

Communication from Public

Name: Diane

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 06:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not close any animal shelters we are suppose to help the animals not destroy they have no place to go. Do not close any shelters if you have a heart ?? you will not close the shelters

Communication from Public

Name: marilyn

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 03:56 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: please don't slash funding for animal shelters, the shelters don't have enough funds as is ??

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 04:06 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cutting budgets for animal welfare is inhumane. There must be other solutions. Please don't let us down. These animals should have just as many rights as humans.

Communication from Public

Name: Nicole Smith

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 07:19 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members, Please keep hearings open for in-person comment after M 4/28, schedule two additional public comment sessions, and a longer public notification of open hearing forums—one month notice. • Incorrect Google AI information when searching for meeting. Google states Van Nuys City Hall instead of LA City Hall for upcoming Monday 4/28 meeting. Incorrect till 4/26. • On Fri. 4/25, Van Nuys City Hall court room was unable to house all testifiers and attendees at the same time due to inadequate room size with One In, One Out Rule. Many waited outside in line with no video monitor to view testimonies inside the court room. After submitting testimony, many did not stay but exited so another testifier can enter. The 4/25 hearing did not ensure proper open hearing forum protocol for attendees to hear all testimonies or stay in the courtroom to listen to testimonies that may be critical to their case. The 4/25 meeting was not conducive to an “open public forum.” The City needs to provide full coverage of public open hearings to attendees. To have only two open hearings back-to-back (the second meeting an extension of the first) is too short of a time for a public open forum that encompasses multiple department budget cuts and staff reductions throughout the cities of Los Angeles. There are no open hearings scheduled after 4/28. Additional open hearings are needed and better notification of the events to the public. At least two weeks between open hearing sessions. Was there a 10-day public notification for 4/25 and 4/28 meeting in newspaper publications as required by CA Code (gov: 65090)? What newspapers were the hearings published in and when? Was it on or before 4/15 for 4/25 meeting? Was it on or before 4/18 for 4/28 meeting? Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Nicole Smith

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 07:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass' announced cuts Mon. 4/21 then just 4 days later the City scheduled hearings for in-person public comment on F 4/25 and final open hearing on M 4/28. No other open hearings before final decisions are made. Was there a 10-day notification for the open hearing per CA Code gov: 65090? Request: Open at least two more hearings with in-person open comment and give the appropriate time of 1 month notification. Inform the public widely of open public hearing dates as well as written comment deadline, adding specific Case File Number: 25-0600, link for written comment, and date, time of deadline for written comment.

Communication from Public

Name: April Dyer-Morton

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 05:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Our city relies on day laborers and we need to support them. Day Labor Centers are more than just places to find employment, Day Labor Centers act as leadership and workforce development hubs for migrant workers, where workers are empowered to take action, including but not limited to setting their wages and setting agreements on job distribution to ensure equitable opportunity in an inequitable job market rife with wage theft and health and safety violations. They are safe and trusted spaces at a time when immigrant workers are being targeted and criminalized by the current federal administration. We can not leave this support system out of the budget. The city needs to fund our communities in ways that help us!

Communication from Public

Name: Ashley lognion

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 07:26 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The shelters need more money not less! At a minimum they can't afford to loose what they get now. Please don't let these workers and animals who are sentient beings no job or home... the streets are rough and animals done deserve to die. We must be the role models!

Communication from Public

Name: GVS

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 05:53 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: - more overcrowding at remaining shelters. -higher risk of illness, injury and euthanasia. -communities in South LA, DTLA, and the alley may lose any nearby services. -people who can't travel far may be forced to abandon their pets. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Toni O'Neill

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 08:06 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing this to include my voice to NOT CUT funding for our shelters. We are in the middle of an overwhelming crisis of extra cats and dogs in our shelters right now. We can not let them down! Every life is precious. We cannot put down thousands of animals because of budget cuts. It would also be devastating for all current politicians when they seek re-election. Imagine when competitors bring up the fact that you all gave the OK for thousands of animals to die? Absolutely cannot happen! Please make the cuts to different areas. I will gladly pay more for my own dog's license. Thank you, A voting tax payer, Toni O'Neill

Communication from Public

Name: Laurie Hovsepian

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Shame on LA for cutting the budget of the voiceless. We have to do better as a city! Urging you to not shut down 3 shelters. These animals need us!

Communication from Public

Name: Austin Minor

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 07:48 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reject this. Do not cut services to our already underfunded shelters. These animals do not deserve this, the people working tirelessly to help LA's animals do not deserve this. Save the shelters!!!!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Sasha Sanjar

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:34 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose the cuts to animal welfare and animal shelters. By cutting the funding, you will be creating a larger public health and safety issue! Please do not cut funding from these much needed facilities and programs!

Communication from Public

Name: Meghan Leon

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:41 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: It is shameful that the Mayor wants to slash the funding of animal services so deeply. Our already overcrowded shelters will fall into even more disrepair and animals will suffer and die because of this. I am disgusted by this proposal and I insist that the mayor rescind this suggested cut.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 05:42 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Budget and Finance Committee: I'm writing as a supporter of Rainbow Services, which provides shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence. I am deeply concerned about the proposed cut to CIFD's Shelter Services budget — this reduction will result in the loss of vital beds and services. This comes at a time when 43% of people experiencing homelessness in LA report a history of domestic or intimate partner violence. Cuts to CIFD undermine progress made in building survivor-centered systems and will force more people into homelessness. CIFD's Survivor Services programs rely on General Fund dollars for 68% of their total \$18.3 million budget. We urge the City Council to approve the full \$12.4 million in General Funds requested for FY 25-26 and to restore any cuts to Shelter Services. Victim Service Providers deliver life-saving support and are funded at just \$40 per shelter bed night, compared to \$80 for general homeless shelters. Survivors need more than a roof over their heads; they need access to wraparound services like legal support, case management and permanent housing support to rebuild their lives. This is a critical moment to protect and strengthen LA's response to domestic violence — not to scale it back. Please stand with survivors and ensure full funding for CIFD Survivor Services.

Communication from Public

Name: Sophia

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 08:40 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please Karen bass do not close animal shelters! They have no voices it's so unfair !!!

Communication from Public

Name: Gavi Klein

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 09:31 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Budget and Finance Committee, I am a resident of Council District 5 and a person with disabilities. I write to you with deep concerns about the disproportionate cuts to the Department on Disabilities in the Mayor's proposed budget, and urge you to expand the department's current staffing and programming. Not only does this department provide vital services for our most vulnerable communities, it saves our city millions of dollars every year by mitigating liability costs. The city is in a financial crisis in no small part to the hundreds of millions paid out every year in lawsuits that could be avoided by repairing our crumbling infrastructure and increasing accessibility to people with disabilities. The DOD cuts outlined in the Mayor's budget are a drop in the bucket when considering the massive budget deficit, but they will have irreparable impacts on the safety and longevity of our city. I fear for the elders in my community who rely on public transportation every day and have to walk on broken sidewalks. I fear for my disabled neighbors who already struggle to access basic care. I fear for my trans and HIV positive loved ones who rely on city-funded services to stay healthy and are now facing increased challenges with the federal administration pulling back vital resources. It is imperative that the city double down on services for our most vulnerable in the face of federal divestment, and demonstrate our values as a city who cares for those who have the least among us. It is a sobering reminder that ALL of us are just a few years, an unforeseen illness, or an accident away from having to rely on the services of the DOD, which is why I ask you to invest in the Department on Disabilities in this budget cycle. An investment in these services today will reap dividends for the city in the future and save countless lives. Sincerely, Gavi Klein

Communication from Public

Name: Christine

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 03:35 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please amend the currently proposed budget to provide adequate funding animal services. The currently proposed budget could force three of LAAS' six animal shelters to close. The current shelters are already operating at 155% capacity and require more support, not less. While I know you have many budget priorities, companion animals like cats, dogs, and rabbits are an important part of our families and communities. (Also, stray animals left in our neighborhoods without vaccinations or spay/neuter procedures pose a health and safety risk to people, so supporting animal services leads to healthier communities overall.) Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Haley Nix

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 11:25 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The potential closure of 3 animal shelters in the LA region is cruel, unethical, and inhumane. The people of this city URGE you to step in and use the \$5 million in available funds to STOP these mass layoffs immediately. Not only will many people lose their jobs at a time when 99% of people in this city are struggling to survive, but thousands MORE animals will be KILLED because of this unbelievable cruelty. And that's in addition to the thousands of animals being murdered daily because this city council fails them over and over again. Blood is on the hands of those who refuse to help. We will never forget this decision. We DO NOT STAND BY YOUR DECISIONS. Remember who votes for you.

Communication from Public

Name: Annette

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 11:52 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The poor animals are already suffering, if Mayor Bass pulls funding, it will be even worse. Tell Mayor Bass to go visit and volunteer at the shelters she wants to close and pull funds from!! IF she has a heart, she'll change her mind and proposal!!! Do what's right for these animals, they didn't ask to be put in this situation!! Maybe she needs to go after the breeders and irresponsible owners that have made this situation worse. dogs with tons of medical issues being dumped and discarded like trash because of over breeding to make money!! Owners dumping dogs because they're old!! Shame on you and shame on the Mayor if she proceeds with pulling funds!!

Communication from Public

Name: Dennis Rios

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 07:17 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Let's see. You had money to take a trip to Ghana while we burned to a crisp here but you won't allocate funds to keep our shelters running???????????????????????????? We will be hosting the World Cup and the Olympics and you have money for that, but not our shelters???????????? Oh yea, that's right. DOGS CAN'T VOTE. But we can. REMEMBER THAT.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan French

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 07:36 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: San pedro Animal shelter is a community resource and essential
Do not close !

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle Jeanne Armstrong

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 07:43 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The state of our city budget is the fault of our Mayor and council members. I personally know two people who have been housed for two years in a hotel designated for housing. My question is why do they not have to contribute to our city by trash pick up, brush clearance etc to pay for their upkeep?? Homeless continue to be on the streets the filth is disgusting not to mention the safety of the community. Why haven't tax cuts and incentives been put in place for the film industry. The studios are paying for crews to go to other states because it is cheaper to film there. Our city is losing so much revenue by pushing the industry out of LA. The people can see through the incompetence of our Mayor, Govenor and city council members. The corruption is a disgrace!!! All lives matter, police and fire dept need funding, reservoirs need filled, laws need to be enforced so our city becomes a safe place to live again!!! I look forward to you term being over so we can vote in someone competent.

Communication from Public

Name: Adriana

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 10:04 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The proposed budget cut to LA Animal Services will have devastating consequences. Closing 3 shelters & eliminating 60+ staff puts thousands of animals - and entire communities - at risk. These cuts will: - Increase euthanasia - Leave more animals without basic care - Lead to more strays & public safety issues - Waste taxpayer investments - Burn out already overwhelmed volunteers Los Angeles cannot turn its back on the most vulnerable. This isn't just about pets - it's about public health, compassion, and responsibility. Keep shelters open. Keep them staffed. Protect our animals. Please reverse the cuts and invest in real solutions. We need more funding to protect our city's animals not less.

Communication from Public

Name: Shannon Camacho

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 01:26 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Shannon Camacho, and I'm a LA resident of Council District 12 and representative of the organization, Inclusive Action for the City. Inclusive Action is an economic justice nonprofit and Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). 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. We envision diverse communities that have equitable and sustained access to resources, and exercise agency over their futures. Now that the LA City Council has approved funding for the public bank feasibility study, I urge the Council to immediately fund the next phase. This plan will outline how LA can use its own balance sheet to save money, cut borrowing costs, and reinvest in priorities like affordable housing, small businesses, and community development. It's time to stop sending public money to Wall Street, reinvest it in our communities, and help prevent future budget deficits. We know that public banks will work with, not compete against, local financial institutions. These partnerships will lower borrowing costs and increase the lending power of small, undercapitalized institutions. By strengthening local lenders, public banks will help expand access to home mortgages and small business loans, especially in Black and Brown communities that have long been overlooked by big banks. Banking with Wall Street hurts the city. Big banks charge high fees and interest, taking money away from things we actually need, like affordable housing, public transit, and community programs. A public bank would simply and central funding to make affordable housing and other LA projects get off the ground quickly and efficiently. The public bank will prioritize lending to historically marginalized communities. This means they will focus on providing affordable loans to communities that have been overlooked or discriminated against by traditional banks. By doing this, the public bank will help advance racial and economic equity, giving everyone a fair chance to succeed financially. That is why we urge the Council to fund the next phase of the LA Public Bank. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Veronica Chao

Date Submitted: 04/25/2025 01:29 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The city of Los Angeles needs their animals shelters. They can not afford anymore budget cuts. There are so many dogs that need help.

Communication from Public

Name: Araceli Oliver

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 11:14 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY DEEP CONCERN AND OUTRAGE OVER THE PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO LOS ANGELES ANIMAL SERVICES, WHICH WOULD FORCE THE CLOSURE OF THREE OUT OF OUR SIX CITY ANIMAL SHELTERS. OUR SHELTERS ARE ALREADY STRETCHED BEYOND CAPACITY, AND THESE CUTS WILL ONLY MAKE A DIRE SITUATION CATASTROPHIC. CLOSING THE HARBOR, WEST LOS ANGELES, AND WEST VALLEY SHELTERS, ALONG WITH LAYING OFF 62 DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS, WILL RESULT IN EVEN MORE SEVERE OVERCROWDING AT THE REMAINING FACILITIES. THIS WILL INEVITABLY LEAD TO A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN EUTHANASIA RATES-SOMETHING YOUR OWN ANIMAL SERVICES OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED. RIGHT NOW, HEALTHY ANIMALS ARE ALREADY BEING EUTHANIZED WEEKLY DUE TO LACK OF SPACE, AND STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ARE OVERWHELMED BY THE SUFFERING THEY WITNESS EVERY DAY. INSTEAD OF ADDRESSING THIS CRISIS, YOUR ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS ARE MAKING IT WORSE. ANIMAL ADVOCATES, VOLUNTEERS, AND NONPROFITS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR SHELTERS FOR YEARS ARE BEING IGNORED, DESPITE OFFERING SOLUTIONS AND RESOURCES. TRUE LEADERSHIP WOULD FIND WAYS TO INCREASE REVENUE FOR ANIMAL SERVICES, SUCH AS ENFORCING PET LICENSING, RATHER THAN SLASHING ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND PUTTING MORE ANIMALS AT RISK. MAYOR BASS, YOUR REPUTATION HAS ALREADY SUFFERED DUE TO THE WIDELY CRITICIZED HANDLING I OF THE RECENT LA WILDFIRES. MANY ANGELENOS HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN YOUR LEADERSHIP, AND THESE PROPOSED CUTS WILL ONLY DEEPEN PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION. IF YOU PROCEED WITH THIS PLAN, IT WILL NOT ONLY HARM COUNTLESS INNOCENT ANIMALS BUT WILL ALSO CEMENT A TRULY TAINTED LEGACY-ONE MARKED BY CRIS/S MISMANAGEMENT AND NEGLECT OF OUR CITY'S MOST VULNERABLE. /

URGE YOU TO RECONSIDER THESE DEVASTATING
CUTS AND WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY TO FIND
HUMANE, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 11:17 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I do not support the cutting of LA animal shelter's budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Carolyn Uhri

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 12:03 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass, I'm speaking up for L.A.'s dogs and cats. Please do not cut animal services. This will mean that more animals in shelters will be euthanized and more animals will remain on the streets. We citizens work very hard to make sure animals are trapped, fostered, adopted and loved. We know that animal services is already working on a slim budget, so please find other ways to adjust L.A.'s budget. It's only fair to those that cannot speak for themselves. Thank you.

**WHAT ABOUT
ME,
MAYOR BASS?**



NO CUTS TO ANIMAL SERVICES!

**WHAT ABOUT
ME,
MAYOR BASS?**



NO CUTS TO ANIMAL SERVICES!

Communication from Public

Name: Alexandria

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 12:21 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The mayors proposed budget cuts to animal facilities would be devastating to the community and the amount of animals that will have to die as a result. Our shelters are already extremely overpopulated and healthy animals are being put down as a result. We need more budget to these facilities and more non-profit or free spay & neuter clinics to control the population, but NOT more cuts. I suggest cuts to the Mayors salary if anything.

Communication from Public

Name: Janette Serrano

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 12:41 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: It would be a great mistake to close down animal shelters in our city. It's completely unethical to further limit those resources. An alternative, would be to reduce the salaries of those proposing this reduction in government funds for animal shelters .

Communication from Public

Name: Kellee Gray

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 08:26 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This Mayor is the worst in LA's history. Not sure what she is smoking, but closing the shelters is not the answer.

Communication from Public

Name: Scott

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 08:57 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do not cut the budget for the shelters. I am highly against this. We already have a massive amount of homeless animals. We need a bigger budget to provide free spay and neuter clinics! We need bigger fines for backyard breeding!

Communication from Public

Name: Cerise

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 09:12 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please keep the Los Angeles animal shelters open. We're supposed to be an animal loving city. So many animals will be affected, so many killed, so many unattended to.

Communication from Public

Name: Dalia Hoffens
Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 09:31 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Replace Bass!

Communication from Public

Name: Maggie

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 10:51 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: How about work with other states and rescues to help the animals that need shelter find shelter first before you close them and kill them....you say you're for being green and good for the earth and community but yet your going to have blood all over your name by cutting and closing these shelters. Shame on you. Do better!!

Communication from Public

Name: Cloe F

Date Submitted: 04/26/2025 11:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut the funding for animal shelters. If anything they need more support. Housing in Los Angeles is so limited that people live in apartments with building who don't accept dogs either so those who would like to adopt can't even due to fake rules made by money hungry landlords. Animals should be cared for! There would be less animals on shelter if people gave more support to the system for animal.

Communication from Public

Name: Mischa Armada

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 09:53 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is not the answer. Keep your promises, Mayor Bass.

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Juarez

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 10:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Clerk and City Council Members, I am writing to express my deep concern and disappointment regarding the decision to close several animal shelters in our community. These shelters play a vital role in protecting and caring for vulnerable animals, offering them a second chance at life and providing essential services to our city. Closing these shelters will not only put countless animals at risk but will also place additional strain on the remaining facilities and the many volunteers and organizations that work tirelessly to support them. It sends a troubling message about our city's commitment to compassion and responsible animal care. I urge the council to reconsider this decision and explore alternative solutions that prioritize the welfare of these animals and the values of our community. We have a responsibility to protect those who cannot advocate for themselves. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. Sincerely, Jessica Juarez

Communication from Public

Name: Nikki Greve
Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 06:14 AM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Save the dogs!!

Communication from Public

Name: Aleda Myers

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 06:41 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't cut this city serviceThe Train should be cut its never needed like this . After the fires we have needed the animal shelters more than ever. This is your promise MAYOR

Communication from Public

Name: Jordan

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 08:32 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: All shelters are already overcrowded with animals.. there's no way anyone should ever budget cut and force more animals into any other shelter. There's not enough of animal shleters or employees as it is. This is a disgusting idea and unfair to the animals and employees.. we all need to stand up for these poor animals who don't have voices.

Communication from Public

Name: Samira Tapia

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:27 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the city to use the \$5 million they have to NOT close critically needed animal shelters. Do not lay off shelter staff. We are a world class city and this is embarrassing that it has come to this. This is also a public safety issue, resulting in more stray dogs on the streets - resulting in potential lawsuits from citizens, ultimately not saving money at all. Keep shelters open please!

Communication from Public

Name: Kelly dejesus

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 10:07 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reconsider your position on defunding the animal shelters. As a nation, and your city especially and surrounding counties is dealing with an influx of a rising animal crisis that continues to multiply on a daily basis because the local communities refuse to take responsibility. Animals DESERVE at least a chance to a better life, and not just a one way street to a black plastic bag. Please do not cut funding!!! The animals need you!!! They didn't ask to be brought here.

Communication from Public

Name: Angela Llerenas
Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 09:16 AM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello budget hearing committe members, I am speaking against the closure of 3 shelters and lay off of 63 employees. Our department is not just buildings and city workers- it's a lifeline for our community. We providing social services, public safety, and essential roles during disaster, our team always answer the call for public service. Closing shelters would result in more loose animals , more suffering, and a heavier burden in our neighborhoods. The need for our services does not get erased because our facilities are shuttered? What will the Mayor arrange for a replacement? Who will answer those calls for help continuing from our residents. The mayor needs to find the funding to continue our operations uninterrupted. Lets stand together to protect our shelters and staff, because compassion should never be what gets eliminated.

Communication from Public

Name: Laurel Rose

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 10:57 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, the new proposed budget cuts to our city shelters will devastate an already overloaded system. We need to allocate more funds to eradicating the problems our homeless animals face, not less. Please visit the shelters to see how they are already pushed to their limits. Do not do this to the animals, they deserve better. Shame on you Bass.

Communication from Public

Name: Dena Saraceno

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 09:21 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council Members and Budget Committee, I am writing today as a concerned member of the Los Angeles community who cares deeply about the welfare of the animals in our city's shelters. Los Angeles Animal Services is already critically underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers are stretched to their absolute limits, working tirelessly to provide even basic care to thousands of animals. The consequences are heartbreaking: overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, delays in medical treatment, lack of behavioral support, and rising rates of illness, injury, and euthanasia. The proposed budget cuts to LAAS would have devastating and irreversible consequences for both the animals and the people who are trying to help them. Cutting the budget would not solve the problems - it would make them worse. Without proper staffing, resources, and medical support, more animals will suffer, more will be euthanized, and public trust in the shelter system will continue to erode. Many community members and rescue organizations already step up daily to bridge the gaps, providing urgent medical care, rehabilitation, and placement for at-risk animals. But we cannot replace a fully functioning public shelter system. The City of Los Angeles must take responsibility for the lives entrusted to its care. Slashing the LAAS budget is not a cost-saving measure. In the long run, it will increase public health risks, legal liabilities, and community safety concerns - all of which are far more costly to taxpayers. Instead, the city should invest in meaningful solutions: hiring and retaining more staff, improving shelter conditions, expanding spay/neuter and community outreach programs, and supporting partnerships with rescues. The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are living beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love. They are part of our community, and they deserve better. Please do not balance the city's budget at the expense of the most vulnerable. I respectfully urge you to protect and fully fund Los Angeles Animal Services. Our city's values demand it - and the animals are counting on you. Thank you for your time and consideration. Best, Dena Saraceno
Studio City 213-706-7034 denaandblues@me.com

Communication from Public

Name: Rebecca

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 12:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Animal Welfare: Shelters provide food, medical care, and a safe place for abandoned, abused, or stray animals. Without them, many animals would suffer or die on the streets. Shelters offer animals a second chance by helping them find new, loving homes. Without shelters, the adoption process would be harder for people looking to rescue pets. Shelters help control stray animal populations, which can reduce the spread of diseases like rabies and prevent attacks or accidents involving animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Megyn Bell

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 10:00 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the council NOT to close any of the existing animal shelters. The five million already earmarked should be used to fund the shelters with better oversight on how funds are being used. The budget should be reassessed and more funds allocated to free/low cost spay and neutering. Stop giving out breeding licenses!!!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:04 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: DO NOT TAKE AWAY MONEY FROM SHELTERS
PLEEAAASSSEEEEE THEY NEED FAMILIES

Communication from Public

Name: Hailey Buck

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:22 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: It is incredibly disheartening to see the LAPD budget increase while actually useful programs are being slashed. Why are we not prioritizing transportation, planning, civil rights and the arts. I urge you to reconsider and not focus on violence but on building.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Valdez

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 01:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Karen Bass - defunding the animal shelters and laying off staff is NOT what Los Angeles needs. We need more workers, clean facilities, accountability for what's happening at these shelters. You can't just close them and sweep this under the rug. Closing down three animal shelters is VILE. This is not why we voted you in but you can guarantee if you do this you will not stay in office. There has been nothing done to stop the backyard breeding. Animals are being left at shelters - they need funding!! They don't need to be shut down.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 02:02 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reconsider cutting the support of the multitude of animals that require our help. It's imperative we maintain shelters that provide essential services for animals in need. Animal shelters are critical for reuniting pets with their families, finding homes for abandoned animals, and ensuring the well-being of vulnerable populations.

Communication from Public

Name: Caleb Schimke

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:29 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am concerned about the reduction in funding and jobs for treating the affordable housing crisis and incredibly counter-productive and damaging car-based infrastructure. I think we need to be prioritizing building housing faster (which will bring prices down and reduce homelessness) and building complete streets with working sidewalks, bike lanes, and public transit. The current budget has cut funding to both of these without convincingly addressing any of the downstream symptoms or effects.

Communication from Public

Name: Frances Sylvester

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 03:07 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't cut the Animal Shelter budget. Also stop killing pets.

Communication from Public

Name: Andrew Schwiebert

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:53 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church and we have several members who work as day laborers. I urge you to restore funding for Day Labor centers and other support for immigrants and immigrant workers.

Communication from Public

Name: Angela S

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 03:29 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass, I am hearing that in a new budget proposal this week, you are planning to slash funding for animal shelters, which will close three shelters and lead to layoffs of dozens of employees. As one of your constituents who has adopted multiple animals from LA county shelters, this is such devastating and infuriating news. The shelter system is already impacted and underfunded as it is, and the animals in the shelter system and the employees deserve better. This is an especially distasteful time to do this, as I know there are animals being housed in the shelter system whose homes burned in the fires, and they are being temporarily housed there until the owners get back on their feet. I recently dropped off donations at one of the LA shelters and spent a few minutes saying hello to some of those poor displaced dogs. As a fellow trojan from the Master of Social Work program, who has met you in person and high hopes for you as mayor, I hope that you respect the dignity of our animal companions at all times, and especially during the recovery phase of one of LA's most tragic disasters. The decision to slash funding would only create more trauma in a system that already sees so much heartbreak. Please keep the funding for the shelters so that all those animals don't have to be euthanized and those staff will still have a job in this uncertain economy. They all deserve a chance. Thank you, Angela S

Communication from Public

Name: Beth McKee

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 03:56 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Shafting the shelter system is a criminal act when we all know there is adequate money in the budget. The mayor has let us all know that she will dump cash into the police budget, dump money into payouts for police brutality cases and take money for herself and other projects she prefers. Auditing the system to get better outcomes is reasonable, but a cut of this size as a recession is looming will spell disaster for an already overcrowded and underfunded system. She should be full of shame but likely isn't as she is backed by blue.

Communication from Public

Name: Jacqueline Hardy
Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:56 AM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing as a concerned resident of the City of Los Angeles who cares deeply about the welfare of the animals in our city shelters. LAAS is already severely underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers are stretched to their absolute limits, working tirelessly to provide even the most basic care for the thousands of animals housed there. The consequences are heartbreaking and unacceptable: overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, delays in medical treatment, lack of behavioral support, and rising rates of illness, injury, and euthanasia. The proposed budget cuts would have devastating and irreversible consequences for both the animals and the people who are trying to help them. Cutting the budget would not solve the problems facing the city; it would only exacerbate them. Without proper staffing, resources, and medical support, more animals will suffer, more will be euthanized, and public trust in the shelter system will continue to erode. Many community members and rescues already help bridge the gaps, providing urgent medical care, rehabilitation, and placement for at-risk animals. But this does NOT replace a fully-functioning shelter system. The City of Los Angeles must take responsibility for animals entrusted to its care. Cutting the LAAS budget is NOT a cost-saving measure. In the long run, it will increase public health risks, legal liabilities, and community safety concerns - all of which are far more costly to taxpayers. Instead, the city should invest in meaningful solutions: hiring and retaining more staff, improving shelter conditions, expanding spay/neuter and community outreach programs, and supporting partnerships with rescues. The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are LIVING beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love. They are part of our community and they deserve better. Please do not balance the city's budget at the expense of the most vulnerable. I respectfully urge you to protect and FULLY FUND LAAS. Our city's values demand it -- and the animals are counting on you. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Rhonda Waller

Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 04:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$5 million budget cut to Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) in the 2025-26 fiscal year budget. These devastating cuts would eliminate nearly one-third of the department's staff positions, forcing the closure of at least three of our city's six animal shelters. This decision will harm our community in multiple critical ways:

Employment Impact: The proposed cuts would result in 62 dedicated LAAS employees losing their jobs at a time when our city's unemployment rate remains a concern. These are skilled workers who provide essential services to both animals and residents. Their expertise cannot be easily replaced once budget conditions improve.

Animal Welfare Crisis: As documented in the city memo from LAAS Interim General Manager Annette Ramirez, the remaining three facilities "will quickly run out of space to maintain animals," requiring the department to "revert back to old procedures for euthanizing animals" where "the number of euthanasia will increase dramatically." Our shelters are already dangerously overcrowded, with employees reporting that between five and ten dogs are currently being euthanized weekly simply due to lack of space.

Public Health Concerns: The proposed cuts pose serious public health risks to our communities. With fewer animal control officers responding to calls, dangerous stray animals may remain on our streets longer, increasing the risk of bites and disease transmission, including rabies. The reduction in services will likely lead to more abandoned and neglected animals throughout Los Angeles, creating unsanitary conditions in our neighborhoods.

Wildlife Impact: Reduced animal services will also negatively impact our local wildlife. With fewer animal control resources available, there will be less capacity to respond to wildlife conflicts, injured wildlife, or potential disease outbreaks that can spread between domestic and wild animals. This creates an ecological imbalance as the department's role in managing the interface between urban development and wildlife habitats diminishes. The department's ability to monitor and address wildlife issues - from coyote interactions to managing potentially rabid bats - will be compromised, putting both wildlife and residents at risk. As a city with approximately 1.75 million residents in the Valley alone (45% of LA's population), reducing

animal services undermines public safety by increasing response times to animal emergencies. Additionally, shelter closures would eliminate crucial services like lost pet recovery, stray animal intake, and emergency animal response in affected areas, including those recently impacted by the fires. I respectfully urge you to reconsider this budget cut and prioritize the welfare of both our city's animals and the employees who care for them. The long-term costs to public health, safety, animal welfare, and our local ecosystem far outweigh any short-term budget savings.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am deeply troubled by the Mayor's proposed budget as it seems to me that only law enforcement is benefitting. Councilmembers, I drive through various parts of this City and I don't see the LA I grew up with. In my opinion, no department that constituents rely on should be facing deep cuts, but I am going to keep this comment focused on the fact that I am concerned by the proposed cuts for LA Animal Services, which is already in crisis. In 2020, through working with Best Friends, LA Animal Services received a "no kill" status. Unfortunately, after programs for spay and neuter were ceased during COVID and once people adopted animals were returned after pandemic restrictions were lifted, we have been in a crisis that no one in the City seems to want to handle. There are simple solutions that the City could have implemented to cease this issue. For example, penalties against backyard breeders could have been enforced. Proposing something as simple as mandating identification on dogs in the City so that they could be immediately returned to their homes instead of spending time in shelters. Rescues have proposed solutions. However, instead of implementing anything the City seems to be ignoring the problem, contributing to deplorable conditions in the shelters. I ask the Committee, if I allowed my pet to remain in some of the conditions the City's shelter animals are in, wouldn't I be charged with animal neglect? Cutting services to care for the City's animals will have have disastrous consequences. If anything, we should be expanding and not closing shelters. Our shelters are already overcrowded and not anywhere near sustainable levels. There are parts of the City where dogs are literally roaming because we don't have enough animal control officers to enforce. This is unsettling. Many low income constituents rely on the food pantries to feed their pets. Has anyone considered how complex it would be for families who do not have transportation to get to a shelter farther than their local one? The West Valley Shelter is the only shelter takes in farm animals. Has anyone considered that this shelter is a major resource for horses and their owners during major fires? The City already had an incident last year due to the conditions of the department. Cutting staff and eliminating more necessary resources will not make it better. I implore the Committee to reconsider these cuts. Yes, I know that the City is in a budget

crisis, but worsening the conditions of an already troubled department is completely illogical. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Julia

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:22 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm so disturbed by how our city employees and elected officials ruthlessly will be ending the life of so many animals. Shame on everyone who is involved in closing down our animal shelters all of you should be working tirelessly to improve our city but you all do the opposite. We are one of the richest cities yet you all keep mismanaging money. I'm so embarrassed by all of you all of you are guilty of the loss of life of these innocent animals. Everyone sooner or later will pay for their hand in this corruption, everything comes to the light sooner or later.

Communication from Public

Name: Czar Chavez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 12:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: KAREN BASS STOP NEGLECTING THE COMMITMENT YOU MADE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY AND THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE HERE!!!! Your job was to make things better - NOT make things worse!!! CLOSING THE SHELTERS IS GOING TO BE A DEVASTATING ACT OF CRUELTY - they're already overcrowded and animals are being euthanized every minute!!!! YOU MADE A COMMITMENT THAT LOS ANGELES WOULD BE THE MODEL OF ANIMAL WELFARE IN THIS COUNTRY! It is everything but that!!!! You weren't elected to make the city WORSE, which is in turn what you've done. Find budget cuts elsewhere!!!!. Leave the animals alone and stop closing shelters. They need more funding!!!!!!!! NO ONE CARES ABOUT YOUR SMART CITY!!!! WE DON'T WANT IT!!!! END THE ANIMAL CRUELTY & CONSTANT EUTHANASIA OF HEALTHY ADOPTABLE ANIMALS!!! FUND ANIMAL SHELTERS, NOT SHUT THEM DOWN!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Natalie zuniga

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: No cuts for the animals. If anything make more shelters with clean environments.

Communication from Public

Name: Kelly G Holland

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilman Blumenfield, I will get straight to the point in the interest of time. I would like to propose a revenue solution to the budget shortages and inevitable cuts facing LA Animal Services. The staff cuts will cripple an already underfunded organization and result in shelter closures. We are a city of 4M+ people that could be facing a landscape with only 3 shelters. Rather than struggle with how to survive fiscal 2025 there is an easy solution that will not impact the Mayor's constituencies. The What Then The Why Institute a business license IMPACT FEE on selected veterinary clinics and hospitals. We are clear that this would take time to implement. In the interest of creating continuity in the short term TARA would propose: 1. A freeze on new hires in Q1/Q2 but no RIF's until Q3 when projections of revenue from IMPACT FEES could be rolled into the budget. At that point staff layoffs would not be necessary. 2. IMPACT FEES would apply to veterinary groups who's parent corporations where located OUTSIDE of California 3. Locally owned veterinary clinics and hospitals would be exempt or have a higher threshold on taxable income IMPACT FEES IMPACT FEES would go directly to LAAS and should be set at a rate that meets or exceeds the current budget gap, which would include current operating costs and additional requested staff. This solution is not punitive. This solution does not advocate a "Tax The Rich" philosophy This solution does not affect local constituencies This solution does not create business flight out of the City or State. Pets and profits here. This solution simply requires that large multinationals and venture funded veterinary groups, that have recognized double digit profits at the expense of pet parents, the shelter system and the city, now become part of a solution to a problem they have been a part of creating. Why This Is A Fair and Equitable Solution: The Role of Venture Capital in Los Angeles Veterinary Services Impact on Costs, Access, and the Shelter System Industry Snapshot 60%+ of veterinary clinics in Los Angeles have been acquired by venture capital (VC) groups. These consolidations have driven up prices, especially for essential services like spay/neuter, affecting affordability for working families and increasing strain on shelter systems. Key Corporate Players •Mars, Inc. (McLean, VA): Owns VCA Animal Hospitals, Banfield Pet Hospital, BluePearl, AniCura,

Linnaeus, Gentle Oak, Creature Comforts, and more. Source: marsveterinary.com • Thrive Pet Healthcare (TSG Consumer - NV, NY, CT, London): Owns 380+ locations including ACCESS Hospitals (Pasadena location privately owned). • Modern Animal (Culver City, CA): 28+ locations in CA and TX. Founded by Steven Eidelman, Ben Jacobs, and David Bowman. Economic Consequences • VC ownership doubles or triples the cost of basic services. • Spay/neuter pricing surge directly impacts public accessibility. • Strain increases on municipal shelter systems, inflating public spending. Ownership vs. Accountability • Most VC owners are not local constituents. • Mars Inc. (VA), TSG Consumer (NV, NY, CT, London). • Only Modern Animal is locally headquartered. Call to Action: Make Venture Capital Part of the Solution • Implement business license fee increases for VC-owned veterinary corporations. • Introduce impact fees on non-local corporate clinics. • Require VC groups to contribute to public shelter services as part of doing business in L.A. Prepared by: Kelly Holland, The Animal Rescue Alliance • April 25, 2025



I will get straight to the point in the interest of time. I would like to propose a revenue solution to the budget shortages and inevitable cuts facing LA Animal Services. The staff cuts will cripple an already underfunded organization and result in shelter closures. We are a city of 4M+ people that could be facing a landscape with only 3 shelters. Rather than struggle with how to survive fiscal 2025 there is an easy solution that will not impact the Mayor's constituencies.

