

Communication from Public

Name: Kathryn Baron

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 06:41 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Los Angeles. It is horrific that the proposed budget for 2024-2025 has insufficient funds for the spay/neuter program & City Cat program. Do the right thing. Fund these programs for the full year. Not maybe half a year. Don't let the city budget take away funding from Animal Services. I was pleased to see that Animal Services had requested more funding (they so need it) and shocked that the proposed budget actually reduces the funding. The shelters are already in crisis. Healthy Animals are being euthanized. More resources are needed. Not less. The stories of the animals we fail break my heart every day. But we can't adopt/rescue our way out of this crisis. The ability to spay and neuter is essential to prevent more unnecessary deaths. More money is urgently needed for these programs, not less. Just this month I was able to help Trap, Neuter, and Release several cats who came onto my property - preventing multiple litters of kittens from adding to the current overpopulation. I want to be able to continue to do that, but I need the city sponsored programs to remain in place. I have friends who, despite having city vouchers, are still hunting for affordable options to have their kittens fixed. This should be an easy, socially expected procedure - not a time consuming hunt for a procedure that is more expensive than most people can afford. Don't let Animal Services loses funding. Don't cut spay/neuter funding. Increase the funding if you can, but please, please don't decrease it.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 05:04 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Chair Blumenfield and the Budget and Finance Committee, 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. Sincerely, Joanna Sarinas

Communication from Public

Name: Godfrey Plata

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 10:44 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of LA Forward's Unarmed Crisis Response work group, we're advocating for an **additional** \$4.5 million to be appropriated to LA City's budget for unarmed crisis response, with the intention for the City to: (1) Fund the initial infrastructure changes for centralizing dispatch for emergency management/crisis service; and (2) Evaluate all current unarmed crisis response services. Please see the attached letter for more details on the particularities of this recommendation. Thank you for your leadership, Godfrey Plata Deputy Director, LA Forward



April 30, 2024

Budget, Finance, and Innovations Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Unarmed Crisis Response Funding in the Mayor's 2024-2025 Budget, CF# 24-0600

Dear Budget, Finance, and Innovations Committee:

Thank you so much for your commitment to ensuring a just, responsible, and responsive budget for Los Angeles.

At LA Forward, our community members have been organizing for more than a year around comprehensive and accessible unarmed crisis response for LA City residents across the city. Because work around unarmed crisis response is so expansive, we've focused on three particular areas:

- Who residents can call when they are experiencing or witnessing immediate crisis
- What unarmed people/services are deployed as a result of that call
- The quality of those unarmed people/services in addressing the impetus for the call

It is through this lens that **we are advocating for an additional \$4.5 million to be appropriated in LA City's budget for unarmed crisis response**, with the intention for the City to:

1. Fund the initial infrastructure changes for centralizing dispatch for emergency management/crisis service
2. Evaluate all current unarmed crisis response services

Because creating new systems to support community safety will take more than more than a year or two, it's crucial that during these difficult budget years that we continue to make progress toward comprehensive and universally accessible unarmed crisis response. This is something that the CAO has projected is possible by the end of the decade ([CAO report from October 2023, page 9](#)).

While the Mayor's budget draft proposes to carry over remaining unappropriated funds from last budget year (\$13.2 million) into this upcoming budget year, these unappropriated funds are expected to contribute to the continuation of current programs like CIRCLE and the UMCR pilot. CIRCLE is proposed to be funded at the same \$8 million as it was budgeted for in 2023-2024, despite spending beyond its budget by more than 25% *and* announcing plans to expand ([RFP here](#)); this will take up much of the \$13.2 million of unappropriated funds. Additionally, the

UMCR pilot that takes away six types of police calls from armed police in three distinct areas of the city is only projected to have funding through August according to [this February CAO report](#). Although there are funds set aside in the budget to ensure continued staffing for the UMCR pilot, the pilot will need to dig into the \$13.2 million of unappropriated funds in order to continue its programming. This leaves very little funding left to support councilmembers with discretionary unarmed alternative proposals in their districts, like the one Councilwoman Raman piloted last year on [Ventura Boulevard](#) at a cost of \$2 million. And it will leave little funding to pursue any other infrastructure or evaluation the city needs to be able to provide quality unarmed crisis response services to more Angelenos.

Therefore, we urge you to adopt the following recommendations:

1. Budget \$2.5 million toward the capacity to begin initial infrastructure changes aimed at centralizing dispatch for emergency management/crisis services

- a. The October 2023 CAO Report (Status Update on the Development of an Alternative Response Framework [CAO File #0220-06094-0001](#) Pgs. 15-16) identified communications issues due to different CAD systems and radio systems utilized by LAPD, LAFD and DOT. These issues can slow down dispatch as caller information isn't able to be easily transferred from one department to another. We urge the city to centralize these computer systems and radio systems to ensure proper communication and data transfer between departments, and to create a unified standard system that new services like Unarmed Crisis Response services can also adopt. *According to Deputy Mayor of Community Safety Karren Lane, \$2.5 million would provide for a vendor and initial software to start this work*
- b. As discussed in the October 2023 CAO report and in [Council File 22-0978-S2](#), PSRs at LAPD dispatch must receive, analyze and appropriately dispatch calls to LAPD, LAFD, DOT or one of eight unarmed crisis response programs that operate in different parts of the city. These civilian employees need a proper "decision tree" and training to help them make these decisions efficiently and to aggressively divert qualifying calls to UCR programs.

2. Budget \$2 million toward the evaluation of all the current Alternative Crisis Response Programs.

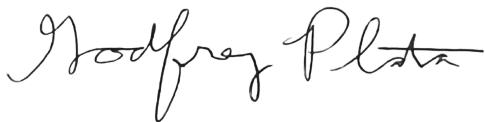
- a. Los Angeles currently has at least eight different programs: Call Direction to Ensure Suicide Safety (CRESS), Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE), Therapeutic Van Pilot, Advanced Provider Response Unit (APRU), Sobriety Emergency Response (SOBER) Unit, Fast Response Vehicles (FRVs), and Conflict Resolution Program, and the new UMCR Pilot. Evaluation is necessary to discern which of these programs should be sustained, which can be consolidated, and how funds should be optimally distributed. This evaluation would allow funds to be more efficiently utilized,

which is important in these lean budget years. In addition, some of these programs have contracts with outside providers (i.e. Urban Alchemy) that should be reviewed to determine if these providers are offering the best services or need to be replaced. Finally, we have gathered evidence of major discrepancies in how these services are provided in different council districts. We believe it's important to ultimately create standardized, high-quality service provision across all council districts, addressing significant disparities and enhancing the overall effectiveness of unarmed crisis response.

These two specific requests amount to an additional \$4.5 million toward unarmed crisis response funding in Los Angeles.

Increasing the current budget for unarmed crisis response services is something that the Mayor and many Councilmembers have supported in their campaigns. Current financial constraints should not overshadow the importance of adequately addressing public safety concerns. Our recommendations — 1) investing in centralized dispatch per the CLA's October report and 2) evaluating all unarmed crisis response services being piloted and offered — represent relatively smaller costs for the city, while laying the groundwork for a more comprehensive unarmed response system over the next five years.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Godfrey Plata". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Godfrey" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Plata".

Godfrey Plata
Deputy Director
LA Forward,
On behalf of our Unarmed Crisis Response Work Group

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 11:44 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles I want increased funding for animal spay/neuter services.

Communication from Public

Name: A. Munton

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

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please increase funding for spay/neuter.

Communication from Public

Name: Kari Krusmark

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 08:41 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm a resident of Council District 13. I ask that you please increase the Department of Animal Services' funding for the spay/neuter program. As you are aware, the current allocation is grossly insufficient to meet the need. As a supporter of a grassroots cat trap-neuter-return organization (and frequent cat foster), and a supporter of animal rescues that pull from the city shelters, I have a front row seat to the consequences of the underfunding of the spay/neuter program. The grassroots organizations cannot possibly keep up with the need on the streets - and it isn't their responsibility to do so. The level of euthanasia of wonderful, adoptable animals in this city is deeply disappointing. Veterinary costs have skyrocketed, putting basic services out of reach of many citizens. It is inhumane and irresponsible to let this situation continue unabated and we need the city to step up and provide funding that meets the need. Increased funding of the spay/neuter program is the solution. Thank you for your attention to this crisis.

