

Communication from Public

Name: Will Wright

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 01:22 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, On behalf of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA|LA), representing over 4,500 architects, designers, emerging professionals, and students, we are writing to advocate for a significant increase in General Fund resources allocated to the Los Angeles City Planning Department (LACP) in Mayor Bass' 2025-2026 Proposed Budget. We strongly advise you against reducing LACP's budget as currently proposed, for that will just further harm the City's financial health and dampen economic development opportunities region-wide. Rather than view this as budgetary pressure, we urge you to recognize that robust funding for LACP is a crucial investment in the future of Los Angeles. LACP's diverse functions are indispensable in shaping our city's growth, fostering economic vitality, increasing housing abundance, and enhancing the overall quality of life for all Angelenos. Specifically, we believe increased funding will empower LACP to more effectively: Implement the New Zoning Code: This forward-thinking code, with its adaptability to climate change and user-friendly online platform, promises a more transparent and predictable planning framework. Adequate resources are essential for its timely and comprehensive citywide rollout, ensuring its benefits reach all communities. Maximize the Impact of the Citywide Housing Incentive Program (CHIP): CHIP's density bonuses are vital tools for stimulating housing production and promoting fair housing. Increased funding will allow LACP to optimize CHIP's implementation and ensure its effectiveness in creating much-needed housing across all neighborhoods. Enhance Urban Design through the Urban Design Studio: The Studio's design review sessions are crucial for fostering higher quality urban development, leading to smarter, more functional, and aesthetically pleasing urban design that enhances our collective well-being and creates equitable public spaces. Consistent and expanded funding will ensure its continued success. Strategically Update Community Plans: Modernized Community Plans, informed by data and community input, are essential for unlocking increased housing capacity in appropriate areas, streamlining development, and providing clear guidance for sustainable and equitable growth. Dedicated resources are needed to accelerate and expand this critical work. Streamline the

Permitting Process: Adequate staffing and resources are vital for creating a more efficient permitting system. This will facilitate more by-right development, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and accelerate the creation of housing and economic opportunities, ultimately benefiting both residents and developers. The return on this investment in LACP will be significant, leading to:

Accelerated Economic Development: Efficient planning, clear zoning, and proactive community development will attract responsible private investment and stimulate job creation.

Substantial Increase in Housing Capacity: Effective implementation of the new Zoning Code and CHIP, coupled with updated Community Plans, will be central to addressing our housing crisis and fostering more inclusive communities.

Equitable Placemaking and Well-being: The expertise of the Urban Design Studio and thoughtful community planning will contribute to vibrant, accessible, and high-quality public spaces that enhance the well-being of all Angelenos.

Smarter and More Beautiful Urban Design: LACP's guidance, informed by the new Zoning Code and the Urban Design Studio, will ensure that new development contributes positively to the city's aesthetic and functional fabric. Therefore, we strongly urge you to restore the proposed budget cuts and allocate a significant increase in General Fund resources to the Los Angeles City Planning Department. This investment is not merely an expenditure; it is a strategic imperative for building a more livable, equitable, and resilient Los Angeles for all its residents. We are available to discuss these critical issues further and offer our expertise. Please contact Will Wright – Director, Government & Public Affairs, at will@aialosangeles.org or at (213) 639-0764 for deeper coordination. Truly yours, Chava Danielson, AIA 2025 President, AIA Los Angeles

May 1, 2028

The Honorable City Council
The City of Los Angeles
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attn: Budget & Finance Committee

[Katy Yaroslavsky](#), Council Member - Council District 5 (Committee Chair)

[Bob Blumenfield](#), Council Member - Council District 3

[Heather Hutt](#), Council Member - Council District 10

[Tim McOsker](#), Council Member - Council District 15

[Eunisses Hernandez](#), Council Member - Council District 1

Subject: AIA Los Angeles Strongly Supports Increased General Fund Investment in Los Angeles City Planning for a More Livable, Equitable, and Resilient City – [COUNCIL FILE 25-0600](#)

Dear Honorable City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIAILA), representing over 4,500 architects, designers, emerging professionals, and students, we are writing to advocate for a significant increase in General Fund resources allocated to the Los Angeles City Planning Department (LACP) in Mayor Bass' 2025-2026 Proposed Budget. **We strongly advise you against reducing LACP's budget as currently proposed, for that will just further harm the City's financial health and dampen economic development opportunities region-wide.**

Rather than view this as budgetary pressure, we urge you to recognize that robust funding for LACP is a crucial investment in the future of Los Angeles. LACP's diverse functions are indispensable in shaping our city's growth, fostering economic vitality, increasing housing abundance, and enhancing the overall quality of life for all Angelenos.

