

Communication from Public

Name: Joshua R Lamont

Date Submitted: 05/23/2024 11:27 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Insanity: extreme folly or unreasonableness. We have seen this situation before. It happened in the 70s. Then, in the 90s. And now again. Massive cuts to the state budget as a result of rising demands. These cuts become easiest to make to the Arts because they are seen as non-essential. Non-threatening. The easiest to justify. Time and time again, we see the ramifications of these cuts. Poor student enrollment and attendance which leads to a higher drop out rate. Less opportunities for creative outlets leading to less jobs and higher crimes rates. Less connection and empathy for oneself and others which leads to horrible public and mental health. And yet, today the City Council has decided to cut funding to the Department of Cultural Affairs. A department that is already struggling with limited funding and resources. A department that needs more infrastructure. As a panellist for the DCA, I heard firsthand how desperate they are for more people, more funding, and more attention. Has the Council learned nothing from its counterpart - the County? Has the Councilmembers learned nothing from their leadership? Granted, they only have 5 people to wrangle, however, the County has implemented and funded various initiatives that weave the Arts into other sectors. It is not a hard connection to make. Several studies and reports have shown the connection between the Arts and Education, Justice, Health, and Housing and Jobs. We have shown you this data. You have it. You've read it. You've agreed to our points and yet, we find ourselves back in this position. We understand your job and how difficult it is. We do not envy you. We know all the reasons why you say these cuts need to be made. Respectfully, I do not care. I do not care because if you can find funding for more police then you can find funding for the Arts. If you can find funding for a new stadium, then you can find funding for the Arts. If you can find funding for hotels and skyscrapers and various other vanity projects, then you can find funding for the Arts. At least we will be responsible with what we have and actually complete what we say we will. The return on investment will be evident. At a time when we need more connection, more education, more understanding, and more empathy - all of which are lacking right now, why make it harder to access these skills? Why repeat the same actions as all those who came before you? Don't you want to make history?

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/23/2024 07:16 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am a concerned citizen and resident of Los Angeles. I hope that funding for parks does not get lowered as I believe parks help the youth and the public stay healthy. There are many other outlets of government that can get defunded instead of public parks. The taxpayers of LA are not signing up to get the majority of our taxes funneled into a department that does not need increased funding. Parks need and deserve more funding. My vote will dictate how I feel about the resolution of this matter. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Jess

Date Submitted: 05/23/2024 10:22 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a lifelong Angeleno and resident of the City of Beverly Hills. I strongly urge Mayor Bass not to increase funding to the LAPD! We have for too long been under the false belief that police keep us safe. We have seen time and again that this is patently false, police are intended to protect the interests of the ruling class and enforce de facto apartheid through brutality, terror, surveillance and intimidation of citizens. This must end. We cannot in good conscience continue to fund policing and carceral systems in this country and, as our elected official, Mayor Bass must heed the demands of her constituents, the vast majority of whom are workers and people of color demanding new systems that prioritize CARE, justice, and dignity NOT more police and prisons! Increasing funding to LAPD will only serve to further weaken our democracy, the evidence of which is already seen in these brutal attacks by police against peaceful protesters! WE MUST INVEST IN COMMUNITIES NOT POLICE!! Police do not keep us safe, we keep us safe. Police create more violence, structurally and physically. THIS MUST END!!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/21/2024 02:36 PM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am pleased with the work Mayor Bass us doing in regards to the homeless situation. I am concerned that even though we have signs that prohibit RVs and encampments we are still having issues. I also support the police and their commitment