Communication from Public

Name: M.B.

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 08:43 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles, I want increased funding for spay/neuter. This is an urgent matter - we can't keep living like this with the streets of LA being a dumping ground for animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Jason Goodman

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 08:52 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Jason Goodman, and I'm a resident of Council District 4. As a supporter of comprehensive and accessible unarmed crisis response for LA City residents across the city, I'm writing in support of LA Forward's ask of an additional \$3 million to the 2024-2025 budget for unarmed crisis response services. In Mayor Bass' proposed 2024-2025 budget, the Mayor does not increase funds to expand, evaluate, or centralize dispatch for the city's emerging set of unarmed crisis response services. The budget proposes to carry over remaining unappropriated funds from last budget year (\$13.2 million) into this upcoming budget year. Some of this can be used to ensure that current programs – CIRCLE and UMCR most notable among them – continue their work this upcoming year. At this juncture in its commitment to unarmed crisis response, we believe that the City of LA needs to: Fund the capacity to draft plans and infrastructure changes for centralizing dispatch for emergency management/crisis service, so that unarmed crisis response services might be leveraged by call operators and emergency responders with more frequency and regularity WHILE creating efficiencies for a city currently running multiple types of services, including different dispatch protocol for each Evaluate all current unarmed crisis response services, which (at the moment) serve different needs, populations, and geographies, and operate with different practices and systems; data is currently not being collected across these services in a way that would help the city make decisions about the quality and efficacy of services being offered LA Forward has worked with several council offices and city agencies to estimate that an evaluation could cost about \$2 million and first steps toward the centralizing of dispatch could cost an initial \$1 million at the research and planning stage. Therefore, while we appreciate \$13.2 million in roll-overs from 2023-2024 budget, we need to see this growth of our city's commitment to comprehensive and accessible unarmed crisis response – not stagnation. We support an additional \$3+ million in city funds as a down payment toward building a comprehensive unarmed crisis response system for our city — a system that centralizes dispatch so that residents can get the help they need as quickly as possible, and a system that is grounded in quality services that we know through evaluation really helps people.

Thank you for your attention to this issue, and we hope you're able to make this relatively small adjustment for the betterment of our communities.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 08:54 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The city and its residents, humans and animals both, need increased funding for spay/neuter and our shelters.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:18 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want an increase for a spay and neuter program throughout the city.

Communication from Public

Name: Saumia Ramakrishnab

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:24 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want increased funding for spay/neuter and I want spay/neuter laws to be enforced more often.

Communication from Public

Name: Olivia

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:25 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I am speaking up to demand that the city budget include significantly more money for affordable/free spay/neuter for dogs and cats. Our city is in the midst of a huge crisis with too many animals suffering on the streets and too many adoptable animals being euthanized every day bc our shelter system is overwhelmed. The only viable way to fix this problem is with dramatically increased funding for free/affordable spay/neuter.

Communication from Public

Name: Jesus

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:29 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles I want increased funding for spay and neuter!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Cathy Chung

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:42 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want increased funding for spay and neuter of all cats and dogs. There needs to be more funding to Los Angeles shelters to support the animals found in the community.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy Medina

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 09:56 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Chair Blumenfield and the Budget and Finance Committee, 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. Sincerely, Nancy Medina

Communication from Public

Name: Amiel Vargas

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 10:04 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of LA, I want increased funding for spay/neuter programs. I want increased funding for the millions of animals living on the street against their will because they have been abandoned or dumped. Our animal shelters being so overly full when there's still so many more that need help is unacceptable. The only way to tackle this problem is to increase the funding for spay/neuter programs, increase the funding for Animal Services, and increase punishment for dumping and abandoning animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa G.

