

Communication from Public

Name: Nella McOsker
Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 12:07 PM
Council File No: 24-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letters



May 14, 2024

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Chair, Budget, Finance & Innovation Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for 2 Positions for Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD)

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) is committed to advancing policies and projects that enhance Downtown Los Angeles' (DTLA) vibrancy and increase opportunity in the region. We represent the interests of about 300 businesses, trade associations and nonprofits from a broad range of industries. **We are writing to request funding for 2 positions in the Economic & Workforce Development Department (EWDD) to support the garment and fashion industry in Los Angeles, particularly in the Fashion District neighborhood of DTLA.**

The retention and growth of garment manufacturing and the fashion industry has been an issue of focus for the DTLA 2040 Community Plan Update. There is broad consensus around the importance of this legacy industry among stakeholders, however, we believe that a Community Plan, which is a land use and zoning document, is an inadequate tool for targeted economic development. Ultimately, this requires dedicated economic and workforce development efforts, including staff that can engage with relevant companies and workers to identify specific issues and supportive policies and programs.

As such, we are requesting that 2 vacant positions for EWDD, one in the Economic Development Division (EDD) and the other in the Workforce Development Division (WDD), be retained. These positions are estimated to cost only a total of \$162,000. The EDD position would carry out real estate and business attraction/retention functions including implementation of marketing, real estate market analysis and data compilation, connection of potential tenants & vacant property owners, and relocation services for businesses impacted by housing development citywide. The WDD position would provide project management duties related to the creation of upskilling programs aimed at improving opportunities for garment workers in the City, as well as working to create partnerships with institutions that could assist with training garment workers.

We believe these positions would help fulfill the vision of the DTLA 2040 Community Plan and we ask that you please fund these EWDD roles. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nella McOsker".

Nella McOsker
President & CEO
Central City Association

CC: Honorable Members of the Budget, Finance & Innovation Committee

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May 14, 2024

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Chair, Budget, Finance & Innovation Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Funding for Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI)

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) is committed to advancing policies and projects that enhance Downtown Los Angeles' (DTLA) vibrancy and increase opportunity in the region. We represent the interests of about 300 businesses, trade associations and nonprofits from a broad range of industries. **We are writing to request that the City budget preserve the \$550,000 funding in LADOT's budget for the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), a vital organization that delivers tremendous public value and return on investment to the City.**

LANI not only serves an important role in building up LA's under-resourced neighborhoods, but has also raised millions of dollars for the City through state and federal funding proposals for over 30 years. LANI's impact in securing new funding for capital improvement projects is a testament to its value to the City. Most recently, LANI wrote two Caltrans ATP grants, bringing \$76.3 million dollars to expand the active transportation networks in Boyle Heights and Skid Row. The City of LA did not have the capacity to write those two applications, and without LANI, that \$76 million would have gone to another city. LANI has also secured millions of dollars in state proposition funding for street enhancements and livable communities, as well as FTA funding for transit plazas and sidewalk environment improvements. LANI's work has a direct and tangible impact on the lives of the people in these communities.

LANI was formed by Mayor Riordan as a non-profit instead of a City department specifically to serve as a bridge between City Hall and under-resourced communities. Its unique model depends on a budget allocation to cover both LANI's development work to raise state and federal funds for the City and a portion of overhead that can't be charged to the administrative allocations in contract work. LANI has been actively seeking alternative operations funding sources, but until then the City budget allocation is critical to LANI's continued operation.

Given the importance and impact of the organization, we ask that you please ensure continued funding for LANI in the City budget. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nella McOskey".

Nella McOskey
President & CEO
Central City Association

CC: Honorable Members of the Budget, Finance & Innovation Committee

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 11:57 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The MacArthur Park/Westlake neighborhood in Los Angeles is facing significant challenges related to crime, poverty, and homelessness, and it is crucial that we invest in solutions to address these issues. The crime rate in MacArthur Park/Westlake is higher than the city average, and the poverty rate is well above the national average. Additionally, the neighborhood has one of the largest if not the largest homeless population in the County. By allocating more funding to this area, we can improve public safety, provide more affordable housing options, and expand access to social services for residents in need. I urge you to prioritize the well-being of the MacArthur Park/Westlake community and approve additional funding to support positive change in the area.

Communication from Public

Name: Sam

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 12:39 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Just wanted to say I appreciate the continued funding for both DART and SART, so I'm looking forward to the budget for this next fiscal year!