The What

Then The Why

Institute a business license IMPACT FEE on selected veterinary clinics and hospitals. We are clear that this would take time to implement. In the interest of creating continuity in the short term TARA would propose:

1. A freeze on new hires in Q1/Q2 but no RIF's until Q3 when projections of revenue from IMPACT FEES could be rolled into the budget. At that point staff layoffs would not be necessary.
2. IMPACT FEES would apply to veterinary groups who's parent corporations where located OUTSIDE of California
3. Locally owned veterinary clinics and hospitals would be exempt or have a higher threshold on taxable income IMPACT FEES

IMPACT FEES would go directly to LAAS and should be set at a rate that meets or exceeds the current budget gap, which would include current operating costs and additional requested staff.

This solution is not punitive.

This solution does not advocate a "Tax The Rich" philosophy

This solution does not affect local constituencies

This solution does not create business flight out of the City or State. Pets and profits here.

This solution simply requires that large multinationals and venture funded veterinary groups, that have recognized double digit profits at the expense of pet parents, the shelter system and the city, now become part of a solution to a problem they have been a part of creating.

Why This Is A Fair and Equitable Solution:



The Role of Venture Capital in Los Angeles Veterinary Services

Impact on Costs, Access, and the Shelter System

Industry Snapshot

- 60%+ of veterinary clinics in Los Angeles have been acquired by venture capital (VC) groups.
- These consolidations have driven up prices, especially for essential services like spay/neuter, affecting affordability for working families and increasing strain on shelter systems.

Key Corporate Players

- Mars, Inc. (McLean, VA): Owns VCA Animal Hospitals, Banfield Pet Hospital, BluePearl, AniCura, Linnaeus, Gentle Oak, Creature Comforts, and more. Source: marsveterinary.com
- Thrive Pet Healthcare (TSG Consumer - NV, NY, CT, London): Owns 380+ locations including ACCESS Hospitals (Pasadena location privately owned).
- Modern Animal (Culver City, CA): 28+ locations in CA and TX. Founded by Steven Eidelman, Ben Jacobs, and David Bowman.

Economic Consequences

- VC ownership doubles or triples the cost of basic services.
- Spay/neuter pricing surge directly impacts public accessibility.
- Strain increases on municipal shelter systems, inflating public spending.

Ownership vs. Accountability

- Most VC owners are not local constituents.
- Mars Inc. (VA), TSG Consumer (NV, NY, CT, London).
- Only Modern Animal is locally headquartered.

Call to Action: Make Venture Capital Part of the Solution

- Implement business license fee increases for VC-owned veterinary corporations.
- Introduce impact fees on non-local corporate clinics.
- Require VC groups to contribute to public shelter services as part of doing business in L.A.

Communication from Public

Name: Isabella

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:19 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Isabella. I am a lifelong Lincoln Heights resident and a friend a parent whose child attends the Downey Child Care Center. I have seen how life-giving and transformative this space is for her child. It has given me immense hope to know that spaces like this exist - for children to get crucial early education and social interaction at no cost to families. The need for affordable and quality childcare critical and I am devastated and furious at the prospect that these centers might be defunded and stand in support of the families requesting reconsideration of this budget and/or alternative funding options.

Communication from Public

Name: Nathan Weikert

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:26 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Council District 13. I write to you because I am extremely concerned about the cuts proposed to the Department on Disabilities in the Mayor's proposed budget. In these current times of crisis the services and programming provided by the DOD should be expanded, not reduced. The DOD provides vital services for the most vulnerable in our community and abandoning this population during such a precarious time will lead only to more costly results in the future. In addition, the DOD mitigates liability costs, saving our city millions of dollars every year by addressing accessibility needs for people with disabilities. The DOD cuts outlined in the Mayor's budget are insignificant when compared to the massive budget deficit, but they will have devastating impacts on the safety and longevity of our city. I fear for the elders and disabled in my community who already struggle far too much navigating broken sidewalks while relying on public transportation. I fear for our trans and HIV-positive loved ones who rely on city-funded resources to stay healthy while facing relentless discrimination and withholding of services at the national level. I believe our City can find other budget items to cut that do not disproportionately affect our most vulnerable. I ask you to invest in the Department on Disabilities in this budget cycle. Sincerely, Nathan Weikert

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:25 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Clerk, I strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts that would shut down Los Angeles animal shelters. These cuts will directly cause more homeless pets to suffer and dramatically increase the euthanasia of healthy animals. Closing shelters is not a solution — it is a step backward for our city. Los Angeles must protect its shelters, not abandon them. I urge the City Council to reject these cuts and find a more humane path forward. Do not let budget decisions cost innocent lives.
Sincerely, LA native

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:35 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please save the LA animals and shelters by not cutting their funding. We need to do better to help these animals that don't have voices. Shelters are desperate and need the city's help. Animals are dying for no reason. Shelters are overcrowded and overwhelmed. Instead of cutting their funding, please help them and cut funding in a different department. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:35 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the City Council to fully fund the Youth Development Department. Eliminating youth protection staff, job programs, and mental health support will harm families, increase crime, and leave LA unprepared to protect children during major events. Invest in our youth. They are our future.

Communication from Public

Name: Kim Kaluger

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:30 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reconsider closing the Los Angeles animal shelters. The shelters are currently at a capacity/crisis mode. Losing space in 3 shelters will be detrimental for the displaced/lost/thrown away and relinquished animals. I have adopted multiple pets from the Los Angeles shelters - they need our help - they do not need to be closed. What will happen to all the animals? What is your plan? How can you possibly think this is ok? Animals have no voice - we need to help them. How about imposing mandatory spay/neuter and doing something about the backyard breeding?

Communication from Public

Name: Mia Arredondo

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 04:25 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do Not cut GRYD Funding Community Intervention is essential to public safety. As Intervention we are able to address issues in the community and divert community members to education, employment, mental health and community resources.CVI work has contributed to the decrease gang violence by 43%..

Communication from Public

Name: Max

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:21 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We can not close shelters when we need more shelters and to continue moving LA to a no kill city. I strongly oppose cutting the budget for these shelters, surely there are bigger cuts to make in other areas

Communication from Public

Name: Marcello Alvarez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 04:29 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the City Council to fully fund the Youth Development Department. Eliminating youth protection staff, job programs, and mental health support will harm families, increase crime, and leave LA unprepared to protect children during major events. Invest in our youth. They are our future.

Communication from Public

Name: Michelle

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reconsider this cut! Animals have the right to keep living! They have feelings they do not deserve death! Stop and put laws on breeders! That should be a law to stop having many strays. There's your problem! Not these defenseless animals that just want to find a home! Make laws on people abandoning and dumping animals! If you think killing animals to fill your pockets is the solution. You need help! Only heartless people would do this!

Communication from Public

Name: Lauri Collier on behalf of a coalition of over 50 Community Based Organizations and Individuals

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council, As leaders serving thousands of young people across Los Angeles, we urge you to act now to protect the City's critical opportunity youth infrastructure. Our attached letter, signed by over 50 organizations and individuals, details why preserving leadership within the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and the Youth Development Department (YDD) is vital to preventing youth homelessness and advancing economic inclusion. Los Angeles has long been a national leader in youth reengagement and career pathways. Dismantling this coordinated infrastructure risks undoing decades of progress—and failing the young people who depend on us the most. We respectfully call on you to safeguard the leadership, vision, and programs that ensure all young Angelenos, no matter their background or zip code, can thrive. Thank you for your leadership. In community, Lauri Collier Managing Director Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative Alliance for Children's Rights (on behalf of 50+ organizations and individuals)

Google Form Language

Support for Preserving Youth Leadership and Infrastructure in the LA City Budget

We invite your organization to sign on to a letter urging the Los Angeles City Council to preserve the leadership and strategic alignment between the Youth Development Department (YDD) and the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) in the FY 2025–26 City Budget. These departments play a critical role in connecting young people—especially those impacted by foster care, homelessness, or the justice system—to education, housing, and paid work opportunities that lead to long-term careers.

The letter recommends:

- Retaining department leadership and institutional knowledge
- Reaffirming the City’s commitment to youth-focused, equity-centered strategies across systems

Your sign-on will help affirm the importance of maintaining this coordinated youth infrastructure at a pivotal time.

Email Language

Subject: Uplifting Youth Priorities in the City Budget Process

Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

As you may know, the City of Los Angeles is navigating a particularly [challenging budget](#) season—marked by difficult trade-offs and structural constraints across departments. In this context, it’s more important than ever to come together in support of what works and to raise awareness of what’s at risk.

I’m reaching out to share an advocacy [letter we are preparing to submit to the City Council](#), urging the preservation of Los Angeles’ coordinated youth infrastructure, particularly the leadership and alignment between the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) and the Youth Development Department (YDD). This infrastructure plays a vital role in connecting young people—especially those who have experienced disconnection from school or work, including young people who experience foster care, homelessness, or the juvenile justice systems—to housing, education, and paid work opportunities that lead to long-term career pathways.

We respectfully invite your agency to review the letter and consider signing on in support of the recommendations, which emphasize sustaining leadership and advancing the City's long-standing commitment to youth equity and stability.

Key Recommendations:

- **Retain the leadership capacity and institutional knowledge** of EWDD and YDD to ensure program continuity and cross-agency alignment.
- **Reaffirm the City's commitment to the strategic visions** developed by both departments, including equity-centered goals in workforce, housing, and public safety.

Workforce access is one of the most effective tools in preventing and addressing youth homelessness—and continued leadership is essential to sustaining our collective progress.

Please feel free to share the letter or reference these points in your advocacy. We're grateful for your partnership and shared commitment to our young people across Los Angeles.

Warmly,

Lauri Collier

LA Opportunity Youth Collaborative
Alliance for Children's Rights



April 28, 2025

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

RE: Preserve Leadership and Strategic Infrastructure for Opportunity Youth in the FY 2025–26 Budget

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

As Los Angeles enters a challenging budget season, we recognize the difficult decisions facing City leadership and appreciate your continued commitment to equity and community well-being. We urge you to protect one of the City's most effective tools for preventing youth homelessness and promoting economic inclusion: [a coordinated infrastructure that connects housing, education, and paid work opportunities that serve as pathways toward long-term careers.](#)

The proposed budget elimination of the independent leadership of the **Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD)** and the **Youth Development Department (YDD)**, which guides this work, puts at risk the alignment that has enabled Los Angeles to respond to youth disconnection to education, workforce, housing and supportive services with a coordinated, measurable impact. At this critical juncture, we respectfully ask the City to [maintain the leadership capacity and institutional knowledge to preserve this alignment and sustain measurable progress for young people across Los Angeles—especially those who have experienced the foster care, justice systems and homelessness systems.](#)

A LEGACY OF STRATEGIC COLLABORATION AND NATIONAL INNOVATION

For more than two decades, Los Angeles has positioned itself as a leader in youth reengagement and economic inclusion. In 2006, the City, in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), launched **YouthSource Centers** focused on dropout recovery and reengagement. This model significantly reduced youth disconnection from school and has been recognized nationally as a leading approach in coordinated education and workforce systems.

[Since then, Los Angeles has built one of the most collaborative and comprehensive youth workforce systems in the country.](#) Through citywide and regional partnerships with County

agencies, schools, other workforce boards, and community-based organizations, the City has improved education and employment outcomes for youth who experience disconnection from school or work, including youth who experience the foster care, juvenile justice, and/or homelessness systems

Meanwhile, the Youth Development Department (YDD) was established through the leadership of Councilmember Monica Rodriguez to [align and support youth-serving City departments, uplift youth voice in public decision-making, and institutionalize equity and healing-centered approaches](#). Together, EWDD and YDD form the backbone of the City's youth opportunity infrastructure—an infrastructure that has not only improved lives locally but informed national and statewide practice.

These coordinated investments do more than prepare young people for careers—they are also one of the City's most effective strategies for preventing and ending youth homelessness.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

We respectfully call on the City Council to:

1. **Preserve Departmental Leadership and Institutional Expertise**

Retain the General Managers and Assistant General Manager of EWDD and the Executive Director of YDD, who bring decades of experience and trusted relationships across systems. Their continued leadership and expertise are essential to ensure strategic continuity, program stability, and grant compliance.

2. **Protect the Strategic Visions That Guided These Departments**

Reaffirm the City's commitment to:

- **EWDD's Five-Year Strategic Plan**, which sets goals for workforce equity, employer engagement, and regional collaboration
- **YDD's Strategic Plan** which advances youth voice, healing-centered practice, and cross-agency alignment with strategic pillars emphasizing economic well-being, and housing and public safety.

This is not simply a structural change—it is a defining moment for Los Angeles to affirm its long-standing commitment to youth equity, interagency coordination, and smart investment.

We urge the City Council to protect the infrastructure, leadership, and vision that our young people—no matter their zip code, race, or system involvement—have the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Lauri Collier

Managing Director | Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative

Alliance for Children's Rights

Communication from Public

Name: Alex J

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 04:37 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to desperately urge the city council to NOT approve the 33% cut to animal services staff and shelters. Our city cannot afford to lose 3 city shelters, plus staff, medical team, adoption & foster services, & enrichment funding. Our animal angelenos are important too. This is also a public safety risk. These animals need our help, not for us to turn our backs on them. This is not who we are as a city. I urge LA city council to use the \$5 million already available to prevent these layoffs, mass euthanasia, and shelter closures.

Communication from Public

Name: Karol Rodriguez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:29 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Karol Rodriguez, and I'm writing as a member of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), which includes over 800 individuals and 244 organizations working to ensure safe housing and support for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. We are deeply concerned about the proposed cut to CIFD's Shelter Services budget — this reduction will result in the loss of vital beds and services. This comes at a time when 43% of people experiencing homelessness in LA report a history of domestic or intimate partner violence. Cuts to CIFD undermine progress made in building survivor-centered systems and will force more people into homelessness. CIFD's Survivor Services programs rely on General Fund dollars for 68% of their total \$18.3 million budget. We urge the City Council to approve the full \$12.4 million in General Funds requested for FY 25-26 and to restore any cuts to Shelter Services. Victim Service Providers (VSPs) deliver trauma-informed, life-saving support — yet are funded at just \$40 per shelter bed night, compared to \$80 for general homeless shelters. Survivors need more than a roof over their heads; they need access to wraparound services like mental health care, legal support, and case management to rebuild their lives. Programs like Survivors First are already making a difference by offering rapid rehousing with flexible financial assistance and long-term support tailored to survivors' needs. We ask the City to expand programs like these, formally prioritize survivors for affordable and permanent supportive housing, and invest in building the capacity of VSPs to offer housing-focused services. This is a critical moment to protect and strengthen LA's response to gender-based violence — not to scale it back. Please stand with survivors and ensure full funding for CIFD Survivor Services. Sincerely, Karol Rodriguez

Communication from Public

Name: Samantha Briggs

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 05:39 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do not close these and euthanize these animals!!

Communication from Public

Name: Raye Rodriguez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:43 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, My name is Raye Rodriguez, I've been living in Los Angeles for over 20 years. I'm writing to say, please DO NOT CUT FUNDING for City Planning, Street Services, Transportation, Civil Rights, etc and raise the budget for the LAPD. The LAPD has enough money. What we need is Public Transportation, Housing for the homeless and Mental Health Services! We don't need more police! Thank you, Raye

Communication from Public

Name: Courtney Russell

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:44 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge LA City Council to use the \$5 million already allotted to prevent layoffs, mass euthanasia and shelter closures to keep our shelter system funded!!! As an owner of three rescue dogs I can tell you that these dogs are absolutely sentient, caring and deserving of life. It is not their fault, it is OURS and we cannot disregard precious lives of animals due to poor human decision making. If you move forward with these budget cuts, YOU WILL ONLY MAKE THE PROBLEM WORSE. There needs to be better education, better community outreach, better resources available. Cutting an already overly-strained system is an inhumane idea and would be a reflection of an inadequate and short-sighted committee. DO WHAT IS RIGHT and keep pushing towards a solution that saves more animals' lives not kills more. We know there is a problem, this is not the answer. NO BUDGET CUTS!

Communication from Public

Name: Molly McGlynn
Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 04:52 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: So not cut funding for animal services!! The city shelters need to be protected for the wellbeing of animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Van Houten

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:50 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi there, As a citizen of LA County, I cannot fathom how we would cut an already slim budget for LA Animal Service. These dogs are in horrible conditions, emaciated and dying at extremely high rates due to overcrowding. This is already an issue that needs acknowledgment and a solution. The wellbeing of animals in LA has not been prioritized but instead ignored by Karen Bass. Shutting down these, much needed, facilities will increase tend fold the inhumane killing of these animals. How. Can. You. Let. That. happen. As a representative of the people, LISTEN to the people and just do the right thing

Communication from Public

Name: Yael Trock

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 01:51 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Closing 3 out of 6 city animal shelters for lost pets is UNACCEPTABLE. We cannot cut budget on living things. It is simply inhumane and cruel. Please do not cut that budget - find somewhere else that does not involve lives.

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsey Taft

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 06:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is outrageous. We need a place for animals without homes to go. This is going to force more animals to be on the street or be killed and it's senseless!

Communication from Public

Name: Amy Haro

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 06:37 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Budget cuts hurt an already damaged and suffering system. This means more killings of innocent animals due to overcrowding, higher risk of illness and injuries with less staff to check on them. This is about the lives of thousands of animals and the safety of our City. We urge you to use the 5 million in available funds to stop these layoffs and prevent mass euthanasia and shelter closures!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Sue G

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:48 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council members and Budget Committee, I am writing today as a concerned member of the Los Angeles community, as a proud mom to an LAAS adopted dog, and as a LAAS volunteer, who cares deeply about the welfare of the animals in our city's shelter. LAAS is already critically underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers are stretched to the limit, working tirelessly to provide even basic care to thousands of animals. The consequences are heartbreaking, which include overcrowding and unsanitary conditions, delays in medical treatments, lack of behavioral support, and rising rates of illness, injury, and euthanasia. The proposed budget cuts to LAAS would have devastating and irreversible consequences for both the animals and the people who are trying to help them. Cutting the budget would not solve the problem, but rather make them worse. Without proper staffing, resources, and medical support, more animals will suffer, more will be euthanized, and public trust in the shelter system will continue to erode. Many community members and rescue organizations already step up daily to bridge the gaps, providing urgent medical care, rehabilitation, and placement for the at-risk animals. But we cannot replace a fully functioning public shelter system. The City of Los Angeles must take responsibility for the lives entrusted to its care, which include the many animals in our community. Slashing the LAAS budget is not a cost-saving measure. In the long run, it will increase public health risks, legal liabilities, and community safety concerns, all of which are far more costly to taxpayers. Instead, the city should invest in meaningful solutions: hiring and retaining more staff, improving shelter conditions, expanding spay/neuter and community outreach programs, and supporting partnerships with rescues. The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are living beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love, just like you and me. They are a part of our community and deserve better. Please do not balance the city's budget at the expense of the most vulnerable. I respectfully urge you to protect and fully fund the Los Angeles Animal Services. Our city's values and families demand it -- our animals are counting on you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Juliana Langaro Silva

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:48 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am deeply outraged that the Mayor's office is proposing to eliminate the landmark Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO). In a rapidly warming world, climate action, preparation, and advocacy must be our priority if we are to build a resilient city. It is absolutely unacceptable for the city to forfeit the \$750,000 in grant funding already secured for CEMO and attempt to dismantle this critical office — especially after the recent LA wildfires. CEMO's work is vital to ensuring we are ready for future disasters and the escalating challenges of extreme weather. Furthermore, many Angelenos live near oil and gas wells that leak hazardous chemicals, threatening our health — and Los Angeles has more urban oil wells than any other city in the nation. Reducing the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas and cutting positions dedicated to monitoring pollution and phasing out urban oil drilling directly endangers public health and safety. We cannot allow CEMO to be cut from the LA budget. The stakes are too high.

Communication from Public

Name: viany hernandez
Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:51 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: PROTECT THE ANIMALS. they have hearts and a life just as us humans. keep them safe.

Communication from Public

Name: Lorraine Lopez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:44 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers and Budget Committee, I am writing to urge you to reject the Mayor's proposed budget for L.A. Animal Services. As a volunteer at the shelter, I see the critical challenges we face due to severe understaffing and overcrowding. With potential budget cuts, I fear we may have to close some shelters. Last year, before the fires, we had dogs in small kennels in hallways, with no walks, leading to unsanitary conditions. I can't imagine how much worse it will become with fewer resources, less staff, and less funding. This situation terrifies me. The animals in our care do not deserve this. We must take action to ensure they receive the support they need. Investing in L.A. Animal Services is essential for their well-being and for our community. Please reconsider this budget proposal. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely, Lorraine Lopez

Communication from Public

Name: Christina

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:45 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I disagree with closing the shelters yes it's only three but we need more not less , countless animals on the daily not weekly or monthly DAILY are in the streets roaming and first place is the shelters near by in the area to go to . Please don't take the shelters away that we so desperately require . Recently rescued a abandoned dog named Toby in a park that someone left him in and since the shelters are overwhelmed, overpopulated I decided to care for him ! Not many animals have that option please reconsider these actions you will be enforcing it's not always about numbers or finding a easy way out your job is to solve these problems ! Do better

Communication from Public

Name: Chong ng

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 06:07 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to plea with Mayor Karen Bass not to close the three animal shelters and cut budget for animals. Our pets are precious. Every shelter dogs deserve a home and have an opportunity to be adopted. Shelters are their opportunity to be saved. Please have a heart and be the voice of the voiceless. Please I beg you to not close the animal shelters. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Morgan Clark

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:50 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express deep concern over the proposed elimination of the LGBTQIA+ Community Liaison position from the Los Angeles City budget. This is not just a personnel cut - it is the removal of the City's only position specifically dedicated to uplifting and protecting LGBTQIA+ residents, particularly transgender and gender expansive individuals. This role, currently held by Carla Ibarra - a transgender woman of color who has led with integrity, insight, and dedication - serves as a vital bridge between the City of Los Angeles and its LGBTQIA+ constituents. At a time of increasing national hostility, legislative attacks, and systemic erasure of queer and trans lives, this position represents one of the few institutional safeguards for some of the most marginalized communities in Los Angeles. Eliminating this role sends a harmful and regressive message to LGBTQIA+ Angelenos: that their needs, safety, and well-being are no longer a priority. Beyond the individual impact, this decision threatens to dismantle the hard-fought infrastructure that has been intentionally built to ensure equity, access and representation across City systems. I urge you to reconsider this cut and reaffirm the City's commitment to equity and inclusion by protecting this essential role. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Mary Ann Cherry

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:01 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE do not cut funding for the Los Angeles Animal Shelters. How we treat those who cannot speak for themselves says so much about who we are. We are better than this. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Anner. Asencio

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:46 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do not cut GRYD there are people who do need of GRYD and everywhere else we are recognized so please just saying that it is helpful and a success

Communication from Public

Name: Suzanne Danziger

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:40 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing regarding the proposed budget slashing to LA Animal Services by Mayor Bass. The proposed budget cuts are unacceptable and I am horrified that the person I voted for would entrain them as such. Animals are part of our community and we have a duty and obligation to protect and care for them. This should be extra evident after the horrors of the fires in Altadena and the Palisades. Animal Services is already incredibly underfunded considering that the work they do is literally life or death. You must not shutter ANY animal shelters.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 10:51 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't cut budgets for animal shelters!! The animals deserve a home and happy life!!

Communication from Public

Name: Brian P

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:46 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cutting funding to GYRD would be a devastating step backward for public safety and youth development in our communities. GYRD is more than just a program—it is a lifeline. It empowers Community Intervention Workers who are on the frontlines every day, risking their lives to prevent violence, mediate conflicts, and offer youth an alternative to gang life. Defunding this program undermines years of progress in reducing crime, rebuilding trust, and creating safer neighborhoods. Without adequate funding, we lose mentorship, crisis response, peacebuilding, and critical services that redirect youth toward positive futures. These aren't just jobs—this is purpose-driven work that saves lives.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:34 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts for Los Angeles Animal Services in the 2025-2026 city budget. Reducing funding to this essential department will have devastating consequences for the animals in our city's care, the staff and volunteers who support them, and the overall health and safety of our communities. LA Animal Services is already operating under significant strain, with overcrowded shelters, staffing shortages, and limited resources. Further budget cuts will only worsen these conditions, leading to decreased animal welfare, increased euthanasia rates, and an overwhelmed shelter system unable to adequately serve the public. Our city's homeless pet population is a public health and public safety issue — and cutting resources to address it is shortsighted and dangerous. Instead of reducing funding, the City should prioritize investment in LA Animal Services to ensure humane care for animals, provide support for adoption and spay/neuter programs, and maintain critical services that protect both animals and residents. Animal Services is not an optional or peripheral service — it is a core function of a compassionate and responsible city government. I urge you to reconsider these harmful budget cuts and work toward a budget that reflects our city's values of care, safety, and community responsibility. Los Angeles can and should do better for its animals and the people who care for them. Thank you for your consideration

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 10:32 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain-understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public— supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better-for the animals, and for the people who care about them. Please....this WILL kill so many cats and dogs. It's inhumane and cruel. Their lives are worth more than this, they deserve so much better than this.

Communication from Public

Name: Julianne Walzer
Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:36 AM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm outraged by the proposed \$6.4 million cuts to Animal Services. Closing shelters and slashing staff will cause immense suffering. animals will die because YOU failed them. Los Angeles cannot claim to be humane while gutting the system that protects its most vulnerable. This is a moral failure!! Do not balance the budget on the backs of innocent animals. Reverse these cuts now. We need INCREASED funding, not a massive cut. Do the right thing.

Communication from Public

Name: Mariel Colella

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:36 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I volunteer at a local shelter by taking the dogs out for walks and playtime. I have loved so many of these dogs, and my heart has broken for each one as I watched their shelter stress increase and their quality of life decrease, and then they were eventually euthanized. Shelter stress is in some ways inevitable, but can be lessened by more space, more staff, and more volunteers. Our city is in a state of crisis with more and more animals pouring into the shelters everyday, leading to overcrowding, increased stress for all the animals, and more euthanasias of beautiful souls. I can't even imagine the heartbreak, not to mention burnout, of the current staff and volunteers if instead of taking action to improve these conditions, the city actively acts to worsen them. Legislation to decrease breeding, improve access to low and no-cost spay and neuter, and outlawing housing "breed bans" can all result in meaningful change that will ultimately save the city money. These budget cuts will only lead to even more young, gorgeous animals being killed for no other reason than for space, and the idea of this budget passing breaks my heart. I am begging you on behalf of all the animals, volunteers, and staff at the shelters, please do not cut this funding, but find ways to solve this crisis on a long term basis.

Communication from Public

Name: Maricon

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:30 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: [FILE NUMBER: 25-0600] Dear Mayor and City Council Members, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the complete elimination of funding for Day Laborer Community Job Centers/Centros Jornaleros in the recently released city budget. This decision directly contradicts our city's professed values and prior commitments to this vulnerable workforce. It was just in 2019 that Los Angeles proudly declared May 3rd as "Día del Jornalero," recognizing the vital contributions day laborers make to our economy and communities. To now eliminate all funding for these centers represents not just a policy reversal but a betrayal of trust to thousands of workers who depend on these facilities. Day Laborer Community Job Centers provide far more than employment connections. They are essential community hubs that: Create safe, organized spaces where workers can connect with employers, eliminating the dangers of street-corner solicitation Establish fair wage standards and working conditions, preventing exploitation and wage theft Offer crucial educational resources including English classes, literacy programs, and information about health, labor, and immigration laws Serve as community gathering spaces that foster dignity, connection, and mutual support Function as public safety alternatives, reducing neighborhood concerns while protecting vulnerable workers Without these centers, we also lose valuable community infrastructure that supports economic mobility and integration. The cost of maintaining these centers is minimal compared to their enormous social and economic benefits. They help ensure that work is performed safely, that proper wages are paid, and that both workers and employers have a structured, dignified system for connecting with one another. I strongly urge you to restore full funding for Day Laborer Community Job Centers in this year's budget. Respectfully, Maricon

Communication from Public

Name: Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:31 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Day Labor Centers provide preventative services to workers who otherwise wouldn't be reached. A real sanctuary city supports all workers and prioritize its labor force who is both most vulnerable and most essential to keep city life running. Day laborers are on the fronts lines during climate and political disasters (COVID and Wildfires) but haven't been recognized as an essential part of the city. Mayor Bass defunding Day Labor Centers makes workers' contributions to the economy of LA invisible and puts them AND the rest of the city at greater risk of instability and disaster, particularly during a massive illegal federal repression of immigrants and racialized people.

Communication from Public

Name: Rick R Vagnini

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:31 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reconsider any budget cuts to animal shelters . Over-population of stray cats and dogs is a human caused condition and it's up to us to compassionately care for them, find new homes, etc . Please , let's not kill a lot of innocent animals for budget reasons , let's instead be creative and find a way to SAVE animals . Thank you for your time . Let's be compassionate Californians !

Communication from Public

Name: Mithzy Hernandez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:14 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Mithzy Hernandez and on behalf of Physicians for Social Responsibility-LA and an Angeleno, I urge City Council members to save the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. The Mayor's budget proposal essentially zeroes out funding and staff for the CEMO, an office whose mission is to work directly with impacted communities to co-develop climate solutions that are rooted in community experience. Now more than ever, we need to work with the community and build climate solutions. In the wake of devastating fires, the last course of action should be to dismantle the very office responsible for interdepartmental coordination on climate emergencies. This office has been crucial in moving forward community-centered work on building decarbonization and extreme heat, helping to ensure that the most vulnerable communities are not left behind. Instead, they have a seat at the table when solutions are being developed. We strongly urge the Mayor to reconsider cutting this crucial office and to fund it at the same level as last year. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Lucia Fabio

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing this in the city hall. We have been waiting almost 3 hours with my 4 year old daughter as well as with other families from Downey child care and it was just announced that not everyone who signed in will end up speaking tonight as the meeting will end at 9pm. This format of having only two public comment days is not enough for the entire 3.8 million person population of Los Angeles. I am so disappointed that myself, and other parents will not be able to give public comment in person. My name is Lucia Fabio, and my daughter attends Downey Childcare, a recs and parks run child care center located in Lincoln heights. This city council took immediate action by identifying funding to restore and open low cost licensed preschool facilities after the COVID-19 pandemic. These centers had been shuttered since the 2008 Great Recession and there was a dire need for affordable childcare. I will argue the need is even greater now. Utilizing a \$20 million grant, the city renovated and opened licensed child care centers in the most underserved neighborhoods. At the moment, 9 of these center are not included in the mayors budget and are instead slotted to be privatized. I'm pleading with you to not privatize these centers because they are essential services for working families. Not only that, but they are amazing. The city did right by opening them and hiring the most amazing teacher and directors to nurture our children. I could not have asked for a better preschool for my child to start her education. And I firmly believe that anyone, regardless of their socio economic status should have access to such a preschool. Please continue to run these centers and save public child care.



Communication from Public

Name: Maya Ellin

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:14 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I want to talk about something that's seriously upsetting. Our mayor, Karryne Bass, has come up with a really terrible idea: cutting funding for three of our six animal shelters. It's not just a bad move; it's outright cruel. These shelters are more than just buildings. They're safe spaces for animals that have already been through enough. Think about the cats, dogs, and other animals that find themselves there—some lost, some abandoned, all hoping for a second chance. Now, imagine what happens if we take away their funding. It's heartbreaking to think of the consequences. By cutting this funding, we're not just taking away money. We're taking away lives. The shelters will struggle to care for the animals they already have, let alone take in more. Many animals might not survive this decision, and it's infuriating that this is even being considered. And let's be real: this decision reflects poorly on our leadership. It's appalling that Mayor Bass thinks this is the answer to whatever budget issues the city is facing. We need leaders who value life, who care about the community as a whole—including the furry members who don't have a voice. We all know these shelters are vital. They're run by amazing, dedicated people who work tirelessly to make sure these animals get a shot at a happy life. How can we even think about taking that away? Let's come together and make some noise. Let's show Mayor Bass that this community won't stand by while such a heartless decision is made. We need to push back, demand alternative solutions, and ensure that our city prioritizes compassion over cold, hard numbers. Thanks for hearing me out. Let's do what we can to protect these animals and the shelters that care for them. Mayor bass should absolutely not be mayor.

Communication from Public

Name: Sofia Londono

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Sofia and my child attends Downey Recreation and Parks preschool.? I'm here on behalf of hundreds of families who rely on these exceptional programs. These preschools are not just daycare, they are critical early education centers that support working families and child development. My husband and I both run our own small businesses, employ people, and contribute to the local economy. Something we can only do because our young children have access to affordable, high-quality care at places like Downey. We are deeply concerned about any plans to close or privatize these centers. If privatized, we fear rising costs, declining quality, and major disruptions to our children's emotional and educational growth. Not to mention how unsustainable it would become for us to be able to continue working and running our businesses. We respectfully ask the council to fully fund these preschools, keep protecting programs that are truly working and keep them public, and work with families on long-term solutions as the ripple effects of losing them will deeply affect the very communities they were there to serve in the first place.



Communication from Public

Name: Jethro

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:00 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am voicing my objection to closing animal shelters due to budget cuts. There are much larger areas of the budget that can allocate these resources. The ones that take the vast majority of it

Communication from Public

Name: Mono Lake Committee (Martha Davis, Board Member)

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 02:59 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Mono Lake Committee joins with other LA environmental and community justice leaders to oppose the Mayor's proposed draconian budget cuts and urge that the City Council lead the development of a budget that addresses the City's alarming shortfall while still maintaining LA's leadership to build a more resilient, sustainable and equitable city. By predominantly targeting the City's climate, biodiversity, and environmental-related positions and programs for cuts, the Mayor's proposal undermines the City's ability to adequately prepare for the next emergency heat wave, flood, and/or wildfire incident. This is a risk that Los Angeles residents and businesses cannot afford -- especially our city's most vulnerable residents. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: christopher pina
Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:01 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: • My name is Christopher Pina. I am a lifelong resident of Council Districts 13 and 14, a proud member of EAA, and a City Planner with the Department of City Planning. I respectfully urge you to reconsider and revise the proposed budget currently before you. I have served the City for 10 years, and collectively, my family has dedicated over 100 years of service to Los Angeles. In my current role as the City Planner for the Harbor Gateway Community Plan Update, I help ensure that our community's growth brings more accessible housing, bolsters job opportunities, and protects vulnerable neighborhoods from harmful land uses. Our work shapes the future of Los Angeles at the neighborhood level, creating the detailed policies and strategies needed to fulfill the State-mandated updates to the City's General Plan Land Use Element. City Planning staff are often the first point of contact between the community and the City. Through our work on Community Plans, we ensure that residents' voices are incorporated into policies that help guide development. The proposed budget cuts and layoffs would severely impact the Planning Department's ability to meet these critical responsibilities. These reductions would halt or delay multiple State-mandated work programs, significantly reduce staff capacity, and eliminate essential land use support. • The consequences of these layoffs would be far-reaching. They would jeopardize the timely delivery of crucial projects, slow the City's efforts to address housing, equity, and climate goals, and undermine public trust in our ability to responsibly guide Los Angeles' future. Furthermore, the loss of experienced staff would erode institutional knowledge, delay project timelines, and lead to higher future costs—far outweighing any immediate savings. City employees have always shown up when the City needed us most. During the global pandemic, we stepped into disaster service roles—providing housing assistance, meal distribution, contact tracing, and much more—all while continuing to perform our core responsibilities. We have endured furloughs and foregone cost-of-living adjustments to support the City through previous fiscal crises. • Now, we respectfully ask that you exhaust every alternative before resorting to layoffs. Protecting the Planning Department's capacity—and that of all City employees—is essential to ensuring Los Angeles remains resilient, equitable, and

thriving for generations to come. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Michele F Locker

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:01 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm a resident of Los Angeles. I'm calling to express my deep concern about the proposed budget cuts to LA Animal Services. Our shelters are overwhelmed, and reducing funding will cause more suffering and unnecessary euthanasia. I urge Mayor Bass/Councilmembers to oppose these cuts and protect our animals. Take the money out of the Homeless racket, Ethnic Studies and other uselessness. We need action here now.

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda DeMiller

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:45 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't do these! This innocent animals deserve more!