Date Submitted: 04/29/2024 05:18 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm 21 years old and I am planning to move to another state. My 19 year cousin was shot and killed in front of many of my family members. My cousin who was murdered was apart of a gang. He was also arrested for burglary multiple times. His mom didn't know how to stop it. He didn't have positive role models or mentors. He didn't have a place to go after school to experience a brotherhood (which is something a gang can offer.) He didn't have a lot of access to money (which is how it is in low income communities) so he found a way to get it illegally. It shouldn't be this way for low income youth. We need funding, we need support, we need to break the cycles. I have a younger cousin who witnessed my 19 year old cousin get shot and die. This younger cousin expressed to me he needed money to fix his phone and didn't want to bother his mom for it because she works hard. He admitted to me that he used to steal bikes for money. He's 13 years old. I wish his mom knew about GRYD. I wish we had more local organizations that would allow him to do something positive with his time, that would allow him to find a positive role model, that would teach him to be self sufficient without stealing, that would help him find a job appropriate for his age. We need more funding and support for youth and their families in Los Angeles. especially in low income communities. We deserve green spaces to decompress, green spaces to skateboard and bike, and take our dogs and our families. We deserve Youth Hubs to become a reality a one stop shop for any difficulties that we have face. We need to break the cycle. We need to INVEST IN YOUTH. LAPD DOES NOT PREVENT CRIME, THEY REACT TO IT. The funding of LAPD does NOT stop murder, the domestic abuse of women and elderly people, they do not stop people from drinking and driving, from taking drugs. We as a society and city need to address WHY people abuse others, why they drink, or do drugs. A band aid is not the solution, we must get to the root of the problem. We must help people break generational cycles of trauma, we must help people and our youth especially learn to cope with their problems in a healthy way, we must support our youth in all ways possible so they can grow up to be members of society that contribute to society positively. If we do that, there would be less crime to react to. We would need less police officers to react to crime because we would prevent it

from happening from the first place. INVEST IN YOUTH, funding LAPD will NOT solve the problems we are currently facing-- supporting our youth and turning them into productive & contributing members of society who add to the world in a positive way-- that will solve the problems we face as a city and society in Los Angeles. That would keep me living in the city of Los Angeles and make me proud to be an Angeleno.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 01:57 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter for response to the FY25 City Budget and the reduction in funding for LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program.



April 29, 2024

Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Karen Bass and Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

In my first year as President & CEO of LA's BEST, above all else, I want to express gratitude for the longstanding partnership of the City of Los Angeles, which began when the organization was founded by Mayor Tom Bradley in 1988 and has remained strong since. We are especially grateful for the continued support of Mayor Karen Bass, and for her lifelong commitment to lifting up working families and communities.

For 35 years, LA's BEST has been a pillar of the Los Angeles ecosystem providing care and critical services to at-risk students and working families in 203 elementary schools. When the last school bell rings until 6pm, students - during their defining years - are in a safe environment with trained and caring adults who ignite their passion for learning. Students enrolled in LA's BEST, many of whom have been disproportionately affected by the long-term ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, receive a substantial nutritious free meal and engage in activities that set them on a trajectory to become lifelong learners. Equity is at the core of our mission.

We understand that the FY25 budget is being created in the midst of very challenging economic circumstances, with difficult decisions required to maintain fiscal stability for the City. However, the reduction in General City Purposes funding for LA's BEST from \$3,949,777 to \$1,449,777 comes at a time when our students and families are still recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to facing longstanding access and opportunity gaps. At a time when the services provided by LA's BEST are more essential than ever for working families, this reduction will have an impact felt by our most vulnerable working communities across the City.

In the current year budget, funding for LA's BEST was allocated across four categories - salaries, transportation, supplies, and training. While we are still assessing the full impact of the proposed reduction, we anticipate that the \$2.5M cut will significantly impact each of these areas:

- **Salaries:** We will make every effort to avoid layoffs, including leaving vacant positions unfilled and pausing the hiring of new positions to support growing areas of work, such as workforce development and career pathways support for our staff and mental health support to address trauma and adverse childhood experiences.

LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
T 213.978.0801
www.lasbest.org

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- Transportation: The reduction will significantly limit our ability to take students off campus for field trips, sports tournaments, and special events - reducing opportunities for students to explore Los Angeles's cultural institutions and participate in activities that expand their horizons.
- Supplies: With this reduction, we will have a very limited budget available for supplies for enrichment activities (sports, arts, STEM, etc.) that support academic achievement, engagement and social-emotional learning for students to be on par with their more affluent peers.
- Training: LA's BEST places a focus on hiring from the communities we serve and supporting our diverse workforce on pathways to careers in education, social services, and other industries. With the reduction in funding, we expect to reduce the amount of training available to staff, as well as potentially pausing our annual professional development days where staff come together to connect, share knowledge and learn new skills.