Communication from Public

Name: Claire A Glidden

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 12:42 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: In regards to the crisis of street homelessness, I support funding for homelessness, wellness and rehabilitation, public safety and parks & recreation.

Communication from Public

Name: Allen Kwawer

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 12:44 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the City Council, I am reaching out to express my strong support for Mayor Karen Bass' proposed budget. The continuation of the Inside Safe program through this budget is vital for our ongoing efforts to provide safety and stability to individuals experiencing homelessness. I urge you to pass the budget as presented, recognizing that any cuts could jeopardize the wellbeing of countless individuals who rely on these critical services. Your commitment to this cause is crucial. Thank you for considering this urgent plea. Best regards, Allen Kwawer, Resident of CD5

Communication from Public

Name: Steven Halling

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 12:58 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Los Angeles and Council District 5 and I am writing to you today to express my strong support for Mayor Karen Bass' proposed budget, specifically regarding the funding for the Inside Safe program. As someone who has witnessed the challenges of homelessness in our city, I am encouraged by the real, positive change that Inside Safe has facilitated. The continuation of funding for Inside Safe is vital for the sustainability of these improvements and for ensuring that our fellow Angelenos have the support they need to regain stability. Please support our community by passing the Mayor's budget. Let's uphold our city's values of compassion and support for all. Thank you for considering my views.

Communication from Public

Name: Lucian Prinz

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 03:47 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles, safety has always been a top priority for me. Unfortunately, I've witnessed numerous instances of criminal activity, including break-ins and vandalism, throughout the city. Even on my college campus, I have concerns about my well-being. That's why I fully support and appreciate the 2024 budget, which includes several initiatives aimed at enhancing safety in Los Angeles and making our community a more secure place to live.

Communication from Public

Name: Damian Romero
Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 03:57 PM
Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I believe that the mayor and her team have done an adequate job with this budget, considering the crisis that they took on when she took office. I am happy to see that funding towards the Inside Safe Initiative is continuing, and expanding to include RV encampments which more often than not carry onto the surrounding sidewalks in my neighborhood of Van Nuys. I have seen the great work from the LA Rise program in action at a nearby non-profit, and think that more funding should be implemented for programs such as these, and mental health services to target the mental health crisis that drives much of the cities homelessness and drug addiction. The \$1.8 billion for LAPD is alarming when you think of the other places much money could go to. One possibility is mental health services that target homelessness and addiction, or early childhood mental health services to teach good mental health practices at a young age to battle the generational mental health crisis that perpetuates in low income neighborhoods. Overall I believe this budget is a good start, but I think that much of the funds towards the police department should be funneled into more programs that help heal communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Laurie Jacobs

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 04:27 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I support the proposed budget related to homelessness and housing. Under Mayor Bass's leadership, the new budget supports the goals to lower the cost of housing and develop a stronger model for delivering services necessary to keep people from the revolving door of homelessness. I see the compassion and applaud all efforts addressing the root causes and prevention of homelessness with the sense of urgency that is desperately needed. The new budget allocates a total of \$950 million to continue responding to the homeless emergency and fund efforts to reduce homelessness. I support this decrease from the previous year's allocation knowing this does not indicate a decrease in urgency, just more focused and smarter spending. The pilot "Inside Safe" program was launched expediently to get people off the streets as soon as possible. In most cases, people have been moved to interim or temporary shelter as an emergency stop gap. My hope is in the future, people will be moved directly to permanent supportive housing (PSH). Much money and efforts are being spent on short-term interim housing which drains the very limited pool of outreach and service personnel as well as available housing properties. With a shortage of a wraparound workforce, (which also needs to be addressed), we really can't afford to spread these vital workers between short-term shelter and long-term housing, so I appreciate all efforts to focus more on PSH housing. I see our mayor working towards spending more efficiently and responsibly as much as possible. This reduced budget is evidence of her commitment to wiser spending. Our mayor is working towards meeting the state requirement of new affordable housing for the City of LA. Higher density housing must be part of the equation to achieve the needed affordable housing goals. Looking at new housing projects, healthy, affordable housing is essential for our city. To achieve our equitable, healthy housing goals, gas appliances should be eliminated to reduce indoor air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. With bold energy efficiency, electrification, and passive cooling strategies, we can reduce the energy and rent burden and avoid the displacement of tenants. Housing is a human right, but so is access to nature, trees, and healthy air. Thank you, Laurie Jacobs Homelessness Liaison, Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council Commissioner, Climate Emergency

