

Communication from Public

Name: Jeremy Oberstein

Date Submitted: 12/09/2025 10:02 AM

Council File No: 25-0600-S43

Comments for Public Posting: I support the proposed amendment creating a standalone Economic Development Department and consolidating youth, senior, and workforce programs into one coordinated Community Investment Department. This approach provides the right balance:

- A focused Economic Development Department to drive business growth and economic mobility.
- A more unified service delivery system for youth, older adults, and workforce programs.

This amendment moves the City in a much more thoughtful direction by strengthening economic development while improving alignment in community services. I encourage the Council to approve this amendment.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 12/09/2025 04:11 PM

Council File No: 25-0600-S43

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of the amendment that creates a standalone Economic Development Department while consolidating youth, senior, and workforce programs into the new Community Investment Department. For months, the business community has been deeply concerned that full consolidation would dilute the City's economic development capacity. This amendment takes a more strategic approach. A standalone Economic Development Department will preserve the core functions that businesses rely on: small business services, commercial corridor support, real estate development tools, and policies that drive economic growth. This structure aligns with best practices in other major cities and matches the direction taken by Los Angeles County when it created its Department of Economic Opportunity. I urge the Committee to adopt this amendment and ensure Los Angeles strengthens—rather than weakens—its long-term economic competitiveness. Thank you for considering this input.

Communication from Public

Name: Nadia Segura

Date Submitted: 12/09/2025 02:06 PM

Council File No: 25-0600-S43

Comments for Public Posting: Bet Tzedek's Small Business Development Program assists hundreds of low-to-moderate income small business owners start, develop, and protect their businesses every year, at zero cost to them, on a wide variety of legal matters that are of critical importance. We are one of only two such programs in the entire city. EWDD is the main funding source for our program. The proposed consolidation of EWDD into the CIFD will disrupt the continued provision of these essential services to our City's small business owners. EWDD has been a trusted and consistent partner to SBD in helping small businesses through focused and dedicated services that are critical to the City's economy during a time when so much is at stake, particularly with the wildfires at the beginning of this year, and the tariffs and ICE raids that are decimating small businesses' ability to operate profitably and remain in business. Looking forward to the 2026 World Cup and the 2028 Olympics, it is essential to preserve experienced leadership and dedicated economic expertise within City government. A global city like Los Angeles must have a dedicated economic development department to compete effectively on a national and international scale. Dissolving EWDD would set Los Angeles apart — and not in the right way — from other major cities that recognize the importance of focused economic leadership. Business services are not social services, and small businesses in particular need a dedicated department that understands their challenges and can respond quickly with real solutions. Combining EWDD under CIFD could mean longer delays, fewer resources, and less support for small businesses and workers. In addition, the City's own legislative analyst in its report of the mayor's proposed budget said there's no clear financial benefit to this consolidation. Please keep EWDD independent so it can continue doing what it does best at a crucial juncture in our city's history—helping local businesses succeed, creating jobs, and building a stronger Los Angeles.

Communication from Public

Name: Nancy Hoffman Vanyek - Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce

Date Submitted: 12/09/2025 07:00 PM

Council File No: 25-0600-S43

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, The Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of a standalone Economic Development Department and the consolidation of the Youth Development Department, the Department of Aging, and the Adult and Youth Workforce Divisions of EWDD into the Community Investment Department. The amendment reflects a balanced and thoughtful approach that protects the City's long-term economic capacity while improving alignment among youth, aging, and workforce services. We support the establishment of a standalone Economic Development Department that retains EWDD's core economic development functions as outlined in the amendment. This structure positions Los Angeles to strengthen small-business services, expand support for commercial corridors, coordinate real estate and capital projects, and implement modern economic development strategies. It aligns Los Angeles with best practices used by other major cities and supports the City's long-term economic competitiveness. We also support consolidating YDD, LADOA, and the Adult and Youth Workforce Divisions into a single Community Investment Department. These service areas are closely related and benefit from unified planning, streamlined administration, and integrated program delivery. The amendment provides a clear transition framework and maintains stability while ensuring accountability, transparency, and continuity of services for youth, older adults, and job seekers. This is a critical moment for Los Angeles. The City has major opportunities ahead, including the FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. A dedicated Economic Development Department will ensure that Los Angeles can fully leverage these opportunities to create jobs, support local businesses, attract investment, and strengthen the regional economy. We urge you to vote "aye" on the amendment. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to strengthening Los Angeles for businesses, workers, and families.