Communication from Public

Name: Nayeli Hernandez

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Animal Shelters are already overcrowded in the city of Los Angeles. Shutting down half of these shelters won't make things better. All of these animals are in need of loving homes and it's sad that they're going to euthanize more animals because of this and make animal shelters even more overcrowded. We love animals and I have adopted two dogs from different animal shelters that have helped me with my mental health. I don't know where I would be if it wasn't for my two dogs. People from other states and countries have been reaching out to adopt these animals because they don't want them to be euthanized either. These dogs can be used to train them and help them become service dogs for people that need them. Most of these dogs are not aggressive and they're very lovable. It would be really sad to see these animal shelters shut down because LA has been fighting so hard to keep them open and it's not fair.

Communication from Public

Name: S

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 09:11 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please save these dogs. They are innocent creatures who deserve an opportunity

Communication from Public

Name: Brittany

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 09:52 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut funding animal services!!!! There are too many good animals that need good homes they are good animals and it only takes one loving home for these animal to be saved. I am a big animal advocate and they all deserve a chance to live a better life. More spay and neuter services need to be an available so dogs are not overpopulated with more animals. This is inportant and I need to give a voice to these animals. Please don't do this

Communication from Public

Name: Jacob Ernst

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:27 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: Cynthia Campoy Brophy

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 08:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please fully fund Inside Safe. The program not only moves our City's unhoused residents off of our streets, it works collaboratively with other City and County departments as well as local nonprofits to shelter and support our most vulnerable. Please continue to support this important program that works across sectors to address this challenge with a strategic, long term lens.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 03:26 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass announced cuts Monday, April 21st -- with in person public comment Friday, April 25th and final open hearings before final decisions are made. According to code gov: 65090 there needs to be a 10 day notification for the open hearings. Please advise as why and how code 65090 was ignored and steps to remedy the situation. I write to REQUEST to open at least two more hearings with in-person open comment with appropriate time given to inform the public widely of open public hearing dates, as well as written comment deadlines -- specifically for case file # 25-0600 with link for written comment and all needed information to have one's voice heard; including dates, times, deadlines etc.

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Mcalister

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 07:30 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Laura, and I'm an Environmental Specialist with LA Sanitation's Sustainability Division, supporting the Clean Up Green Up and Climate Action programs. These programs are essential — without them, there would be no dedicated advocacy for our most disadvantaged communities and consistent tracking of greenhouse gas emissions. Since I first started working here I have dedicated my life towards saving the environment. By 2050, it's predicted there could be more plastic in the ocean than fish.,. Impacting the world's oxygen production, since the oceans produce half of our oxygen supply. I believe future generations deserve the same opportunities we have now, and action can't wait. Just last year in 2024 we had 61 days where the temperature was over 100 degrees, and global temperatures will continue to rise. Our future priorities include addressing flood risks, conserving water, expanding community cleanups, and hosting environmental education events — all of which would disappear without continued investment. Supporting positions like mine isn't just an investment in the environment — it's an investment in the future of Los Angeles itself. The choices we make today will determine whether our city thrives or struggles tomorrow.

Communication from Public

Name: Alicia Yaffe

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:57 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: A society should be measured based on how well it cares for its most vulnerable population. Serving the residents of Los Angeles with disabilities improves the quality of life for all angelenos. More importantly, the proposed cuts to the disabled services barely make a dent in balancing the city's budget, but will make a massive negative impact on the quality of life of our fellow neighbors. Please fund cuts elsewhere.

Communication from Public

Name: Kat Pizarro

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:29 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We cannot close animal shelters. There are so many more humane ways where the city can save money. We need to assume responsibility for our actions. These dogs ended up there because of us, our incapacity to carry through the commitment of being a pet owner for whatever reasons, or because we wanted a puppy instead of adopting from rescues, or because the dog did not get spayed. Let's start by preventing these dogs from ending up in shelters to begin with. Let's look at countries like the Netherlands. And let's reflect on why our pets in this city end up the same fate as our homeless population. Perhaps by looking inward and start fixing those issues, our people and pets don't end up on the streets abandoned, as if they were not once a part of our families, that were once loved.

Communication from Public

Name: William Hourigan

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:02 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We cannot eliminate CEMO! I know hard choices have to be made in these times, but this isn't a smart one - and doesn't even save much money, because you're forfeiting \$750,000 of grant funding already awarded to CEMO. Climate change is real, it is here, it has impacted our city hugely this year with the wildfires and will only continue to get worse. We have to protect our community members and be a leader in responding to the ongoing natural disaster of climate change impacts. Please do not cut it!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:05 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not close any of the animal shelters. These animals deserve to be treated with respect. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Laura

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:35 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE!!! Don't shut down LA county animal shelters. This would be a terrible situation for animals and the community at large. LA County is already overwhelmed with animal surrenders. Closing shelters would be cruel to the animals and further devastating for employees that work at these shelters. PLEASE CONSIDER BEFORE MAKING THIS CONSEQUENTIAL DECISION.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Hughes

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:47 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Bass, Please—do not cut the budget for Los Angeles animal shelters! Every single day in our city, abandoned, abused, and forgotten animals find safety, love, and a second chance thanks to our local shelters. These places are more than buildings—they are lifelines. Cutting their funding would be a tragic step backward for a city that prides itself on compassion and progress. LA's shelters are already overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers stretch every dollar, every blanket, every bowl of food. They work around the clock, often unpaid and unnoticed, to keep these animals safe. A budget cut would mean more suffering, more euthanasia, and fewer chances for these animals to find loving homes. This isn't just about pets. It's about who we are as a community. We cannot turn our backs on the voiceless. Mayor Bass, we ask you: protect the funding for LA's animal shelters. Protect the lives that depend on it. Let's continue to be a city that leads with heart.

Communication from Public

Name: Thomas J Hill

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:22 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Attached letter to Council RE: Opposition to Proposed Budget Cuts to the Department on Disability



DISABILITY
COMMUNITY
RESOURCE
CENTER

DCRC

www.dcrc.co

Mar Vista

12901 Venice Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(888) 851-9245 **toll-free**
(310) 390-3611 **voice**
(310) 390-4906 **fax**

Santa Monica

WISE & Healthy Aging
1527 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 394-9871 **voice**
(310) 451-9561 **fax**

South Bay

(310) 390-3611 **voice**

West Hollywood

(310) 390-3611 **voice**

April 29, 2025

Los Angeles City Council

City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Opposition to Proposed Budget Cuts to the Department on Disability

Dear Council President Krekorian and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts to the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability as outlined in the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2025–26 proposed budget.

The Department on Disability plays a vital role in ensuring that the City remains accessible, equitable, and inclusive for over 1 million Angelenos with disabilities—as well as for unhoused individuals, older adults, and those living with HIV. The proposed cuts would significantly undermine that mission and place the City's most vulnerable communities at even greater risk.

The proposed elimination of **40% of the Department's regular staff positions**—the largest staff reduction of any department across the City—is disproportionate and deeply concerning. While the broader City workforce is proposed to be reduced by 5.75%, the Department on Disability is being asked to absorb a much heavier burden, with consequences that would reverberate throughout Los Angeles.

In addition, the proposed **20% overall budget reduction** to the Department threatens the integrity of its core programs, day-to-day operations, and long-standing partnerships with community-based organizations such as DCRC. Perhaps most alarming is the nearly **45% cut to HIV prevention and harm reduction programs**, which would eliminate life-saving services and supports for individuals who already face heightened barriers to care and safety.

These cuts do not align with the values of equity, inclusion, and justice that this City has pledged to uphold. We urge the Council to recognize the indispensable role the Department on Disability plays in ensuring that Los Angeles is truly a city for all—and to take immediate action to prevent these devastating reductions.

We respectfully request that you reject the proposed budget cuts to the Department on Disability and work with stakeholders to restore and strengthen the resources needed to uphold the rights and dignity of people with disabilities and other marginalized communities.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to serving all Angelenos

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Hill

Executive Director

Communication from Public

Name: Joanne

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:23 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I joined the City's workforce in 2015 and have dedicated my entire career to the City of Los Angeles. The layoffs would negatively impact my family as we rely not only on the income from this employment but also on the medical benefits that we are currently enrolled in. My team provides organizational support to every City employee in all realms of Cybersecurity which includes security operations, vulnerability management, endpoint security, malware analysis, threat intelligence, network security and infrastructure. Ultimately these services are relied on, either directly or indirectly, by businesses, constituents, and employees alike for the greater Los Angeles area. Since we provide Cybersecurity services to the City and all its departments, the layoffs that could potentially impact my team would result in an increased vulnerability to cyberattacks, higher breach costs (most notably ransomware), disruption of citywide critical services, and reputational damage affecting the City, its employees and its constituents.

Communication from Public

Name: Yvonne Sun

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:51 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers of the Budget and Finance Committee, My name is Yvonne Sun and I am the division director for Special Service for Groups SILVER division. I am submitting comments today on behalf of the seniors of the city of Los Angeles. As a provider within the aging services network, I am deeply concerned about the reduction of workforce proposed to the department of aging as well as the proposed consolidation of the department under CIFD. For many years, the population of older adults have grown. However, the funding and resources did not. This led to many services providers no longer being able to continue to provide services thus a reduction in visibility and representation for this very vulnerable population. Perhaps it seems that consolidating a small department into a larger one would be a reasonable solution to the budgetary challenges our city faces. However, the department is small not because of the lack of need in the community but because of the lack of investment by our leaders. What remains, are the few individuals that continue to stand up for and fight for the needs of older adults. These are subject matter experts and their roles and expertise can not simply be eliminated and taken over by another department. History has also shown that this type of consolidation can lead to negative impacts for the senior community. Up until very recently, the Los Angeles County placed their aging department under Workforce development. This caused confusion for seniors and limited representation and visibility for their needs. An article published in 2022 in the Gerontologist reported that even the department's own staff were no always aware that there was an aging department nor what services were available. At the hearing on 04/28, few showed up to speak up for older adults and the Department of Aging. This is not a reflection of the need in the community but a reflection of the little representation our older adults have left. Also, these hearing are not set up in a way that are age friendly. Our seniors simply do not have the capacity to stand in line for hours to wait to speak for 60 seconds. That is 60 seconds to convey all of their needs that are being supported by the department of aging and its network of providers. Furthermore, there will not be many online submission of comments by seniors as this platform is also challenging for older adults who struggle with technology. At a time when older adults

are the fastest growing age group and represent 25% of the people experiencing homelessness, our older adults need a department that is dedicated to only their needs. Otherwise, as in so many other times before, another need will take priority. Many spoke up about the vulnerability of their population at the hearing on 04/27 and 04/28. It is sad that we need to compete with one another for the limited funding that is available. But, I want to be clear, the risk of taking resources from older adults is increase in mortality. I urge you to find another way to fund the positions of Department of Aging and keep it as a stand alone department. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:22 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to request that the city not make the proposed budget cuts to the Office Of Historical Resources (OHR) department. It only has 21 people in it. The department is already working with a very lean staff doing a tremendous and challenging job. In the past year, I was involved as a tenant with getting my apartment building designated as a historical monument. Without the help of the OHR staff, and the existence of Historic Places LA Survey, as non- professionals, we wouldn't have even known how to get started. Los Angeles has a unique history and when you add in its entertainment background, there is no other American city like it. There are important buildings and other features in this city that provide a historical context that cannot be seen in any other American city. The OHR has done a tremendous job helping Angelenos try to preserve the best examples of that history and we need to financially support the OHR so that these dedicated professionals can continue to do so. Please do not cut this small but mighty staff's budget. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Irakli Mgeladze

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:09 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident and voter in the City of Los Angeles, I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Jennifer Pezda

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:23 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This comment is in response to Karen Bass's attempt to misdirect the anger at her cuts to LAAS by claiming that the "unappropriated funds" will fund them. Karen, we are not that naive about how city budgets work. Unappropriated funds can be used ANYTHING because they are not earmarked in the budget. There is NO GUARANTEE that these funds will be used for LAAS. You can't trick us, we will continue to fight this, and you. Think this won't be an election issue? Think again.

Communication from Public

Name: Rona Compton

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:12 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose laying off animal shelter staff and closing shelters.
Manage our tax money better or get out of office.

Communication from Public

Name: Lee Paniagua

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:32 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Help us maintain entertainment jobs in Los Angeles. Let's keep Los Angeles Rolling. When we bring business to the community in Los Angeles everyone wins. Not only local businesses win but, the entire community benefit

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:12 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE help protect our Meaningful history in Los Angeles. Our landmarks matter !

Communication from Public

Name: Lou Breininger

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut the animal services budget. Innocent animals will be euthanized by the thousands and this is totally unacceptable. We do not want the Olympics! We want animals to live! We do not want AI traffic cameras! We want animals to live! We do not want funding for the latest paramilitary gadgets! We want animals to live!

Communication from Public

Name: Alia J

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:16 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: Jim stewart

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 08:44 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut the budget for animal services! Spay and neuter programs need even more money! Stop breeding for profit!

Communication from Public

Name: Celeste Castillo

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to express strong support for continued funding of la city animal shelters and spay/neuter clinics. These services are vital for public health, controlling stray populations, and promoting responsible pet ownership. Animal shelters care for lost, abandoned, or abused animals, helping reunite pets with families and offering adoption opportunities. Without them, more animals would be left on the streets, higher euthanasia rates, and lead public health risks and safety concerns. Spay/neuter clinics help prevent overpopulation by offering affordable or free sterilization services, reducing the strain on shelters and long-term costs for the city. Supporting these programs is both compassionate and smart. I urge the city to maintain funding and partnerships that keep these services strong. Thank you for your dedication to our community and its animals.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:46 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Animal services need more funding, not less. Los Angeles is on track to pay \$320 million in liability claims and lawsuits this fiscal year. If it has the budget to cover LAPD-related deaths caused by unlawful use of force, then it can use a fraction of that amount to save lives of innocent animals.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 07:24 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut funding for animal shelters. Our city is already in desperate need of more services and funding. This would cause more harm to epic proportions to an already strained system. We need more funding for animal services not less! So many poor helpless animals will be killed- and so many lives impacted who have dedicated their lives to this cause. Cuts to animal services would greatly impact and destroy our city, more stray animals, more senseless euthanasia, more overcrowding.. do you really want to be known as the mayor of LA who supports killing animals instead of supporting those programs? Please reconsider your actions and do not cut funding for animal shelters..

Communication from Public

Name: Morgan

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:39 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts for Los Angeles Animal Services in the 2025-2026 city budget. Reducing funding to this essential department (and this is essential!) will have devastating consequences for the animals in our city's care, the staff and volunteers who support them, and the overall health and safety of our communities. LA Animal Services is already operating under significant strain, with overcrowded shelters, staffing shortages, and limited resources. Further budget cuts will only worsen these conditions, leading to decreased animal welfare, increased euthanasia rates, and an overwhelmed shelter system unable to adequately serve the public. Our city's homeless pet population is a public health and public safety issue — and cutting resources to address it is shortsighted and dangerous. Instead of reducing funding, the City should prioritize investment in LA Animal Services to ensure humane care for animals, provide support for adoption and spay/neuter programs, and maintain critical services that protect both animals and residents. Animal Services is not an optional or peripheral service — it is a core function of a compassionate and responsible city government. I urge you to reconsider these harmful budget cuts and work toward a budget that reflects our city's values of care, safety, and community responsibility. Los Angeles can and should do better for its animals and the people who care for them.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:19 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Protect Animal Services

Communication from Public

Name: Katie

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:21 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Councilmembers, I am submitting this comment in strong support of fully funding all requested animal care technician positions in the proposed 2025–26 budget, as outlined in Council File 25-0600. The current conditions in our city’s animal shelters are unacceptable—severely overcrowded facilities, understaffing, and insufficient enrichment opportunities are resulting in unnecessary suffering. I respectfully urge the Council to also allocate adequate resources for both canine and feline enrichment programs, expand shelter capacity by reopening closed facilities, and ensure that every animal receives appropriate medical care, nutrition, and behavioral support. Most urgently, I ask the Council to take immediate steps to reduce euthanasia rates through comprehensive spay/neuter initiatives, expanded adoption campaigns, and strengthened partnerships with rescue organizations. Los Angeles has long prided itself on being a progressive and compassionate city. Now is the time to reflect those values in how we care for our most vulnerable animals. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Lorenzo Hernandez

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Lorenzo Hernandez and I work at St. Barnabas Senior Services, one of the agencies that provides essential services to our older adults. I'm here to advocate for the preservation of the Department of Aging which will ensure that the needs of older adults remain a priority. By 2030, 25% of the population will be over 60 years of age. LA DOA will ensure the ongoing administration of Specialized Services for a Growing Senior Population - [] LADOA offers programs specifically designed for seniors, including meal services, caregiver support, and wellness initiatives. - [] Merging LADOA with CIFD could lead to breakdown of services, making it harder for seniors to access the support they need and a broader department may not prioritize senior issues, leading to reduced attention and resources for aging-related programs. - [] Maintaining a dedicated department allows for more effective allocation of resources to programs that directly benefit seniors. - [] A standalone LADOA is better positioned to apply for and manage grants aimed at senior services, such as the Modernizing the Older Californian's act (MOCA)

Communication from Public

Name: Sheena Marshall

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:51 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: THESE POOR ANIMALS HAVE NO VOICE ALREADY!!
Cutting the budget will be their death sentence and for what???!!!
The shelters are already struggling. DO NOT CUT THE
BUDGET FOR ANIMALS!!!

Communication from Public

Name: George Acevedo

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:51 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a community member and a community advocate. Please don't cut GRYD funds and any other gang prevention/intervention organizations Cutting GRYD funding will weaken a vital system that is desperately needed today and the future. Cutting GRYD funding directly undermines the safety and security of our communities

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:55 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I ask, as a constituent, that the city retain —and in fact expand— funding for LA Animal Services, rather than cutting staff and closing facilities. It is entirely clear that the mayor's enthusiasm for shoveling money into an unaccountable LAPD is starving every department of the city. Get your priorities straight, Mayor: the budget is there to maintain a healthy functioning city. Signing off with "thanks" purely as a courtesy: Thanks.

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:57 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to express strong support for humane animal sheltering practices and lifesaving policies for animals in our community. This issue is deeply important to your constituents—people who care about the wellbeing of animals and expect their elected leaders to reflect those values. We vote for representatives who prioritize compassion, responsibility, and transparency. Please ensure your policies protect and uplift the most vulnerable members of our community, including our animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Debra Kaplan

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 01:00 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do not close any animal shelters or lay off their employees. This will only compound an already terrible situation. We need more shelters, more extensive services, and public awareness campaigns. Fixing the budget deficit should not come from cuts to something of this import for our city.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 07:26 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a business owner in the City of Los Angeles I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and communities.

Communication from Public

Name: A Concerned Citizen

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:41 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi City Council and Mayor. I want to bring to your attention the proposed budget cuts in the LSD(Livability Services Division) in Sanitation. We are a group of workers that clean up the public right of way on a daily basis in all 15 council districts. The proposal to cut CARE/CARE+ teams from 24 to 17 teams is going to be a tragic mistake. The loss of one employee in this section is immense as the following: (Immense training to remove hazardous waste/process property/and store property). Hiring people to clean up the hazards found at homeless encampments and dangers they face on a daily basis brings about the difficulty in retention/hiring. From finding weapons, drug paraphernalia, and threats/assaults to staff. I have seen this program from Clean Streets LA to what is today under CARE. Reducing the services that remove needles, acids, chemicals, feces, weapons, ammunition, hazardous materials around your local schools, libraries, sidewalks, businesses, homes, and community will bring a HUGE influx of concerns for the citizens of Los Angeles. If reduced services are conducted expect the following rise in: (communicable disease, i.e. typhus break out we had in the past, needles that can prick a child or adult, increased illegal dumping, food waste left on the streets, rodent population increase). This will lead to a increase in public health exposure/concerns. Please remember how the City of Los Angeles looked back during COVID when CARE/CARE+ services were reduced: Trash piles, feces on the street, and increased diseases amongst the unhoused population. If this proposed budget continues to eliminate the LSD staffing levels in half, expect the citizens of Los Angeles in all 15 council districts to feel its impact. Please reconsider to only eliminate the vacant positions and freeze hiring over this next fiscal year. Keep all currently staffed positions. The knowledge, experience, and dedication of each employee let go will set back the City of Los Angeles. Also looking forward long term, if we cut LSD staffing now, the huge task of keeping the public health and safety as a priority during the upcoming Olympics and world cup will be a logistical nightmare.

Communication from Public

Name: Serafim Mgeladze

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 07:33 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As someone who works in the City of Los Angeles, I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and communities.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:30 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The OHR, which oversees protections for historic places citywide, faces a 29% staff reduction—from 17 positions down to just 12. The proposed cuts include: Elimination of three Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ) planners, leading to fewer meetings, longer review times, delays for homeowners, and weakened protections for L.A.'s historic neighborhoods. Loss of the only staff member maintaining HistoricPlacesLA, ending the City's 15-year partnership with the Getty Foundation in documenting historic places through SurveyLA. Elimination of one administrative staff position. These positions are critical to the economic development of the city. Without them, it will become more difficult to start a business, renovate a home, or build new infill housing. The cuts will also significantly weaken Los Angeles' ability to protect historic places, from HPOZ neighborhoods to Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) and National Register historic districts. Remember, once historic places are demolished, they're lost forever—there's no way to bring them back.

Communication from Public

Name: Paul Walsleben

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:41 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The business of entertainment and media is ours to lose. Take care of the business and the business will take care of you - keep our amazing talent pool working, growing, and supported with regulations that respect our communities, but include LA residents and professionals alike in a profitable and supportive atmosphere. Vancouver or Albuquerque are no substitute for the City of Angels.

Communication from Public

Name: S Delgadillo

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:44 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members: I write to urge you to reconsider the wide sweeping cuts proposed in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. One of the proposed cuts includes my unique role as a City Planning Associate with the Planning Department's Office of Historic Resources. A role that I have held for the nearly nine years I have been employed full-time with the City and a proud EAA union member. I am the sole person responsible for maintaining HistoricPlacesLA, an online inventory that maps over 58,000 historic places within the city. HistoricPlacesLA, and its work program, is representative of the long-standing relationship and commitment between the City and multiple arms of the J. Paul Getty Trust. The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) chose and invested in the City of Los Angeles for the creation of HistoricPlacesLA, the first large-scale U.S. customization and implementation of Arches, an open-source, geospatial, and web-based software built as a platform for documenting and cataloging cultural heritage places worldwide. If my position and the HistoricPlacesLA work program is eliminated, the data staff and the public depend on to protect, enhance, and revitalize the City's most significant cultural and architectural gems will cease to be accurate. The data held within HistoricPlacesLA is and was crucial for post-disaster response and documentation in the Palisades community this January. In no way is the HistoricPlacesLA work program obsolete, it is a necessary complement to the City's historic preservation policy and efforts. Aside from being a proud public servant, I am a native Angeleno, lifelong resident and homeowner in Los Angeles (CD 7). I serve our city every day, on and off the clock, choosing to be the positive change we all seek to see in our communities. I am keenly aware that you and I are charged with making Los Angeles a great place to live, work, and play. If we don't work here, we can't live here and much less play here. Please reconsider the many citywide setbacks proposed in the Mayor's Proposed Budget and keep to your commitment of making Los Angeles a great place to live, work, and play.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:51 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of our Elderly Seniors and their families that have been attending Wilmington Senior Citizen Center for many years. I would like to ask for support to keep this facility running. It's been of great support and help for all our Seniors through out so many years. Seniors are so happy. The center is their home. They all look forward to going there on a regular basis. There is so many activities and services for the Seniors. Please support this welcoming Senior Center .

Communication from Public

Name: Ed Kaufman

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 05:51 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Wasn't burning down 8,000 residences leading to the deaths of 9 Angelinos enough! Something that you "never" apologized" for? Step down before you create more damage like our police headquarters you bombed!

Communication from Public

Name: Diana Trinh

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:54 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Bass, Please—do not cut the budget for Los Angeles animal shelters. Every single day in our city, abandoned, abused, and forgotten animals find safety, love, and a second chance thanks to our local shelters. These places are more than buildings—they are lifelines. Cutting their funding would be a tragic step backward for a city that prides itself on compassion and progress. LA's shelters are already overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers stretch every dollar, every blanket, every bowl of food. They work around the clock, often unpaid and unnoticed, to keep these animals safe. A budget cut would mean more suffering, more euthanasia, and fewer chances for these animals to find loving homes. This isn't just about pets. It's about who we are as a community. We cannot turn our backs on the voiceless. Mayor Bass, we ask you: protect the funding for LA's animal shelters. Protect the lives that depend on it. Let's continue to be a city that leads with heart.

Communication from Public

Name: Landry
Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:01 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: We Need our animal shelters!! Do not cut their funding.

Communication from Public

Name: Shellene Rains

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:05 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council members & Budget Committee, With 10 million dogs and cats as pets of the 4 million people in Los Angeles, we need more city animal shelters, certainly not less! The mayor's leadership has failed and not met our expectations. Now the spotlight is on you, the City Council, and this is your moment to shine. Each of you was elected on a promise to serve this magnificent city, protect our vibrant communities, and safeguard the most vulnerable among us... the voiceless animals who rely on our voice! We urge you to seize this opportunity to turn your campaign promises into bold, visionary action. We are relying on your ability to lead with courage and make a lasting, profound impact on our city. You have been entrusted with a sacred responsibility to fight for what is right! We expect you to be champions for our city's animals, who depend on you for protection, advocacy, and hope. If you walk out during public comments, you will lose the trust of LA animal lovers. We will be watching closely, and we expect you to speak up for the dogs and cats of Los Angeles! And if you don't, have fun rotting in hell.
XOXO

Communication from Public

Name: Erika Rogers

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:06 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Erika Rogers, and I am a resident of Council District 13. I'm writing to urge the Budget and Finance Committee to restore the five positions eliminated from the Office of Historic Resources in Mayor Bass's proposed FY 2025–26 budget. Cutting nearly one-third of OHR's staff will severely harm Los Angeles' capacity to protect its rich architectural and cultural history. These aren't just bureaucratic jobs—they are essential to the stewardship of our historic neighborhoods and landmarks. The physical landscape of Los Angeles is constantly changing and although building more housing for Angelenos is critical, we cannot afford to lose our city's architectural and cultural history. As someone who was born and raised in Los Angeles, with parents also born and raised in Los Angeles, I have seen far too much disinvestment in preserving the history and roots of the magical city that we are lucky to call home. As a resident of CD 13, and former resident of CD 4 and CD 11, I've seen firsthand how Historic Preservation Overlay Zones improve community identity, preserve affordable housing, and support neighborhood-scale development. Removing three HPOZ planners will result in fewer meetings, slower project reviews, and weakened oversight that leaves our historic resources vulnerable to inappropriate alterations or demolition. Additionally, eliminating the sole staffer responsible for HistoricPlacesLA threatens the future of one of the city's most valuable planning tools and ends a long-standing partnership with the Getty Foundation. The loss of that work compromises years of investment in documenting and valuing our city's cultural assets. Historic preservation is not just about saving old buildings—it supports economic development, environmental sustainability, and community pride. Once these places are gone, we cannot get them back. I respectfully request that the Budget Committee restore these five critical positions in a revised City Budget. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Erika Rogers

Communication from Public

Name: Vicki Dee Rock
Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:06 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I respectfully ask that you please not make reductions to the budgets for Animal Shelters and/or Animals in Los Angeles. We share this planet with these other living beings. We have damaged the environment in which they live. For animals in the shelters, there only imperative is to love and be loved, and for this we are already euthanizing a huge amount of them. What does that say about us? Sadly, nothing good. Being overseas in the UK, there shelters are all No Kill Shelters. They face the same challenges we do, but they manage to do it without putting animals to death. There is already so much suffering in our world and in our city. Please lets try to make things better - not worse. I know that trying to balance a budget and meet all the demands must be an impossible task ... but please let's work together to find solutions that make Los Angeles better ... for human beings and for animals. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Jolie Anderson

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:26 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is inhumane. Go after the corporations, private equity firms, and billionaires that are actually hoarding wealth before you CONTINUE to make heinous tax cut decisions that take innocent lives. It's sick, and I hope you never sleep soundly again.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Batten Lukather

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:07 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I understand that there is a need to cut services in order to balance and make best use of the city budget, but animal shelters are not the place to make that cut. I'm not speaking from an animal lover point of view although I am one, but from a realistic and common sense viewpoint go on the Nextdoor or Citizen or Ring app every second or third post is lost dog, urgent foster needed, feral cats, owner, abandoned, puppies, hoarding situation... most marked urgent! I have two cats and since January I've had a non stop revolving door of foster cats that have been surrendered to me found in alleyways, from the high kill Downey shelter, abandoned by family, surrendered by elderly person going into nursing care every heartbreaking situation you can imagine and it's non stop. I've placed 8 cats with adoptive families in 5 months. I am doing everything I can at my expense (my very limited, single parent income) and I will keep doing my part but the city needs to do its part! I don't know how out of touch mayor Bas is, if she thinks that this city can afford to close three animal shelters when they are overflowing and spilling into the homes of caring individuals who are trying to take up the slack. They're just aren't enough of us to handle the deluge of helpless animals that will be left roaming the streets.. vulnerable to illness, scavenging, forming colonies and multiplying. Down in Saint Pedro by the Korean friendship bell they have so many feral cat colonies that when you go walking in their public parks by the time you get home, your car smells so strongly of ammonia from cat urine that will be soaking into your shoes and your car mats. Fleas and ticks multiply and endanger children at playgrounds. Hazardous driving conditions from stray animals running across the roads and bike paths. These feral cat colonies multiply so quickly, and because they haven't been vaccinated they will have litters of infected kittens that filter through the remainder of the shelter system and eventually in fact, domestic pets that come in contact with them. Stray animals also increase the urban coyote Population as the suburbs become a hunting ground and family pets are the innocent victims... being snatched while out a walk or sitting on the front porch or at a dog run right in front of their owners. Animal shelters are not just a really nice little service to have. It's a matter of PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY. The abandoned lost, and stray animal population in the

RESIDENTIAL AREAS of Los Angeles has exploded. There aren't enough services right now to handle the problem so cutting services will positively devastate the efforts of the citizens to try to handle as much of this as we can. The end cost of cutting shelters and downsizing animal services is incalculable. There is no saving money by doing this there is only shifting funds from managing the animal population to managing the devastating effects caused by closing the shelters. If all of this is falling under deaf ears, I will speak the language that you understand. think about OPTICS people love animals Cut out animal services enrage constitution Make enemies Lose reputation Lose votes Make political opponent happy Attack ads appear. You are the kitten killer candidate Lose election Opponent wins by LANDSLIDE! Spend your lonely, unemployed days wishing that you had a puppy or kitten to keep you company while you reevaluate your life choices. DO NOT LET THE ANIMALS PAY FOR HUMAN INCOMPETENCE AND MISMANAGEMENT!!!

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Communication from Public

Name: Martina DN

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:10 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: STOP BUDGET CUTS FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS! We need ore help NOT less for the animals in care. Do NOT close shelters or increase chances of euthanasia.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:12 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Make breeding illegal!! Populating more animals for an easy penny should be illegal

Communication from Public

Name: Nicola S

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 12:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass and City Council Members, I am writing to express urgent concern about the proposed 2025–2026 City of Los Angeles budget and its devastating implications for animals under the care of Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS). The proposed LAAS budget falls gravely short of meeting the needs of our city's already overstretched animal shelters. Interim General Manager Annette Ramirez has made it clear: with this level of funding, three LAAS shelters may be forced to close — a move that would put the lives of innocent dogs and cats at even greater risk. Currently, LAAS shelters are operating at 155% capacity. Dogs are doubled and tripled in kennels meant for single animals, creating not only stress and suffering but also increased aggression, illness, and a higher risk of euthanasia. The data is already dire: euthanasia of dogs rose 72% from last year, with over 1,200 dogs euthanized from January to September 2024. But cats are being overlooked in this crisis, too. Thousands of cats enter the LAAS system each year, and they often face worse outcomes than dogs. Overcrowded shelters, inadequate enrichment, and poor disease control mean that even healthy cats are at risk. Many shelters do not have enough staff to provide basic care, and without funding for feline enrichment and dedicated staff, cats are often left isolated and stressed, making them less adoptable and more likely to be euthanized. If this budget is passed without amendments, the result will be catastrophic for both dogs and cats: --Continued overcrowding and understaffing, exacerbating already inhumane conditions. --Reduction or elimination of critical enrichment programs that help animals maintain their mental and physical health. --A likely increase in euthanasia rates, particularly among cats, who already face disproportionately low adoption and high euthanasia rates. --Closure of shelters, which would displace thousands of animals and devastate communities that rely on those services. We call on the the City of Los Angeles to: --Fully fund all requested animal care technician positions. --Allocate adequate resources for both canine and feline enrichment programs. --Address shelter overcrowding by expanding capacity or reopening shuttered facilities. --Ensure proper medical care, nutrition, and behavioral support for all animals. --Take urgent steps to reduce euthanasia through spay/neuter initiatives, adoption campaigns, and

partnerships with rescue organizations. The animals of Los Angeles have no voice but ours. Please, listen to the communities who care about their wellbeing. No animal should suffer or die because of a budget shortfall. We urge you to revise the proposed budget and ensure that no shelters close, no animals go without care, and no lives are lost due to preventable neglect. With compassion and urgency, Nicola S

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 07:01 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: There are already so many dogs roaming around, homeless, instead of cutting funds from people who help these poor animals, make the people who are irresponsible owners and let their dogs run away, pay for their stupidity. These poor animals don't have a voice, all they want is love and somewhere to eat and sleep. This is crazy, when I voted, I didn't expect to be voting for such cold hearted humans, money hungry.. so sad!

Communication from Public

Name: amy phillips

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:22 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Amy Phillips of Little Tokyo Service Center. I co-chair the AAPI Equity Alliance's Older Adults Committee. Our coalition comprises agencies and individuals with a long history of serving AAPI older adults, especially Asian immigrant seniors, in multiple languages throughout the City of Los Angeles. AAPIs are about 12% of the City's population, but the percentage is higher, 16%, among older adults. Many have lived and worked in the City for years, but have a hard time accessing services, especially as they've aged. We have worked hard to reduce the gap in services for LA's diverse seniors. Cutting the Department of Aging would be a major step backwards. The Japanese language has a word, keiro, which specifically means respect for our elders, but we hear from many others about the importance of grandparents and others who share their deep lived experience in the communities live in. Respecting our elders is not just an Asian value. Aging is the one thing all people have in common and seniors contribute so much to civic life in LA. In the next few years, LA will host the World Cup and the Olympics, but we have a world of people in our city right now who need services. Diversity is one of this city's great strengths. We hope the City will show the world how we respect for our diverse elders and pass that value on to future generations.

Communication from Public

Name: Emma

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:00 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass's proposed budget cuts to Animal Services would be absolutely devastating. The loss of \$4.8M in funding would force some shelters to permanently close, eliminate dozens of animal care jobs, and gut medical teams, as well as adoption and foster services. Only three months after the wildfires that injured and displaced thousands of animals, this abandonment of them is unacceptable.

Communication from Public

Name: Jose Valladores

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:25 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Buenas tardes, me llamo José Valladores y soy de El Salvador. Llevo 40 años viviendo y trabajando en Los Ángeles. Soy jornalero del Centro Jornalero de CARECEN. Como inmigrante, aunque formo parte de esta ciudad, no recibo ningún beneficio. Pero pago impuestos, y exijo igualdad. Los servicios que necesita la comunidad inmigrante no están incluidos en el presupuesto de este año. Los servicios legales de Representa Los Ángeles son más necesarios que nunca. Están haciendo redadas, deportando a personas por protestar, y mandando a otros a países que no son suyos. Ahora es cuando más necesitamos su apoyo. Restauren el presupuesto para Representa Los Ángeles y financien los Centros Jornaleros. Protejan a los trabajadores inmigrantes de Los Ángeles. Muchas gracias.

Communication from Public

Name: Tracy S.

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:13 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to demand Mayor Karen Bass and the city of Los Angeles NOT cut funding for our animal shelters. The situation is already dire, and to slash budget further would be a death sentence for countless perfectly healthy animals who deserve a chance to find loving homes. With overcrowding, resource shortages, and poor shelter conditions, euthanasia is being used far too often as a "solution" to the influx of stray or abandoned animals. This crisis will only escalate. Mayor Bass promised to reform the system and make our city a model to emulate, but this proposed budget cut violates her promise completely. Further, there are proven solutions we CAN implement that would not only save money, but also address the root of the issues. More spay & neuter clinics, a strict crackdown on irresponsible backyard breeders, and ownership bans on animal abusers for good measure. As a pet owner whose family fosters through a rescue, I have seen the rescue community trying their hardest to save as many as they can, but STILL can't keep up. More than ever, our animals need us to step up to protect them. They are vital to the wellbeing of our communities, and it is excruciating to see them trapped by circumstances beyond their control. Some have never and will never know life beyond a cramped cage. I highly suggest putting together a taskforce with a variety of legal, rescue, and veterinary expertise to propose a robust plan to overhaul how we handle animal management because cutting shelter funds is unacceptable.