Communication from Public

Name: Joe Donlin

Date Submitted: 05/22/2024 08:26 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: NOTE: Full letter attached. Please find the core points also copied below: Dear Honorable Members of City Council, We ask that you consider the following as the budget goes through its final stages. #1: In the short and intermediate terms, prioritizing housing solutions founded and funded by ULA is the financially prudent thing to do. The City's budget is tight, which is reason enough to continue the preventative and cost-saving homelessness prevention and affordable housing programs funded by ULA. The housing affordability and homelessness crises are widely understood as our City's greatest challenge. Any delay in utilizing the \$250 million already raised by ULA - or the additional \$300-\$400 million projected to be raised by end of next fiscal year - would condemn even more Angelenos into homelessness and put further strain on City resources. #2: In the long term, prioritizing ULA spending is the financially prudent thing to do. As the City Council is well aware, the Taxpayer Deception Act (formally known as the "Taxpayer Protection and Governance Act") is slated to be on the November state ballot. If it were to pass, not only would ULA be effectively repealed, but countless other revenue sources the City depends on would be decimated and its ability to generate new revenue would be severely diminished. Some proponents of the measure overlap with the parties who filed the lawsuits challenging ULA, reflecting how both the litigation and ballot vehicles are being used as part of a coordinated strategy to undermine ULA. By not committing to continued spending and implementation of ULA, the City would be handing a win to these groups who would like to claim ULA has "failed". They could very well use the City's inaction on ULA to spin such a narrative that would be used to pass their measure and cost the City of LA and the State of California tens of billions of dollars in public revenue loss. They are trying to use ULA in this way despite the numerous successes of ULA in its first year, which include: \$250 million raised in just the first 12 months by ULA; 11,000 Angelenos kept in their housing by the ULA rental assistance program; 795 new affordable homes funded by ULA and under or near construction; and 10,000 new union construction jobs funded by ULA to build the new affordable housing. Thus, a strong ULA equals a strong counter to the Taxpayer Deception Act. #3: During the budget hearings there

was repeated an assumption that litigation challenging ULA will be resolved “soon”, often defined as late Summer or Fall of 2024. A ruling in the State appellate court is actually not anticipated before December of this year, and likely not until 2025. We share the confidence expressed by the City that ULA will be upheld in the appellate courts; so it’s a matter of when, not if. However, the “when” is important because the appeals process could drag into 2025. This would not equate to resolution arriving “soon” and would mean ULA funding would sit idly for at least another seven months. Meanwhile, the housing crisis will continue to cause more Angelenos to become unhoused while the ULA infrastructure built over this past year risks ossifying. The City should not wait for the court process to finish before committing funding to ULA programs. If the litigation gets resolved sooner than expected, then any “backstop” funds set aside for ULA programs can be reallocated to other purposes sooner, as well. #4: “Tapping the brakes” on ULA spending Will Harm the People of Los Angeles. Waiting seven months or more without committing more funding to ULA programs would mean the City would have sitting unused an estimated \$325 million for essential homelessness prevention services and affordable housing programs. During this time, tens of thousands of households will have been formally evicted in the City; tens of thousands more harassment incidents will have caused physical and mental harm to tenants and resulting in more illegal evictions; and thousands more Angelenos will have become unhoused. ULA programs are designed to address each of these challenges and can continue to do so with ongoing spending of revenues. The Solution: Commit at least \$250 million in ULA funds to spending in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. Provide a “backstop” or other means to ensure the City’s financial strength is maintained. Or simply commit funding - independent of a backstop - to ULA programs that are designed to prevent homelessness and expand our City’s affordable housing supply. Sincerely, The Steering Committee of the United to House LA Coalition



May 15, 2024

Honorable Members of City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: The Urgent Need to Fund Measure ULA Programs and Spend ULA Funding in FY 24-25 City Budget while Litigation Awaits Resolution

Dear Honorable Members of City Council,

As you near the end of the Budget Hearing process and prepare for a full Council vote on the City budget, the United to House LA coalition would like to provide some additional perspective regarding the urgency to continue spending Measure ULA dollars. As is well known, this is a particularly difficult budget year and hard decisions are having to be made about where to place scarce resources. As we have shared in direct meetings and in public comments, the commitment for the City to “backstop” ULA funds so that ULA program implementation can continue while we await resolution of litigation is essential for a variety of reasons that we share below. Indeed, not doing so could seriously worsen the City’s financial future by playing into the hands of the proponents of the Taxpayer Deception Act, which would decimate the City of LA’s budget for decades to come.

Nevertheless, the conversation in the budget hearings landed on “tapping the brakes” on ULA spending, under the assumption that the litigation will be resolved “soon.” This assumption lies at the heart of the problem and should be reevaluated.

We ask that you consider the following as the budget goes through its final stages.

#1: In the short and intermediate terms, prioritizing housing solutions founded and funded by ULA is the financially prudent thing to do. The City’s budget is tight, which is reason enough to continue the preventative and cost-saving homelessness prevention and affordable housing programs funded by ULA. The housing affordability and homelessness crises are widely understood as our City’s greatest challenge. Any delay in utilizing the \$250 million already raised by ULA - or the additional \$300-\$400 million projected to be raised by end of next fiscal year - would condemn even more Angelenos into homelessness and put further strain on City resources.

