

Communication from Public

Name: Ganizani Nonso
Date Submitted: 05/19/2024 04:27 PM
Council File No: 24-0600
Comments for Public Posting: I go to church in Tarzana and I like how things are going and I feel good about the city of LA. I support the Mayor's budget and know it will lead LA to a better future

Communication from Public

Name: Godfrey Plata

Date Submitted: 05/19/2024 04:57 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: LA City Councilmembers -- In advance of this week's council meetings on the Mayor's 2024-2025 budget, LA Forward would like to share our budget letter 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 budget for two separate expenditures: (1) \$2.5 million toward the capacity to begin initial infrastructure changes aimed at centralizing dispatch for emergency management/crisis services; and (2) \$2 million toward the evaluation of all the current Alternative Crisis Response Programs. Despite our advocacy with Budget, Finance, and Innovations, neither ask was baked into last week's rack-up. We will be continuing to advocate this week with each office and through public comment, knowing that community safety is a top priority for Angelenos, the Mayor, and the Council. Now is not the time to slow down progress on unarmed crisis response services that our communities are seeking. Please reach out with any questions. We're eager to continue collaborating on this issue. Godfrey Plata Deputy Director, LA Forward On behalf of LA Forward's Unarmed Crisis Response working group



May 19, 2024

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

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

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

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 budget for two separate expenditures:

1. \$2.5 million toward the capacity to begin initial infrastructure changes aimed at centralizing dispatch for emergency management/crisis services
2. \$2 million toward the evaluation of all the current Alternative Crisis Response Programs.

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.

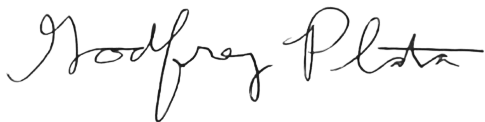
- a. Los Angeles currently has at least eight different programs: Call Direction to Ensure Suicide Safety (CRESS), Crisis and Incident Response through Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE), Therapeutic Van Pilot, Advanced Provider Response Unit (APRU), Sobriety Emergency Response (SOBER) Unit, Fast Response 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 and separate 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: Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition

Date Submitted: 05/19/2024 08:10 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition is pleased that the Budget and Finance Committee voted to add an additional \$6.5 million from general funds to cover the expected VOCA cuts and add an additional \$2 million from general funds (out of the requested \$6 million) to expand shelter operations. In particular, DVHSC wishes to thank Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, for leading in support of gender-based violence survivors in the 24-25 budget.



May 21, 2024

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

RE: DVHSC Thanks LA City Council for Supporting Survivors in 24-25 Budget (Item #24-0600)

Dear Los Angeles City Council Members,

The Domestic Violence and Homeless Services Coalition ("DVHSC") **thanks you for supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking who are experiencing homelessness in the City Budget.** 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

We greatly appreciate the Budget and Finance Committee for their inclusion of \$6.5 million to bridge the gap in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. Nationwide funding cuts for VOCA are set to have devastating impacts on survivors and service providers. The Council's leadership in bridging this gap will go a long way in supporting survivors in Los Angeles.

We also thank the Committee for their inclusion of \$2 million for the expansion of shelter services and opening of new shelters for survivors. With the number of people experiencing homelessness due to fleeing domestic violence increasing 54% in the past year, we know the need for services, shelter, and housing for survivors is skyrocketing. 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. This funding is a great step on the path to ending homelessness for survivors.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Amy Turk'.

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

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

Laura Lull
CEO
Rainbow Services
DVHSC Co-Lead

Communication from Public

Name: San Fernando Valley Young Democrats

Date Submitted: 05/19/2024 08:14 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of San Fernando Valley Young Democrats, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed budget for the city of Los Angeles. While we recognize the complexities involved in budget allocation, we believe that certain priorities reflected in the proposed budget do not align with our club's values. Please see our attached letter.



May 19, 2024

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 401
Los Angeles, California 90012

RE: Proposed Budget 2024-2025 (Council File 24-0600)

Member of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of San Fernando Valley Young Democrats, we are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed budget for the city of Los Angeles. While we recognize the complexities involved in budget allocation, we believe that certain priorities reflected in the proposed budget do not align with our club's values.

The San Fernando Valley Young Democrats (SFVYD) strives to engage young people in legislative affairs, increase efficiency in our government, maintain the viability of our free institutions, and contribute to the growth and influence of the Democratic Party's ideals and philosophy. Founded in 1994 by young activists including U.S. Senator Alex Padilla and Congressman Tony Cárdenas, the SFVYD serves as the premiere Democratic organization for young people in the San Fernando Valley.

One of our primary concerns is the apparent rollback in funding for core services, such as housing and homelessness, coupled with an increase in funding for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). We believe that addressing the root causes of homelessness and investing in affordable housing are essential steps toward building a more equitable and compassionate city. However, the proposed budget fails to prioritize these critical issues adequately.

Of particular concern is the allocation of \$1 million from the city's Arts and Cultural Facilities Fund to LAPD. This decision is deeply troubling, as it not only diverts much-needed resources away from an already underfunded sector but also perpetuates a troubling trend of over-policing in our communities. We believe that investing in the arts and cultural enrichment is essential for fostering creativity, community cohesion, and social well-being, and diverting funds from this sector to law enforcement is counterproductive.

We are writing in support of [LA Forward's ask of an additional \\$4.5 million to the 2024-2025 budget for unarmed crisis response services](#). Utilizing the remaining unappropriated funds from last budget year (\$13.2 million) into this upcoming budget year, the city's current programs, CIRCLE and UMCR, will be able to continue their work. We support building a comprehensive unarmed crisis response system for our city 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.

Ahead of the March 2024 election, SFVYD voted to support Measure HLA, which would require the city to implement its Mobility Plan upon street repaving. This budget reflects cuts to key departments tasked with implementing safer streets in LA. [This budget does not treat our traffic violence crisis with a sense of urgency](#). StreetsLA's Pavement Preservation Program, which is the primary mechanism for Measure HLA implementation, was cut by 21%. The net effect will be fewer streets repaved, meaning fewer Mobility Plan safety improvements implemented. LADOT's budget was cut by 1%, from \$217 million to \$215 million. Today we live in a city where a pedestrian is injured every five hours and killed every two days, making it the most dangerous city in the country to walk in. This is a public safety and public health crisis, and should be treated as such.

We support [Council President Krekorian's budget request for a Charter Reform Commission](#). We agree with Common Cause that [the City should seek reforms](#), including the expansion of the Ethics Commission membership, establishing a minimum budget, and increasing penalties for violations of the L.A. Ethics Code. However, SFVYD has not taken a position on the specifics of the proposal.

Furthermore, we are troubled by the cuts to animal services, including shelters that are already severely underfunded and overcrowded. Animal welfare is a vital component of our community's well-being, and reducing funding in this area will only exacerbate the challenges faced by our animal companions and the dedicated staff who care for them.

We believe that by prioritizing investments in housing, social services, and community development, the City of Los Angeles can create a more inclusive, equitable, and thriving city for all residents. In light of these concerns, we urge the City Council to reconsider its budget priorities and reallocate resources in a manner that reflects the needs and values of our community.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,



Brandon Whalen-Castellanos
Legislative Director
San Fernando Valley Young Democrats

Adam Pryor
Logan Fisher
SFVYD Legislative Committee

Communication from Public

Name: Donald Moore

Date Submitted: 05/18/2024 12:59 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a senior in Reseda. We have to take care of this homeless problem. I support the mayor and this budget.