Communication from Public

Name: Courtney Baker

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:26 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Long COVID affects an estimated 268,000 adult Angelenos—25 times more than the peak of the AIDS crisis—and disproportionately impacts underserved and under-resourced communities. As the Mayor’s 2025 budget is finalized, we respectfully urge the restoration of funding to the Department on Disability and the inclusion of a \$6M line item for Long COVID prevention, education, treatment, and services. This represents just 0.6% of the overall budget and is a vital investment in protecting public health and reducing long-term costs.

Communication from Public

Name: Guadalupe Castellanos

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:27 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Buenas tardes, soy Guadalupe Castellanos, y he sido jornalero por muchos años, desde antes del Centro Jornalero de CARECEN. Sin estos centros, no hay apoyo para los jornaleros. Antes, nos contrataban en la calle por \$80 o \$100 por todo un día de trabajo — de 5 a 5 — y a veces ni pagaban. En el centro, tenemos contratos y se aseguran de que nos paguen salarios justos. También ayudan a compañeros que no están conectados al centro y que fueron víctimas de robo de salario. Se dice que ha bajado la cantidad de personas viviendo en la calle, pero sin los centros, eso cambiará. Mientras tanto, recortan el programa Representa Los Ángeles, justo cuando más se necesita. Cuiden a su comunidad inmigrante. Financien los Centros y Representa LA. Gracias.

Communication from Public

Name: Oscar Portillo

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:28 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Buenas tardes, soy Oscar Portillo y tengo 41 años viviendo en los Estados Unidos y 12 años viviendo en Los Ángeles. Soy jornalero y asisto en el Centro Jornalero de CARECEN hace años. Hoy estoy con ustedes para pedir ayuda con el presupuesto de la ciudad y dar fondos para los Centros Jornaleros de la ciudad y a el programa Representa Los Ángeles. Gracias.

Communication from Public

Name: Luke Auferio

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:06 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Animal shelter funding cannot be decreased!!!! Already a huge issue here.

Communication from Public

Name: Al

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:26 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a director producer writer I'm independent. The fees for shooting in Los Angeles are so expensive. It keeps me from doing something that I love. I just shot a new movie and it cost me more than I had but that's the only way to get it done I don't have the ability to go out of the country. Are go to other states to shoot. I'm from Los Angeles. There's no reason why I should not be able to film in Los Angeles. Thank you very much. I hope that you guys help us maintain our position in the world as the number one Film location in the world.

Communication from Public

Name: Jen Broughel

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:06 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm voicing my extreme opposition to cutting the budget for animal shelters. We're having a serious crisis already and this would be catastrophic for all the homeless pets in LA. Please use our tax dollars wisely. Shelters need to remain open. No shelters should be closed—we need them desperately—and the budget for animal shelters should not be cut. There are people working tirelessly to save as many animals as they can and budget cuts will only make the homeless animal situation even worse. Please listen to the residents of LA. We do NOT support any cuts to the budget for animal shelters.

Communication from Public

Name: Caico

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:33 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do not cut funding to animal shelters or any animal welfare plans!
This is a very important issue to me and many Angelenos and one that we want the public to know is being protected!

Communication from Public

Name: Michael A Haddad

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:13 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We cannot cut the budget for these vulnerable little creatures - they have no voice or say we have to do better and protect the voiceless in this matter - please keep these shelters open for humanities sake

Communication from Public

Name: Kellie Rogers

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:16 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: Amelia Rae Jones

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:16 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Rae Jones, and I attended the meeting opportunity for public comment yesterday, April 28th. After hours of waiting, I was able to get in and register but unable to actually provide comment. I represent the Survivor Justice Center. Founded in 1971 as the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, we have served our community for over 50 years. Our mission is to secure justice for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We are focused on providing free legal services to underserved individuals, particularly those who are low-income, limited English proficient, immigrant, and or undocumented. Through legal services and wraparound support from social workers and community advocates, we help over 1,000 survivors each year move toward safety, stability, and self-determination. We are deeply concerned about the proposed reductions to survivor services, especially cuts to CIFD-funded shelters and support programs—many of which are our trusted partners and referral sources. These services are not luxuries—they are lifelines. In Los Angeles County, domestic violence shelters already operate near or at full capacity. According to recent data, there are only about 1,300 shelter beds available for survivors across the county, yet the demand far exceeds this number. Survivors often wait days—or are turned away entirely—because shelters are full. These proposed cuts would reduce the availability of emergency housing, lengthen waitlists, and increase the likelihood that survivors will be forced to return to unsafe environments. When access to shelter diminishes, legal services like ours become even more critical. Survivors rely on us to obtain restraining orders, secure custody of their children, and stabilize their housing—all of which become more difficult without coordinated access to shelter and support. The impacts of funding cuts are already being felt across the ecosystem of survivor services. For example, due to VOCA reductions, we were forced to close our immigration intake and lay off four staff members—an immediate and tangible consequence of dwindling resources. This is just one example of how fragile the system has become. As a subcontractor to a City-funded shelter, we are also at risk of losing critical funding if our partner's support is withdrawn. These cascading effects show how deeply interconnected and vulnerable our network of survivor services truly is. We urge the committee to consider the

broader consequences of these cuts and take decisive action to protect and preserve this essential infrastructure. Additionally, reductions in funding for data infrastructure will severely impact our ability to monitor outcomes, ensure accountability, and advocate effectively. Without accurate, reliable data, we lose the evidence needed to secure future funding and improve our services. When a survivor of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking cannot access a shelter bed, the consequences are immediate—and deeply destabilizing. Without safe, stable housing, survivors may be forced to remain with or return to their abusers, or face homelessness, exposing them to heightened risk of violence, exploitation, and retraumatization. For many, the choice is not between safety and danger—it's between danger and the street. Facing homelessness puts survivors at greater risk of further violence and retraumatization. And it makes it significantly harder to pursue justice. When someone is worried about where they'll sleep tonight, it becomes almost impossible to focus on navigating the legal system—attending hearings, filing paperwork, or working with attorneys on critical protections like custody, restraining orders, or immigration relief. The weight of housing insecurity can make even the strongest survivor feel stuck. At Survivor Justice Center, we witness these struggles every day. When shelter beds aren't available, our team often shifts from legal advocacy to emergency crisis support. We've had clients who were ready to move forward with their cases have to pause—or give up entirely—because they simply had nowhere safe to go. It's heartbreaking, and it's preventable. Shelter is not just a place to sleep. It's the foundation from which survivors can begin to assert their rights, plan for their future, and break cycles of abuse. If we are serious about justice, we must ensure that no survivor is left to choose between violence and homelessness. These proposed budget cuts threaten the very foundation of Los Angeles's response to gender-based violence. They send a message that survivor safety is not a priority. We cannot allow that to happen. We urge the committee to reject these cuts and instead reaffirm the city's commitment to survivor-centered care. Protecting and investing in shelters, legal services, and holistic support programs is not only just—it's essential. Thank you for your time and for your continued dedication to the safety and well-being of our communities.

Communication from Public

Name: Estefania Gallo

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:17 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The proposed budget by Mayor Karen Bass does not have the best interest of LAs people in mind. We do not need more police budget at the expense of county workers losing their jobs, stray animals being killed, and cuts to our parks and recreation. These are austerity measures that will bleed the city dry. We will not stand for this!

Communication from Public

Name: AG

Date Submitted: 04/28/2025 11:43 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not go through with these proposed budget cuts. In closing half our city's already overwhelmed shelters, you'll reduce quality of life for both people and animals, as well as degrade the reputation of this city.

Communication from Public

Name: Hudson B. Marquez

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:18 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is an absurd and cruel way to cut the budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Merle O'Neal

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:16 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am disgusted that the Mayor's proposed budget includes the elimination of the landmark Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) — a decision that is both dangerous and profoundly short-sighted. Climate work, preparation, and advocacy are not luxuries. They are life-saving necessities. CEMO has been leading the charge to make Los Angeles more resilient in the face of rising temperatures, wildfires, and extreme weather. To dismantle it now — especially in the wake of recent LA wildfires — is unconscionable. Eliminating CEMO would not only halt this vital work, but it would also forfeit \$750,000 in already-awarded state funding meant to support LA's first Heat Action and Resilience Plan. That's funding our city desperately needs — not just to plan, but to save lives during extreme heat events. Meanwhile, many Angelenos live near urban oil wells leaking hazardous chemicals, and LA has more of these than any city in the U.S. Downsizing the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas — including roles overseeing pollution and phasing out drilling — directly harms the health and safety of frontline communities. If the city needs to find savings, there are far more responsible options: Cap excessive LAPD overtime, postpone non-essential beautification and PR projects, consolidate redundant administrative roles, audit the city's underused vehicle fleets We need more climate leadership, not less.

Communication from Public

Name: Rene Von Gunten

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:18 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE DO NOT close any of our ANIMAL shelters! There is already so much animal suffering and this will make the situation absolutely horrific! Thank you for your consideration!

Communication from Public

Name: Lyndsie Smyser

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:18 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reconsider the drastic spending cuts that are being made to LA Animal Services. These cuts will be devastating to the welfare of innocent animals and will result in injured, abused, neglected, sick and suffering animals roaming the streets. It is especially concerning that these cuts are being made while dog breeding is still legal in LA. There is a dog overbreeding and overpopulation crisis and the only way to solve it is more animal shelters and more funds to help promote adoption rather than breeding. I am so heartbroken for the animals that will suffer because of this. Please reevaluate.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We urge LA City Council to use the \$5 million already available to prevent these layoffs, mass euthanasia, and shelter closures.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am absolutely incensed that the Mayor's office is proposing to eliminate the landmark Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. Climate work, preparation, and advocacy is what we need to be focusing on to be a resilient city so we can be prepared in a warming world. It is unconscionable that the city wants to forfeit the \$750,000 of grant funding already awarded to CEMO and try to shutter this office, especially in light of the recent LA wildfires. We must continue the vital work of CEMO to make sure we are prepared for future disasters and the challenges of extreme weather. Many Angelenos live near oil and gas wells that are leaking hazardous chemicals that impact our health as Los Angeles has the most urban oil wells in the nation. Downsizing the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas and eliminating positions that oversee pollution from oil wells in the city and work to phase out urban oil drilling is a threat to our health and safety. CEMO can not be cut from the LA budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Lexi Biglow

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:21 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the city council to use the \$5M already available to prevent this layoffs, mass euthanasia, and shelter closures.

Communication from Public

Name: Chau Pham

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:23 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Why can't you cut public safety like you would for rest of depts? You need to be fair across the board. So will Fire & PD start carrying shovels and fix roads? Your fire dept does NOT need more bodies. Show the metrics on response time-how bad it is? People will be more pissed when their water gets shut off for 1 hour instead of waiting for emergency response that rarely happens. Why don't you visit a firehouse and you'll see what your tax dollars a paying for: BBQing, working out and watching movies. And don't forget their mistresses on the side when they are away from their wives (tell me I'm wrong). That's why their club is so exclusive. Fire & PD Depts have the most liability because they "get hurt" from training and they get crash cars and get sued for excessive force. You are throwing more money away by investing in liabilities. Numbers don't lie. Just run the cost for claims through your system. Public Safety costs taxpayers the most and yet we get very little in return. BE FAIR. CUT ACROSS THE BOARD!!!!!!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:29 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: How can you close animal shelters when they have no where to go. They are not hurting anyone, yelling or screaming. They want shelters not like the homeless people you are trying to help. Please don't close down the shelters.

Communication from Public

Name: Julie

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:34 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: An important message to the city council: Please reconsider cuts to the Department of Disabilities. Don't sacrifice people with disabilities for negligible budget savings, rather make sure if there must be cuts to the Department of Disability, they leave us still equipped to support the City in remaining accessible to Angelenos with disabilities.

Communication from Public

Name: Claudia

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:35 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not close down the shelters. These animals deserve help. I understand there needs to be budget cuts but i am positive you can do those somewhere else. Thank you for your consideration

Communication from Public

Name: Constituent

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:56 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Mayor was NOT in attendance for yesterday's 4pm Budget meeting The Councilmembers KNEW hundreds of Angelenos were outside & were NOT allowed inside to offer Public Comment while the chambers remained relatively empty The fact that I showed up to City Hall yesterday is ridiculous - as a disabled, senior, without a car Well - I waited outside in line for 3 hours & was not let in - You showed disrespect to the voice of the working Angelenos - by not allowing us in These budget cuts are real - even if the Mayor & her staff want to "spin" it (discretionary funds) instead of being true animal advocates YOU ALL have chosen to NOT be transparent, honest or hard working for the people and animals of Los Angeles I DRAGGED myself to Sacramento to fight to EXPLAIN what AB 1157 truly means - to keep me & my fellow Constituents housed I am begging & pleading with ALL of you City employees in Los Angeles to NOT allow the government to continue KILLING dogs and cats otherwise known as Euthanasia The City has IGNORED the need to help assist & fix the feral cat community The Animal Services department needs MORE attention EVERYTHING is being mismanaged right now And Constituents are not being heard Your offices are NOT truly following up with us This isn't a joke We are not stupid We are observing everything even if you don't hear from us all the time We are livid And will vote you out HERE is ONE place where we can get it right There is NO need to CUT millions from Animal Services Just be honest about it We should not be using these other discretionary funds The Animal Service department needs money & better management Allow citizens like us to partner with this department - to transport as many dogs and cats out of LA as we can To take over the adoption & medical angles via nonprofits & volunteers - like me Not KILL ANY LA ANIMALS WITHIN 24 - 48 hours It is despicable Blood is on all of our hands! Angelenos need to fix spay and neuter ALL their pets Please enforce LICENSING them - as a source of revenue All Angelenos need to realize the lifelong commitment they are taking when they adopt (don't shop) a dog or cat The government policies and the Landlords needs to be more pet inclusive My housing insecurity SUCKS and has been ongoing for 9 years Harassment from greedy Landlords willing to do anything illegal to get me out The Judges in the County courts

are NOT listening to us, not looking at our evidence and NOT enforcing the law Making a day in court a JOKE and financially devastating and unfair Medi Cal SUCKS and is corrupt There is NO affordable housing and no nice Landlords - only investment & equity pirates - including the government There should be a rental cap VACANCY CONTROL I do not have RSO laws to protect my address or tenancy BILLIONS ARE BEING SQUANDERED and are missing and unaccounted for You NEVER stepped in even though I begged you to I have been urging LONG before the Pandemic - and boy did I have a terrible Pandemic - now losing money - more disabled, evacuated unnecessarily due to Remediation Scam (Property Damage Specialists, North Hollywood) I am living a very low life in LA I have nowhere else to go DO WHAT IS RIGHT DO THE JOB YOU WERE HIRED TO DO And LISTEN TO US You work FOR US BE LOGICAL and look out for the animals and the working poor of Los Angeles furious Constituent

**Please Note That Public Comment Will Be Taken In-Person Only on
April 28, 2025.**

CALLED BY THE COMMITTEE CHAIR

UPDATED - SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

**SCHEDULE OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE'S
CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR'S 2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET**

APRIL 28, 2025 – MAY 16, 2025

JOHN FERRARO COUNCIL CHAMBER

ROOM 340, CITY HALL

200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

MEMBERS: COUNCILMEMBER KATY YAROSLAVSKY, CHAIR
COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD
COUNCILMEMBER HEATHER HUTT
COUNCILMEMBER TIM McOSKER
COUNCILMEMBER EUNISSES HERNANDEZ

Mandy Morales – Legislative Assistant

email: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

See City Internet address: <http://councilcommittee.lacity.org/budget/>
for online budget documents
(also on Council file No. [25-0600](#))

Listening To, Attending, and Providing Public Comment

The hearing will be broadcast live on Cable Television Channel 35 and on the internet at <https://clerk.lacity.org/calendar>. The Committee will take public comment from members of the public in-person only.

Spanish language interpretation is available for the Budget Hearing. Interpretation services in additional languages are available upon request, at no cost. Please submit your request to clerk.interpretation@lacity.org as soon as possible to allow time for scheduling. You will receive a confirmation reply if an interpreter is available.

SE OFRECE UN SERVICIO DE TRADUCCIÓN AL ESPAÑOL EN ESTÁ REUNIÓN

Submit written comment at LACouncilComment.com

MONDAY – APRIL 28, 2025

4:00 p.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

- Chair Comments
- Presentation – Civilian Labor Partners
- Neighborhood Council Budget Advocacy
- Public Comment

TUESDAY – APRIL 29, 2025

1:00 p.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

- Presentation of the Proposed Budget by the Mayor's Office
- Overview of the Proposed Budget by the City Administrative Officer
- Revenue
- City Administrative Officer (CAO)
 - General City Purposes
 - Reserve Fund
 - Unappropriated Balance
 - Capital Finance Administration (MICLA)
 - Capital and Technology Improvement Expenditure Program
 - Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes
 - Exhibit H
- City Attorney
- City Controller
- Office of Finance/Treasurer
- General Services

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 30, 2025

1:00 p.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

- Memo Review
- Port of Los Angeles

Police
Fire
Emergency Management
Personnel (includes Human Resources Benefits)
Information Technology Agency
City Ethics Commission

THURSDAY – MAY 1, 2025

9:00 a.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

Memo Review
CAO – Homeless Budget
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (including Housing
Authority of the City of Los Angeles)
Housing
Community Investment for Families
Economic and Workforce Development
Youth Development
Transportation
Board of Public Works
Public Works - Sanitation
Public Works - Bureau of Engineering
Public Works - Bureau of Street Services

FRIDAY - MAY 2, 2025

1:00 p.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

Memo Review
Public Works - Bureau of Street Lighting

Public Works - Bureau of Contract Administration
Recreation and Parks
Water and Power
Office of Public Accountability
Building and Safety
Planning
Cannabis Regulation
Aging
Disability

MONDAY - MAY 5, 2025

9:00 a.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

Memo Review
Airports
City Clerk
Animal Services
Zoo
Cultural Affairs
El Pueblo
Library
City Tourism
Neighborhood Empowerment
Civil + Human Rights and Equity
Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System
Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions
Any other City Departments

TUESDAY – MAY 6, 2025

Recess

WEDNESDAY – MAY 7, 2025

Recess

THURSDAY – MAY 8, 2025

9:00 a.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

Review Memos

General Managers to answer questions on the following budgets, CAO comments follow.

Any other City departments

As needed budget discussions and instructions to staff

FRIDAY - MAY 16, 2025

1:00 p.m.

ITEM NO. (1) - Consideration of the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, including:

Chief Legislative Analyst to report on proposed changes to the Mayor's 2025-26 Proposed Budget, and related actions

NOTE: Committee will be in recess from Friday, May 9, 2025 - Thursday, May 15, 2025

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Materials relating to items on the agenda are available on the Office of the City Clerk's Council File Management System found at <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect> by entering the Council File number (e.g., 00-0000) associated with the agenda item.

PUBLIC INPUT AT CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members of the public who wish to speak on one or multiple items shall have an opportunity to speak up to one minute per item up to a total of two minutes for two or more agenda items. At regular meetings, members of the public shall also have an opportunity to speak up to one minute for general public comment on any matter within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Committee. The Committee is not required to take general public comment at special meetings. The Committee may limit the total amount of time for public comment on any specific agenda item, on all agenda-items collectively, and/or on general public comment, based on the anticipated time required to hear from public speakers on any given or all agenda items, on the availability of Committee members and the need to maintain quorum, and on any other relevant factor. The Committee shall not discuss or take action relative to any general public comment except as explicitly permitted under the Brown Act.

COMMITTEE INFORMATION, ASSIGNMENTS, AND STRUCTURE

<https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/cps/council-committee-meetings/info-assignments-structure>

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION

Requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, can be made by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (213) 978-1133. For Telecommunications Relay Service for the hearing impaired, please see the information below.

NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES

If a member of the public is compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require them to register as a lobbyist and report this activity. More information can be found at Los Angeles Municipal Code 48.01 et seq. or at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. Further assistance can be found by contacting the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

A member of the public seeking to challenge a City action in court may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk prior to the public hearing in time reasonably to be considered by the Committee members. Any written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk before the City Council's final action on a matter will become a part of the administrative record.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELAY SERVICE (TRS) COMMUNICATIONS

Individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, and individuals with a speech disability, may be able to avail themselves of both for peer-to-peer and third-party telecommunications relay service (TRS) communications. Telecommunications Relay Service is a telephone service that allows persons with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls. TRS is available in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories for local and/or long distance calls. TRS providers - generally telephone companies - are compensated for the costs of providing TRS from either a state or a federal fund. There is no cost to the TRS user.

What forms of TRS are available? There are several forms of TRS, depending on the particular needs of the user and the equipment available: TRS includes: Text to Voice TTY-Based TRS; Speech-to-Speech Relay Service; Shared Non-English Language Relay Service; Captioned Telephone Relay Service; Internet Protocol Relay Service; and Video Relay Service. Please visit this site for detail descriptions, <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>.

Don't hang up! Some people hang up on TRS calls because they think the caller is a telemarketer. If you hear, "Hello, this is the relay service..." when you pick up the phone, please don't hang up! You are about to talk, through a TRS provider, to a person who is deaf, hard-of-hearing, or has a speech disability. For more information about FCC programs to promote access to telecommunications services for people with disabilities, visit the FCC's Disability Rights Office website.

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda Gancedo

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:57 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is disgraceful towards the animals and workers!!!! It's a massacre and not a solution.

Communication from Public

Name: Joseph Bergin

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:40 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We urge LA Council to use the funds already available (\$5million) to prevent these layoffs, mass Euthanasia and shelter closures. Please reach out with any requests.

Communication from Public

Name: Suzanne Goldish

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:43 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am extremely dismayed to hear that the 2025-26 budget does not include funding for the Day Labor Programs in LA. When the city was burning I was running around trying to find places to volunteer and help and heard that the Pasadena Community Job Center was taking volunteers. When I arrived, there were so many people lined up to help that I was turned away. A LARGE majority of these people were day laborers who had been coming to the Job Center for years and now were prepared to risk their lives to help people in their community. The Job Center continued to be a hub of assistance and a base of operations for fire relief, long after many other resources and locations had shut down. I implore the committee to keep up the funding for the Job Center and the other day laborer centers in LA. Our city has so far been on the right side of history when it comes to taking care of our immigrant neighbors, please don't stop now when our country needs this kind of action more than ever.

Communication from Public

Name: Teya Hisel

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:44 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the Downtown Women's Center, we write in strong support of a critical element in Mayor Bass's proposed budget: the \$2.7 million allocation for the LA:RISE program. LA:RISE is a proven and transformative initiative that connects individuals experiencing homelessness, reentry, or chronic unemployment with meaningful employment and the long-term support necessary to succeed. LA:RISE is so much more than transitional employment. At DWC, LA:RISE powers our social enterprise, MADE by DWC, providing paid employment for women exiting homelessness - offering stability, confidence, and the opportunity to reclaim their futures. We respectfully urge the Los Angeles City Council to maintain this funding. LA:RISE has already changed thousands of lives—and many more Angelenos still rely on this pathway to stability and opportunity. Preserving this investment is essential to advancing economic equity and supporting some of our city's most vulnerable residents. Additionally, as the City considers consolidating the Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), we urge you to ensure that this process does not result in the loss of critical leadership and institutional knowledge. In a time of significant economic uncertainty, strong and experienced leaders are essential to guiding this work forward. The futures of those we serve—and the values of equity, dignity, and opportunity that define Los Angeles—depend on your continued leadership and commitment.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:59 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am the president of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council (SVANC) and I am speaking as such. We request that the Mayor and City Council preserve the \$32,000 that neighborhood councils currently receive. SVANC spends approximately \$21,500 in their office rental. While some may recommend we get rid of our office space, I'd say that would be detrimental to our neighborhood council. Sun Valley is 1/3 industrial zone, so we don't have much availability as to where we can go hold our meetings. We currently utilize the library for our Board meetings, but we also have four committees that meet regularly on a monthly basis. While we have no funds for NPGs and Community Improvement Projects, the lack of funding has not impeded us from organizing beneficial events for the community: Earth Day, National Night Out, Cleanups, Citizenship Workshop, Wellness Fairs. This office is located at a very important street in Sun Valley, Sunland Blvd. This gives us visibility. Our landlord even made the business sign with the SVANC logo. We are located next to a restaurant and a tutoring center. This gives us an opportunity to reach more community members. We cannot afford publishing materials, so having a copier/printer has been one of the most important tools we could utilize to publish fliers of coming events. We've held Coffee and Conversation with our elected officials to give them and the community a forum to discuss plans for our community. We've also had three Meet and Greet events in which new board members have been recruited and we have met organizations who have collaborated with us in the various events we have planned and have prepared for the coming months. We also hold Coffee with a COP, which is a meeting the community greatly supports. SVANC has worked for the past two years to cut expenses and lower monthly bills. Please support keeping \$32,000 per neighborhood council.

Communication from Public

Name: nicole rapacz
Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:00 AM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: SAVE THE ANIMALS

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:36 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please. No more cuts to City shelters. They are in dire shape already. Humans should pay for ignorant financing... Not the animals. Just to be in a shelter is suffering enough.

Communication from Public

Name: Trinity Tran

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:10 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. On behalf of over 70 organizations who have signed on to the attached budget request letter from the Public Bank LA Coalition, we urge the Council to fund the public bank feasibility study. Los Angeles faces urgent financial challenges, including budget shortfalls, wildfire recovery, and federal uncertainty, making long-term financing more critical than ever. Each year, LA pays \$3 to \$4 million in banking fees and interest and \$1.4 billion annually in debt service. These are funds that could instead be invested locally to build affordable housing, support small businesses, repair roads, and strengthen climate resilience. We need a plan to give the city a tool to save money, lower borrowing costs, and keep public funds working for Angelenos. Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study and give Los Angeles a roadmap to reinvest in its people.

PUBLIC BANK LA COALITION

Mayor Karen Bass
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 8, 2025

Re: Fund the Public Bank Plan and Invest in Our Future

Dear Mayor Bass and the Honorable Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

On behalf of over 70 organizations that have signed on, the Public Bank LA Coalition is urging the LA City Council to immediately fund the Public Bank feasibility study. Los Angeles stands at the intersection of multiple crises: soaring housing costs, wildfire threats, aging infrastructure, and economic inequities. Every year, the City spends [\\$1.4 billion in debt service—plus another \\$3 to \\$4 million in interest payments and banking fees](#)—much of it going to Wall Street banks. That's \$1 billion we desperately need to protect homes from the next disaster, fast-track affordable housing construction, and empower workers and local businesses. It's time we build a financial system that invests in us: **a Los Angeles Public Bank.**

A Public Bank is a nonprofit, city-owned, tax-exempt institution with one mission: ***keep public dollars working for the public good.*** Operating on a wholesale model—no branches, ATMs, or checking accounts—it maintains low overhead and reinvests resources, keeping profits in LA. Rather than competing with local lenders, it partners with them to bundle and leverage City funds for transformative, equitable projects. From new affordable housing to sustainable infrastructure, every loan aligns with our City's goals, accountable to the public interest, not private shareholders.

The Public Bank is governed by an independent board and managed by financial experts separate from City Hall, ensuring strict state and federal regulatory oversight while aligning every dollar with the City's equity and sustainability goals.

By leveraging its own resources, **a Public Bank can fund city needs without raising taxes, cutting essential services, or increasing debt.** It's a practical solution to bridge the gap in our perpetual budget deficit and immediately fund local priorities.

Why a Public Bank Deserves Immediate Priority

1. **Supercharge affordable housing.**

Today's affordable housing projects stagger under dozens of convoluted funding sources, slowing construction and inflating costs. By providing a streamlined "one-stop shop" for loans, the Public Bank can accelerate projects from concept to completion, helping families avoid the cascade into homelessness.

2. **Strengthen disaster response and resilience.**

Wildfires, floods, and earthquakes repeatedly strike with crippling effects. Relying on private banks in an emergency drags out financing, when time is critical. A Public Bank ensures rapid response funding stays at home, fueling fire-resistant infrastructure, landslide-prevention projects, and relief loans for families and small businesses.

3. **Save millions annually.**

Nearly half of our housing and infrastructure costs stem from private bank interest and fees, funds that should stay in LA. Financing through our own Public Bank cuts these extraneous costs. Through fractional reserve lending, **each dollar deposited can generate up to ten dollars in lending power—10 times the impact**, with loan repayments reinvesting back into the Public Bank.

4. **A proven model: Bank of North Dakota.**

The Bank of North Dakota (BND) is a century-tested blueprint for public-driven finance. Publicly owned since 1919, BND generated an [18% return on equity](#) in 2023 and has transferred [over \\$1 billion to the state's general fund](#). From home mortgages, to student and agricultural loans, it invests over \$1 billion in schools, water infrastructure, and healthcare. Its [A+ S&P rating](#) shows that a people-first, locally accountable Public Bank can be profitable, stable, and resilient.

The City Council has already unanimously approved the RFP funding and selected consultants. Now, we urge you to allocate \$460,000 funds for Phase 1 of the RFP and launch the feasibility study. This critical step, made possible by the California Public Banking Act, will develop financial models, detail the bank's business lines, mission, and capitalization strategies, showing how a Public Bank can create affordable housing, support labor, and build local wealth in Los Angeles. This small line item holds enormous potential to save millions in the short term, and reshape how we finance critical city projects.

Our Money, Our Values, Our Bank.

The Los Angeles Public Bank will build long-term equity, transforming the way we invest in our communities, and will:

- **Put equity and good jobs first** by investing in neglected neighborhoods, creating well-paying, union jobs, and uplifting marginalized communities.
- **Accelerate housing and climate resilience** by cutting out private lender bottlenecks and swiftly funding affordable housing and climate-ready infrastructure, without piling on new fees or debt.
- **Reinvest LA's wealth locally** by multiplying every deposit into local loans, **fixing our streets** and infrastructure, expanding public services, strengthening small businesses, and keeping millions from flowing to big banks.

On behalf of the working families, labor unions, and community organizations who keep Los Angeles running, we urge you to prioritize funding for the Public Bank feasibility study in the budget. As we brace for the next wildfire season and grapple with a deepening housing crisis, the time to act is now. Let's keep our money where our hopes—and our homes—are.

Thank you for your leadership and for recognizing the historic opportunity before us.

Sincerely,

Public Bank LA Coalition

SEIU Local 721

LA County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

Public Bank Los Angeles

ACCE Action

Inclusive Action for the City

Move LA

United Parents and Students

Destination Crenshaw

ACCE Action (Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment)

ACT-LA (Alliance for Community Transit-Los Angeles)

Africa Town Enterprise

AFSCME District Council 36

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) Southern California

Americans for Democratic Action Foundation of Southern California
Bend the Arc
Brotherhood Crusade
California Progressive Alliance
California Public Banking Alliance
CARECEN-LA (Central American Resource Center)
CHIRLA (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights)
CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice)
CoCo South LA (Community Coalition)
Community Power Collective
Courage California
Creating Justice LA
Destination Crenshaw
Eastside Leads
Elysian Valley Riverside Neighborhood Council
End Homelessness California
FIX LA
Friends of the Earth US
Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council
Ground Game LA
Housing Now! California
Inclusive Action for the City
Indivisible California
Inner City Struggle
International Union Of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 501
KIWA (Koreatown Immigrants Workers Advocates)
LA County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO
LA Forward Institute
LA Voice
LAANE (Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy)
LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO
Librarians Guild
Little Tokyo Service Center
LIUNA Local 777
Living Urban Ventures
Los Angeles Black Worker Center (LABWC)
Los Feliz Neighborhood Council
McCarty Memorial Christian Church
Move LA

Movement Legal
National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)
Pasadena City College CORE Program
Public Bank LA (PBLA)
Public Bank Pomona Valley
Rise Economy
SAJE (Strategic Actions for a Just Economy)
SCOPE LA (Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education)
SEIU Local 721
SEIU-USWW
SoCal 350
South Asian Network
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Sunrise Movement LA
Teamsters Local 911
Thai Community Development Center
The Academy of Financial Education
The Church Without Walls - Skid Row
The Democracy Collaborative, Joe Guinan, President
The Row LA
United Parents and Students (UPAS)
United Teacher Los Angeles (UTLA)
United to House LA
United Way LA
US Solidarity Economy Network
USC Credit Union
Venice Community Housing Corporation

CC:

- Mayor Karen Bass (mayor.bass@lacity.org)
- Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson
(councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org)
- President Pro Tempore Bob Blumenfield (councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez (councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Adrin Nazarian (councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Nithya Raman (contactcd4@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky (councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Ackley Padilla (councilmember.padilla@lacity.org)

- Councilmember Monica Rodriguez (councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Curren Price (councilmember.price@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Heather Hutt (heather.hutt@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Traci Park (councilmember.park@lacity.org)
- Councilmember John Lee (councilmember.lee@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Hugo-Soto Martinez (councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Ysabel Jurado (councilmember.jurado@lacity.org)
- Councilmember Tim McOsker (councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org)

Communication from Public

Name: Roslyn Cohn

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:49 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am gutted and INFURIATED to learn that the Mayor I voted for is even contemplating cutting funding to shelter animals. DESPICABLE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Mayor Bass, I will do all I can to ensure the shelter animals are protected and ensure you are ousted should you pursue this Inhumane path. You can be sure of that! A disgusted citizen who helped put you in Office, Roslyn Cohn, Van Nuys

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:49 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reject the upcoming budget proposal! Save our earth and retain an environmental budget that sustains and builds on our efforts, not one that strips away resources and new efforts.

Communication from Public

Name: Allison McGaha

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:49 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I have personally saved multiple dogs that were “too aggressive to be adopted” and are the sweetest little girls ever. All they needed was to be safe and loved. Keeping funding will gives these animals a chance at a second chance.