These reductions will have an adverse impact on both access to and the quality of enrichment activities that enhance a child's ability to thrive - something all students deserve to help disrupt generational poverty. As an organization creating equitable opportunities, we allocate resources where the need is the greatest so all students feel safe and secure now and as they develop.

With that, we respectfully request that you consider an increase in LA's BEST funding from the City of Los Angeles to help mitigate that impact. Even an incremental increase, from \$1,449,777 to \$1,949,777, would have a significant effect on the services LA's BEST is able to provide to working families across the City.

We remain incredibly grateful for the commitment the City of Los Angeles has shown to children and families. We appreciate your consideration, welcome additional conversation on the best solution, and look forward to continuing to partner to support communities through this challenging time. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Michele.Broadnax@lacity.org or 909-265-5111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Broadnax".

Michele Broadnax
President & CEO
LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Gamboa

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

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Subject Line: DVHSC requests additional funding for CIFD programs for survivors Dear Chair Blumenfield and the Budget and Finance Committee, Since 1969, the Los Angeles LGBT Center (Center) has cared for, championed, and celebrated LGBT individuals and families in Los Angeles and beyond. Today the Center's over 800 employees provide services for more LGBT people than any other organization in the world. The Center is an unstoppable force in the fight against bigotry and the struggle to build a better world; a world in which LGBT people are healthy, equal and complete members of society. The Los Angeles Center's STOP Violence Program strives to increase access to mental health and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence, intimate partner abuse, sexual assault as well as other crimes. This renowned program, honored by the National Crime Prevention Council, offers the following but is not limited to individual and group counseling for people who are victims of family violence and other crimes, a court-approved program for perpetrators of family violence, and a broad array of violence prevention services. The Center also trains and collaborates with national partners, and advocates on the behalf of Center's clients, to help make the world a safer and more welcoming place for all LGBTQ survivors of violence. The Center respectfully requests that the budget on Homelessness and Housing prioritize survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking who are experiencing homelessness by appropriating \$12.5 million in funding for domestic violence shelters and services that are at risk for closing due to an anticipated loss in funding from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Since 2016, the Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition (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. The DVHSC has become the largest coalition of its 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. The Center appreciates in this challenging budget year that the current allocation for survivors of domestic violence maintains funding from the previous fiscal year. However,

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 federal funding resources, most notably the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA). VOCA funds used by Victim Service Providers leverage into 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 Center requests that survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault are prioritized in this budget. To do this, the Center requests the City of Los Angeles to: 1) 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. 2) 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 these requests. The Center appreciates your continued dedication to ending homelessness and protecting survivors of violence in Los Angeles and hope to continue to collaborate in supporting survivors. Sincerely, Robert Gamboa
Policy Advocacy Manager Los Angeles LGBT Center

Communication from Public

Name: Domestic Violence & Homelessness Services Coalition

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 11:35 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Chair Blumenfield and the Budget and Finance Committee,?? 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.?? Sincerely,?
Amy Turk, CEO Downtown Women's Center DVHSC Co-Lead
Laura Lull, CEO Rainbow Services DVHSC Co-Lead



April 30, 2024

Budget and Finance Committee Chair
Bob Blumenfield
200 N. Spring St. #465
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Marqueece Harris Dawson
200 N. Spring St. #450
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky
200 N Spring St. #440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
200 N Spring St. #455
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilmember Tim McOsker
200 N Spring St. #475
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chair Blumenfield and the Budget and Finance Committee,

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Turk'.

Amy Turk, LCSW
CEO
Downtown Women's Center
DVHSC Co-Lead

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Lull'.

Laura Lull
CEO
Rainbow Services
DVHSC Co-Lead



Communication from Public

Name: Laura Urias

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 01:38 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello City Councilmembers, My name is Laura Urias and work with Immigrant Defenders Law Center. I also reside in CD1. 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. Thanks to RepresentLA I am able to represent Blanca and her two daughters, Karen and Anely, all residents of CD 3. Blanca and her daughters fled their home country due to escalating threats from neighbors who wanted to harm them. They were placed in immigration proceedings and faced the confusing and overwhelming Court system on their own until they were able to secure legal representation. This has allowed them the opportunity to obtain work permits, file taxes and create a safe life in Los Angeles. RepresentLA is critical to ensuring they can continue to navigate the complex immigration system. 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. Laura Urias

Communication from Public

Name: Zoey Knittel

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 03:46 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Bass and City Council Members: As you gather to discuss the proposed budget changes for the City of Los Angeles for the upcoming fiscal year, I urge you to please consider allocating more funding towards veterinary spay and neuter vouchers and spay and neuter programs within LA Animal Services. In Los Angeles each year, thousands of animals end up in shelters, many of them from unplanned litters that could have been prevented. By investing in spay and neuter programs, we can tackle this problem at its root, preventing the cycle of overpopulation that leads to animal suffering, shelter overcrowding and unnecessary euthanasia. Currently, the reimbursement rate for the LA Animal Services spay/neuter vouchers is insufficient to cover the costs incurred by veterinary providers. By increasing this rate, we can ensure that these providers are fairly compensated for their services, which will, in turn, encourage more providers to participate in the program. This will immediately address the shortage of spay/neuter access in Los Angeles. Not only do spay and neuter programs reduce the number of animals entering shelters, but spay and neuter also has a host of other benefits. Spay and neuter can reduce the incidence of certain cancers and behavioral problems, leading to healthier and happier pets and families. Spay and neuter funding will help to address the shortage of spay/neuter access, particularly in underserved LA communities. Let's ensure that all Angelenos have access to affordable spay and neuter services for their pets. Investing in spay and neuter programs is not just the humane thing to do—it's also the fiscally responsible thing to do. By preventing unwanted litters and reducing the strain on our shelters, we can save taxpayer dollars in the long run. I urge you to support increased funding for spay and neuter programs within the LA Animal Services budget. Thank you, Zoey Knittel Executive Director Community Animal Medicine Project (CAMP)



community animal medicine project

April 30, 2024

Zoey Knittel
Executive Director
Community Animal Medicine Project (CAMP)

Mayor Karen Bass and LA City Council
Budget Hearing 2024-2025

Dear Mayor Bass and City Council Members:

As you gather to discuss the proposed budget changes for the City of Los Angeles for the upcoming fiscal year, I urge you to please consider allocating more funding towards veterinary spay and neuter vouchers and spay and neuter programs within LA Animal Services.

In Los Angeles each year, thousands of animals end up in shelters, many of them from unplanned litters that could have been prevented. By investing in spay and neuter programs, we can tackle this problem at its root, preventing the cycle of overpopulation that leads to animal suffering, shelter overcrowding and unnecessary euthanasia.

Currently, the reimbursement rate for the LA Animal Services spay/neuter vouchers is insufficient to cover the costs incurred by veterinary providers. By increasing this rate, we can ensure that these providers are fairly compensated for their services, which will, in turn, encourage more providers to participate in the program. This will immediately address the shortage of spay/neuter access in Los Angeles.

Not only do spay and neuter programs reduce the number of animals entering shelters, but spay and neuter also has a host of other benefits. Spay and neuter can reduce the incidence of certain cancers and behavioral problems, leading to healthier and happier pets and families. Spay and neuter funding will help to address the shortage of spay/neuter access, particularly in underserved LA communities. Let's ensure that all Angelenos have access to affordable spay and neuter services for their pets.

Investing in spay and neuter programs is not just the humane thing to do—it's also the fiscally responsible thing to do. By preventing unwanted litters and reducing the strain on our shelters, we can save taxpayer dollars in the long run.

I urge you to support increased funding for spay and neuter programs within the LA Animal Services budget.

Thank you,

Zoey Knittel
Executive Director
Community Animal Medicine Project (CAMP)

Communication from Public

Name: Kate
Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 07:26 PM
Council File No: 24-0600
Comments for Public Posting: I want increased funding for spay/neuter

Communication from Public

Name: Kari Wasoba

Date Submitted: 04/30/2024 07:40 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want increased funding for spay/neuter in Los Angeles.