

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Whitman

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 12:30 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (“DVHSC”) requests that the budget on Homelessness and Housing prioritize survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking who are experiencing homelessness. Since 2016, DVHSC has grown to include over 800 individuals representing 244 community-based organizations, government officials, philanthropic circles, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness and domestic violence. We have become the largest coalition of our kind across the nation creating a client-centered system that increases access to safe housing and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Though we appreciate in this challenging budget year that the current allocation for survivors of domestic violence maintains funding from the previous fiscal year, survivors and service providers cannot afford to maintain the status quo when the number of people experiencing homelessness due to fleeing domestic violence has increased 54% in the past year (2023 LAHSA PIT). Nearly 40% of the adult homeless population in Los Angeles has experienced domestic violence, or intimate partner violence, a 7% increase from 2022. Echoing the Point In Time Count, the 2022 Los Angeles County Women’s Needs Assessment found that 48.4% of women experiencing homelessness had experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime, and within this group, nearly half cited this experience as a cause of their homelessness. While the number of people impacted by domestic violence increases, funding to support survivors in Los Angeles City programs are facing a drastic cut from a federal funding resources: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). VOCA funds used by Victim Service Providers leverage into our City of Los Angeles funded programs and are set to decrease 58% from the previous year. This reduction in funding, with no current plan to compensate from any other funding source, will have devastating impacts on survivors and service providers. As numbers increase, and funding does not, the DVHSC requests that survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault are prioritized in this budget. To do this, we request for the city to:

- Allocate funding for additional domestic violence and human trafficking shelter locations, and for enhancing existing shelters.
- To support the enhancement of existing shelter, and to

support the opening of three new shelters, the DVHSC requests an additional \$6 million to be allocated in this budget. • Help bridge the funding gap for domestic violence services in light of devastating VOCA cuts. With a projected loss of \$6.5 million in funding for FY 2024-25 to Victim Service Providers in the City, thousands of survivors will be impacted. Reducing staff, housing programs, availability of services, shelter beds, and more, will hurt a population already incredibly vulnerable to experiencing homelessness. Thank you for considering our requests. We appreciate your continued dedication to ending homelessness in Los Angeles and hope to continue to collaborate in supporting survivors.

Communication from Public

Name: Dana Ginsberg

Date Submitted: 05/01/2024 08:52 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want increased funding for spay neuter. While I understand LAPD needs increased funding, taking it from spay neuter programs and animal services is unconscionable. Perhaps it's time to not only increase the budget, but to start to seriously and respectfully work with the rescuers in the trenches to come up with new ways to truly help the animals of Los Angeles, along with the people who love them. How we choose to treat the least among us is an indicator of how we treat all others.

Communication from Public

Name: Chanchanit Martorell

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 04:28 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello City Councilmembers, On behalf of the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC), I am writing to show my unwavering support for the Represent Los Angeles program and requesting a two-year budget allocation of \$1.5 million in FY 24-25 and \$3 million in FY 25-26 to sustain the mission of RepresentLA. As an Angeleno deeply committed to the well-being and inclusivity of immigrant communities in Los Angeles, I believe that continuing the vital work of RepresentLA is imperative. RepresentLA stands as a beacon of hope and support for immigrant Angelenos, providing critical legal services to individuals and families since its inception in 2021. RepresentLA has been instrumental in strengthening the safety net for immigrants across the City of Los Angeles by providing legal consultations and representation to thousands of people since 2017. Represent LA also plays a crucial role in uplifting and upholding principles of racial justice by ensuring Black immigrants and other immigrant communities of color are not denied their due process in an inequitable and unjust federal immigrant system. The most recent commitment of \$14 million over a two-year period, jointly funded by the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, the California Community Foundation, and the Weingart Foundation, has been indispensable in ensuring that RepresentLA can fulfill its mission. However, with this funding expected to be depleted by December 2024, it is imperative that we take action to sustain this invaluable program. With the release of the Mayor's budget, we have seen that the RepLA Program has been left out. I strongly request that the RepLA program be included in the budget to ensure a two-year budget allocation of \$1.5 million in FY 24-25 and \$3 million in FY 25-26. The impact of RepresentLA extends far beyond legal consultations and representation; it embodies the values of justice, inclusivity, and compassion that define our city. We are deeply grateful for the City's past support of RepresentLA, and now look to you with an urgent request to ensure that this support continues. Thank you for your time.



THAI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

6376 Yucca Street, Suite B
Los Angeles, CA 90028
Phone : (323) 468-2555 Fax : (323) 461-4488

April 30, 2024

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

Re: Request for Continued Funding Support for RepresentLA

Hello City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC), I am writing to show my unwavering support for the Represent Los Angeles program and requesting a two-year budget allocation of \$1.5 million in FY 24-25 and \$3 million in FY 25-26 to sustain the mission of RepresentLA. As an Angeleno deeply committed to the well-being and inclusivity of immigrant communities in Los Angeles, I believe that continuing the vital work of RepresentLA is imperative.

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We are deeply grateful for the City's past support of RepresentLA, and now look to you with an urgent request to ensure that this support continues.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chanchanit Martorell
Executive Director

Communication from Public

Name: Tara Maxey

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:08 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fully funding spay/neuter for homeless animals, particularly community cats, is the ONLY sustainable answer for the overpopulation of these animals. PLEASE extend the budget to cover spay/neuter vouchers for \$150.

Communication from Public

Name: Cat Edwards

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:26 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I live in LA and foster and make videos at SLA shelter for 5 years. Everyone in rescue is exhausted & frustrated. We are doing the cities jobs, helping to fix pets on our the street with our own money. The faucet of homeless pets has to be turned down and then off. This city could work towards fewer homeless pets with a focus on Spay & Neuter. It's shameful the conditions of our shelters. At SLA 80% of dogs enter UNFIXED. More people would do it, with messaging and resources. Free and cheap S&N is the answer, to a start of solving the crisis. Budgets must allow for more S&N This matters. LA has become infamous alongside states like Texas, killing huge numbers of pets. Killing is no solution for the crowded shelter or the overpopulation crisis we're in. Spay & Neuter is the way. More money now, will mean fewer animals in our shelter eventually. Cat Edwards 5151 mesmer 90230

Communication from Public

Name: Lee Kelly

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:46 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles Animal Services are in dire need of additional funding. Care for innocent animals are the city's responsibility. With more that 200% of capacity, staff are demoralized and cannot keep up with basic tasks. It is a horrible situation with animals in crates in the halls. Make the morally right decision and fund additional LAAS staff and needed resources.

Communication from Public

Name: Geren

Date Submitted: 05/01/2024 05:55 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please fully fund spay and neuter certificates for dogs and cats.
Please expand no kill shelters. We love our LA pets.

Communication from Public

Name: Glen David Gold

Date Submitted: 05/01/2024 07:16 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi! I'm one of those folks who never speaks up on funding issues, but this is different: I support increased funding for spay/neuter programs. I live in Silver Lake, and I have seen the incredible effect that private organizations have had on reducing the population of feral cats in area. I don't think anyone is happy with the current situation (something over a MILLION cats on the streets!). The amount of money needed to make a difference is small compared to other city services and yet it's also remarkably effective. Unlike other areas where aren't sure what's going to work, this is an easy fix (see what I did there?) with a proven track record. Get those cats spayed, the population drops and fewer kittens end up dead, diseased, starving or in coyotes' mouths. Further, there are plenty of loving people in L.A. (no, really - when people aren't driving on the 5, they can be loving) who want to adopt and care for cats but can't afford the new post-pandemic prices for getting them fixed. The City can step in and improve not only the lives of animals but of folks with big hearts and no money. I keep thinking of a simple thing: someone sitting at home with a beloved kitten in their lap who knows that only happened because Los Angeles cared enough to support it. Please increase funding for spay and neuter services.

Communication from Public

Name: Thomas Moutes
Date Submitted: 05/01/2024 08:00 AM
Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Committee Members: I am a LACERS retiree and former LACERS General Manager and I'm providing comments today because LACERS is on the agenda and I don't like how LACERS invests some of its funds. Specifically, I'm opposed to its investments in Private Equity Buyout funds. There is a growing body of evidence that many of these funds produce bad outcomes for Americans in many different ways, including suppressing wages and attempts to organize, and the loss of employee pensions in the acquired entities. Imagine the optics of a public pension fund making money on firms that frequently cut pensions within the businesses they purchase! Also, there are many recent articles about private equity buyout firms wreaking havoc in such crucial industries as medical, hospital, and hospice care. The profit above all else nature of these buyout firms is not ultimately good for any of us. However, with LACERS having to chase investment returns to try to achieve its 7% annual return, it has little choice but to invest in a wide variety of investments, including buyout funds. While one may wonder whether buyout funds will perform as well as they did when borrowing was virtually free, they seem to be a necessary investment type for now. If LACERS does continue to invest in buyout funds, it is imperative that it is able to invest in the top quartile funds, as these are the only funds that fairly consistently make money. This is where you, the City Council, comes in. Pushing LACERS to try to intervene in buyout investments to achieve political goals is not helpful as these funds have full contractual discretion regarding how they go about their business and LACERS can do little to intervene. All trying to pressure LACERS about these funds will do is to get LACERS disinvited from the top tier Buyout funds, which are the only ones that consistently make money. If LACERS loses out on the top tier funds and, therefore, does not hit its investment objectives, that will cost the City more money in its annual contribution to LACERS, which I'm sure the City would prefer not to have happen right now. In the future, if you would like to incentivize LACERS not have to chase high investment returns and, therefore participate in these harmful buyout funds, the City could embrace -- instead of fight against as it frequently does -- LACERS having a lower investment return assumption.