

Communication from Public

Name: Kenneth Kamara

Date Submitted: 05/17/2024 09:17 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: There needs to be more funding in the budget for nonprofits, housing resources for the for youth. I support Mayor Bass' budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Alejandra Bell

Date Submitted: 05/17/2024 09:04 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Alejandra Bell, and I am a staff member at Cal State LA. I am writing to express my strong support for the 2024 budget, particularly its provisions aimed at the housing crisis. In addition to addressing the homelessness crisis, I urge the budget committee to consider the critical issue of subsidized housing for students at Cal State LA. Our students face exorbitant costs for university housing, with very few affordable options available near the campus. Subsidized housing for students would alleviate their financial stress and contribute to a more stable and focused academic environment. Students who do not have to worry about where they will sleep at night or how they will afford rent are more likely to succeed academically and engage positively with the university community. By incorporating provisions for student housing into the budget, we can address two critical issues simultaneously: the homelessness crisis and the affordability of student housing. Both of these concerns are deeply interconnected, as affordable housing solutions can prevent students from falling into homelessness and ensure they have the stability needed to thrive. For these reasons, I support the 2024 budget and am eager to see affordable housing put into the hands of those in need, rather than developers.

Communication from Public

Name: Oscar Rizo

Date Submitted: 05/16/2024 09:27 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm in full support of the new budget proposal. The emphasis on continuing efforts to bring more people inside from tents, cars, and RVs, along with preventing more Angelenos from losing their homes, shows a commitment to tackling the issue comprehensively. The allocation of \$950 million, while slightly lower than the previous year due to the completion of Proposition HHH projects, still reflects a strong commitment to the cause. Your recognition of the ongoing emergency and urgency is crucial for maintaining momentum in addressing homelessness. Additionally, your support for public safety initiatives, including recruitment and retention of police officers and funding for firefighters, demonstrates a balanced approach to addressing multiple community needs. Investments in city services, particularly in livable wages for city workers and modernization of systems like MyLA311, are essential for ensuring quality services are delivered to Angelenos. It's commendable that you're addressing long-standing issues like vacant positions that hinder service delivery. Moreover, your commitment to fighting climate change, creating opportunities for residents, and maintaining responsible and transparent government practices are all vital aspects of building a better Los Angeles. Overall, your stance reflects a holistic approach to governance that prioritizes the well-being and prosperity of all Angelenos.

Communication from Public

Name: Aurora Corona
Date Submitted: 05/17/2024 03:20 PM
Council File No: 24-0600
Comments for Public Posting: See attached letter.

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

May 17, 2024

Honorable City Council Board Members,

RE: 2024-2025 Budget Priorities for the City of LA

Non-Elimination of Vacant Positions

I disagree with the plan to eliminate the current 2000 vacant city positions to shrink the budget gap. This action does nothing to address the problem of understaffing that all city departments complain about as the key issue for not being able to provide basic city services in a timely manner to its stakeholders. Inadequate services are what stakeholders have been dealing with for years and they will continue to bear the brunt in the upcoming years with the elimination of about 20% of city jobs. The city cannot continue with using understaffing as the catchall excuse for not providing services to its taxpayers. Rather, the city's hiring process needs to be streamlined to acquire qualified applicants quicker.

Bureau of Street Lighting

Increase budget and prioritize hardest hit areas without lighting. Copper wire theft is more prevalent in neighborhoods that are adjacent to freeways because these places tend to attract homeless encampments. In addition, these areas are usually underserved communities of color. Pico Union is a prime example; it is surrounded by the 110 and 10 freeways. Hundreds of lights have been out for months due to vandalism in this district, and thousands throughout the city. Furthermore, no lighting has increased crime and accidents. Prioritizing hardest hit areas makes more sense rather than in the order of outages reported.

LA Fire Department

Grant the funding requested by LAFD to increase staffing levels to manage workload and to provide firefighter safety Equipment and for infrastructure repairs and fire station maintenance.

Last fiscal year, LAFD requested funding of \$21M, yet they received only a quarter of that amount. For years, LAFD has been operating with a service gap. With each passing year, the population and density increases, and because of this, LAFD has seen a 55% increase in calls. Sadly, the Fire Department has not grown and remains behind due to lack of funds. In addition, there is a critical issue with its aging fire stations. There are a total of 106 fire stations of which 53 are over 50 years old, 12 over 70 and 4 over 80. So, 65% of LAFD's buildings are in the older category stage which boils down to more maintenance and repairs. A tipping point is on the horizon. The city needs to act sooner than later to address this problem.

Department of Building and Safety in conjunction with the Department of City Planning.

Increase budget for proactive code enforcement. This will also increase city revenue. Years ago, the city implemented PACE (Proactive Code Enforcement) and it worked. Throughout the city, homes were well-kept, streets were clean, vendors obtained proper permits because there was a fine attached to not maintaining properties and or businesses in proper condition.

