

MOTION

For over a century, MacArthur Park has played a critical role in the lives of Angelenos. A key gateway for Mexican and Central American immigrants arriving in LA, for decades the neighborhood has served as an informal “Ellis Island” of the west coast, welcoming recently arrived residents as they settle into a new country.

The nearly 30-acre park serves over 41,000 residents living within a 1/2 mile, as well as the 22,000 riders who pass through the Westlake/MacArthur Park Metro station and six major Metro bus lines daily. It is also an incredibly overcrowded neighborhood at 11 times the national rate, and the highest percentage of overcrowding in LA County. The park is surrounded by a number of influential institutions, such as the Mexican Consulate, UCLA Labor Center, LA County Department of Public Social Services, Charles White Elementary School, MacArthur Park Elementary School, and Fire Station 11 - one of the busiest fire stations in the country.

While the population of the MacArthur Park neighborhood has significantly grown according to both formal and informal counts, public investments in municipal services and the social, economic, and infrastructure needs of the neighborhood did not keep pace. This has resulted in an area characterized by deep poverty, uncleanness, and crime. These challenges have been exacerbated in recent years by the opioid epidemic that has ravaged the region, and especially MacArthur Park, where rampant drug sales have fueled a public health crisis in which open air drug use, overdoses, and emergency response calls are daily occurrences. The communities that have made MacArthur Park and the surrounding area the vibrant hub of culture, food that exists today demand and deserve appropriate investment to meet their needs and the needs of the people who pass through on a daily basis.

Since 2023, Council District 1 (CD1) has aggressively pursued and secured millions of dollars to increase resources for the park and nearby community. This includes at least \$25,000,000 in grants and collaborations with the County, State, and Federal governments, and partnerships with private foundations to address both the urgent and long-term needs of the residents. CD1 also invested discretionary funding of over \$1 million for dedicated clean teams six days a week and \$950,000 for peace ambassadors seven days a week. The office has partnered with the Mayor’s office to upgrade street lighting and increase the presence of Crisis and Incident Response through Community-led Engagement (CIRCLE) teams to assist in addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness and support brick and mortar businesses.

This surge in programs and resources have already made a difference - with documented decreases in trash and violent crime, and information from trusted partners about lowered open-air drug use. Yet to end decades of underinvestment and transform the park and surrounding area to a hub of recreation and vibrant community activity where everyone can safely gather and utilize this critical public space, the City must ensure that recent efforts to increase resources to and services at and near MacArthur Park are maintained and strengthened in the years to come.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer, with support from all relevant and necessary departments, to report back in 60 days with funding necessary to maintain, and staffing plans associated with, the following services and programs for MacArthur Park and


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½ mile around the park from May 2025 through June 2026:

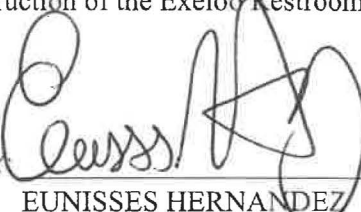
- Illegal dumping collection in alleys around the park;
- Office of Community Beautification CleanLA Jobs;
- Street sweeping operations and deployment;
- CIRCLE staffing and deployment;
- MacArthur Park Youth and Adult Programming;
- Solarized Lighting - existing and planned;
- Graffiti removal;
- Park maintenance - including
- Landscaping, trash removal, and special event support;
- Public restroom maintenance and infrastructure;
- Gang reduction operation and deployment; and,
- Fire Station 11 staffing and deployment, including vehicle allocation and staffing of vehicles.

The report should use April 2025 staffing, programming, and operations as the baseline coverage for services needed for maintenance of effort.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council INSTRUCT the City Administrative Officer, with support from the necessary departments, to including in upcoming MICLA and CTIEP programming the following:

- \$69,500 for the Alvarado Corridor Treescape Project of 25 new trees with concrete well cuts; and,
- \$1.2 M in gap financing for the design, permits, and construction of the Exeloo Restroom.

PRESENTED BY



EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL