetings, but they never show up

- we should hold the city accountable for the funds that should be used for our communities
- They are not necessarily looking at the last 2 years as spending habits have probably been a little different with COVID, but we need to look by region as many are probably using a disproportionate amount of funds on taking care of things that the city should be different with COVID, but we need to look by region as many are probably using a disproportionate amount of funds on taking care of things that the city should be taken care of.
- at the beginning of the Pandemic all these mutual aid groups started often because of the lack from city services
- we should put more emphasis on our small businesses especially in our community. Uplift the small businesses, restaurants, and convenience stores.
- mentioned that her councils PLUM committee is working to create their own economic development and community improvement plan. They are trying to improve their own neighborhood "for us and by us". In addition, to improving the neighborhood to bring access to resources, goods and to improve the overall quality of life to the neighborhood they are also trying to lead the way to create a pathway for other NC's to do the same
- I would like more money Outreach and education as well

West L.A.

- My concern is special interest groups, which Ron Galperin touched on. They're full-time lobbyists at the City level and they shut out the voices of those of us who live here and who are paying taxes and working. And many of these are political and they benefit financially from the services being promoted at the City level. But in doing so, they're shutting out the rest of us.
- We need better oversight over the City and the Congress
- many developers we see and speak to are unaware of the Art Fund they're required to pay into –whether it's to pay into it, or to use that money to bring that art into the local community. Some of them are unaware of that requirement. This is an opportunity for us to get public art into our communities.
- Maybe instead of cutting art programs further (or first thing), it would be an opportunity to encourage the developers to pay some of those costs.
- We'll be embarrassed if the Olympics are here
- Regarding the NC budget: we're still forced to spend it, even though COVID has prevented most, if not all Neighborhood Councils from spending their allotted

budget for the year. It would be better if Neighborhood Councils could transfer all the money they didn't spend from 2020 into the 2021 budget and have it accrue, so that they could address a larger project.

- I think the Arts are important. COVID taught us that mental health stress was prevalent among our citizenry. Art helps soothe a savage soul. So this soft infrastructure is also important
- If we had been allowed to combine these budgets, it would have allowed many Neighborhood Councils to move forward with even larger art projects, or with things like improving our parks and other local needs.
- The City is run by the developers of luxury housing and by the unions.
- I'm also concerned that EmpowerLA is trying to influence the ability to influence state legislation. That affects all of us. And that's a problem.
- while art is important, the Cultural Affairs Department and the Cultural Affairs Commission has overspent on a number of occasions. In Westchester they wanted to paint a portion of their mural with something that was offensive to police officers and to many in the area. The City wanted to spend the money on blue sidewalks and the like. We chose against that, so that the students could have bathrooms. Things like this can be taking away from senior services and from people getting trees trimmed in the area.

#### Harbor

- General Manager of DONE (the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment) is still withholding funds from the Budget Advocates, including a \$10,000 payment to City Watch.
- a criminal investigation of the DONE General Manager for misappropriation of funds specifically donated by neighborhood councils for Budget Advocates. It was not donated for budget advocacy as DONE claims. That's an outright lie. This might be normal in Chicago or Philadelphia. We're not supposed to have outright corruption in Los Angeles. This is a direct blow against the very existence of the Budget Advocates. We should take this to the Mayor. I will send a note to the Controller asking whether this is appropriate