Communication from Public

Name: G. Smith

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:50 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable City of Los Angeles Council Members: As a concerned stakeholder, I want to make clear how important history, culture and architectural preservation, is to me. I realize that Mayor Bass must contend with a \$1,000,000,000 city budget shortfall, but in the months following the metropolitan Los Angeles conflagrations, when the unimaginable horror of losing cherished historical buildings including the Malibu Feed Bin, Topanga Ranch Motel, Reel Inn Malibu, Pacific Palisades Business Block and the Theatre Palisades sinks in, it may take several years to appreciate the great loss, but the thought of losing yet more history due to budgetary constraints, is unfathomable! Los Angeles preserves so few of its architectural jewels, including The Ambassador Hotel which I fought zealously to preserve, that Los Angeles has the unfortunate distinction of not being a city of angels, but a city of lost souls. Los Angeles is clearly pro-developer and development and cares not to think out of the box when it comes to repurposing outdated, abandoned or neglected buildings. A spectacular example of repurposing an antique building is the nearly one century old, Harbor House in San Pedro, which was constructed as post-World War One housing for Navy service members, but now serves Los Angeles as civilian housing, including units for low-income individuals and families. Despite run-away development, look where we are, one billion dollars short and we lost such precious history, anyway! It is time to honor, respect and cherish history, not just in photographs, movies or television shows, but to preserve actual examples of history. What Los Angeles needs to a leaner, meaner approach to (historical) architectural preservation, because once the budget is slashed for such programs and departments, the desire and urgency to preserve such buildings also diminishes or is eliminated, perhaps permanently. I remember how difficult it was to preserve Marilyn Monroe's house, when such preservation should have been a "no-brainer." Architecture, whether historical or not, is instrumental in telling Los Angeles's story. Certain buildings and structures seem to be so temporary in Los Angeles; think of how many tourists visited the abandoned movie set of "Intolerance" in 1916, it attracted hordes of tourists to the magnificent set for weeks, following the end of production, bit it was unceremoniously demolished. Think of how many tourists

would visit Victorian Bunker Hill, had it been preserved. It is an insult, a slap in the face, to take Angels Flight from Hill Street to California Plaza, a concrete platform at the base of modern office towers. Think of how many tourists and locals alike, would delight at traveling on a historic Red Car, but no, it was not meant to be, gone forever, all lost to "development." Why does development always require the destruction of a building, to create another? Why can not development mean the adaptive reuse of a building to make it more useful, safe and productive? The city of Los Angeles needs to rethink of what "development" means and what is required to develop the great city of Los Angeles. However, to preserve the heart and soul of Los Angeles, it needs to invest in such programs, departments, personnel, funding and other resources, including, but certainly not limited to, the Office of Historic Resources, otherwise what little of Los Angeles's heritage and history that remains, will be lost for eternity. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Breanna Henry

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:53 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We need to use money properly. There's needs to be proof of our sleeving and it needs to go to use in ways promised. These shelters need support.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:59 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My foster became my life saver after a fight with depression. Please listen to the millions of your constituents who love animals. Please

Communication from Public

Name: Zoe Vanderschmidt

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:03 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am absolutely incensed that the Mayor's office is proposing to eliminate the landmark Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. Climate work, preparation, and advocacy is what we need to be focusing on to be a resilient city so we can be prepared in a warming world. It is unconscionable that the city wants to forfeit the \$750,000 of grant funding already awarded to CEMO and try to shutter this office, especially in light of the recent LA wildfires. We must continue the vital work of CEMO to make sure we are prepared for future disasters and the challenges of extreme weather. Many Angelenos live near oil and gas wells that are leaking hazardous chemicals that impact our health as Los Angeles has the most urban oil wells in the nation. Downsizing the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas and eliminating positions that oversee pollution from oil wells in the city and work to phase out urban oil drilling is a threat to our health and safety. CEMO can not be cut from the LA budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Tim K

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:05 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please fund animal shelters more. I have 4 dogs from the Los Angeles shelter program and am so happy with them. To close shelters is terrible for the animals and people. Do better!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:08 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of Los Angeles, I would like the city to reduce their proposed funding for the LAPD. Nearly half of the liability payments paid on behalf of the LAPD are due to excessive/unlawful use of force. Joe Ward-Wallace, owner of South LA Cafe, whose work provides jobs for community members and whose organization has consistently responded to our community in crisis (whether it was covid, the fires, etc.) recently announced a lawsuit against the LAPD for excessive use of force. Additionally, based on reporting from The Intercept, LAPD partnered with Dataminr to surveil pro-Palestine protesters through social media. Even if one does not agree with the aim of the protests, the effect of this type of surveillance chills a person's First Amendment right to freedom of speech and assembly. Finally, President Trump issued an executive order just yesterday that threatens LA's sanctuary city ordinance by pressuring local law enforcement to assist the federal government with their immigration policy. I do not want my tax dollars to fund local law enforcement's cooperation with the federal government - they already have their own agents to enforce immigration law. Instead, please allocate spending to investing in city infrastructure and youth development programs. For example, we do not have working street lights near my apartment. Investing in that type of common sense infrastructure does more to create safety than continuing to increase funding for policing. And as always, please continue to prioritize funding for the public library. Knowledge is power, especially in these times. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Mirjam Kunz

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:09 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: NO SHELTER in L.A. County can be closed! There's already not enough space in the existing shelter and this would make an already terrible situation absolut WORSE! I urge Mayor Bass to oppose these cuts and protect our animals! We cannot let this happen on our watch. We are their voice. Please don't let this happen. Animals are not disposable! Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica c

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:09 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The mayor trying to cut budgets on shelters is horrible, we didnt vote for her to do this, evil and soul less, she can cut the homeless budget instead, I haven't seen anything change with that either!
Poor animals deserve more

Communication from Public

Name: Ben Park

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:31 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut the Office of Historic Resources staff positions. They are essential to the city of Los Angeles. These positions are critical to the economic development of the city. Without them, it will become more difficult to start a business, renovate a home, or build new infill housing. The cuts will also significantly weaken Los Angeles' ability to protect historic places, from HPOZ neighborhoods to Historic-Cultural Monuments (HCMs) and National Register historic districts. Once historic places are demolished, they're lost forever—there's no way to bring them back. We need the OHR for oversight in a city that is rapidly losing its cultural history, especially in the aftermath of the fires. Please restore the 5 filled OHR positions in a revised budget.

Communication from Public

Name: Kathleen Nichols

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:08 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please keep all LA Animal shelters open. Please consider the animals. Please consider the jobs of the dedicated employees. I truly wish people didn't abandon their pets, but as long as they do, we need to both educate them and protect the animals they surrender.

Communication from Public

Name: Brendan Fisher

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:18 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Brendan Fisher and a resident in CD14. I am leaving this comment on behalf of the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response pilot program and to encourage Council to maintain the \$9.376 million in funding, or even consider expanding it. It is a cost-saving measure as it reduces potential liability payouts by matching the right professional to situations they are most equipped to resolve. LAPD can address criminal activity whereas the UMCRC sends unarmed mental health professionals who can de-escalate and resolve mental health, substance use, or suicidal crises. I highly encourage Council to maintain this amount of funding or expand it as you continue to make amendments.

Communication from Public

Name: Razak Jake Sadiq

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:35 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning, my name is [You, and I'm a resident of South Los Angeles and a student at USC's School of Social Work. I'm here today because vulnerable tenants in our city, particularly immigrants, are being systematically displaced through predatory "cash for keys" schemes. In Koreatown alone, over 800 such buyouts have been documented since 2019, many targeting residents who lack knowledge of their rights or fear retaliation due to their immigration status. Consider Eduardo, who pays \$900 monthly for his rent-controlled apartment. His landlord offered \$50,000 to vacate – money that would disappear quickly in today's housing market, leaving him homeless in the city he's called home for decades. I urge this body to strengthen tenant protections by: Requiring multilingual notification of tenant rights with any buyout offer Creating a registry to track these offers and identify predatory patterns Implementing stronger penalties for landlords who use intimidation tactics When we protect our most vulnerable tenants, we preserve the cultural fabric that makes Los Angeles extraordinary. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Closing the animal shelter would leave countless animals without care and the community without vital support. This service is essential and must remain open, PLEASE don't allow Mayor Karen Bass to close down animal shelters.

Communication from Public

Name: Anita Siraki

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 02:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Public Comment on Council File 25-0600 Submitted by: Anita Siraki, President, Hollywood Media District Business Improvement District Neighborhood: City Council District: CD13
Dear Councilmembers, As President of the Hollywood Media District Business Improvement District, I want to express my strong support for the continued funding and expansion of Mayor Karen Bass's Inside Safe initiative, as outlined in the proposed Fiscal Year 2025–26 City Budget. Inside Safe has had a meaningful impact on our neighborhood. By addressing encampments with compassion and coordination, the program has improved the quality of life for housed and unhoused neighbors alike. Our district—home to hundreds of businesses, creative professionals, and entertainment industry infrastructure—has seen firsthand the difference this initiative makes. It is a program grounded in dignity, rooted in public safety, and essential to economic revitalization. We recognize that these are challenging fiscal times, and we appreciate the leadership and resolve of the Council in navigating such a pivotal moment for our city. I respectfully urge you to fully fund Inside Safe in the upcoming budget. This program has proven its worth, and it must continue to serve as a cornerstone of our city's broader strategy to address homelessness with urgency and humanity. Thank you for your service and continued commitment to a safer, healthier, and more equitable Los Angeles. Sincerely, Anita Siraki President Hollywood Media District Business Improvement District

Communication from Public

Name: Aria Inthavong

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 05:20 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express my extreme disappointment that the Mayor's office is proposing to eliminate the landmark Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. In this increasingly warming world, climate work, preparation, and advocacy is what we need to be focusing on to be a resilient city. It is unconscionable that the city wants to forfeit the \$750,000 of grant funding already awarded to CEMO and try to shutter this office, especially in light of the recent LA wildfires. We must continue the vital work of CEMO to make sure we are prepared for future disasters and the challenges of extreme weather. Many Angelenos live near oil and gas wells that are leaking hazardous chemicals that impact our health as Los Angeles has the most urban oil wells in the nation. Downsizing the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas and eliminating positions that oversee pollution from oil wells in the city and work to phase out urban oil drilling is a threat to our health and safety. CEMO can not be cut from the LA budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Hillary

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 05:23 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We need better housing for our homeless animals. No kill and comfortable safe and caring spaces. The city has so much money wasted on crazy things - lives should come first. Please do not cut the budget for animal shelters Mayor Bass.

Communication from Public

Name: Jonathan Loc

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 05:42 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: At a time when trans rights are under relentless attack, Los Angeles must reaffirm its commitment to uplifting and protecting its LGBTQIA+ communities—not diminish it. Carla Ibarra’s role as Lead Staffer for the Transgender Advisory Council and LGBTQIA+ Community Liaison for the LA Civil Rights Department is indispensable. She is the connective tissue between the City and its LGBTQIA+ constituents, ensuring that community engagement, outreach, and support aren’t just buzzwords but real, lived priorities. Yes, the city faces a billion-dollar deficit—but eliminating the very roles that make LA more inclusive, equitable, and affirming is not the answer. Carla is Filipina, trans, and absolutely fabulous—and she has been a critical force in fostering meaningful relationships between government and the people who need it most. Cutting her position would send a dangerous message that LGBTQIA+ Angelenos are expendable when, in reality, they are vital to the fabric of our city. I urge the City to preserve this role—and to continue investing in the leadership that makes Los Angeles a beacon of inclusion.

Communication from Public

Name: Tal

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:04 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I will be the voice for animals , what you guys are doing is not okay please reconsider. Mayor Bass needs to step down.

Communication from Public

Name: Janey

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:04 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cuts to historic preservation services showcases a lack of care and respect towards our city's history, which is a history worth preserving and exploring. We already lost a great deal of history, especially unique historic homes and neighborhoods during the recent fires, so if anything, we should be promoting greater interest in expanding historic preservation within the greater Los Angeles area. One of the reasons I love LA so much is that it is a city rich with unique and diverse history. When we lose these homes and buildings they are gone forever. Think of how much we lost when Bunker Hill was demolished? We regret some of those choices now. Older homes and buildings give a neighborhood charm, often built with materials (especially wood) that is of higher quality than available today. Additionally, historic preservation is a greener way forward, to save what we already have, improve where it can be improved, instead of demolishing and creating waste.

Communication from Public

Name: Jose Esqueda

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:53 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The city of Los Angeles needs to continue to fund the Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) with no cuts and maintain the current budget. We need to keep our streets safe and free from violence. Investing in Prevention and Intervention is cost effective. If gang violence rises, I can assure you that the City will have to spend triple the amount to incarcerate. This summer will be a hot summer and without the funds promised to secure the safety of our communities you can be assured that it will be violent summer. I ask that the city council push back against Mayor's Karen Bass proposed 2 million budget cut for the GRYD program and keep it whole as GRYD is the reason our streets are safe and parks are opened. Please remember how bad gang violence was 10years ago. The City of Los Angeles was the murder capital of the world. If you allow for the GRYD budget to be cut we not be able to afford the staff necessary to keep the peace and provide prevention and intervention services are designed. The cuts will handicap our ability to keep the peace and violence from skyrocketing. PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE GRYD PROGRAM!

Communication from Public

Name: Jared Reed Sabet

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:54 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: So after a huge natural disaster devastating our city and surrounding areas, people now homeless being subject to the outrageous rent gouging and other demeaning navigations for folks who don't have anything anymore, we are deciding to CUT environmental funds??? This is insane. We have a huge budget crisis and instead on focusing on recovery and keeping our LA citizens safe and comfortable, we are cutting vital programs and institutions that made sure our disaster didn't wipe out even more in our city and giving it to what, an even bigger LAPD budget or the upcoming Olympics that will only bring more chaos and economic instability to our city? I got robbed during Christmas and the LAPD did nothing, I got no assistance. But after a fire we are deciding to cut the funding for programs and people who saved me and fellow neighbors and friends??? Disastrous. Do not whatsoever cut funding to the Fire Department, environmental services, environmental programs, science programs, and other recovery efforts. Cut from the LAPD or cancel the Olympics. Be real leaders and care about LA, cmon!

Communication from Public

Name: Sarah Rodriguez

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:08 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a city worker for over 10 years, we are the Frontline, we are the people who care about our resources and making sure we show up for the people of Los Angeles. The department of Animal services is already struggling with over crowded shelters, minimal staffing and the people and animals are not stopping. They will continue to show up to surrender and to drop off found and injured animals. And we as the workers need to show up for them for these animals in need. We have a crisis in Los Angeles city, over population, not enough resources for the animal owners. Just as an example, working the graveyard shift, two animal care technicians are there to clean, feed, and care for over 200 animals every night. At one point the East Valley Animal Shelter was housing close to 400 animals and we had to work with what we had 2-3 man crew and the love in our hearts to keep the shelter running and to keep the animals clean and happy. Please don't take that away from the people and animals of LA. They need us, the animals need us!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 05:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed \$5 million cut to the LA Animal Services budget. This decision is not only irresponsible but will have devastating consequences for the thousands of vulnerable animals depending on our city's care — as well as serious public health and safety implications for our communities. Our shelters are already operating under extreme strain, with overcrowding, limited staff, and inadequate resources. Cutting funding even further will mean more suffering, more euthanasia, fewer adoptions, and a greater number of animals abandoned on our streets. This is not the direction a progressive, compassionate city like Los Angeles should be heading. Los Angeles made a commitment to being a no-kill city. That commitment requires meaningful investment — not slashing vital services to the bone. Without proper funding, our shelters cannot meet the basic needs of the animals they serve or the communities they protect. Abandoning these responsibilities is not only cruel, but it will ultimately cost the city more, both financially and morally. I urge you to restore the \$5 million in full to LA Animal Services. Our city's values, reputation, and humanity are on the line. We are watching your leadership during this critical moment. Please choose compassion, responsibility, and foresight. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Teya Hisel

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:46 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a member of the Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition (DVHSC), which includes over 800 individuals and 244 organizations working to ensure safe housing and support for survivors of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault, we are deeply concerned about the proposed \$3.8 million cut to CIFD's Shelter Services budget. This reduction will result in the loss of vital beds and services. This comes at a time when 43% of people experiencing homelessness in LA report a history of domestic or intimate partner violence. Cuts to CIFD undermine progress made in building survivor-centered systems and will force more people into homelessness. CIFD's Survivor Services programs rely on General Fund dollars for 68% of their total \$18.3 million budget. We urge the City Council to approve the full \$12.4 million in General Funds requested for FY 25-26 and to restore any cuts to Shelter Services. Victim Service Providers (VSPs) deliver trauma-informed, life-saving support — yet are funded at just \$40 per shelter bed night, compared to \$80 for general homeless shelters. Survivors need more than a roof over their heads; they need access to wraparound services like mental health care, legal support, and case management to rebuild their lives. Programs like Survivors First are already making a difference by offering rapid rehousing with flexible financial assistance and long-term support tailored to survivors' needs. We ask the City to expand programs like these, formally prioritize survivors for affordable and permanent supportive housing, and invest in building the capacity of VSPs to offer housing-focused services. This is a critical moment to protect and strengthen LA's response to gender-based violence — not to scale it back. Please stand with survivors and ensure full funding for CIFD Survivor Services.

Communication from Public

Name: Eileen Mastro

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:48 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Humane animal shelters with humane care is PARAMOUNT! Closing shelters will only cause more residents to abandon their pets in desert & mountain communities. Which will then cause over crowding in other communities shelters. Considering Closing shelters is irresponsible, harmful & without a doubt cause more unwanted animals to die. Shame on anyone that even considers shutting down shelters for the most needy & helpless animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Sofia

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 03:48 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Elected Members of the City Council, My name is Sofia Celedon, I am a constituent of CD13, and am writing to urge you to reject Mayor Bass' budget proposal and re-allocate the city's funding to actually serve your constituents needs and not just police them. At Monday night's meeting for open comment, I witnessed hundreds of people speak up (and hundreds more not be afforded the time to speak) about the importance of retaining funding for various public services and reconsider the gross overspending on policing and litigation. My request (digitally) is no different. Why should we reward LAPD with more funding (now proposing up to roughly 47% of our discretionary budget) when they cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in liability payouts? Should we not be evaluating and rehabilitating their performance in the face of such egregious spending? We should be holding the department and individual officers accountable for this additional (to their wages) spending that we, the tax payers, have afforded on their behalf. In the face of these increases to a poorly functioning PD (litigation cases say it all) -- why are we then gutting civilian positions from the socially beneficial, environmentally conscious, community enriching activities of Cultural Affairs, Youth programs, Recs and Parks, Transportation, City Planning, Sustainability departments, etc.? We have already paid out enough. This debt cannot be balanced on the backs of our civilian workers (LAPD or otherwise!!) because our future selves will all lose. It is not only foolish to grant LAPD more budget and expect different results, but incredibly misguided and corrupt to ignore the voices and demands of the people you represent. Gutting the programs that shape all of our lives, whether directly or indirectly will only gut our ability to sustain a healthy, civilized, and flexible future for this city and its people-- your neighbors. Please do the right thing. We, your constituents, who have entrusted you with this temporary power, are all watching. Stand up for what's right, reconfigure our tax dollars, or step aside. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Mistletoe

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:03 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am absolutely incensed that the Mayor's office is proposing to eliminate the landmark Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. Climate work, preparation, and advocacy is what we need to be focusing on to be a resilient city so we can be prepared in a warming world. It is unconscionable that the city wants to forfeit the \$750,000 of grant funding already awarded to CEMO and try to shutter this office, especially in light of the recent LA wildfires. We must continue the vital work of CEMO to make sure we are prepared for future disasters and the challenges of extreme weather. Many Angelenos live near oil and gas wells that are leaking hazardous chemicals that impact our health as Los Angeles has the most urban oil wells in the nation. Downsizing the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas and eliminating positions that oversee pollution from oil wells in the city and work to phase out urban oil drilling is a threat to our health and safety. CEMO can not be cut from the LA budget!

Communication from Public

Name: Lynne biglow

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We urge the LA Council to use the \$5 million in resources already available to prevent these layoffs, mass euthanasia and shelter closures. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Adrienne

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:25 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers and Budget Committee, I am writing today as a concerned member of the Los Angeles community who cares deeply about the welfare of the animals in our city's shelter. Los Angeles Animal Services is already critically underfunded, understaffed, and overwhelmed. Staff and volunteers are stretched to their absolute limits, working tirelessly to provide even basic care to thousands of animals. The consequences are heartbreaking: overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, delays in medical treatment, lack of behavioral support, and rising rates of illness, injury, and euthanasia. The proposed budget cuts to LAAS would have devastating and irreversible consequences for both the animals and the people who are trying to help them. Cutting the budget would not solve the problems - it would make them worse. Without proper staffing, resources, and medical support, more animals will suffer, more will be euthanized, and public trust in the shelter system will continue to erode. Many community members and rescue organizations already step up daily to bridge the gaps, providing urgent medical care, rehabilitation, and placement for at-risk animals. But we cannot replace a fully functioning public shelter system. The City of Los Angeles must take responsibility for the lives entrusted to its care. Slashing the LAAS budget is not a cost-saving measure. In the long run, it will increase public health risks, legal liabilities, and community safety concerns - all of which are far more costly to taxpayers. Instead, the city should invest in meaningful solutions: hiring and retaining more staff, improving shelter conditions, expanding spay/neuter and community outreach programs, and supporting partnerships with rescues. The animals in our shelters are not just numbers on a budget sheet. They are living beings who experience fear, pain, joy, and love. They are part of our community, and they deserve better. Please do not balance the city's budget at the expense of the most vulnerable. I respectfully urge you to protect and fully fund Los Angeles Animal Services. Our city's values demand it - and the animals are counting on you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Jill Davine

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:01 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't make cuts to the Department of City Planning and the Office of Historic Resources (OHR). L.A. has a reputation of not preserving our history, which is very wrong. Our history deserves our care and attention. Don't erase it!

Communication from Public

Name: Ana Battaglia

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:32 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my name is Ana Battaglia and I write to you in urgency. Please reconsider cutting funding to local animal shelters here in LA. These animals are helpless and do not deserve this kind of treatment. They didn't ask for any of this?! And it's so unfair that the helpless, defenseless and voiceless have to suffer. If we want to clean up shelters then make it easier for us to be able to afford housing so we have adopt these beautiful babies. Having all these beautiful healthy animals be euthanized is devastating and it is cruel. Please I beg of you all to reconsider.

Communication from Public

Name: CD 8 Resident

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:02 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The Mayor's proposed budget attempts to save money by cutting the administrative workforce at the LAPD without cutting the number of sworn officers or their \$200M in overtime. This is gross mismanagement. Sworn officers will instead take up the slack of the administrative workload - at an increased hourly rate and increased overtime rate - and perform functions they are not trained for and are not particularly interested in doing. It's the solution that cuts the most jobs while saving the least amount of money, and most negatively impacts the administrative efficiency of the LAPD (preparing reports for prosecution, forensics, rape kits, etc). Officers on the ground rarely prevent crime - they respond after crime happens. An administrative workforce that can better prosecute, for less money, is a better use of public funds. It's also a folly to put additional funding into Police Helicopters The last aircraft dispatch to my neighborhood was to follow a "homeless man threatening with a rock." This is not a responsible or prudent use of public crime fighting dollars. Helicopters are an outmoded method of surveillance that, if needed at all, can be equally achieved by unmanned aircraft at a fraction of the cost. It's time for City Council to stand up to the LAPPL and make the hard choices we must all make when facing budget shortfalls. Cut sworn officers. Cut Police Helicopters. And modernize the department for the new budget reality.

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Cucinotti

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:33 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I am writing in response to the news that Mayor Karen Bass will be closing three of the Los Angeles Animal Shelters and also laying off 62 staff members. This is after promising to make the shelter system better for the animals housed there. I find this outrageous and hope that there can be another solution. There is already terrible overcrowding. The animal shelters SHOULD BE GETTING MORE MONEY, NOT TAKING IT AWAY. As a Democrat, I have been silent over how Mayor Karen Bass handled the homeless situation and the Palisades and Eaton fires but I can't remain quiet over this issue. If something doesn't change, I will never vote for her again in any capacity and I will voice my opinion of her freely even if it is detrimental to the Democratic party. Sincerely, Christina Cucinotti

Communication from Public

Name: Caroline Gilmer
Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:36 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't shut down any of our precious animal shelters! We and the animals need them. Animal shelters play a crucial role in the welfare of animals. They provide a safe haven for abandoned and stray animals, offer medical care and treatment to sick animals, and promote responsible pet ownership. Animal shelters also help control animal populations and prevent animal cruelty and abuse. We have gotten all five of our dogs from rescues who get their dogs from shelters. Our pets are our family. Please keep all of our Los Angeles shelters open! Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Pedro Pablo Celedon

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:40 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I've been a resident of Los Angeles since 1987, and I'd like to share a general concern regarding the proposed \$13.9 billion city budget for 2025–6. To address a nearly \$1 billion deficit, the city is considering 1,600 layoffs—many of which would affect small social services, animal welfare programs, and cultural institutions. These are precisely the kinds of organizations that play a crucial role in preventing crime by tackling its root causes and fostering healthier, more connected communities. Meanwhile, the LAPD budget is set to increase by 8.1%, reaching \$2.14 billion or 46% of the entire budget. I can't help but question how a city facing deep social challenges can justify allocating nearly half its resources to policing, while cutting support to the very programs that help prevent crime and improve lives. Is this really the most effective response to our homelessness and violence crises—especially under a City Council that claims to represent progressive values?

Communication from Public

Name: Gilbert Moreno

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 04:42 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Gryd funding should not be cut! During my time that I have been working with gang members and at risk youth, I have been able to impact their life's in a positive way. This was possible through the training that I have received from GRYD. Without my proper guidance, many of these individuals would have been subjected to lengthy prison sentences or worse death. It is imperative that GRYD funds remain intact so that intervention works can continue to serve future generations of gang members.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:11 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge the City Council to fully fund the Youth Development Department. Eliminating youth protection staff, job programs, and mental health support will harm families, increase crime, and leave LA unprepared to protect children during major events. Invest in our youth. They are our future.

Communication from Public

Name: Karina Wilson

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:13 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles as a whole and my neighborhood (Hollywood) in particular is in a preservation crisis. Look at the situation on North Wilton, with beautiful, historic homes left derelict by developers because the City Council isn't defending them. The laws are there, but no one is enforcing them and the proposed cuts will make things so much worse. Once these buildings are gone, they're gone forever. Do we really want the historic fabric of this city to decay like this, the lives and homes of Angelenos of the past century erased and replaced by generic concrete boxes, with no memories? What quality of life are we bequeathing our children if these are the only homes they have to look at and live in? A city needs a unique identity if it is to attract businesses and residents (and the consequent tax base). Citizens need to be able to connect to their history and understand what makes their home so great. Bulldozing LA to pander to developers' greed is short-sighted in the extreme, and the proposed cuts will only accelerate the process. This needs to be reconsidered.

Communication from Public

Name: Darlene Monterroso

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 07:32 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Council Members, My name is Darlene Monterroso. I'm here to share a personal story about how SSG directly impacted my mom and 19 other families after a Chinatown Fire on September 13, 2024. Imagine you waking up to a phone call around 3:30AM and your 75 year old mom says "Daughter, the apartment is on fire, bring me a jacket." And she hangs up. The fire started from an abandoned construction site next to my mom's Section 8 building. The 48 victims affected were minors, old, sick, crippled, can't speak English and already underprivileged. My mom lost everything she ever owned. All families lost their home and got displaced. For 3 months, SSG worked tirelessly with HUD, , Office of Mayor Bass, Council member Hernandez, Representative Jimmy Gomez and Mark Gonzalez, and the Chinatown Service Center. They provided weekly updates to the families, kept all the families together and housed them in Chinatown hotels so the elderly can see their doctors and the children can attend the same school. Right before Christmas, SSG secured long term temporary housing for 48 individuals until the Section 8 apartment is restored. It's been 8 months and the burnt apartment is untouched and remain abandoned. My point is, SSG did not abandon my mom. The City of LA already has a homeless crisis problem. 48 individuals are not homeless directly because of SSG. I've seen their commitment. I can not imagine where these people would be without their compassion and delication. If you reduce Department of Aging's funding, it will cost lives.

Communication from Public

Name: Margaret ONeal

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 07:41 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass is striking the ostrich pose with her attempts to defund and shutter CEMO. By refusing to consider and ACT on the local effects of climate change in L.A. she is proving herself unfit to be the leader that is needed to fight and find the way forward towards remediation, adaptation and responsible action. Her failure to face the facts is more than disappointing, it is catastrophic.

Communication from Public

Name: Rachel Gaewski
Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 07:42 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT cut climate funding! This funding is absolutely crucial for us to combat the climate crisis. We just faced absolutely devastating wildfires In LA and need this department now more than ever. Please consider cutting from the law enforcement budget instead. Our future and our children's futures depend on how act NOW to do everything we can to mitigate the climate crisis. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:18 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut funding for Animal Services! Use the \$5M available to fund them so they can serve the city as best they can. If anything you should be taking money from the LAPD's budget - they do not prevent crime and save very few lives, they just come in after the fact. The money spent on making them look cool and comfortable is better spent saving the lives of pets and their humans. Animal services, like Fire services, save lives and keep our city full of people and animals safe. LA deserves all the safety we can get as our nation falls into chaos and as we recover from the fires. Please don't push us further into chaos by cutting vital services that keep us sane and calm. We have been through too much already. Do not cut funding to Animal Services.

Communication from Public

Name: Zoe

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 08:01 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Do NOT CUT PUBLIC FUNDING FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS. Cut funding for police. The animals are innocent and dependent on city funding to stay alive and well. This cut is cruel and unnecessary. Inhumane and empty of soul. Our shelters are already overcrowded and overwhelmed, cutting funding will make conditions unbelievably awful.

Communication from Public

Name: Traz Co

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:20 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Traz, and I work with the Social Impact Center, a queer-led organization fighting for a Los Angeles built on compassion, care, and true community safety for criminalized BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people. I'm here to strongly oppose the termination of Carla Ibarra, the LGBTQIA+ Community Liaison at the Civil + Human Rights and Equity Department. Carla's role is essential — a direct bridge between some of our most marginalized communities and their policy makers. Cutting her position, especially now, sends a clear and harmful message: that LGBTQIA+ Angelenos are expendable. We understand the City faces financial challenges. But gutting equity roles while law enforcement continues to receive hundreds of millions of dollars is not fiscal responsibility — it's a choice to abandon the very communities you claim to serve. True public safety comes from investing in people, not policing. Eliminating this role is a step backward. We urge you: Reinstate this position. Protect LGBTQIA+ communities. Show us that Los Angeles stands for dignity, diversity, and justice for all. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Olivia

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 08:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Animal shelters and animal services are increasingly needed, especially with economic trouble and environmental disaster. Keep city shelters open, we need these jobs and the animals need them.

Communication from Public

Name: Thomas J Hill

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:26 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Corrected Letter to Council RE: Opposition to Proposed Budget Cuts to the Department on Disability



DISABILITY
COMMUNITY
RESOURCE
CENTER

DCRC

www.dcrc.co

Mar Vista

12901 Venice Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(888) 851-9245 **toll-free**
(310) 390-3611 **voice**
(310) 390-4906 **fax**

Santa Monica

WISE & Healthy Aging
1527 4th St.
Santa Monica, CA 90401
(310) 394-9871 **voice**
(310) 451-9561 **fax**

South Bay

(310) 390-3611 **voice**

West Hollywood

(310) 390-3611 **voice**

April 29, 2025

Los Angeles City Council

City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Opposition to Proposed Budget Cuts to the Department on Disability

Dear Council Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Disability Community Resource Center (DCRC), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts to the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability as outlined in the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2025–26 proposed budget.

The Department on Disability plays a vital role in ensuring that the City remains accessible, equitable, and inclusive for over 1 million Angelenos with disabilities—as well as for unhoused individuals, older adults, and those living with HIV. The proposed cuts would significantly undermine that mission and place the City's most vulnerable communities at even greater risk.

The proposed elimination of **40% of the Department's regular staff positions**—the largest staff reduction of any department across the City—is disproportionate and deeply concerning. While the broader City workforce is proposed to be reduced by 5.75%, the Department on Disability is being asked to absorb a much heavier burden, with consequences that would reverberate throughout Los Angeles.

In addition, the proposed **20% overall budget reduction** to the Department threatens the integrity of its core programs, day-to-day operations, and long-standing partnerships with community-based organizations such as DCRC. Perhaps most alarming is the nearly **45% cut to HIV prevention and harm reduction programs**, which would eliminate life-saving services and supports for individuals who already face heightened barriers to care and safety.

These cuts do not align with the values of equity, inclusion, and justice that this City has pledged to uphold. We urge the Council to recognize the indispensable role the Department on Disability plays in ensuring that Los Angeles is truly a city for all—and to take immediate action to prevent these devastating reductions.

We respectfully request that you reject the proposed budget cuts to the Department on Disability and work with stakeholders to restore and strengthen the resources needed to uphold the rights and dignity of people with disabilities and other marginalized communities.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to serving all Angelenos.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thomas J. Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Hill

Executive Director

Communication from Public

Name: Allison Meier

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 08:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cutting the budgets to the animal shelters is unwise. The shelters are already underfunded and overcrowded. This will also cut jobs for hardworking individuals who will struggle to find employment in this economy given our current federal administration. Cutting the budget to animal shelters will cause more dogs to be on the streets (bad for the city), it will sadly lead to more euthanasias of innocent dogs, and will cause so many families that lose their animals to no longer have the resources to be reunited with their pets (bad for mental health).

Communication from Public

Name: Molly McLean
Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:26 AM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Stop the layoffs!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 08:18 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Defunding LAAS is unconscionable Karen, work this out and penalize people, not animals. If you can't figure it out, you HAVE GOT TO GO.

Communication from Public

Name: Sam Proof

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 08:37 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cutting Animal Services Will Cost LA Over \$400 Million — A Fiscal Disaster in the Making Dear Honorable Council Members, I am writing as a resident of Los Angeles to strongly oppose the proposed \$6 million in cuts to the LA Animal Services (LAAS) budget. While these cuts may seem like a practical short-term solution, the long-term financial consequences will be staggering — not just for animals, but for the city's infrastructure, public health, and economy. Let's talk about the real numbers: In Just 1 Year: Overcrowded shelters, increased euthanasia, and denied intakes. Surge in emergency services, animal-related lawsuits, and health risks. Estimated cost to the city: \$10–20 million in emergency response, staffing overtime, and temporary stopgap measures. By Year 2: Stray animal populations double or triple due to lack of spay/neuter services. Citywide rise in animal-related car accidents, dog bites, and public safety incidents. Insurance premiums begin to increase as neighborhoods become higher-risk zones. Estimated cost to the city: \$30–50 million annually in animal control, public health campaigns, and legal liabilities. By Year 4: Entire neighborhoods normalize stray dogs and cats, comparable to under-resourced regions worldwide. Spike in zoonotic diseases like rabies, leptospirosis, and toxoplasmosis. Local tourism and real estate values begin to erode. Homeowners and citizens shoulder billions in hidden costs — higher taxes, insurance, vet bills, property repairs. Cumulative cost to the city: \$200–400 million, not including reputational damage or federal compliance risks. Cutting animal services does not save money — it simply shifts the financial burden from the city budget to private citizens, healthcare systems, insurers, and emergency responders. It creates a sprawling, expensive crisis that will take decades to reverse. I urge you to fully restore the LA Animal Services budget. The humane choice is also the fiscally responsible one. If LA were to increase the Animal Services budget by only +3 Million, they would in turn save millions in return

Communication from Public

Name: Angelica guzman

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:27 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The proposed 2025-2026 budget for the City of Los Angeles falls incredibly short of meeting the needs of our city's already overstretched animal shelters. Even the same budget would be detrimental to the lives of these animals and the heroes who work for them. Please increase the budget to help save these innocent lives of who are already in dire need of support.

Communication from Public

Name: Sara Johnson

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 08:56 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: April 27, 2025 Dear Chair Yaroslavsky and Councilmembers, Thank you for your leadership during a challenging budget year, and for the opportunity to submit this comment regarding Council File 25-0600. Without early intervention, Long COVID will severely destabilize Los Angeles' economy and public services. Harvard economist David Cutler projects that Long COVID will cost Los Angeles over \$11,000 per patient in lost productivity, increased healthcare needs, and reduced quality of life. Given current minimum estimates of 268,000 adults living with Long COVID in the City, the projected economic impact is over \$3 billion over the next five years. Long COVID is a disabling, chronic condition. It is not rare, mild, or short-lived. There are no effective treatments or reliable recovery timelines. Angelenos across every neighborhood and community are affected, facing new limitations in their ability to work, walk, and manage daily life. The scale of impact is comparable to the early AIDS crisis. In 1987, the City of Los Angeles invested \$2.6 million in AIDS services when fewer than 10,000 residents were living with AIDS. Adjusted for inflation, that is approximately \$7.2 million today. At the peak of the AIDS crisis in 1992, there were about 4,000 new AIDS cases per year and fewer than 10,000 people living with AIDS. That level of impact was enough to drive substantial and sustained public investment. Today, at least 267,598 adults in Los Angeles live with Long COVID, based on official estimates although actual cases are almost certainly higher. This is more than twenty times the peak AIDS caseload. Of these, an estimated 214,078 report activity limitations and 64,224 are significantly disabled. Matching the per-person AIDS-era investment would require roughly \$193 million annually for Long COVID. Recognizing the City's fiscal constraints, I am not asking for that proportional amount. Instead, I respectfully request a modest \$5 million Long COVID Response line-item in the FY 25–26 budget. This starter investment would: • Reverse the \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability, • Launch dedicated Long COVID case management and benefits navigation, • Begin public outreach, data collection, and basic prevention initiatives. A \$5 million investment today is less than 0.2% of the \$3 billion in projected losses. For every dollar invested now, the City helps prevent hundreds of dollars in emergency spending, housing

instability, and economic loss later. Investing now is a fiscally responsible choice that protects future budgets and stabilizes vulnerable residents. Long COVID recovery efforts align with the pandemic recovery goals already outlined by the LA County Legislative Delegation and position the City to leverage future State and Federal partnership opportunities. Please act to reverse the proposed Department on Disability cuts and fund a dedicated \$5 million Long COVID Response line-item under Council File 25-0600. Thank you for your time and your leadership on this urgent and necessary issue. Respectfully, Sara L. Johnson Los Angeles, CA 90026

To: City of Los Angeles, Budget And Finance Committee:
Mandy Morales, Legislative Assistant: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org
Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, Katy.Yaroslavsky@Lacity.Org
City of Los Angeles, Office of the City Clerk, Cityclerk@Lacity.Org

April 27, 2025

Re: Public Comment: Council File 25-0600, City of Los Angeles FY 2025–26 Budget

Dear Chair Yaroslavsky and Councilmembers,

Please accept this email as my official public comment for inclusion in the record for Council File 25-0600 regarding the Fiscal Year 2025–26 City of Los Angeles Budget.

In the context of a projected \$1 billion City budget shortfall, it is more important than ever to act strategically and protect against escalating fiscal liabilities. **Restoring the \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability and allocating a modest \$5 million Long COVID Response line-item is a critical cost-containment measure and fiscal stabilization strategy.**

Extrapolating Harvard economist estimates, **Long COVID will cost Los Angeles over \$3 billion in five years¹**. Globally, Long COVID is already costing more than \$1 trillion per year⁴, and U.S. losses exceeded \$152.6 billion in 2024 alone⁵. **With 268,000 adults in Los Angeles now living with Long COVID², the projected local economic impact exceeds \$11,000 per person in lost productivity, healthcare needs, and reduced quality of life.**

Long COVID is a CDC- and WHO-recognized disabling condition that impacts over 400 million people worldwide⁴. Without intervention, Long COVID will continue to drive housing instability, workforce attrition, rising emergency service costs, and long-term erosion of the City's tax base and economic resilience. **Proactive investment now, representing less than 0.2% of the projected loss, is fiscally prudent and essential to mitigating broader systemic risks.**

Los Angeles first allocated funding to the AIDS crisis in 1987, six years into the epidemic. The City's first independent general fund allocation came in 1990, amounting to \$55k³. By 1992, AIDS cases in LA County peaked at roughly 4k annually, and there were fewer than 10k PWA in LA. Adjusted for inflation, that allocation equals approximately \$132k today. **Today, the number of Angelenos with Long COVID is more than 20 times the peak AIDS caseload.** Yet, the timeframe that Los Angeles funded AIDS programs, **there is no effective treatment, dedicated services, or public health infrastructure for Long COVID.**

If we apply the same per-person investment as we did for AIDS, the commensurate ask would be approximately \$8.8 million. However, acknowledging the City's fiscal constraints, **I am not asking for that full amount.** Instead, I respectfully request a **\$5 million starter allocation** to launch a targeted Long COVID response and restore core disability services. **This is a modest, strategic investment that will help prevent far higher costs later while laying the groundwork for future state and federal funding.**

Key Facts:

- \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability proposed
- \$5 million requested for Long COVID response efforts
- \$3 billion in projected economic losses over five years if unaddressed¹
- Less than 0.2% of projected losses represented by this \$5M ask
- 268,000+ Angelenos living with Long COVID²
- 20× the scale of the population impacted when AIDS services were first funded³
- Creates avenue to leverage future related State and Federal funds

A humble but historic line item for Long Covid is the fiscally sound, economically responsible, and morally necessary action. **Please act to reverse the proposed Department on Disability cuts and fund a dedicated \$5 million Long COVID Response line-item under Council File 25-0600.**

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical measure.

Respectfully,



Sara L. Johnson
Los Angeles, CA 90026

References:

1. Cutler, D. (2022). [*The Economic Impact of Long COVID*](#). Harvard Kennedy School.
2. CDC Household Pulse Survey. (September 2024). [*Long COVID Prevalence Estimates*](#).
3. Los Angeles Times. (1990). [*Los Angeles Takes a Big Lead : Is First in Area to OK Funds for AIDS Outreach Efforts*](#)
4. Nature Medicine. (2024). [*Long COVID Science, Research and Policy*](#).
5. Economist Impact. (2024). [*Incomplete Picture: Understanding the Burden of Long COVID*](#).

CC :

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org
Councilmember Heather Hutt, heather.hutt@lacity.org
Councilmember Tim McOsker, councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org
Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org
City of Los Angeles, Department on Disability, DOD.Contact@lacity.org
City of Los Angeles Controller, Kenneth Mejia, controller.mejia@lacity.org

The Economic Cost of Long COVID: An Update

David M. Cutler

Harvard University

In a 2020 JAMA Viewpoint, Lawrence Summers and I guessed at the possible economic costs of long COVID.¹ At the time, we thought the cost might be \$2.6 trillion. With more data, that estimate can be updated. I do so here.

Background

Many survivors of SARS-CoV-2 infection suffer “long COVID,” formally termed Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 infection (PASC). Data suggest that 22-38% of people with COVID will have at least one symptom 12 weeks after initial onset, and 12-17% will have three or more symptoms. With 80.5 million confirmed COVID cases in the United States, this implies at least 9.6 million people with three or more symptoms of long COVID. The most common symptom of long COVID is fatigue, but every organ system has been implicated.

Three Economic Costs

Three economic costs of long COVID were estimated. The first is the lost quality of life. Economists value lost quality of life by estimating the reduction in quality adjusted years of life due to long COVID (QALY) and multiplying that by the value of a year of good health. To estimate the QALY disutility of long COVID, I assume that cases with three or more symptoms experience the same disutility as people with myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME)/chronic fatigue syndrome

(CFS), which has been estimated at -0.29.² Cases with one or two symptoms were assumed to have a disutility of -0.1.³ I assume that long COVID lasts 5 years on average, consistent with the slow rate of recovery observed to date.⁴ I assume a year in good health is worth \$100,000. The first row of the table shows the resulting implied cost of reduced health, **estimated to be \$2.2 trillion.**

The second economic cost is lost earnings. Based the prevalence rates above, there are an estimated 8.4 million adults with three or more symptoms of long COVID. The labor force participation rate for adults is about 60 percent, which I assume applies to this population. I assume no labor supply consequences for people with <3 symptoms. Surveys of people with long COVID suggest that the reduction in labor supply for those with significant impairment is about 70 percent.⁵ I assume this persists for five years and that people out of work lose the average amount earned, roughly \$1,100 per person. **The net loss in income,** shown in the second row of the table, **is \$1 trillion.**

The third economic cost is higher spending on medical care. I again use ME/CFS as a guide. Costs for these conditions range between \$3,712 to \$13,750.⁶ I assume the midpoint of \$8,731 for people with three or more symptoms and one-third that amount for cases with <3 symptoms, consistent with the roughly two-thirds reduction in quality of life. The additional medical spending totals **\$528 billion,** shown in the last row of the table.

Adding across the three areas, Table 1 shows the total cost of long COVID is \$3.7 trillion. 59% of the cost is lost quality of life; the remainder is reduced earnings and greater medical spending. The total amount is roughly \$11,000 per person, or about 17% of pre-COVID US GDP. By another metric, the cost of long COVID rivals in aggregate the cost of the Great Recession.¹

Discussion

Relative to my earlier estimate with Lawrence Summers of the cost of long COVID of \$2.6 trillion, the higher number here is higher: **\$3.7 trillion in total**. The higher estimate is largely a result of the greater prevalence of long COVID than we had guessed at the time. **There are about 10 times the number of people with long COVID as have died of COVID**.

Because long COVID is so new, there is uncertainty about all of the numbers involved in the calculations. Still, the costs here are conservative, based on only cases to date.

The enormity of these costs implies that policy to address long COVID are urgently needed. With costs this high, virtually any amount spent on long COVID detection, treatment, and control would result in benefits far above what it costs.

Table 1: The Economic Cost of Long COVID

Impact	Value (\$ billion)
Reduced quality of life	\$2,195
Reduced earnings	\$997
Increased medical spending	\$528
Total cost	\$3,719
Cost per capita	\$11,189
Percent of 2019 GDP	17%

References

- ¹ Cutler DM, Summers LH. The COVID-19 Pandemic and the \$16 Trillion Virus. *JAMA*. 2020;324(15):1495–1496. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.19759.
- ² Falk Hvidberg M, Brinth LS, Olesen AV, Petersen KD, Ehlers L. The Health-Related Quality of Life for Patients with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis / Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS). *PLoS One*. 2015 Jul 6;10(7):e0132421.
- ³ Martin C, Luteijn M, Letton W, Robertson J, McDonald S. A model framework for projecting the prevalence and impact of Long-COVID in the UK. *PLoS One*. 2021;16(12):e0260843. Published 2021 Dec 2. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0260843
- ⁴ Davis, H, et al., Characterizing Long COVID in an International Cohort: 7 Months of Symptoms and Their Impact, medRxiv 2020.12.24.20248802;
- ⁵ COVID-19 Longhailer Advocacy Project, An Open Letter to President Biden, Cabinet and Congressional Leadership, and Key Governmental Agencies, January 10, 2022.
- ⁶ Jason LA, Mirin, AA. Updating the National Academy of Medicine ME/CFS prevalence and economic impact figures to account for population growth and inflation, *Fatigue: Biomedicine, Health & Behavior*, 2021; DOI: 10.1080/21641846.2021.1878716

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0061
(916) 319-2061
FAX (916) 319-2161



DISTRICT OFFICE
ONE W. MANCHESTER BOULEVARD, SUITE 601
INGLEWOOD, CA 90301
(310) 412-6400
FAX (310) 412-6354

March 24, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sharon Quirk Silva
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 5
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California State Budget – Request for \$1.893 Billion to Support City of Los Angeles Fire Recovery and Resilience

Dear Chair Gabriel and Sub Chair Quirk Silva:

We, the below signed legislators, are writing to respectfully request that the 2025-26 State Budget include the following funding priorities to address the City of Los Angeles' urgent disaster recovery efforts following the devastating fires this past January, which displaced thousands, destroyed businesses and damaged critical infrastructure.

Protecting City Services Under Budgetary Strain & Addressing Liability Costs – \$638M

- Request: Funding to enhance and make access improvements to streets, sidewalks, and street lights (\$250M), to help address an extraordinary spike in liability payouts (\$200M), replenish the City's reserves (\$150M) and to make up for lost revenues from the Palisades fire (\$38M).

Ensuring the City's Cash Flow for Recovery during Federal Uncertainty - \$301M

- Request: Provide a loan to support disaster recovery expenses pending FEMA reimbursement (\$291M, e.g. debris removal, emergency protective measures, repairs to damaged City property) and funding for disaster response contract services (\$10M).

Investing in Mitigation and Resilience for City Residents – \$750M

- Request: Provide a loan to support upgrades to the electric power grid in Pacific Palisades for resiliency, reliability and capacity (\$700M) and funds to incentivize electric upgrades and appliances (e.g., heat pumps, induction cooktops, battery storage) that increase reliability during outages (\$40M) and upgrade the Advanced Transportation System and Coordination (ATSAC) traffic signal system (\$10M).

Enhancing Fire Safety and Fire Suppression – \$56.5M

● Request: Funding for brush fire equipment caches in high fire severity zones (\$1.5M), new Fast Response Vehicles/brush control units and accompanying staff for fire suppression (\$15M), and to reconstruct the decommissioned Palisades Reservoir to address structural issues (\$40M).

Supporting Workers and Residents – \$72.8M+

● Request: Funding to operate a One-Stop Rebuilding Center (\$12-15M); waive certain permitting fees for property owners to rebuild (\$38M+); employ Angelenos to perform fire clean-up, remediation, and other recovery work (\$3.8M); provide interim library services and recreation/park activities to the community (\$3M); support Disaster Recovery Center operations (\$1M); and support displaced renters with emergency housing vouchers (\$15M).

Expediting Public Assistance – \$75.5M

● Request: Expedite CalOES processing of FEMA Public Assistance from **previous emergencies, particularly COVID-19** (Project Roomkey/Non-Congregate Shelter and Continuity of Operations).

These amounts **reflect the City's ongoing need for support** in the areas of site cleanup, housing assistance, public safety, infrastructure restoration, and economic support for impacted communities. These investments are essential not only for immediate relief but also for fostering the City's long-term stability and preparedness.

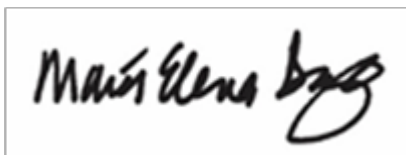
We appreciate your consideration of these requests and look forward to working with you to secure the necessary resources for our communities impacted by this devastating natural disaster.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

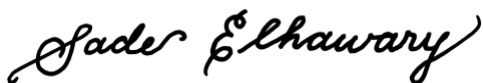
Sincerely,



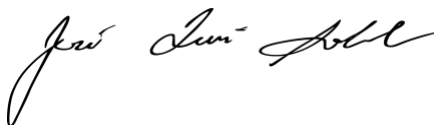
TINA MCKINNOR
61st Assembly District
Chair, LA County Legislative Delegation



MARIA ELENA DURAZO
26th Senate District
Vice Chair, LA County Legislative Delegation



SAIDE ELHAWARY
57th Assembly District



JOSE LUIS SOLACHE
62nd Assembly District



PILAR SCHIAVO
40th Assembly District



MIKE FONG
49th Assembly District



JESSICA CALOZA
52nd Assembly District



ISAAC BRYAN
55th Assembly District



LAURA RICHARDSON
35th Senate District



BEN ALLEN
24th Senate District



AL MURATSUCHI
66th Assembly District



JOSH LOWENTHAL
69th Assembly District



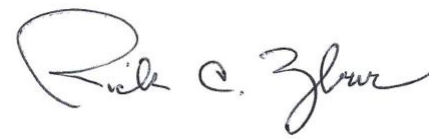
NICK SCHULTZ
44th Assembly District



MARK GONZALEZ
54th Assembly District



JACQUI IRWIN
42nd Assembly District



RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR
51st Assembly District




HENRY STERN
27th Senate District

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Henry Stern.

LENA GONZALEZ
33rd Senate District

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Mark Gonzalez.

MARK GONZALEZ
54th Assembly District

CAROLINE MENJIVAR
20th Senate District

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Lola Smallwood-Cuevas.

LOLA SMALLWOOD-CUEVAS
28th Senate District

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature of Mike Gipson.

MIKE GIPSON
65th Assembly District

First They Got Long Covid. Then, It Made Them Homeless

 [rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/long-covid-homeless-chronic-illness-gig-economy-1312460](https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/long-covid-homeless-chronic-illness-gig-economy-1312460)

Elizabeth Yuko

February 25, 2022



People ride their bikes past a homeless encampment set up along the boardwalk in the Venice neighborhood of Los Angeles on June 29, 2021 *Jae C. Hong/AP*

Cold weather is brutal for Wendi Taylor. After living with long Covid for two years, she knows that when the temperature drops, the pain and discomfort increases. This is especially true because of the severe arthritis in her hands, which only developed following her initial Covid-19 infection.

Taylor, who lives in Houston and is among the estimated millions of Americans living with long Covid, says that doing dishes during cold weather is probably the hardest part about living in the makeshift cabin she built from tarps and an 8×8 metal pop-up awning frame she found in the garbage.

“I heat water on the stove, but when it’s below freezing, it cools down quickly, and contact with the water causes extreme pain in my hands,” says Taylor. “It feels like being burned and smashed with a sledgehammer at the same time, and takes a long time for the pain to stop.”

Even just going outside can cause my hands to turn red and swell and have pain like that. It has made me curl up on my bed and cry more than once.”

At the foot of her twin mattress, atop a small table, sits a small green camping stove she uses both to cook and heat her 64-square-foot living space. A row of plastic storage cabinets is situated at the head of her bed. “Arranging it this way leaves room in the center to sit in a folding chair, or stand up to change clothes, or set groceries down when I come in from the store,” Taylor explains.

After riding out last year’s historic ice storm — which left at least 246 Texas residents dead — in a previous camp, when Taylor found out about the major winter storm at the beginning of this month, she went in prepared. She reinforced the tarps that function as the walls of her cabin, and ensured that the poles of its frame were firmly anchored into the ground.

One of Taylor’s biggest concerns this time was having the propane she needed to operate her stove. “Power outages matter little to me, but ‘they’ will buy all the propane if their electric heat goes off,” Taylor, 41, tells *Rolling Stone*, referring to housed individuals. “This is one of the biggest issues we face: Supplies we depend on daily become unavailable when they’re hoarded for emergencies.”

Fortunately, 2022’s storm ended up being far less severe than the one in 2021. Instead of having to go weeks without propane, stores near Taylor’s camp in Houston were restocked within days. “That made it far easier to stay warm,” she explains. “I could just hole up inside and avoid opening the door at all, for the most part.”

This isn’t what Taylor’s life was like prior to Covid-19. In fact, things were starting to look up during the first week of March 2020. She was working steadily as a day laborer in construction and landscaping in the Houston area, and was living in an extended-stay motel, saving up to get an apartment. “**I was one paycheck away from being able to do so when I got sick,**” Taylor says, noting that her first Covid-19 symptoms (a sore throat, fever, and hacking cough) began on March 7.

Although Taylor still felt run-down weeks later, she wasn’t initially alarmed by her lengthy convalescence: After all, it took her several months to recover after she contracted the H1N1 flu in 2009. “I figured this would be the same kind of thing,” she says. “Lots of comparisons were being made to that pandemic.” **But nearly two years later, Taylor is still sick.**

“One day I saw a list of ‘common’ long Covid symptoms that numbered over 200 — and I’ve had most of them,” she says, noting that like many people living with long Covid, her symptoms are neither consistent nor constant, varying in combination and intensity over days and weeks.

And while fatigue, rashes, and neurocognitive issues are among her most persistent and disruptive symptoms, it's the severe, sudden-onset arthritis that makes coping with daily life the hardest. "Because my hands are particularly affected, I had to learn new ways of doing simple tasks like tying my shoes or buttoning clothes," she explains. "And since [getting Covid], I haven't been able to work for more than a day or two at a time."

Without an income, Taylor had no choice but to move out of the motel and into a tent behind the dumpster of the local doughnut shop. She estimates that over the course of the spring and summer of 2020 she stayed in at least two-dozen different places, ranging from a cardboard box to friends' couches to motel rooms.

By the fall of 2020, the constant moving was too much for Taylor, so she built the first of her longer-term camps. "At that point, my neurological symptoms were getting progressively worse and, in retrospect, I think I was subconsciously building a place to die," she says.

Taylor has spent the past year living in her makeshift cabin under a sprawling oak tree on a dead-end street near the Astrodome. "I'm basically a hermit these days," she says. "Covid trashed my immune system, so I mostly keep to myself and stay at my camp as much as possible."

But Taylor is one of many people whose Covid-19 infection morphed into a chronic illness that unraveled their lives: first taking their health, then their financial stability. For some, the multiple burdens of living with long Covid resulted in losing their housing. And for at least one person, long Covid was the first in a series of events that ended in their death.

"We are only beginning to scratch the surface of [understanding] the effects of long Covid on folks' financial well-being — including their housing security, or lack thereof," says Megan Ranney, M.D., the associate dean for strategy and innovation at Brown University, and co-leader of the School of Public Health's Long Covid Initiative. "Unfortunately, for much of America, living with long Covid is enough to put folks over the edge financially, with very limited safety nets."

One thing we do know about long Covid is that it encompasses a wide range of symptoms and severity. So while some people living with long Covid are able to continue working without a problem, others — especially those with physically demanding gig-economy jobs — don't have that option.

"Our country does not do a great job of supporting people in ways that allow them to continue to work and take care of their families while living with chronic medical conditions," Ranney explains. "There's obviously a knock-on effect: If you can't work and can't get disability, at some point you're going to lose your house."

Last August, in a Missouri state park about an hour north of Kansas City, Amanda Finley was starting a campfire, getting ready to heat a frozen meal for a late dinner, when her phone buzzed around 9 p.m. It was a text from her friend Ashlee Bryant, who went by Jake. “I’m about to break,” he wrote. “Broke, homeless, I weigh 92 lbs, in more pain than I thought was possible. My life’s ruined.”

Though she was keenly aware of the severity of his condition, this update hit Finley hard. They had both been living with long Covid for more than a year, but his health began to rapidly decline when he developed pneumonia in May 2021, and spent most of the month on a ventilator. His clothing — purchased when he was at his normal weight of 170 pounds — no longer fit his emaciated frame. “It was like watching a train wreck in very slow motion,” Finley says. “And this was preventable.”

Less than three weeks after sending that text, Bryant died in a Beaumont, Texas, hospital at the age of 40, with his fiancée, Carrie Savage, by his side.

“It wasn’t supposed to be like this,” Savage, 40, tells *Rolling Stone*. “That day [he died] he told me he wasn’t ready to leave me. We were supposed to spend the rest of our lives together. I hate Covid. I hate what it took from me.”

Prior to the pandemic, Bryant and Savage were living in a comfortable two-bedroom trailer in Vidor, Texas. He worked as a bartender, and took side jobs installing flooring. She worked as a server at a local restaurant. When he wasn’t on the clock, Bryant always managed to find people who needed help — whether it was a neighbor whose car wouldn’t start, or communities on the Gulf Coast cleaning up after the most recent hurricane. Savage often joined him. “Jake was very active, and liked fishing,” Savage says. “He always had this goofy-ass smile on his face, and loved making people laugh. Anybody who met him liked him.”

Then in March 2020, Bryant and Savage both lost their jobs. A month later, Bryant tested positive for Covid-19. Initially, they lived off their unemployment benefits and savings, but by October 2020, they could no longer pay their rent. To make ends meet, Bryant worked odd jobs in construction, and they took out a small loan on their car. That still wasn’t quite enough, so they both did some landscaping work in Louisiana — that is, **until Bryant contracted Covid again in November 2020. And this case was more severe than his first.**

With Bryant now physically unable to work, and no money for rent, he and Savage moved out of their trailer and into their car — a 20-year-old four-door Chevy Impala — at the end of November. “Jake would say things like, ‘You know, it’s not going to be that bad,’ because he was always trying to be optimistic,” says Savage. “Every time I felt like we had no options, he would always say, ‘It’ll work out somehow.’”

But by Jan. 1, 2021, Bryant had developed pneumonia and his health began declining fast. "Having to stay in our car — that's what really made him go downhill," Savage explains. "Last year, Texas had a very hardcore winter. And it just happened to happen when we were staying in our freaking car. I could not believe how cold it got."

With Bryant's health worsening, and some financial help from family and friends, the couple lived in a series of hotels from mid-February until they received some long-overdue unemployment back-payments in April. "We also had a little help that allowed us to get into housing again," Savage notes, "but by April, Jake was in very, very bad shape."

Prior to the pandemic, Nathan Barse was a preschool teacher in Seattle. But after Covid-19 infections in March and November 2020 left him with long Covid — including debilitating exhaustion, pain and pressure in his ears, and constant tinnitus — he no longer had the stamina required to return to teaching. Unable to pay his rent in Seattle, Barse moved back to his home state of Idaho, and has been staying with different friends and family members until they tell him that it's time to move on. "I have until the first of March to find a place to live," Barse, 45, tells *Rolling Stone*. "So again, [I'm] on the verge of being homeless."

And though Barse is eager to find at least part-time work, he's concerned that his lack of endurance and frequent **long-Covid symptom relapses may make it difficult, or even impossible, to hold onto a job**. "I have a lot of anxiety about that," he says. "One of my worst fears is that I will go through the effort of getting a job, and end up liking it just in time to get sick again with Covid or another relapse, be out of work for a week or two, and then get fired from a job that I actually wanted."

Others living with long Covid share Barse's concerns about returning to work — also questioning whether they have the stamina to make it through a day at the office, and worried about living up to their manager's expectations. And it doesn't help that it's still unclear how employers will handle requests for reasonable accommodations through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Although long Covid can qualify as a disability under the ADA, the application of the law and its protections are determined on a case-by-case basis by a person's employer. "Employers may have more leeway here, as they traditionally have been given discretion to determine which job functions are essential," Elizabeth Pendo, JD, a professor of law at St. Louis University and an expert on employment-and-disability law, told *Rolling Stone* in October.

But if the challenges people living with other chronic conditions — like myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS), fibromyalgia, and chronic lyme disease — have faced attempting to get workplace accommodations are any indication, those living with long Covid are in for a bumpy ride. "The disability system in this country has been slowly eroding for a long time now," says **Emily** Taylor, vice president of advocacy and

community engagement for [#SolveME](#) — a research and advocacy organization focused on ME/CFS and other long-term chronic illnesses — and a senior staffer at the [Long Covid Alliance](#). “I, as an ME/CFS advocate, want to apologize to all the long-Covid folks and say, ‘If we had made more progress, you would be in a better place right now.’ ”

Unaccommodating employers aside, the underlying problem is that **people with long Covid and other chronic conditions have no choice but to navigate a system that wasn’t designed to include them**. “Some of the [existing] disability structures have been helpful, but the challenge is kind of like a square-peg-round-hole situation,” she explains. “You’re trying to squeeze a person with ME/CFS, long Covid, or other invisible illnesses into the disability holes that are defined for people with more visible disabilities.”

And with [an estimated 56 percent](#) of Americans living paycheck to paycheck, and [47 percent having no formal savings plan](#), experiencing a loss of income without personal or social safety nets can be financially devastating. This is especially evident among workers in the gig economy.

While it’s unclear exactly how many Americans depend on these short-term contracts and/or freelance jobs to make a living, according to a [December 2021 report](#) from MBO Partners, the overall number of independent workers increased by 34 percent during the first year of the pandemic, jumping from 38.2 million in 2020 to 51.1 million in 2021.

Those numbers didn’t include Bryant’s friend Amanda Finley, who made the decision to stop taking delivery-gig jobs after she got Covid-19 in March 2020. “I know this was a personal choice, but I thought, ‘Oh, my god, **I can’t work if I’m dead, [or] if I get something else on top of this,**’ ” she explains. “Plus, I didn’t know how long I’d be contagious, and I wasn’t going to give [Covid-19] to someone else.”

An anthropologist with training in archeology — and a former life as an opera singer with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra — Finley, 45, tried to find a way to make a living without exposing herself, or anyone else, to Covid. “I started teaching online STEM classes for kids, but it wasn’t enough,” she says. “And this really gets to the crux of why long Covid has impacted so many people: When you are working in a gig position, you don’t have benefits. **You work, or you go homeless and you go hungry.** It’s almost predatory the way that we rely on these people to literally put their lives on the line.”

Researchers have come to similar conclusions about the gig economy. For example, a paper published in [JAMA Cardiology](#) in [February 2022](#) argues that working in the gig economy should be considered a [social determinant of health](#). Along the same lines, a [report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Urban Institute](#), also published this month, found that because gig workers lack the benefits and protections associated with traditional full-time jobs, it could put their health and well-being — as well as their family’s — at risk.

This was the case for Finley, who lost her home on July 31, 2020. “It wasn’t an eviction,” Finley explains. “They didn’t renew my lease. And there’s no way you can fight that: It’s the end of a business contract.” She temporarily moved into a friend’s basement, and continued to bounce between friends’ houses until May 2021, when she got Covid for the second time. At that point, she was staying with a friend who had four children — all unvaccinated — and grew increasingly fearful of getting sick again, or making anyone else sick. That’s when Finley started camping as much as possible.

By August 2021, she was camping full time, living in a tent at Weston Bend State Park. Finley had been going on camping trips there for 26 years, and refers to the park — with its sweeping views of the Missouri River — as her “happy place.” “Even though [moving into a tent] sounds like a rather ridiculous option, I just couldn’t keep getting sick again and again,” she explains. “I didn’t want anybody breathing my air. And actually, I quite like camping. I’ll gladly take the turkeys over the humans.”

But as the leaves turned, so did Finley’s health. “It just got too cold,” she says. “It started snowing in October, and by the end of the month I had pneumonia again. And that’s when the campground’s bathrooms are locked until they open again in the spring. It got to the point where camping was no longer a feasible option.”

So starting in November, Finley embarked on another leg of her tour of friends’ couches, spare rooms, and basements, while applying for spots in different apartments. But if it gets to the point where she no longer thinks this living arrangement is safe, she hasn’t ruled out a return to her tent. “If I had to, I would,” she says. “I would polarize up, but what a terrible choice: **Do I freeze to death? Or do I get Covid again?**”

For the past eight years, Bilal Qizilbash of Jackson, Mississippi, has served free hot meals to local residents in need through his nonprofit organization R U Hungry? Working primarily with unhoused individuals, Qizilbash has seen the toll the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the community — including those now living with long Covid. In addition to the usual barriers to health care, most unhoused people have no evidence of their initial Covid infection.

“That’s where it gets a little challenging,” says Qizilbash, who is living with long Covid himself. “**A lot of homeless people are experiencing long-Covid symptoms, but no one’s taking them seriously because they don’t have insurance or proof of infection. Several of them told me that they went to get tested but were turned away because they couldn’t pay.**”

On occasion, Qizilbash will notice that **unhoused individuals living with long Covid or other illnesses stop showing up for the meals he serves each Friday, and it can be hard not to assume the worst.** “They’re basically the invisible people,” he tells *Rolling Stone*. “When

you're poor and you don't really have a track record, you just go missing. And no one's going to notice unless you've left the state or you end up dying on the streets and someone finds your body."

That feeling of invisibility is something Taylor has experienced firsthand, as a result of both living with long Covid and being unhoused. "Medical care for long Covid is nearly nonexistent, and symptoms are often dismissed as mental illness," she explains. "Medical care for the homeless is also nearly nonexistent, and homelessness itself is too often treated as a mental illness."

When unhoused individuals do have the chance to see a doctor, instead of appropriate medical attention and care, Taylor says, they're given an unsolicited, uninformed lecture. "We're told to try harder, patronizingly 'educated,' referred to mental health services, and given unhelpful advice to make lifestyle changes — which are often the result rather than the cause of our position," she explains. "And then, when all that fails? [We're] written off as choosing to be in this situation."

Bryant's attempts to get medical care in Texas were also futile. Though his health got progressively worse throughout 2021, Savage says that the doctors wouldn't take him seriously — especially when he said he had long Covid. "Every time he went to the doctor, he'd have to explain why he was there," she recalls. "It was so frustrating. Couldn't they look at his records and see that it was something he had been dealing with for the past year? But since it was a 40-year-old guy coming in, they'd just assume it was another [opioid] overdose."

When Bryant came in with severe pneumonia — or, in one case, carbon-monoxide poisoning — the hospital would keep him overnight and release him the following day. "He didn't have insurance, so he didn't matter," Savage says. "They could have taken better care of him. They had every opportunity. But I feel like unless you're an unborn fetus, they don't give a shit about you."

While Medicaid would eventually become an option for Bryant, in order to be eligible for coverage in Texas, he first had to qualify for disability benefits: a process Savage knew would take several months. "I wonder all the time, if we had moved, would Jake still be here? Could I have gotten him better care?" she says. "I know at least in West Virginia, there are a lot of poor people, and that if you're poor, they take care of you. But you can't be poor in Texas. If you're poor in Texas, you have no worth."

For Savage, Bryant's last few months were a blur, between caring for him both in and out of the hospital, dealing with dismissive doctors, and trying to scrape together the money to buy a few days' worth of his medication at a time — or whatever she was able to afford. And after back-to-back bouts of double pneumonia, "his lungs filled up with so much fluid that it started getting hard on his heart, and he went into heart failure," she explains.

Bryant died before sunrise on Sept. 4, 2021. Later that day, Savage got the call saying he was approved for disability benefits.

Living with long Covid while dealing with housing insecurity is a “vicious cycle,” says Taylor. “The most mundane daily tasks you take for granted — like washing your face or drinking a glass of water — become major chores when you are homeless, requiring effort and planning,” she says. “This is completely at odds with the need to rest and pace yourself [when living with long Covid]. You are constantly forced to push yourself too hard, which makes you sicker, which makes it even more difficult just to exist, which causes you to have to push yourself even harder. And it’s never enough.”

While it’s no secret that the American health care system is broken, many people are still unable to let go of the toxic “bootstrapping” mentality: that anyone who works hard enough and sufficiently contributes to society is able to access the medical care they need.

And, in addition to the disbelief that people living with long Covid continue to face from those who don’t acknowledge they’re actually sick, people who are also unhoused have to deal with endless judgment from others questioning how it’s possible to end up in that position when there are places like shelters, food banks, and free clinics providing assistance.

“You’re constantly bombarded by advice to go to a shelter — which, even in the best of circumstances, can’t adequately meet the needs of people living with long Covid,” Taylor says. This is especially true for people like Taylor and Finley, who are immunocompromised. Crowded indoor spaces — including tightly packed rows of occupied cots in emergency shelters — put them at high risk of contracting another illness, and therefore are not a viable option.

Finley has received similarly well-intentioned but misguided unsolicited advice from people who think that there are an abundance of safety nets in place for someone in her position, which are easily accessible and adequately meet their needs. “People think all these resources are available,” she says. “And yes, there are some, but they’re also very strapped. Everyone is hurting right now.”

She also points to Bryant’s death as an example of what can happen when long Covid leads to a loss of income, then housing. “It was a snowball effect from lack of access to health care [and] lack of access to basic necessities,” Finley says. “People just assume, ‘Oh, you can go to a shelter and get that.’ Well, if it were that easy, he wouldn’t be dead.”

The continued lack of understanding and awareness of the devastating and wide-reaching impacts of long Covid is why Savage decided to share her and Bryant’s story. “I don’t want anyone to have to go through what we did,” she explains. “And I want people to know that

long Covid is real, and it's changing a lot about people's lives. Sometimes, it's so overwhelming that you can't bounce back from it, especially when it all comes at once. You can lose your job, your health, your sanity, your social life — and your dignity.”

And though there's still a lot to learn about what causes long Covid and how to treat it, Ranney says that those currently living with it need — and deserve — support right now. “We can't wait for all the information to be accumulated [from studies] before we do something to help people who are experiencing its financial impact,” she says. “And it's going to require some leadership on the part of the government, insurers, and forward-thinking employers to get there.”

In the meantime, Taylor is working through a list of life goals she made before the pandemic, then adjusted to reflect the realities of living with long Covid. Despite everything that's happened since she first made that list, she's still on track for accomplishing her goal of building good credit. “But the best credit score in the world is useless if you have no income and are unable to work,” she says.

More than anything else, Taylor knows that what happens next will largely depend on her health. “I want to have a place to live, a car to drive,” she says. “I want to work. I want to live. Getting well — or at least knowing what's wrong with me so it can be managed — is step one.”

- Culture
- (Sub)Culture Features



PATIENT-LED RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

2025 Long Covid Fact Sheet

Version 1
March 2025

1. **Long COVID is a global public health crisis.** Over 400 million people worldwide have been impacted by Long COVID¹.
2. **Long COVID is common.** As of fall 2024, at least 1 in 19 US adults are currently living with Long COVID² - similar to the rate of diabetes - with many additional cases likely going undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.
3. **The vast majority of Long COVID cases happen after a mild acute infection.** Studies show between 76%³ to 90%⁴ of Long COVID cases happen after a mild infection.
4. **Recovery from Long COVID is rare.** Only 6-9% of people with Long COVID are recovered at 2-3 years.^{5 6 7}
5. **Long COVID incidence remains high, even among those fully vaccinated and with more recent variant strains.**

¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03173-6>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/long-covid.htm>

³

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/media2.fairhealth.org/whitepaper/asset/Patients%20Diagnosed%20with%20Post-COVID%20Conditions%20-%20A%20FAIR%20Health%20White%20Paper.pdf>

⁴ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2797443> (eTable 16 in Supplement 1)

⁵ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanepi/article/PIIS2666-7762\(23\)00143-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanepi/article/PIIS2666-7762(23)00143-6/fulltext)

⁶ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X\(25\)00036-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X(25)00036-5/fulltext)

⁷ <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0383/12/3/741>

- a. The incidence of people currently living with Long COVID has remained between 5.3-6.1% of the US adult population from December 2022 to September 2024.⁸
 - b. 17% of study participants developed Long COVID after Omicron infection, compared to 23% after pre-Omicron variants.⁹
- 6. Each additional COVID infection increases the risk of developing Long COVID, even in those fully vaccinated.** Studies on reinfection show:
- a. People are 1.7x more likely to develop Long COVID after 2 infections, and 2.6x more likely to develop Long COVID after 3 infections.¹⁰
 - b. Long COVID occurred in 24% of reinfections.¹¹
 - c. Reinfections lead to higher incidence and severity of Long COVID.¹²
 - d. Reinfections increase the rates of long-term health problems including heart, lung, and brain issues.¹³
 - e. Reinfections are associated with increased chance of getting Long COVID, and worsened existing Long COVID.¹⁴
- 7. People infected with COVID are more susceptible to other infections.**
- a. Those infected with COVID had higher rates of bacterial, mycoplasma, and influenza infections.¹⁵
 - b. Children aged 0-5 who had COVID were 1.4x more likely to get RSV that required medical attention.¹⁶
 - c. Reinfections increased the odds of reporting poor immune health, including having many other infections and taking longer to recover from common infections.¹⁷
- 8. Common new-onset conditions in Long COVID include serious and lifelong disorders.**
- a. This includes vascular events like heart attacks and strokes, as well as permanent conditions like dysautonomia, myalgic encephalomyelitis, and diabetes.¹⁸
 - b. In non-hospitalized people, COVID increases the risk of 30 neurological disorders for at least a year, including Alzheimer's, ischemic stroke and TIA, memory problems, peripheral neuropathy, migraine, epilepsy, and hearing and vision abnormalities.¹⁹

⁸ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/long-covid.htm>

⁹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2820087>

¹⁰ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2023001/article/00015-eng.htm>

¹¹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2820087>

¹² [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065\(24\)00212-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(24)00212-8/fulltext)

¹³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-022-02051-3>

¹⁴ <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-4909082/v1>

¹⁵ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065\(24\)00212-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(24)00212-8/fulltext)

¹⁶ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37292931/>

¹⁷ <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-4909082/v1>

¹⁸ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-022-00846-2>

¹⁹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-022-02001-z>

- c. In non-hospitalized people, COVID increases the risk of 18 cardiovascular conditions for at least a year, including myocarditis, pulmonary embolism, and heart failure.²⁰
- 9. Long COVID has caused the highest rates of serious, persistent cognitive problems in the US population than any time in the last 15 years²¹.**
- a. The cognitive impairment includes problems with memory, reasoning, executive functioning, language, and processing speed, and younger people may have worse and more marked impairment.²²
- 10. Long COVID patients experience severe functional limitations, poor quality of life, and extreme fatigue at least as detrimental as many serious illnesses, including Parkinson's disease and certain cancers.**
- a. Long COVID patients' functional ability scores ranked lower than stroke and were on par with those found in Parkinson's disease on a scale measuring ability to work, manage the household, engage in leisure, and maintain social relationships.²³
 - b. Long COVID patients' quality of life scores ranked lower than those in advanced/metastatic cancers.²⁴
 - c. Long COVID patients' fatigue scores were worse than those in end stage renal failure.²⁵
- 11. Long COVID substantially impacts patients' livelihoods and ability to work, with most being unable to work or needing reduced hours.**
- a. At 2 years, only 40% of Long COVID patients could work full-time.²⁶
 - b. 52% had reduced work hours and lost an average of 25% of their monthly income.²⁷
 - c. People with Long COVID are nearly twice as likely to report housing insecurity.²⁸
 - d. People with Long COVID report high rates of food insecurity²⁹ ³⁰ and difficulty paying utility bills.³¹
- 12. COVID increases risks during pregnancy and childbirth, and is associated with reproductive health issues like altered menstruation and erectile dysfunction.**

²⁰ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-022-01689-3>

²¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/13/upshot/long-covid-disability.html>

²² <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-32939-0>

²³ <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/13/6/e069217>

²⁴ <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/13/6/e069217>

²⁵ <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/13/6/e069217>

²⁶ <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0383/12/3/741>

²⁷ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11377524/>

²⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352827323002513>

²⁹ [https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672\(24\)00731-7/abstract](https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672(24)00731-7/abstract)

³⁰ <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/employment-and-material-hardship-among-adults-long-covid-december-2022>

³¹ <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/employment-and-material-hardship-among-adults-long-covid-december-2022>

- a. COVID infections are associated with early miscarriages³², stillbirths³³, preterm births and cesarean deliveries³⁴, and preeclampsia and maternal mortality.³⁵
- b. Long COVID is associated with many reproductive health disorders including menstrual issues, endometriosis, erectile dysfunction, and others.^{36 37}

13. Long COVID disproportionately impacts people from already marginalized groups.

- a. Rates of Long COVID are higher in Hispanic/Latine and Black people, trans people, disabled people, and women.^{38 39 40}

14. Children are greatly impacted by Long COVID.

- a. An estimated 6 million children are estimated to have Long COVID as of early 2024.^{41 42}
- b. Children have similar rates of Long COVID to adults, as well as similar findings regarding organ system complications, new-onset conditions, and biological mechanisms.^{43 44}
- c. Many pathological findings in adults, such as impaired function on a CPET, have also been found in children.^{45 46}

15. Long COVID has a highly destructive impact on the economy.

- a. The global economic cost of Long COVID is estimated at \$1 trillion per year.⁴⁷
- b. In 2024, 1.5 billion work hours were lost in the US due to Long COVID corresponding to a potential cost of more than US \$152.6 billion.⁴⁸
- c. Long COVID is responsible for massive GDP losses worldwide – including \$24.4 billion in Saudi Arabia, \$12.3 billion in Taiwan, and \$11 billion in Brazil.⁴⁹
- d. Five years of Long COVID burden is projected to cost \$3.7 trillion to the US economy in reduced quality of life, lost earnings, and increased medical spending.⁵⁰

³² <https://academic.oup.com/humrep/article/37/6/1126/6564665>

³³ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7047e1.htm>

³⁴ <https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-024-06767-7>

³⁵ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2779182>

³⁶ <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/rehabilitation-sciences/articles/10.3389/fresc.2023.1122673/full>

³⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-022-00846-2>

³⁸ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11606-022-07997-1>

³⁹ <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/05/long-covid-19-symptoms-reported.html>

⁴⁰ <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/long-covid.htm>

⁴¹ <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2815350>

⁴² <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/153/3/e2023062570/196606/Postacute-Sequelae-of-SARS-CoV-2-in-Children>

⁴³ <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/153/3/e2023062570/196606/Postacute-Sequelae-of-SARS-CoV-2-in-Children>

⁴⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-022-00846-2>

⁴⁵ https://journals.lww.com/pidj/fulltext/2024/08000/cardiopulmonary_exercise_testing_in_children_with.17.aspx

⁴⁶ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-022-00846-2>

⁴⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03173-6>

⁴⁸ <https://impact.economist.com/perspectives/health/incomplete-picture-understanding-burden-long-covid>

⁴⁹ <https://impact.economist.com/perspectives/health/incomplete-picture-understanding-burden-long-covid>

⁵⁰ https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/cutler/files/long_covid_update_7-22.pdf

- e. Long COVID disproportionately impacts certain labor sectors, particularly those with high exposure to COVID infections, like low-wage workers, farm workers, and those in education and the service industry.^{51 52 53}
- f. A quarter of US Marines who had COVID developed Long COVID, with long-term decrease in functional performance.⁵⁴
- g. Lost productivity of caretakers in the UK was estimated at £4.8 billion.⁵⁵

16. Medical provider education about Long COVID is inadequate.

- a. Only 7% of physicians are very confident diagnosing Long COVID and only 4% are very confident treating it.⁵⁶
- b. A majority of Long COVID patients have experienced a negative experience with a healthcare provider.⁵⁷

17. Lack of public awareness is causing crucial delays in care and support.

- a. Over 1/3 of people have still not heard of Long COVID despite its wide impact.⁵⁸
- b. Communities of color are particularly affected.^{59 60}

18. There is a significant amount of Long COVID research.

- a. Over 86,000 research papers have demonstrated wide-ranging biological abnormalities in Long COVID.⁶¹
- b. Up-to-date review papers include the scope of mechanisms and possible therapeutics^{62 63}, viral persistence⁶⁴ and mechanisms to target persisting reservoirs⁶⁵, designing and optimizing clinical trials⁶⁶, and roadmaps for Long COVID research and policy.⁶⁷
- c. An incredible breadth of biological mechanisms have been found in Long COVID, including reduced cerebral blood flow^{68 69} and disrupted neurovascular function⁷⁰,

⁵¹ <https://labor.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Fast-Food-Frontline-Report-1-13-22.pdf>

⁵² <https://environmentalhealth.ucdavis.edu/research/covid-19/domestic-workers-survey>

⁵³ <https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/34/3/489/7616634>

⁵⁴ [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanam/PIIS2667-193X\(24\)00236-9.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanam/PIIS2667-193X(24)00236-9.pdf)

⁵⁵ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11377524/>

⁵⁶ <https://debeaumont.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Long-COVID-Brief.pdf>

⁵⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44220-023-00064-6>

⁵⁸ <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1360341/full>

⁵⁹ <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1360341/full>

⁶⁰ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39090366/>

⁶¹ https://scholar.google.com/scholar?as_vis=1&q=%22long+covid%22&hl=en&as_sdt=0.33&as_ylo=2020

⁶² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0092867424008869>

⁶³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41579-022-00846-2>

⁶⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41590-023-01601-2>

⁶⁵ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1473309924007692>

⁶⁶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0024320524005605>

⁶⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03173-6>

⁶⁸ <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/JAHA.124.036752>

⁶⁹ <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9032/10/10/2105>

⁷⁰ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/10738584231194927>

fibrin microclots and their downstream impacts^{71 72}, tissue damage and skeletal muscle necrosis after exercise⁷³, changes to the brainstem⁷⁴ and hippocampus⁷⁵, viral persistence⁷⁶ and persisting antigen⁷⁷, induced Long COVID in mice by transferring IgG from Long COVID patients^{78 79}, and innumerable more.

19. The vast majority of the public and physicians believe Long COVID needs more research funding. 82% of physicians and 76% of the public believe it is important to increase research funding for Long COVID.⁸⁰

⁷¹ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-024-07873-4>

⁷² <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11491705/>

⁷³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-023-44432-3>

⁷⁴ <https://academic.oup.com/brain/article/147/12/4121/7811070>

⁷⁵ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0316625>

⁷⁶ <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/scitranslmed.adk3295>

⁷⁷ [https://www.clinicalmicrobiologyandinfection.com/article/S1198-743X\(24\)00432-4/abstract](https://www.clinicalmicrobiologyandinfection.com/article/S1198-743X(24)00432-4/abstract)

⁷⁸ <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.06.18.24309100v1>

⁷⁹ <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.05.30.596590v1>

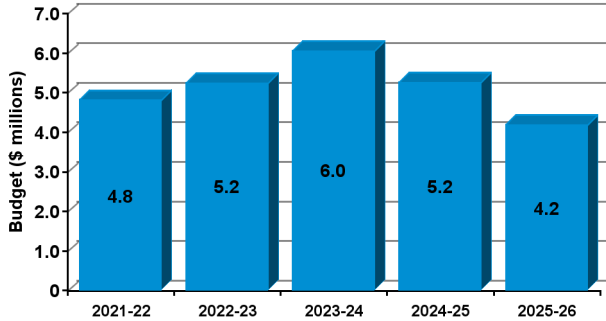
⁸⁰ <https://debeaumont.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Long-COVID-Brief.pdf>

DISABILITY

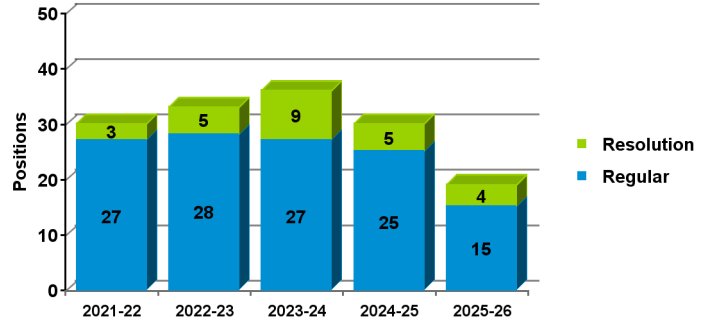
2025-26 Proposed Budget

FIVE-YEAR HISTORY OF BUDGET AND POSITION AUTHORITIES

FIVE-YEAR BUDGET HISTORY



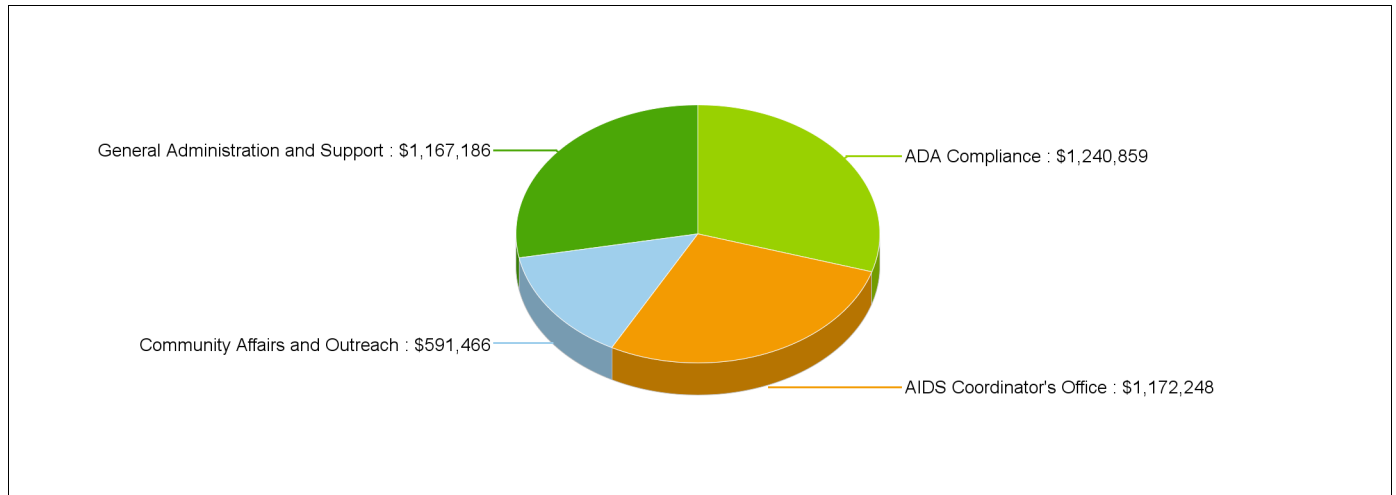
FIVE-YEAR POSITION AUTHORITY HISTORY



SUMMARY OF 2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES

	Total Budget			General Fund			Special Fund			
		Regular	Resolution		Regular	Resolution		Regular	Resolution	
2024-25 Adopted	\$5,247,119	25	5	\$5,208,281 99.3%	25	5	\$38,838 0.7%	-	-	
2025-26 Proposed	\$4,171,759	15	4	\$4,132,901 99.1%	15	4	\$38,858 0.9%	-	-	
Change from Prior Year	(\$1,075,360)	(10)	(1)	(\$1,075,380)	(10)	(1)	\$20	-	-	

2025-26 FUNDING DISTRIBUTION BY PROGRAM



MAIN BUDGET ITEMS

	Funding	Positions
* Student Workers and Student Professional Workers	\$37,770	-
* Community Affairs and Outreach Director	\$153,890	-
* Durable Medical Equipment	\$40,000	-
* AIDS Coordinator's Office Director	\$153,890	-

Recapitulation of Changes

	Adopted Budget 2024-25	Total Budget Changes	Total Budget 2025-26
EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATIONS			
Salaries			
Salaries General	3,489,018	(518,507)	2,970,511
Salaries, As-Needed	80,112	(47,636)	32,476
Overtime General	14,330	-	14,330
Total Salaries	3,583,460	(566,143)	3,017,317
Expense			
Printing and Binding	4,000	2,000	6,000
Travel	-	-	-
Contractual Services	1,516,311	(502,100)	1,014,211
Transportation	6,000	-	6,000
Office and Administrative	44,827	3,404	48,231
Total Expense	1,571,138	(496,696)	1,074,442
Special			
AIDS Prevention Policy	92,521	(12,521)	80,000
Total Special	92,521	(12,521)	80,000
Total Disability	5,247,119	(1,075,360)	4,171,759
	Adopted Budget 2024-25	Total Budget Changes	Total Budget 2025-26

SOURCES OF FUNDS

General Fund	5,208,281	(1,075,380)	4,132,901
Sidewalk Repair Fund (Sch. 51)	38,838	20	38,858
Total Funds	5,247,119	(1,075,360)	4,171,759
Percentage Change			(20.49)%
Positions	25	(10)	15

Changes Applicable to Various Programs

The following changes involve two or more budgetary programs. These changes are explained below and apportioned as single entries in the affected programs. Single-program changes are shown only in the programs involved.

Program Changes	Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special			
Obligatory Changes			
1. 2024-25 Employee Compensation Adjustment Related costs consist of employee benefits. SG: \$87,933 <i>Related Costs: \$30,591</i>	87,933	-	118,524
2. 2025-26 Employee Compensation Adjustment Related costs consist of employee benefits. SG: \$21,246 <i>Related Costs: \$7,391</i>	21,246	-	28,637
3. Salary Step and Turnover Effect Related costs consist of employee benefits. SG: \$112,118 <i>Related Costs: \$39,006</i>	112,118	-	151,124

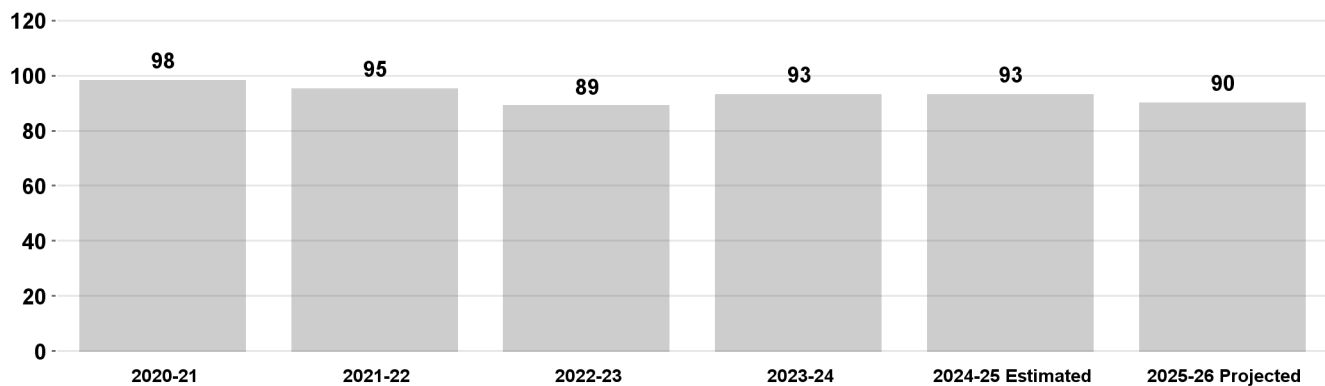
			Disability
Program Changes	Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special			
Deletion of One-Time Services			
4. Deletion of One-Time Expense Funding Delete one-time Salaries, As-Needed and expense funding. <i>SAN: (\$42,882) EX: (\$59,000)</i>	(101,882)	-	(101,882)
5. Deletion of Funding for Resolution Authorities Delete funding for five resolution authority positions. Resolution authorities are reviewed annually and continued only if sufficient funding is available to maintain the current service level. Related costs consist of employee benefits. Four positions are continued: ADA Compliance Administration (One position) Deaf Services and Accessible Communications (One position) Community Affairs and Outreach Director (One position) AIDS Coordinator's Office Director (One position) One position is not continued: Administrative Support for Commission on Disability (One position) <i>SG: (\$494,238)</i> <i>Related Costs: (\$242,749)</i>	(494,238)	-	(736,987)
6. Deletion of One-Time Salary Funding Delete one-time Salaries General funding. <i>SG: (\$62,878)</i> <i>Related Costs: (\$21,875)</i>	(62,878)	-	(84,753)
Continuation of Services			
7. Student Workers and Student Professional Workers Continue funding in the Salaries, As-Needed Account to provide part-time employment opportunities for students with disabilities. <i>SAN: \$37,770</i>	37,770	-	37,770
Restoration of Services			
8. Restoration of One-Time Reductions Restore funding in the Printing and Binding, Travel, Contractual Services, and Office and Administrative accounts that was reduced on a one-time basis in the 2024-25 Budget. <i>EX: \$168,359</i>	168,359	-	168,359

		Disability	
Program Changes	Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special			
Efficiencies to Services			
9. Expense Account Reduction Reduce funding in the Salaries, As-Needed, Printing and Binding (\$18,000), Travel (\$20,000), Contractual Services (\$540,000), Office and Administrative (\$71,355), and AIDS Prevention Policy (\$12,521) accounts on a one-time basis to reflect anticipated expenditures, which include savings achieved due to Departmental efficiencies and expenditure reductions. <i>SAN: (\$42,524) EX: (\$649,355) SP: (\$12,521)</i>	(704,400)	-	(704,400)
Reduced Services			
10. Elimination of Filled Positions Delete funding and regular authority for 10 positions consisting of one Senior Administrative Clerk, one Senior Accountant I, three Project Coordinators, one Community Program Assistant II, and four Management Analysts as a result of the elimination of filled positions. Related costs consist of employee benefits. <i>SG: (\$1,137,563)</i> <i>Related Costs: (\$553,243)</i>	(1,137,563)	(10)	(1,690,806)
11. One-Time Salary for Eliminated Filled Positions Add one-time funding in the Salaries General Account to provide four-months funding for positions deleted as a result of the elimination of filled positions. Related costs consist of employee benefits. <i>SG: \$396,340</i> <i>Related Costs: \$130,554</i>	396,340	-	526,894
TOTAL CHANGES APPLICABLE TO VARIOUS PROGRAMS	(1,677,195)	(10)	

ADA Compliance

This program oversees the City's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provides training and technical assistance for compliance with disability law through its Community Outreach Resource Center, Braille and sign language interpretation (SLI) services, computer assistance real-time transcription (CART), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act on the rights of people with disabilities assistance, and management of federal and state grants.

Percentage of SLI and CART Requests Filled



Program Changes	Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special			
Apportionment of Changes Applicable to Various Programs	(431,406)	(4)	(666,827)
Related costs consist of employee benefits.			
SG: (\$430,744) SAN: (\$4,250) EX: \$3,588			
Related Costs: (\$235,421)			

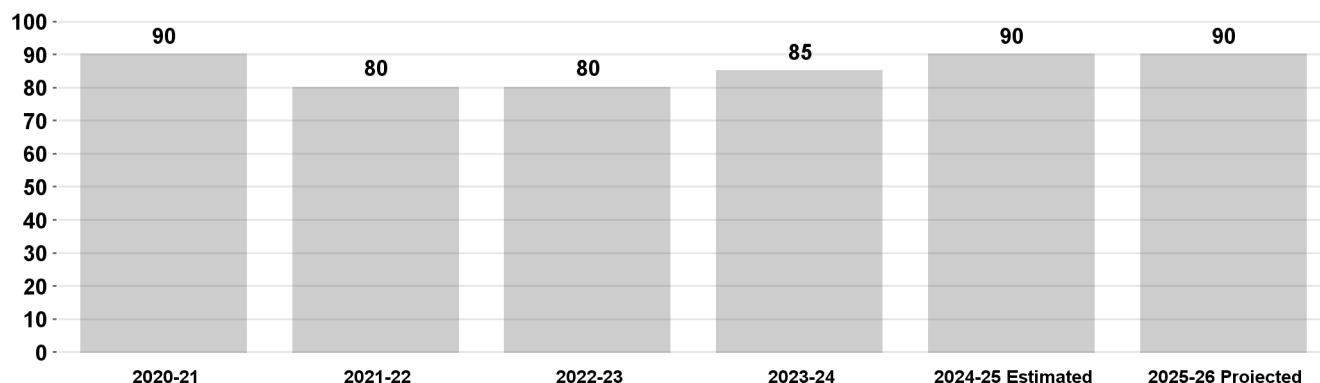
ADA Compliance

Program Changes		Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special				
Continuation of Services				
12. ADA Compliance Administration		128,333	-	188,459
Continue funding and resolution authority for one Senior Management Analyst I to support the ADA Compliance Program. Related costs consist of employee benefits. SG: \$128,333 Related Costs: \$60,126				
13. Deaf Services and Accessible Communications		122,422	-	180,601
Continue funding and resolution authority for one Management Analyst to provide deaf services and accessible communications. Related costs consist of employee benefits. SG: \$122,422 Related Costs: \$58,179				
14. Lead CASp		-	-	-
Continue one-time funding for contractual services for a lead Certified Access Specialist (CASp) position. This position will directly support the City's ADA Compliance Officer and address possible Americans with Disabilities Act violations at City facilities. Funding will be transferred from the CASp Certification and Training Fund to the Department's Contractual Services Account during the year.				
15. Self Evaluation/Transition Plan CASp Assistance		-	-	-
Continue one-time funding for contractual services to assess City facilities for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. The assessments will be performed by service providers who are Certified Access Specialist (CASp), as defined in the California Senate Bill 1186. Funding will be transferred from the CASp Certification and Training Fund to the Department's Contractual Services Account during the year.				
TOTAL ADA Compliance		(180,651)	(4)	
2024-25 Program Budget		1,421,510	8	
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special		(180,651)	(4)	
2025-26 PROGRAM BUDGET		1,240,859	4	

Community Affairs and Outreach

This program conducts the Department's community outreach and education functions, coordinates the City's disability-related events, provides information and referrals, supports the Department's emergency management operations, and provides training and technical assistance on digital accessibility, assistive technologies, and telecommunications to City departments as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Percentage of Resource Center Inquiries Filled

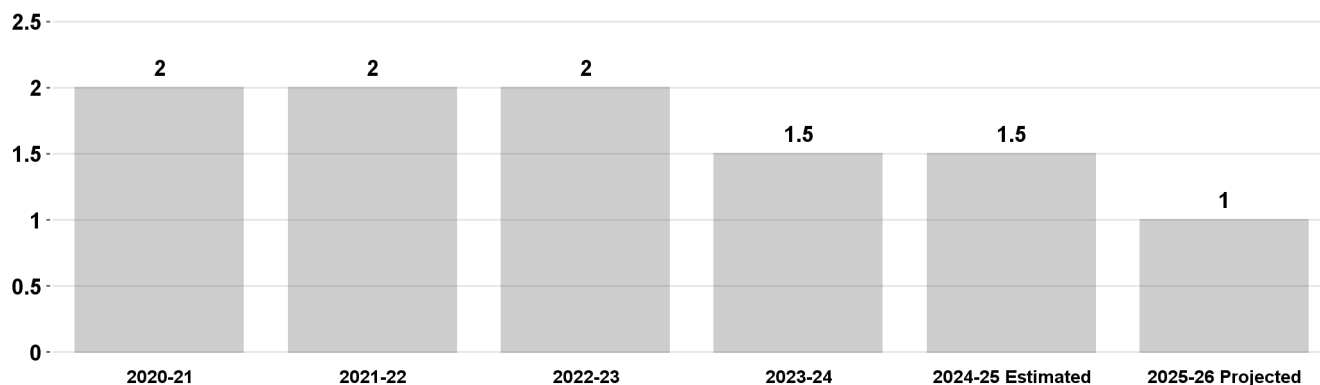


Program Changes	Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special			
Apportionment of Changes Applicable to Various Programs	(311,582)	(2)	(452,710)
Related costs consist of employee benefits.			
SG: (\$261,578) SAN: (\$30,637) EX: (\$19,367)			
Related Costs: (\$141,128)			
Continuation of Services			
16. Community Affairs and Outreach Director	153,890	-	222,434
Continue funding and resolution authority for one Principal Project Coordinator to lead the Community Affairs and Outreach Program. Related costs consist of employee benefits.			
SG: \$153,890			
Related Costs: \$68,544			
17. Durable Medical Equipment	40,000	-	40,000
Continue funding in the Contractual Services Account for the Durable Medical Equipment Program.			
EX: \$40,000			
TOTAL Community Affairs and Outreach	(117,692)	(2)	
2024-25 Program Budget	709,158	4	
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special	(117,692)	(2)	
2025-26 PROGRAM BUDGET	591,466	2	

AIDS Coordinator's Office

This program develops and supports programs and policies that prevent the transmission of HIV, and improves the quality of life for people living with HIV/AIDS through HIV testing, outreach, health education, risk reduction, and syringe collection and disposal services.

Number of Syringes Removed (in millions)



Program Changes	Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special			
Apportionment of Changes Applicable to Various Programs	(831,083)	(2)	(983,040)
Related costs consist of employee benefits.			
SG: (\$294,312) SAN: (\$4,250) EX: (\$520,000)			
SP: (\$12,521)			
Related Costs: (\$151,957)			
Continuation of Services			
18. AIDS Coordinator's Office Director	153,890	-	222,434
Continue funding and resolution authority for one Principal Project Coordinator to lead the AIDS Coordinator's Office Program. Related costs consist of employee benefits.			
SG: \$153,890			
Related Costs: \$68,544			
TOTAL AIDS Coordinator's Office	(677,193)	(2)	
2024-25 Program Budget	1,849,441	4	
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special	(677,193)	(2)	
2025-26 PROGRAM BUDGET	1,172,248	2	

General Administration and Support

This program performs management and administrative support including policy development, implementation and control; budget; and operational planning.

Program Changes	Direct Cost	Positions	Total Cost
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special			
Apportionment of Changes Applicable to Various Programs	(103,124)	(2)	(184,943)
Related costs consist of employee benefits.			
SG: (\$90,408) SAN: (\$8,499) EX: (\$4,217)			
Related Costs: (\$81,819)			
Transfer of Services			
19. Mobile Worker Program	3,300	-	3,300
Transfer funding from the Information Technology Agency to the Office and Administrative Account for mobile phone usage costs. The Department has fully transitioned from traditional desk phones, which were funded by the Information Technology Agency, to the Mobile Worker Program and will pay for departmental mobile phone costs on an ongoing basis. See related Information Technology Agency item.			
EX: \$3,300			
TOTAL General Administration and Support	(99,824)	(2)	
2024-25 Program Budget	1,267,010	9	
Changes in Salaries, Expense, Equipment, and Special	(99,824)	(2)	
2025-26 PROGRAM BUDGET	1,167,186	7	

**DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY
DETAIL OF CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ACCOUNT**

2023-24 Actual Expenditures	2024-25 Adopted Budget	2024-25 Estimated Expenditures	Program/Code/Description	2025-26 Contract Amount
ADA Compliance - EG6501				
\$ 102,959	\$ 197,506	\$ 198,000	1. Disabled employee assistance.....	\$ 197,506
-	23,100	5,000	2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assistants.....	25,000
20,300	22,000	43,000	3. ADA inspection and compliance software.....	22,000
517,326	-	435,000	4. Certified access specialists - lead and on-call pool.....	-
<u>\$ 640,585</u>	<u>\$ 242,606</u>	<u>\$ 681,000</u>	ADA Compliance Total	<u>\$ 244,506</u>
Community Affairs and Outreach - EG6503				
\$ 1,123	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,000	5. Section 508 online training platform and remediation.....	\$ 35,000
-	50,000	50,000	6. Durable medical equipment.....	40,000
<u>\$ 1,123</u>	<u>\$ 59,000</u>	<u>\$ 58,000</u>	Community Affairs and Outreach Total	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
AIDS Coordinator's Office - EG6504				
\$ 1,215,686	\$ 994,305	\$ 994,000	7. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome prevention programs.....	\$ 514,305
-	190,000	16,000	8. Expansion of human immunodeficiency virus prevention services.....	150,000
<u>\$ 1,215,686</u>	<u>\$ 1,184,305</u>	<u>\$ 1,010,000</u>	AIDS Coordinator's Office Total	<u>\$ 664,305</u>
General Administration and Support - EG6550				
\$ 42,322	\$ 28,000	\$ 2,000	9. Case management system.....	\$ 28,000
2,109	2,400	2,000	10. Heavy-duty copier.....	2,400
<u>\$ 44,431</u>	<u>\$ 30,400</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	General Administration and Support Total	<u>\$ 30,400</u>
<u>\$ 1,901,825</u>	<u>\$ 1,516,311</u>	<u>\$ 1,753,000</u>	TOTAL CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ACCOUNT	<u>\$ 1,014,211</u>

Disability

Position Counts			Code	Title	2025-26 Salary Range and Annual Salary	
2024-25	Change	2025-26				
<u>GENERAL</u>						
<u>Regular Positions</u>						
2	-	2	1358	Administrative Clerk	1989(2)	(41,530 - 62,431)
1	(1)	-	1368	Senior Administrative Clerk	2451(2)	(51,176 - 76,880)
1	-	1	1513	Accountant	2951(2)	(61,616 - 92,581)
1	(1)	-	1523-1	Senior Accountant I	3426(2)	(71,534 - 107,490)
3	(3)	-	1537	Project Coordinator	3523(2)	(73,560 - 110,496)
1	-	1	1538	Senior Project Coordinator	4187(2)	(87,424 - 131,293)
1	-	1	1702-1	Emergency Management Coordinator I	4440(2)	(92,707 - 139,290)
1	-	1	1786	Principal Public Relations Representative	3651(2)	(76,232 - 114,547)
1	(1)	-	2501-2	Community Program Assistant II	2931(2)	(61,199 - 91,913)
1	-	1	2501-3	Community Program Assistant III	3523(2)	(73,560 - 110,496)
1	-	1	9134	Principal Project Coordinator	5135(2)	(107,218 - 161,047)
1	-	1	9171-2	Senior Management Analyst II	5732(2)	(119,684 - 179,776)
8	(4)	4	9184	Management Analyst	3762(2)	(78,550 - 117,992)
1	-	1	9720	Executive Director Department on Disability		(240,621)
1	-	1	9722	Assistant Executive Director - Department on Disability	5947(2)	(124,173 - 186,541)
25	(10)	15				

Commissioner Positions

9	-	9	0101-2	Commissioner	\$50/mtg
9	-	9			

AS NEEDED

To be Employed As Needed in Such Numbers as Required

1501	Student Worker	\$17/hr	
1502	Student Professional Worker	1471(7)	(30,714 - 46,165)
1550	Program Aide	2045(2)	(42,699 - 64,143)

	Regular Positions	Commissioner Positions
Total	15	9

CALIFORNIA

County to Get AIDS Grant of \$2.6 Million

L.A. Times Archives

Oct. 2, 1986 12 AM PT

Los Angeles County will receive \$2.6 million in federal funds over the next three years to improve health care for patients with AIDS and related illnesses, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Wednesday.

In total, \$15.3 million in federal funds were awarded to Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Miami, the four metropolitan areas with the highest concentration of acquired immune deficiency syndrome patients.

The funds, allocated according to the percentage of AIDS cases in the four areas, are designed to improve the coordination of patient services. In Los Angeles, attention will be focused on black and Latino AIDS patients.

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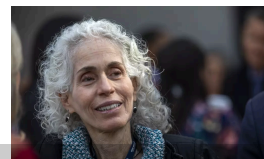
CDC to slash infectious-disease funding for states; California impact uncertain

March 26, 2025



Q&A with Barbara Ferrer: L.A. County Public Health braces for impact under Trump

Feb. 27, 2025



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COLUMN ONE : Aids in L.A. : AIDS Fight in L.A. at Key Point : A decade into the disease, L.A. County cases are still on the rise. Decisions made this year could be crucial to containing--or losing control of--the epidemic.

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April 30, 2025

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Los Angeles Times

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CALIFORNIA

COLUMN ONE : Aids in L.A. : AIDS Fight in L.A. at Key Point : A decade into the disease, L.A. County cases are still on the rise. Decisions made this year could be crucial to containing--or losing control of--the epidemic.

By VICTOR F. ZONANA

Dec. 31, 1989 12 AM PT

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TIMES STAFF WRITER

Not long ago, AIDS Project Los Angeles took an unusual step in its campaign to prevent people in the county from becoming infected with the human immunodeficiency virus.

By VICTOR F. ZONANA

Dec. 31, 1989 12 AM PT

TIMES STAFF WRITER

Not long ago, AIDS Project Los Angeles took an unusual step in its campaign to prevent people in the county from becoming infected with the human immunodeficiency virus.

The agency asked government funders to reduce its allocation for educational efforts by \$100,000--and to redirect the money to agencies that tailor their educational programs specifically for black and Latino gay and bisexual men.

“That’s the top priority in terms of primary prevention,” explained Stephen Bennett, chief executive officer of APLA, which is rooted in the Anglo gay community.

The group’s decision to spread its money around is a hopeful sign that the attempt to forge a countywide partnership among local AIDS organizations and county health officials, launched earlier this year amid great skepticism, is beginning to bear fruit.

Another promising indicator is that county health officials, after months of input from community-based organizations, are putting the finishing touches on a plan that is designed to plug the gaps in the county’s response to the HIV epidemic for the 1990s.

The plan urges expanded educational efforts among minority gays; new programs to prevent the spread of the virus among needle-sharing addicts; better outpatient care at county facilities, and a drive to provide early medical intervention for the already-infected to delay the onset of full-blown AIDS, which without treatment develops an average of 11 years after infection.

“It is a shared vision,” said Torie Osborn, director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, the county’s second-largest AIDS-services organization. “In order for things to work, we have got to work together,” added John Schunhoff, assistant director of the Department of Health Service’s AIDS Program Office.