Bureau of Street Services in conjunction with the Department of Transportation

Increase funding to repair potholes and for the paving and maintenance of major roads, residential streets, and alleys. This includes broken curbs and uplifted sidewalks due to tree roots. In addition, to provide more street calming measures in High Network Injury corridors. Furthermore, hire more staff and inspectors in the Urban Forestry Division to provide enforcement and education regarding protected trees. Highly recommend that the maximum penalties with mandatory fines and replacement for trees lost due to illegal removals be enforced.

Department of Sanitation

Increase funding to address illegal dumping and increase fines for the perpetrators. Cameras, illegal dumping signs, and lighting in alleys is highly recommended in known hot spots.

Department of Recreation and Parks

Increase funding to allow for more park staffing and maintenance of our parks and recreation centers which many Angelenos flock to yearlong but that are especially vital to the more vulnerable population in the summer for heat relief.

Animal Services

Increase budget to hire more veterinarians and support staff, as well as to offer and distribute spay and neuter vouchers to address the overpopulation of stray dogs, cats, and rabbits across the city.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aurora Corona".

Aurora Corona
Lifetime Resident of Pico Union

Communication from Public

Name: Mike Taylor

Date Submitted: 05/17/2024 04:32 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I know that our City budget is important. I feel like the proposed budget does a good job of focusing on crime and homelessness. Especially with all of this metro stuff going on. I support the Mayor's proposed budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Kari H

Date Submitted: 05/17/2024 06:56 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am on the Board of HousingMV (Housing Mar Vista). HousingMV is a grassroots, non-profit, based out of Mar Vista. We work tirelessly to help the unhoused in Mar Vista and surrounding areas. We work to improve the lives of our unhoused community members living on the street of Los Angeles, by connecting them with medical services, dental services, vision services, DMV IDs and just showing them that someone cares. We compassionately supply hygiene items, tents, clothing, a warm meal and a nonjudgemental attitude. We have seen firsthand the benefits of Inside Safe when the encampment we were mainly focusing on was slated to move to Inside Safe and our unhoused neighbors finally got interim housing. We could immediately see the benefits of being off the streets and in a motel room. The dramatic changes that can come from 3 meals a day, a shower and a safe place to sleep can make all the difference. We see people wanting to get help for their addictions, we see people back at work and most of all we see that our newly housed neighbors are healthier and happier. Please continue your amazing efforts to help the unhoused of Los Angeles. We can see the difference it is making in our community! Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Alley Mills Bean

Date Submitted: 05/17/2024 07:48 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon. My name is Alley Mills Bean, and although I am chair of the Homelessness Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council I am writing today just as a citizen of Los Angeles, and of Venice Beach. I wanted to commend and thank Mayor Bass not only for her courageous new budget, but also for her unwavering commitment to solving the issue of Homelessness in our City. I also want to applaud her for re-declaring a State of Emergency on Homelessness and for her new appointment of Dr. Etsamaye Agonafer as the first ever Deputy of Homelessness in Los Angeles. As the Mental Health and drug addiction aspects of Homelessness are growing more and more dire every day, this new appointment has given the citizens of Venice great hope that a new focus will be placed on addressing Mental Health and Drug Addiction in our City. We also are hopeful that this appointment of Dr. Agonafer will begin to bridge the enormous gulf that has seemed to exist between the City and the County in regards to providing these desperately needed services WITHIN our City PSH projects and Homeless Housing units. Kudos to Mayor Bass for choosing to sit on the Board of LHASA and calling for transparency in the County's provision of services for our City. My hope would be that now with Dr. Agonafer as Deputy an even greater effort will be made to coordinate with the County to begin training more and more Mental Health workers and drug addiction specialists so that we can really attack this problem just as emergency triage units were set up immediately after WW2 to shelter and urgently treat patients. It would be my great hope that in the monies being spent in this new budget towards immediate housing, that the costs no longer mostly go to very expensive new building (some HHH units costing up to 1 million dollars a door) but rather to more creative development and repurposing that could be immediately occupied and allow many more so in need on our streets to get Inside to a place with services that could actually turn their lives around and get them back on their feet. We Venetrians remain grateful to Mayor Bass for her Inside Safe program that began here in December of 2023. An enormous encampment of many city blocks that went Inside has remained clear to this day. And we are grateful for her recent appointment of Dr. Agonafer, because our unhoused population in Venice unfortunately has many souls suffering from untreated Mental

Health issues and untreated drug addiction, and it is our great hope that she will collaborate with the County to bring much needed life changing services to our City Housing units to get people help right away. People here in our community see that it is getting worse for our neighbors on the streets, not better. People are very ill on our streets and people are dying on our streets and we desperately need places for them to go to get help. So again thank you to the Mayor from Venice for keeping the fight alive and we truly hope this next year will see a great focus on getting people the help they REALLY need quickly to give them a chance to get back on their feet and on their way to an abundant life!