

Communication from Public

Name: Doug Smith

Date Submitted: 08/29/2025 02:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600-S16

Comments for Public Posting: please find attached, a letter encouraging the council to fully fund the public bank feasibility study



August 29, 2025

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

Re: Los Angeles Public Bank | cf 19-1235-S1 and 25-0600-S16

Dear Councilmembers,

Inclusive Action for the City writes to request that you fully fund the public bank feasibility study.

Inclusive Action is a Los Angeles-based economic justice nonprofit and Community Development Financial institution (CDFI) serving Los Angeles County and beyond. Our mission is to serve underinvested communities and build thriving local economies by improving access to transformative capital and advancing policy through collaborative research and community driven advocacy.

Much of our work focuses on supporting small and micro-businesses, immigrant entrepreneurs, and street vendors who are the backbone of Los Angeles. These businesses, many of them owned by people of color, sustain our neighborhoods and provide critical income for working families. Yet they are often shut out of affordable capital. Corporate banks routinely deny loans or charge high interest, leaving entrepreneurs with few options to grow, stabilize, or recover from setbacks.

A Los Angeles public bank could change that. By partnering with CDFIs, community banks, and credit unions, a public bank would expand access to fair lending and create a financial system that finally meets the needs of small businesses and working-class communities. It would allow the City to reinvest public dollars locally, making sure entrepreneurs and vendors have access to the tools they need to succeed.

The City has already taken important steps by issuing an RFP, selecting consultants, and voting to support this study multiple times. Six councilmembers have committed discretionary funds, but \$370,000 is still needed to begin the work. This is a modest investment with enormous potential to open opportunities for Angelenos who are too often left behind.

A public bank would save the City money on borrowing costs and keep those savings in Los Angeles, where they could be reinvested to grow affordable housing, fund community infrastructure, and expand economic opportunity. For immigrant families and business owners, this could mean affordable loans to purchase permitted street vending equipment, expand storefronts, or steady household income.



We encourage you to allocate the remaining funds and move this study forward. The future of Los Angeles depends on investing in the people and businesses who make this city a better place to live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Smith".

Doug Smith
Vice President
Inclusive Action for the City