#2: In the long term, prioritizing ULA spending is the financially prudent thing to do. As the City Council is well aware, the Taxpayer Deception Act (formally known as the “Taxpayer Protection and Governance Act”) is slated to be on the November state ballot. If it were to pass, not only would ULA be effectively repealed, but countless other revenue sources the City depends on would be decimated and its ability to generate new revenue would be severely diminished. Some proponents of the measure overlap with the parties who filed the lawsuits challenging ULA, reflecting how both the litigation and ballot vehicles are being used as part of a coordinated strategy to undermine ULA.

By not committing to continued spending and implementation of ULA, the City would be handing a win to these groups who would like to claim ULA has “failed”. They could very well use the City’s inaction on ULA to spin such a narrative that would be used to pass their measure and cost the City of LA and the State of California tens of billions of dollars in public revenue loss. They are trying to use ULA in this way despite the numerous successes of ULA in its first year, which include:

- \$250 million raised in just the first 12 months by ULA;
- 11,000 Angelenos kept in their housing by the ULA rental assistance program;
- 795 new affordable homes funded by ULA and under or near construction; and
- 10,000 new union construction jobs funded by ULA to build the new affordable housing.

Thus, a strong ULA equals a strong counter to the Taxpayer Deception Act.

#3: During the budget hearings there was repeated an assumption that litigation challenging ULA will be resolved “soon”, often defined as late Summer or Fall of 2024. A ruling in the State appellate court is actually not anticipated before December of this year, and likely not until 2025. We share the confidence expressed by the City that ULA will be upheld in the appellate courts; so it’s a matter of when, not if. However, the “when” is important because the appeals process could drag into 2025. This would not equate to resolution arriving “soon” and would mean ULA funding would sit idly for at least another seven months. Meanwhile, the housing crisis will continue to cause more Angelenos to become unhoused while the ULA infrastructure built over this past year risks ossifying.

The City should not wait for the court process to finish before committing funding to ULA programs. If the litigation gets resolved sooner than expected, then any “backstop” funds set aside for ULA programs can be reallocated to other purposes sooner, as well.

#4: “Tapping the brakes” on ULA spending Will Harm the People of Los Angeles. Waiting seven months or more without committing more funding to ULA programs would mean the City would have sitting unused an estimated \$325 million for essential homelessness prevention services and affordable housing programs. During this time, tens of thousands of households will have been formally evicted in the City; tens of thousands more harassment incidents will have caused physical and mental harm to tenants and resulting in more illegal evictions; and thousands more Angelenos will have become unhoused. ULA programs are designed to

address each of these challenges and can continue to do so with ongoing spending of revenues.

The Solution: Commit at least \$250 million in ULA funds to spending in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. Provide a “backstop” or other means to ensure the City’s financial strength is maintained. Or simply commit funding - independent of a backstop - to ULA programs that are designed to prevent homelessness and expand our City’s affordable housing supply.

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee of the United to House LA Coalition



Communication from Public

Name: Tessa Graham

Date Submitted: 05/22/2024 08:52 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council, Child Development Institute (CDI) is a nonprofit organization located in the San Fernando Valley and is dedicated to helping children reach their full potential. Our goal is for families, communities and support systems to understand the vital importance of early relationships and provide quality support, resources and education so all children have the opportunity to grow and thrive. Since 1995, CDI has provided comprehensive relationship-based programs and services that support the well-being, growth, and success of all children by providing free, safe community play and learning spaces open to all children ages 0-6 and their families with activities promoting healthy development, free developmental and mental health screenings, including warm referrals to community resources as well as a 1 stop-shop for multidisciplinary therapeutic services for infants, young children as well as professional training for organizations throughout LA County. We prioritize relationships and take a holistic, culturally responsive approach to empower families with young children which builds stronger, more resilient communities. We are highly invested in ensuring that our most vulnerable families stay housed and that children and families feel safe in their neighborhoods. We support the Mayor's budget because it addresses these critical issues. Thank you, Tessa Graham, MS, LMFT President/CEO Child Development Institute

Communication from Public

Name: morgan

Date Submitted: 05/22/2024 10:35 AM

Council File No: 24-0600

Comments for Public Posting: It's outright corrupt to give the police this much money while cutting housing services. We're paying gangs of 10-12 cops to randomly harass homeless people while the cost of housing soars. Worst of all they're bankrupting the city by losing civil rights lawsuits. Cut their funding to the bone and give it to departments that are actually doing something for the city.