Mobilization Commissions

Communication from Public

Name: Richard Hirschkoff, President, Housingmv.org

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 09:50 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We are Housing Mar Vista. HousingMV is a small non-profit organization that is working to improve the homeless situation in Los Angeles, focusing on tent and RV encampments. Since our inception in 2021, we are trying to find housing and services for encampment dwellers by coordinating with our local council representative, the City of Los Angeles and our L.A County representative. Many in the homeless community suffer from serious mental health and drug-addiction issues. Emergency Declaration 1 allows us to deal more directly and effectively address these issues by cutting bureaucratic red tape to provide personal rooms and access to facilities that meet basic human needs. This gives them hope and motivation to seek rehab programs and employment. Currently we are doing outreach in an RV encampment in West L.A. To the best of our knowledge, several of the people in this encampment work full time. One 60-year old gentleman named Jackie has been clean for 4 years, works part time as a dishwasher, is on the wait list for Section 8, sleeps in his truck. We know, talk with and see that there are many more like him trying to make a go of it. These people need support. HousingMV's experience that we can successfully get unhoused people off the street when we understand the situation and take action by directly working with city offices. Emergency Declaration 1 seems to facilitate this process.

Communication from Public

Name: Jose

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 09:21 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing today to express my support for the Mayor's proposed budget specifically for the funding for Inside Safe. I am a resident of the San Fernando Valley and have seen first hand the positive impacts it has had on my community and throughout the Valley and beyond. Inside Safe has housed and helped so many people in the Valley and beyond. I am glad to see the progress being made and I hope we can continue to see that through the entire city which is why I support the city's investment in Inside Safe.

Communication from Public

Name: Maria

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 09:26 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I support the mayor's budget because she understands that in order to retain the city's workforce and maintain services, we should pay fair wages to the city's employees who keep us safe and to those who help improve our city every day. Only in this way will we see an improvement in public services in the city.

Communication from Public

Name: Veronica Hahni

Date Submitted: 05/14/2024 05:21 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As the Executive Director of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), and on behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, I am writing to request that the City budget preserve \$550,000 in funding in LADOT's budget for LANI's continued operation. LANI is a vital organization and City partner that advances inclusive, equitable, neighborhood-driven community development in historically under-served Los Angeles neighborhoods and delivers tremendous value and return on investment to the City. LANI serves a substantive role in building up the City's under-resourced neighborhoods, and we have also raised millions of dollars for the City through state and federal grants over the past 30 years. Most recently, we wrote two winning Caltrans ATP grant proposals, bringing \$76.3 million dollars to expand the active transportation networks in Boyle Heights and Skid Row. The City of LA did not have the capacity to write those two applications, and without LANI, that \$76 million would have gone to another city. We have also secured millions of dollars in state proposition funding for street enhancements and livable communities, as well as FTA funding for transit plazas and sidewalk environment improvements. Our work funding and implementing neighborhood-scale infrastructure projects has direct and tangible impacts on the daily lives of people living in the historically marginalized and disadvantaged neighborhoods where we work. We are also relied upon to expand the capacity of severely understaffed City departments, recently completing an Equity and Capacity Building project and currently administering a comprehensive CARB project for LADOT. For context, we were formed by Mayor Riordan as a non-profit instead of as a City department specifically to serve as a bridge between City Hall and under-resourced communities. Our unique model depends on this budget allocation to cover both LANI's project development work to raise state and federal funds for the City and a portion of our overhead that cannot be charged to the administrative allocations in our contract work. While we are also actively seeking alternative operations funding sources, at this time, this City allocation is crucial to LANI's continued operation. The entire LANI team appreciates the hard work you are doing at this critical time for our City, and we hope that we can count on your support

to reinstate LANI's essential budget allocation. Thank you for your consideration.



Rebuilding Neighborhoods One Block at a Time

May 14, 2024

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Chair, Budget, Finance & Innovation Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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The entire LANI team appreciates the hard work you are doing at this critical time for our City, and we hope that we can count on your support to reinstate LANI's essential budget allocation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Veronica Hahni,
Executive Director

Marian Bell
President
Bell Development

Courtney Torres
Vice-President
Courtney Torres Consulting

Allan D. Kotin
Treasurer
Allan D. Kotin & Associates

Emily Gabel Luddy, FASLA
Secretary

Joyce Perkins
Joyce Perkins Consulting
LANI Co-Founder

Areen Ibranossian
Chief Strategies

Todd McIntyre
Michael Butler International

Peter E. Jackson, CSBC
JPMorgan Chase

Monique Earl
Guidehouse

Veronica Hahni
LANI Executive Director