The new atmosphere couldn’t be more timely, for health experts say that Los Angeles is at a turning point. The decisions its leaders make in coming months will help determine whether the county’s path in the 1990s resembles San Francisco’s, a model of comprehensive prevention efforts and compassionate, cost-effective care, or New York’s, where the epidemic rages out of control among IV drug abusers.

Though the new cooperative spirit provides reason for optimism, there is a major caveat: Key elements of the plan are dependent upon the approval of the county Board of Supervisors, whose conservative majority has blocked previous AIDS initiatives proposed by county health officials.

“We have an outstanding work plan,” said city of Los Angeles AIDS Coordinator Dave Johnson. “The key issues, come this spring, will be getting it funded and getting it through the Board of Supervisors without impediment.”

At a time when state and federal officials are reining in AIDS spending, the estimated public and private cost of early medical intervention alone for the 112,000 county residents believed to be infected totals \$500 million a year.

Whatever the supervisors decide, the board’s response will be critical in determining the course of the epidemic: not only how many will get sick and how many will die, but also whether the crisis-plagued public health system can continue to deliver even minimal levels

of care to huge segments of the population.

Despite earlier hopes, the AIDS epidemic has not leveled off or peaked. Between January and November, 1989, the latest period for which figures are available, new cases of full-blown AIDS in the county totaled 2,274, up 28% from the comparable period a year earlier.

Even if the spread of HIV were halted tomorrow, cases of full-blown AIDS would continue as people infected years ago became sick. County planning documents estimate that, within two years, the cumulative total number of cases will more than double, to at least 19,000. The total could rise to as high as 44,000, based on infections in past years.

Despite the grim projections, Los Angeles has a choice. Will it go the way of San Francisco, widely praised as a model of compassionate and cost-effective AIDS care? Or will Los Angeles resemble New York City, the third major center of the epidemic, where people are dying in the streets as the unchecked spread of the virus among drug addicts fills public and private hospitals beyond capacity?

While some credible voices suggest that the same forces that unleashed disaster on New York--poverty, drug addiction, racism, denial and homophobia--are poised to strike here, others believe that AIDS in Los Angeles will follow its own course somewhere between the New York and San Francisco experiences.

"Comparisons among cities are fraught with variables that can confound analysis," said George Ersek, who oversees AIDS programs for the Health Resources and Services Administration in Rockville, Md.

The geographic, political and ethnic contours of Los Angeles County present opportunities for containing the epidemic--as well as obstacles. The county's vast sprawl and poor public transit system, for example, are believed to have slowed the spread of the virus among needle-using drug addicts.

On the other hand, that same sprawl has made AIDS invisible to large segments of the county's diffuse population. That, critics charge, has led to complacency in the overall community's response.

"There is a continuing sense in Los Angeles that AIDS is somebody else's problem," said David E. Gooding, executive vice president of Transamerica Life Insurance. Gooding, one of the few ranking downtown officials to take a high-profile role in the AIDS struggle, is a board member of AIDS Project Los Angeles.

The contrast with other big cities is stark. Despite New York's problems containing the disease, top corporate executives there staff AIDS task forces and open their coffers to local AIDS charities. In contrast, business leaders in Los Angeles--with the primary exception of those in the entertainment industry--have remained comparatively aloof.

To cite just one comparison, Chevron, based in San Francisco, donated \$125,000 for Project Open Hand to buy a new kitchen for its meals-on-wheels program for AIDS patients. Arco, based in Los Angeles, has given from \$3,000 to \$4,000 to AIDS causes since the epidemic began--an average of \$500 a year.

Other unique aspects of Los Angeles are its rich ethnic mix and a population that includes more than 1 million undocumented immigrants--many of them poor, uneducated and hard to reach with AIDS-prevention messages.

AIDS educators fear that their task has been complicated by the Roman Catholic Church's unyielding stand against the use of condoms, and that Latinos are suffering disproportionately as a result.

"In the past two months, our clinic has found 45% (infection rates) among gay and bisexual Latinos," said Osborn, compared to 17% among Anglo gays. "The figure just leaps out at you. . . . It is really alarming."

"The gay white male experience, horrible as it has been, will look like a walk in the sun compared to what is coming in the ghettos and barrios of Los Angeles," added Dr. German Maisonet, a private physician who treats AIDS-infected intravenous drug abusers.

Despite efforts to educate the black community by such groups as the Minority AIDS Project, denial remains a powerful force. Dr. Wilbert Jordan, a black physician who directs the AIDS clinic at Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, said that fewer than 10% of black ministers responded to his letter inviting their congregations to "adopt" an AIDS patient to raise awareness about the disease.

And when county health officers sponsored a forum for Latino doctors on treating AIDS and HIV infection, only three showed up. "We invited over 1,000, and 75 to 150 would have been a good showing," said Dr. Martin Finn, the county's top AIDS health officer.

Finally, the political contours of Los Angeles County may hamper the response to the epidemic. Supervisors, for example, have twice spurned recommendations to fund programs that would distribute bleach to IV drug users--steps New York and San Francisco instituted years ago.

"Under the present political philosophy of the board, we will never have an effective battle against AIDS in Los Angeles," said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Hospice Foundation and a frequent critic of the county's response to the epidemic.

"There's a definite lack of leadership--and, I would add, a lack of will," said Mary Nalick, director of the City of Angels Hospice in Hollywood. Although the facility is widely admired for providing excellent care to end-stage patients, to date it has received no government funding because of one bureaucratic obstacle after another.

“We’ve managed to exist with no public money and no client money for a year,” said Nalick, who has been forced to rely on an unsteady stream of foundation grants and private donations. “Basically, I beg.”

Dr. Neil Schram, former head of the City-County Task Force on AIDS, still seethes when he thinks back to his first visit to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in 1985 to warn of a killer that would wipe out tens of thousands of county residents.

Schram had waited four years since AIDS first appeared to sound the alarm. Here at last was his chance to urge leaders to mount aggressive educational efforts to stem the spread of the fatal disease, to avert panic and to shore up a sagging health-care system to cope with the tidal wave of patients to come.

“As I delivered my testimony, Pete Schabarum stood in a corner and talked to a friend,” Schram recalled. “Ken Hahn and Deane Dana were absent. Ed Edelman listened. And Mike Antonovich sat there and watched me, watching him, while he made calls on his portable telephone.”

Schram, a South Bay physician, was not mollified when people more familiar with the ways of local government assured him that such inattention from supervisors was typical for hearings. To Schram, the episode drove home “the egregious and shameful leadership vacuum” that has characterized the county’s response to AIDS.

County supervisors insist that they have taken the epidemic seriously all along. But Edelman, the only supervisor who consented to an interview, said he feels “lonely and frustrated” when supporting AIDS issues on the board.

Despite years of urging from public health officials, for example, Los Angeles County did not adopt legislation barring discrimination against people with AIDS until February, 1989--after the cities of Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Riverside and Pasadena and various California counties enacted similar measures.

The civil rights legislation was hotly contested and was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors by a 3-2 vote.

Many people within county government believe that Schabarum was betraying his own feelings when he said at a board meeting earlier this year that “the man on the street . . . could care less about funding” AIDS care. Last year, alone among supervisors, Schabarum refused a special briefing on AIDS by county health officers.

Judy Hammond, an aide to Schabarum, said the supervisor reflects his “conservative, working-class district,” which includes such cities as Pomona, Arcadia and Whittier.

“We get all the extremes, including mail that says, ‘Let them die, they brought it on themselves,’ ” she said.

Antonovich aide Dawson Oppenheimer said the board's conservative majority has refused to approve bleach distribution to needle-using addicts because it is "very concerned about sending out the wrong message to young people."

"AIDS kills, but drugs kill too," he added. "There is no safe way to take drugs."

Many county health officials, especially in the AIDS office, say they are demoralized, caught between the increasingly noisy demands of AIDS activists and the truculence of top officials and supervisors.

Finn, formerly the county's top medical officer and now medical director of the AIDS Program Office, recalls testifying at a 1984 state legislative hearing that Los Angeles needed a three-fold increase in AIDS prevention education funds. "I was called on the carpet by (County Health Department Director Robert C.) Gates," he said, and admonished for speaking out.

Gates, in an interview, said he does not recall the incident.

The health chief defends the department's response to AIDS, given the political and economic realities in the county. This year's county AIDS budget, including state and federal funds, will climb to \$60.4 million from \$51 million a year ago and \$30 million a year before.

"I work for the board," Gates said. "The fact that I am not visibly and vocally standing up to the Board of Supervisors does not mean that I am not expressing to the board what needs to be done to deal with AIDS. . . . My style is to convince people privately, rather than to engage in public confrontations."

Gates takes pride in the new 20-bed inpatient AIDS ward at County-USC Medical Center. The facility, opened in September and long a priority of AIDS activists, is modeled on one opened at San Francisco General Hospital six years earlier.

But outpatient care at County-USC remains "a scandal," said Mark Kostopoulos of ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, and some county health officials privately agree.

Consider 40-year-old Ernesto Oliva, who had to wait six weeks to get an appointment after he tested positive for HIV. When he was finally seen, doctors found that his immune system had deteriorated so badly that he might have been struck by deadly pneumonia while he waited; doctors immediately instituted preventive treatments.

The outpatient facility at County-USC, known as ward 5P21, is so crowded that patients like Bill Oxendine must take intravenous chemotherapy treatments on a bench in a public hallway due to the shortage of infusion rooms.

"You get the drugs, but in a way that robs you of your human dignity," said Oxendine, 44, who was diagnosed as having Kaposi's sarcoma six months ago.

County officials originally intended to open a new outpatient clinic at the hospital this year, but funding delays and red tape have delayed that until next September, at the earliest.

County health department's response to the epidemic is its establishment of an HIV clinic in West Hollywood. The facility formerly housed a clinic that catered mostly to gay men with sexually transmitted diseases.

"Somewhere in 1984, the numbers of clients began to drop as gays adopted safe-sex practices," said Dr. David Dassey, the clinic's director. "By 1986 and 1987, they were off precipitously."

So, in conjunction with the city of West Hollywood, county officials converted the under utilized clinic into what they hope will be a model for providing outpatient care for patients infected with the virus.

Since March, the clinic has been monitoring HIV-positive patients. Within a few months, it will open a treatment room in an effort to forestall the development of full-blown AIDS.

"My crude guess is that we'll be able to enroll 750 patients and take some of the burden off of County-USC," Dassey said. But he fears that the clinic, which has already evaluated 550 patients, will itself be overwhelmed when it begins offering treatment. And, already, the facility is suffering from staffing problems and a high turnover rate.

"If we are going to advise people to get tested for HIV, we need to have services ready for them if they test positive," he said.

Although there are common elements in the responses of the gay communities of the three cities hardest hit by AIDS, there are also important distinctions.

New York, for example, was the birthplace of ACT UP.

San Francisco is the home of Project Inform, a clearinghouse for information on experimental medical treatments. Although ACT UP and Project Inform have taken root in Los Angeles, the primary route to "self-empowerment" here has been markedly different.

It can be seen every Wednesday evening at West Hollywood Park, in an auditorium a few hundred feet away from the HIV clinic, where about 500 people touched by the AIDS epidemic gather in a spiritual response to the disease personified by the self-proclaimed metaphysical counselor Louise L. Hay.

Every week, the sick, the dying and the worried-but-well gather to hear the blond and personable Hay dispense her New Age bromides.

Hay's basic message can be summarized in two words: "Love yourself." She peddles variations on the theme in books, meditation tapes, videos and personal appearances throughout the country. "Go up to a mirror, look into your eyes, and say, 'I love you, I love you, I love you,'" Hay told her rapt audience at one of her "Hay Rides" (suggested donation: \$10) one recent evening.

The meeting concluded with a group meditation and the singing of her trademark song: "I Love Myself the Way I Am."

"Southern California is the seed bed where all sorts of new religious expressions take root and bloom," said the Rt. Rev. Oliver Garver, Episcopal bishop of Los Angeles. "It doesn't surprise me at all that new organizations would grow up seeking to address, in spiritual ways, this painful and personal tragedy."

Garver, a board member of AIDS Project Los Angeles, suspects that more people with AIDS in Los Angeles resort to such groups than in New York or San Francisco because they feel politically disenfranchised. "Even in 1989, we are still knocking on doors and confronting deaf ears," he said.

Some gay leaders were slow to mobilize against AIDS in Los Angeles. When Sheldon Andelson died of AIDS in December, 1987, obituaries noted his distinguished career as a gay leader, lawyer, banker and member of UC Board of Regents. Most obituaries did not mention, or glossed over, Andelson's part-ownership of Los Angeles County's biggest gay bathhouse during the 1970s and early 1980s, the 8709 on West Third Street.

Some people charge that the influential gay leader's involvement in the commercial-sex industry seriously hampered the battle against AIDS here. When AIDS first burst onto the scene in 1981, gay doctors like Neil Schram repeatedly beseeched Andelson to take a leadership role in combatting the epidemic. His requests, Schram said, were ignored.

"He wasn't the only one," Schram recalls. "During the early years, gay newspapers wanted nothing to do with AIDS." One newspaper that featured AIDS on its cover was banished from several gay bars.

Municipal Judge Rand Schrader, head of the County AIDS Commission and an old friend of Andelson, said that for Andelson, the bathhouse was more than a money-making business.

"To him, it represented our hard-won sexual freedom," said Schrader, noting that Andelson began his legal career defending consenting adults against charges of sodomy before the act was decriminalized in California.

Andelson finally shut down the bathhouse in 1984.

But although gay leaders may have been slow to act, many gay men and lesbians at the grass-roots level reacted heroically during the early years of the epidemic. Gays, for example, largely founded and staffed AIDS Project Los Angeles, which provides food, shelter, case management, dental services and transportation to people with symptomatic HIV disease.

After several rocky years when it was threatened with insolvency, APLA is returning to financial and operational health under Stephen Bennett, its new chief executive.

There are other success stories, powered largely by an extraordinary volunteer effort. Gay men and women continue to pour hours into volunteer work at AIDS Project Los Angeles, the Shanti Project, the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, the AIDS Hospice Foundation, Minority AIDS Project and dozens of other community-based organizations that battle the epidemic.

Take Phill Wilson, whose lover died of AIDS last month. Working with a group called Black and White Men Together, Wilson--who is infected with HIV--runs workshops designed to reinforce safe-sex practices among blacks.

Certainly, gays have been generous financially. With Hollywood donating the talent, gays in Los Angeles have opened their coffers to support star-studded benefits for a host of AIDS-related causes. They have also organized politically, though not nearly as effectively as in San Francisco, where gays have much more political clout.

Some people believe the reason has to do with the socioeconomic structure of Los Angeles's gay community.

Indeed, there appear to be two AIDS epidemics among gays: one for those who can afford private medical care, and a second for those who must rely on county health facilities. While those with insurance are able to fight for access to experimental drugs, the poor must struggle for basic medical services.

Torie Osborn of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center believes that gay clout in Los Angeles also is weakened because so many more gay people remain closeted here compared to San Francisco.

"There are a lot of powerful gay people--in corporations, in government, in the professions--who could have made a difference but didn't dare to because they were in the closet," she said.

Even though gays account for 89% of the AIDS cases in Los Angeles, nine years into the epidemic they are finding it difficult to maintain a wartime footing.

"You can walk down (the gay strip on) Santa Monica Avenue in West Hollywood and not even realize there's an epidemic going on," said Paul Monette, author of "Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir," a searing account of his lover's struggle with AIDS.

Partly, this reflects what psychologists call "healthy denial" as the epidemic's dreary role call of death drones on. But Monette believes the reasons go deeper. "Los Angeles is fantasyland," he said. "Maybe our capacity for denial is greater."

Now that the epidemic has lost its novelty, "there's a sense out there that AIDS is all over now," he said. And, with current and expected treatment advances, "it seems like the light at the end of the tunnel is no longer an onrushing freight train."

But AIDS is far from over. "I recently came back from Europe and found out that four friends had died," Monette said. "Whatever the perceptions, the death and the suffering are not stopping."

AIDS in Three Major Cities

The following are selected AIDS statistics through Sept. 30, 1989, for New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, the three major centers of the epidemic which together accounted for 34.5% of the nation's AIDS cases. The data shows that Los Angeles has more than twice as many female cases and three times as many pediatric cases as San Francisco, even though its total caseload is only 11% higher.

New York	Los Angeles	San Francisco	Total cases	22,571	8,063	7,277	Total deaths	12,246	
5,306	4,706	Children under 13	536	70	22	Adult women	2,934	244	91
Gay/bisexual contact	10,916	6,474	6,164	Heterosexual IV drug use	6,166	325	159	Reported new cases,	4,081
1,928	1,458	year to date	Total cases	White 39%	65%	82%	Black 33%	16%	7%
Latino 27%	18%	8%	Projected net municipal outlay	\$229.6	\$20.5	\$19.9	(millions) for AIDS prevention and care, current fiscal year*		

* Does not include private contributions, state and federal expenditures or payments from private insurers. Aids Cases Per Census Tract in Los Angeles Metro Area Census tracts are based on population and range in size in the Los Angeles Basin from very largest-about 72 square miles-to the smallest-less than a mile square.)

No. of cases	Map area	No. of tracts	per tract	White	1,312	0 to 4	Gray	159	5 to 9	Dark gray	78
10 to 24	Striped	11	25 to 49	Black	14	50 to 124					

Map shows reported AIDS cases between January, 1983, and December, 1988 Source: Department of Geography, California State University, Northridge and Los Angeles County Department of Health Services

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April 30, 2025

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CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Takes a Big Lead : Is First in Area to OK Funds for AIDS Outreach Efforts

L.A. Times Archives

April 7, 1990 12 AM PT

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Mayor Tom Bradley and the Los Angeles City Council, with its unanimous vote appropriating emergency funds for special AIDS education and outreach service programs, are providing welcome leadership in controlling the AIDS epidemic.

The council is the first government body in Southern California to establish outreach with bleach and condoms to intravenous drug users, the group that poses the greatest threat of expanding the epidemic. The condoms serve as a reminder of the dangers of sexual transmission of AIDS. The bleach, effective in cleaning needles, can reduce the risk of transmission when needles are shared. Community-based groups will implement the program, distributing 60,000 AIDS prevention kits bought with

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Council members also voted \$30,000 for an outreach education program aimed at minority populations to increase their awareness of the efficacy of early intervention with persons infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. A new city study found that HIV infection is progressing to full-blown AIDS more rapidly among poor people, including ethnic minorities, because they are not receiving early intervention care as are the more affluent. Hundreds are being denied life-extending therapies through ignorance or inadequate public services.

Los Angeles County Supervisors earlier had rejected a recommendation from their own AIDS Commission to undertake the condom and bleach distribution. There has been similar resistance in Orange and San Diego counties. Federal funding has underwritten two demonstration outreach programs in the area, however. Horizontes targets Latino intravenous drug users in San Diego, and the AIDS Research and Education Project based at Cal State Long Beach works with drug users in that city. Both projects have reported positive results. Funding is being sought to perpetuate Horizontes when its three-year federal funding runs out in August. The Long Beach program, in its second year, already has reported evidence of behavior change among the more than 1,000 persons interviewed.

Critics have argued that bleach distribution could be seen as official approval of drug use, and that condom distribution could encourage promiscuity and exaggerated confidence in the limited protection it provides. Analysis of the programs in place, however, has found no such negative consequences. Most public-health officials remain convinced that it is an effective way to reach drug-dependent persons and educate them on the dangers of AIDS while opening the door to rehabilitation. In fact, some public-health officials believe the effort would be even more effective if it included a needle-exchange program.

HIV infection rates remain relatively low among intravenous drug users in Southern California, ranging from 5% to 8%. By comparison, New York's rate is an appalling 50% to 60%. But New York's experience could be repeated in Southern California unless outreach programs to high-risk populations prove more effective, according to public-health officials.

The commitment of Bradley and the council responds appropriately to that risk. And it responds to the study by Dave Johnson, city AIDS coordinator, charting the inadequacy of early treatment programs among the poor, including minority populations. The study has inspired not only the emergency funding but also plans to appropriate an additional \$500,000 for the fiscal year commencing July 1. Unfortunately, no similar response has been forthcoming from the county governments of the region which are, in fact, the responsible public-health agencies and should be taking the lead. That makes the city's leadership all the more important, all the more welcome.

More to Read

Communication from Public

Name: Ming

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:27 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: City Council Members, I am a staff attorney with Immigrant Defenders Law Center and I am writing to show my strong support for the RepresentLA program. Eight years ago, I decided to go to law school because of the first Trump administration's inhumane and illegal attacks on immigrant community members. I have been proud to live in and be working alongside a city that has also taken a stand by supporting the work me and my ImmDef colleagues do: representing families separated by trump, making sure unaccompanied children to do not go alone to immigration court, and fighting for long-time community members sent to far away detention centers after building lives and families in the US for decades. We could not do this work without RepLA. In today's climate, local governments are the only support and the best line of defense that our immigrant communities have. We became even more aware of this fact when, last month, the Trump Administration cut over half of ImmDef's funding with a sudden executive order. Please include \$4 million for RepLA in the city's budget. These services are needed more now than ever before. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Paula

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:28 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: It is with great alarm and sadness that animal shelters are being targeted for budget cuts when hundreds of animals are needlessly being euthanized. It would be a good use of money to spay/neuter pets and to actively pursue this avenue rather than have puppies and kittens born. They are doomed before their birth. Animals deserve better. Pets are an important part of families and being treated like trash is wholly unacceptable and disgusting. Thank you for your attention and support to this important issue. Being compassionate and caring is what makes us all feel good.

Communication from Public

Name: Ann

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:33 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts for Los Angeles Animal Services in the 2025-2026 city budget. Reducing funding to this essential department will have devastating consequences for the animals in our city's care, the staff and volunteers who support them, and the overall health and safety of our communities. LA Animal Services is already operating under significant strain, with overcrowded shelters, staffing shortages, and limited resources. Further budget cuts will only worsen these conditions, leading to decreased animal welfare, increased euthanasia rates, and an overwhelmed shelter system unable to adequately serve the public. Our city's homeless pet population is a public health and public safety issue — and cutting resources to address it is shortsighted and dangerous. Instead of reducing funding, the City should prioritize investment in LA Animal Services to ensure humane care for animals, provide support for adoption and spay/neuter programs, and maintain critical services that protect both animals and residents. Animal Services is not an optional or peripheral service — it is a core function of a compassionate and responsible city government. I urge you to reconsider these harmful budget cuts and work toward a budget that reflects our city's values of care, safety, and community responsibility. Los Angeles can and should do better for its animals and the people who care for them. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Gyasi

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:34 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a resident of the city of Los Angeles I have witnessed the ongoing struggle at many animal shelters including north central. Defunding these shelters will only make the problems worse. The volunteers are overworked with very little funding as is. I am speaking against the mayors decision to take away what little support they have left and ask that this action be denied.

Communication from Public

Name: Meg Shan

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 09:42 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please don't cut funding to LA Animal Services which will result in the closing 3 of the 6 city shelters. There aren't enough shelters for all vulnerable homeless animals as it is. The Harbor Shelter in particular is well run, has a very good foster program and an excellent volunteer task force that manages their social media posting of available pets. They work well with animal rescues. Because of this many adoptions occur there. This won't only cause current sheltered animals to be euthanized - it will have far reaching and long term negative effects on homeless pets, with more on the streets getting hurt , killed , suffer with starvation , dehydration and sickness with no help. Rescue organizations dont have facilities and resources to take their place. Please do the right thing for animals.

Communication from Public

Name: Luke

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:16 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: LIONEL MARES

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 10:27 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hon. City Council: My name is Lionel Mares, I am writing to share my thoughts on the mayor's proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. I am concerned about the mayor's proposed budget and its impact on individuals losing their employment with the city of Los Angeles and service reductions that will be felt citywide. The impact will be felt greatest in low-income neighborhoods. The cost of liability claims and litigation the city is facing due to lawsuits against the LAPD, for example, is cause for concern. The proposed budget seeks to lay off non-sworn civilian employees from many city departments and 'bumping' employees will cause distress among city employees especially those who just started working with the city. It is unfair for the city to eliminate vacant and filled positions in many (non-sworn) city departments that provide essential services to the city and to all Angelenos. Many people are afraid of the unintended consequences to the city's financial crisis and its impact on the city overall. For Example: Recs and Parks doesn't have enough staff to maintain park facilities such as restrooms. L.A. Sanitation doesn't have enough staff to address the trash and illegal dumping across the city. Transportation department doesn't have enough staff and or resources to make our streets safer for pedestrians and for bicyclists. Our streets are unsafe due to traffic violence such as speeding motorists. Neighborhood Councils budget have not been restored to pre-covid levels (ex: \$50k). Neighborhood Councils are the most basic level of civic democracy in our city and many Neighborhood Councils funds are not enough to address the needs and ongoing costs associated with supplies, NPGs, community events and outreach costs, etc. I urge the City Council and Committee members to reevaluate the mayor's proposed budget and make necessary adjustments and changes to preserve city services and keep Neighborhood Council budget intact and not reduced. I also would like to share a news article for your reference. See attached! THANK YOU for your consideration.

NEWS • News

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LA City budget hearing drew protests over proposed 1,647 layoffs, service cuts

Emotions ran high as council's Budget and Finance Committee held special hearing on mayor's proposed budget



Los Angeles City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky speaks during a July 2024 rally outside L.A. City Hall by the Tourism Workers Rising coalition, which is demanding wage increases for tourism workers ahead of the 2028 Olympics in L.A. (Photo by Hans Gutknecht, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)



By **TERESA LIU** | tliu@scng.com

UPDATED: April 29, 2025 at 11:31 AM PDT

A second special hearing by the Los Angeles City Council's Budget and Finance Committee on Monday afternoon brought emotional appeals and urgent warnings from city workers, advocates and residents over proposed budget cuts.

The five-member committee met to weigh in on Mayor Karen Bass' proposed fiscal year 2025–26 budget — a [\\$13.9 billion plan](#) that outlines spending on public safety, housing, homelessness and other city programs and services.

The meeting marked the second day of public comment following [the mayor's release of her proposed budget](#) last Monday, which calls for 1,647 layoffs and potential cuts to city services.

It came after days of public outcry, including an April 25 protest where hundreds of unionized city workers, animal advocates and residents rallied outside the Van Nuys City Hall [during the first day of public comment](#) on the mayor's proposed budget.

Similar demonstrations took place Monday, with hundreds of speakers—including union representatives from city planning, LAPD civilian workforce, street services, as well as Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates and animal welfare advocates—crowding the Los Angeles City Hall Council Chamber. Speakers warned of the wide-reaching impacts the proposed cuts could have on city operations.



Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass delivered her State of the City address on Monday, April 21 from City Hall, in the Chambers of the Los Angeles City Council. (Photo by Dean Musgrove, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)

An hour into the meeting, city staff said there were still people waiting outside City Hall for their turn to enter Council Chamber, as the room had reached capacity. Committee Chair Katy Yaroslavsky noted that no action would be taken Monday, as public comment was expected to continue until at least 8 pm.

Union representatives urged the committee to reconsider the proposed layoffs, warning of widespread service disruption.

“Balancing the budget on the backs of essential workers and services means these cuts equal threats to public safety, and will increase future liabilities,” said Jenita Igwealor, SEIU Local 721’s regional director.

Lisa Palombi, president of the Librarians’ Guild AFSCME Local 2626, said that the reduction in workforce would cut vital services.

“Cuts in jobs means cut in services,” she said. “The workforce impact will be substantial and will be easily visible. The proposed budget will eliminate a total of 2,721 jobs, including from the current workforce and vacancies that are funded but will remain unfilled, translating into services that will not be provided to our communities in the coming year.”

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates similarly urged the committee to reconsider key funding decisions.

Kay Hartman, a budget advocate, said the proposed cuts would be devastating for the city’s 99 Neighborhood Councils already struggling with limited resources. Although the city once allocated \$50,000 per Neighborhood Council, budgets were reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic and never fully restored, she noted.

“It would be a shame to cripple this exercise in local democracy that is now hanging on by a thread,” she said.

Budget Advocate Jack Humphreville said the advocates have recommended a series of financial reforms to avoid another fiscal crisis. Among them: develop a four-year general fund outlook that realistically reflects rising labor costs; conduct open and transparent labor negotiations — possibly with outside negotiators — and place a measure on the ballot that would prohibit the city from entering into new labor agreements that create future deficits.

Lionel Mares, a budget advocate speaking in his capacity as a resident, said in an interview before the meeting that across-the-board budget cuts could lead to significant service reductions, affecting departments like sanitation, recreation and parks, general services, and personnel.

“So in the future, if the economy starts to be healthy again, then the personnel department will be understaffed ... it will slow things down in terms of hiring,” Mares said.

Animal welfare advocates focused Monday on the impact of proposed budget cuts to the Los Angeles Animal Services Department, which they warned could force the closure of three of the city’s six animal shelters: Harbor, West Los Angeles, and West Valley.

The cuts would eliminate roughly one-third of the department’s staff positions and strain shelters already operating over capacity.



“These animals, they don’t have a voice. We are their voice,” said Suzanne Gutierrez, a Van Nuys resident and longtime animal advocate. “We are the voice for the voiceless and we have to stand up for them.”

The mayor’s proposed budget includes about \$4.8 million in cuts to Animal Services. But the mayor’s spokesperson Zach Seidl said \$5 million has been set aside in the city’s unappropriated balance for the department.

“This proposed budget includes \$5 million in additional funding specifically for the Department of Animal Services,” he said. “If the council approves this part of Mayor Bass’s budget, no shelters would close. We understand the need to continue operating all six city shelters and will work with the City Council to assure that the priority for animal care and well-being is reflected in the final city budget.”

Animal Services officials said they also recommend applying an additional \$1.48 million in one-time salary funding to maintain current staffing and services.

Originally Published: April 28, 2025 at 7:23 PM PDT

 The Trust Project 

2025 > April > 28

Communication from Public

Name: Peter Dokko

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly oppose Mayor Karen Bass's proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. Reducing funding for our city's animal shelters would have devastating consequences for both animals and our communities. Our shelters are already under immense strain—understaffed, overcrowded, and struggling to provide basic care for the thousands of homeless, abandoned, and injured animals that rely on them. Cutting their budget will only worsen this crisis, leading to increased neglect, suffering, and potentially higher euthanasia rates. It is unacceptable for a city as large and resourceful as Los Angeles to turn its back on its most vulnerable creatures. These shelters also serve the public—supporting pet owners, reducing stray animal populations, and protecting public health and safety. Budget cuts would limit essential services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and emergency response. The impact will be felt citywide. I urge you to reject any proposal that cuts funding to animal services. Instead, we should be investing in solutions that address this crisis humanely and effectively. Our city must do better—for the animals, and for the people who care about them.

Communication from Public

Name: Kate Kohorst

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 11:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Bass, I am writing to express my profound concern and strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts that would result in the closure of three of Los Angeles's six animal shelters: the Harbor, West Los Angeles, and West Valley facilities. This decision stands in stark contradiction to your previously stated commitment to animal welfare and the humane treatment of animals in our city. In June 2023, you appointed Staycee Dains as General Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services, emphasizing the importance of compassionate and responsible care for all animals across the city. You stated: "I know there is much work to be done to ensure that all animals are cared for compassionately and responsibly across the City." This appointment signaled a commitment to improving the conditions and operations of our animal shelters. However, the current proposal to close half of these facilities undermines that commitment and threatens the welfare of countless animals. The proposed budget cuts would not only eliminate 62 staff positions but also force the remaining shelters to operate beyond capacity. Interim General Manager Annette Ramirez has warned that such closures would lead to a dramatic increase in euthanasia rates due to overcrowding: "The number of euthanasia will increase dramatically." Furthermore, the West Valley shelter is the only facility equipped to accommodate farm animals. Its closure would leave no refuge for these animals, especially during emergencies like wildfires, which are unfortunately common in our region. The community's response has been one of alarm and activism. Over 100 residents recently protested the proposed cuts, emphasizing the essential services these shelters provide. Animal rights advocate Rebecca Corry highlighted the inconsistency in reducing staff when the need for animal care is increasing: "We should be adding 200 positions." Mayor Bass, the decision to close these shelters not only contradicts your earlier stance on animal welfare but also poses a significant risk to public health and safety. Overcrowded shelters can lead to the spread of diseases, and increased euthanasia rates are unacceptable in a city that prides itself on progressive values and compassion. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and explore alternative solutions to address the city's budgetary challenges without compromising the welfare of our animals. Potential measures could include: • Implementing

stronger enforcement of pet licensing to increase revenue. • Partnering with nonprofit organizations to share resources and responsibilities. • Seeking community volunteers to support shelter operations. The animals of Los Angeles depend on our collective commitment to their care and protection. Let us uphold the values of compassion and responsibility that you have previously championed. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Sincerely, Kate Kohorst

Communication from Public

Name: Taylor Burke

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:33 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm deeply outraged and disappointed by the proposal to eliminate the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO). At a time when we should be doubling down on climate action and resilience planning, dismantling the very office dedicated to this work is short-sighted and dangerous. It's especially alarming that the city is willing to walk away from \$750,000 in secured grant funding to shut CEMO down. This funding could directly support our preparedness in the face of intensifying climate disasters like the recent LA wildfires. We need CEMO now more than ever to help us respond to extreme weather events and long-term climate threats. Los Angeles is home to more urban oil wells than any other U.S. city, many of which are leaking toxic chemicals that threaten our communities' health. Gutting the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas and eliminating staff who monitor pollution and lead efforts to phase out urban drilling puts Angelenos at serious risk. We cannot afford to cut CEMO from the city budget. Our safety, health, and future depend on it.

Communication from Public

Name: Laurie MacDonald

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:37 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose the proposed cuts to LA Animal Services. They are already underfunded and understaffed. The consequences of cuts will far outweigh the small contribution made to the deficit. More stray animals on the street is not only morally reprehensible, but it is a public safety issue. The shelters have some important programs like spay and neuter vouchers which are tackling pet overpopulation in LA.

Communication from Public

Name: Junko

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:15 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: About cutting budget of city's animal welfare. This is very worrying some to letting go of many animal shelter employees they are working tirelessly to help animals taking cared. I understand city has to cut budget somewhere but this is just a huge problem since it is ALREADY a big mess in shelter system. I request pay cuts for high positions specially mayor and following other council member's since they are getting paid a lot of our tax money. Failing for city's finance budget in the past are these high payed people's fault. Taxpayers, nor animals shouldn't pay for this cost. If the city already had crisis shouldn't have Olympic to host that cost a lot of money and clearly mayor trying to fix street, homeless issues etc to make impression pretty before focusing core issues. This need to be changed.

Communication from Public

Name: Julia Sanford

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:22 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut funding for animal shelters in L.A. We are already failing to protect our animals and cuts would make an already bad situation much worse. Please do not cause more harm to the animals by making these cuts.

Communication from Public

Name: Lindsay Briaitco

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:24 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: As a concerned resident of Los Angeles, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts for Los Angeles Animal Services in the 2025-2026 city budget. Reducing funding to this essential department will have devastating consequences for the animals in our city's care, the staff and volunteers who support them, and the overall health and safety of our communities. LA Animal Services is already operating under significant strain, with overcrowded shelters, staffing shortages, and limited resources. Further budget cuts will only worsen these conditions, leading to decreased animal welfare, increased euthanasia rates, and an overwhelmed shelter system unable to adequately serve the public. Our city's homeless pet population is a public health and public safety issue — and cutting resources to address it is shortsighted and dangerous. Instead of reducing funding, the City should prioritize investment in LA Animal Services to ensure humane care for animals, provide support for adoption and spay/neuter programs, and maintain critical services that protect both animals and residents. Animal Services is not an optional or peripheral service — it is a core function of a compassionate and responsible city government. I urge you to reconsider these harmful budget cuts and work toward a budget that reflects our city's values of care, safety, and community responsibility. Los Angeles can and should do better for its animals and the people who care for them. Thank you for your consideration

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:31 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Committee Members, I implore you NOT to close any Los Angeles County Animal Shelters. Animals have no voice of their own and must rely on humans to be their advocates. "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. I hold that the more helpless a creature the more entitled it is to protection by man from the cruelty of humankind." Mahatma Gandhi We must do better as humans. Thank you for NOT closing any LA County animal shelters!

Communication from Public

Name: Richard Shelton

Date Submitted: 04/29/2025 06:52 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I oppose including LA Animal Services in any budget or personnel cuts. The shelters are already overwhelmed and provide a vital public safety service to our communities. Providing low cost spay/neuter, finding homes for stray and abandoned animals, intervening in cruelty cases is without question a key service for our communities. Please visit a shelter and observe the work they are doing on a critical issue.