

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, Thank you for the opportunity to share the Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce position regarding the proposed consolidation of the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), Youth Development Department, and Department of Aging into the Community Investment for Families Department. While we understand the goal of improving efficiency, the proposed consolidation risks weakening the very systems that support Los Angeles businesses, workers, and neighborhoods. The CAO report evaluates only short term service delivery and cost factors. We believe the City needs a long term economic strategy that strengthens, rather than reduces, its capacity to create jobs, support small businesses, and prepare for major economic opportunities. We urge the Committees to reject the consolidation and instead pursue a structure that positions Los Angeles for economic growth and competitiveness over the next decade. Specifically, we support the creation of a standalone Economic Development Department that retains and grows EWDD's core economic functions. This aligns with best practices in other major cities and with Los Angeles County, which created and invested in its Department of Economic Opportunity to support job creation, small business resilience, and regional economic mobility. A few key points for consideration: • The CAO report confirms that EWDD already houses the strongest expertise in business services, workforce alignment, capital development, and industry engagement. These functions require greater investment, not less. A standalone Economic Development Department is the most effective way to achieve that. • Consolidating EWDD into CIFI would dilute economic capacity at a time when the City needs to be expanding it. Los Angeles is preparing for FIFA 2026, the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and other global events. These events create opportunities to strengthen the entire business ecosystem and to support the City's goal of generating ninety thousand jobs. This is not the moment to reduce economic leadership capacity. • The CAO report does not offer evidence that consolidation would improve job creation, business growth, or economic mobility. Service reductions or loss of specialized expertise could harm small businesses that rely on EWDD programs for assistance and access to capital. • Best practice

supports the model we recommend. Cities such as San Diego, New York, Chicago, and Austin maintain dedicated economic development agencies. They do so because economic development requires focused leadership, consistent investment, and a long term strategy that is not diluted by competing program areas. • The Chamber urges the City to engage business, labor, and community partners before making structural changes. Decision making of this magnitude should reflect the goals and needs of the entire regional economy. Los Angeles has a rare opportunity to define a forward looking economic development strategy that prepares residents and businesses for the future. A strong, standalone Economic Development Department will help the City grow quality jobs, support innovation, attract investment, and revitalize communities. Consolidation into CIFD would move the City in the opposite direction. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We stand ready to support the City in building an economic development structure that matches the scale of Los Angeles and the opportunities ahead. Sincerely, Nancy Hoffman Vanyek President and CEO Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce