

Communication from Public

Name: Belinda Campos Bresnahan

Date Submitted: 08/19/2025 09:49 AM

Council File No: 25-0600-S43

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Belinda Campos Bresnahan, Senior Project Manager for LAC+USC Medical Foundation/ The Wellness Center LA and I'm part of the Invest in Youth Coalition. For over ten years, young people and community leaders organized to win a stand alone Youth Development Department. That victory mattered and it gave youth visibility, accountability, and a seat at the table in the Los Angeles government. Today, that hard won progress is at risk. The proposed consolidation report sounds promising in theory, but it provides no true evidence that it can actually deliver stronger coordination and better outcomes. Meanwhile, what is certain is that the Youth Development Department and the trust of the young people who fought for it would be dismantled. We urge you to not move forward without an independent analysis. Before eliminating a department that our communities fought for, the Council must demand proof that consolidation will achieve the outcomes it promises. We remain committed to the need for a standalone Youth Development Department. But if consolidation happens, youth must not be sidelined. At minimum, we need: A dedicated Office of Youth Development with its own leadership, A protected budget line item for youth, Youth advisory power in shaping policy, and Visible Youth Hubs across the city. Formal written Commitment to have the Youth Development Department to be a stand alone entity in future if funding and infrastructure permit. This is about trust. When young people fight for change and win, their city should honor that victory and not erase it in a budget crisis. Stand with us to protect youth investment as a permanent priority for Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Monica Rodriguez

Date Submitted: 08/19/2025 11:14 AM

Council File No: 25-0600-S43

Comments for Public Posting: It took over a decade of youth and community advocacy to get OUR Youth Development Department. This was a message that young people mattered. Although I joined the fight in the tail end, I still understood the significance. The consolidation report only sounds good in the moment. There is no factual evidence or even an analysis report demonstrating that it will produce stronger outcomes or enhance coordination. However, one thing is certain: eliminating the YDD will only continue to marginalize youth and disparage our identity. Before destroying a department that I helped write the framework for, I'm demanding that City Council provide an independent analysis of what this consolidation would actually achieve. I haven't seen an independent fiscal analysis. While the consolidation is estimated to save money, I want to see tangible evidence to support this claim. If this consolidation does move forward, I will continue my efforts and advocacy work to support the notion that youth deserve their own, fully funded department. We've met with CIFI and listed the following non-negotiables: a protected youth budget, a dedicated Office of Youth Development with leadership, youth advisory power, and visible Youth Hubs across the city. Promises were made and we'd like to see the framework for youth decision making power because this is about trust. You destroyed that when you approved the budget and the destruction of the YDD. Stand with us TODAY to protect youth investment because I will remember come the next election cycle.