

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah VanderWood

Date Submitted: 05/09/2024 06:52 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing about the proposed budget cuts to the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the resulting negative effects on Griffith Observatory. The Department of Recreation and Parks, which manages Griffith Observatory, stands to take the greatest hit from the proposed cuts with over 250 full-time jobs on the chopping block, including a position essential to Griffith Observatory operations: Curator. ? Jobs and Services. Following the 2008 recession, the Observatory lost nearly a third of its full-time positions, none of which have been reinstated. Losing another key position will have major repercussions on basic services such as daily operations and continuity of STEM educational programming like the onsite and online school programs that serve over 100,000 students each year. Reduced operations means reduced jobs and services. ? Revenue Generation. Observatory programming draws 1.6 million visitors each year, which yields significant revenue for the City: ? Parking revenue – over \$4 million per year ? Concession revenue – nearly \$1 million from onsite vendors per year ? Samuel Oschin Planetarium ticket sales - \$3.5 million each year The Curator supervises 150 staff. Dissolving this position will jeopardize daily operation of the entire Observatory on multiple days each week, diminishing City revenue streams significantly. ? Succession Plan. As you are aware, the leadership of Griffith Observatory has been in place for decades. The intent is to open a national search for the next Curator, thus identifying the person who is likely to take the helm of this iconic institution and ensure its continuity and impact. The Observatory, the Foundation, and the City have been working together to implement our current, joint Strategic Plan to get the Observatory ready for the international stage in 2028 when the Olympics come to Los Angeles. Griffith Observatory is the emblem of this great city, a symbol of its vision, service, and innovation. What is our intention for 2028? To see an empty building or a world-class facility providing world-class programming? I hope you share our robust vision for the Observatory. If so, please take action right away. Urge your colleagues on the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee to safeguard funding for Recreation and Parks and to preserve the Curator position. Griffith Observatory's Curator costs the City budget relatively little, but the loss of the Curator will cost the

City significant revenue and reputation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Katya Forsyth

Date Submitted: 05/07/2024 11:21 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Don't cut funding for public parks!!!!!! We need them!!!!!!!!!!