Specifically, we believe increased funding will empower LACP to more effectively:

- **Implement the New Zoning Code:** This forward-thinking code, with its adaptability to climate change and user-friendly online platform, promises a more transparent and predictable planning framework. Adequate resources are essential for its timely and comprehensive citywide rollout, ensuring its benefits reach all communities.
- **Maximize the Impact of the Citywide Housing Incentive Program (CHIP):** CHIP's density bonuses are vital tools for stimulating housing production and promoting fair housing. Increased funding will allow LACP to optimize CHIP's implementation and ensure its effectiveness in creating much-needed housing across all neighborhoods.
- **Enhance Urban Design through the Urban Design Studio:** The Studio's design review sessions are crucial for fostering higher quality urban development, leading to smarter, more functional, and

aesthetically pleasing urban design that enhances our collective well-being and creates equitable public spaces. Consistent and expanded funding will ensure its continued success.

- **Strategically Update Community Plans:** Modernized Community Plans, informed by data and community input, are essential for unlocking increased housing capacity in appropriate areas, streamlining development, and providing clear guidance for sustainable and equitable growth. Dedicated resources are needed to accelerate and expand this critical work.
- **Streamline the Permitting Process:** Adequate staffing and resources are vital for creating a more efficient permitting system. This will facilitate more by-right development, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and accelerate the creation of housing and economic opportunities, ultimately benefiting both residents and developers.

The return on this investment in LACP will be significant, leading to:

- **Accelerated Economic Development:** Efficient planning, clear zoning, and proactive community development will attract responsible private investment and stimulate job creation.
- **Substantial Increase in Housing Capacity:** Effective implementation of the new Zoning Code and CHIP, coupled with updated Community Plans, will be central to addressing our housing crisis and fostering more inclusive communities.
- **Equitable Placemaking and Well-being:** The expertise of the Urban Design Studio and thoughtful community planning will contribute to vibrant, accessible, and high-quality public spaces that enhance the well-being of all Angelenos.
- **Smarter and More Beautiful Urban Design:** LACP's guidance, informed by the new Zoning Code and the Urban Design Studio, will ensure that new development contributes positively to the city's aesthetic and functional fabric.

Therefore, we strongly urge you to restore the proposed budget cuts and allocate a significant increase in General Fund resources to the Los Angeles City Planning Department. This investment is not merely an expenditure; it is a strategic imperative for building a more livable, equitable, and resilient Los Angeles for all its residents. We are available to discuss these critical issues further and offer our expertise.

Please contact Will Wright – Director, Government & Public Affairs, at will@aialosangeles.org or at (213) 639-0764 for deeper coordination.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chava Danielson", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Chava Danielson, AIA
2025 President, AIA Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Megan

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 01:34 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to STRONGLY OPPOSE the possible budget cuts to animal services and the closing of any of our shelters. This will do absolutely nothing to improve our city and instead lead only to more animal abuse and neglect and dumping. Our streets are already covered in unhoused mentally ill, drug addicts, and those struggling to afford the insane cost of living here. Do we really need to add more homeless animals to that? This a horrible and cruel proposal. I'm really beginning to regret my vote for Mayor Bass. It won't be happening again if this passes.

Communication from Public

Name: Citizen of Los Angeles

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 01:44 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi Mayor and Council members. I would like to bring to your attention that LASAN CARE/CARE+ program played a crutial role in helping the recovery in the Palisades fires. You can see attached a picture of our teams working from LA Mayors Instagram post today on 5.01.2025. These teams also help throughout the city for emergency response clearing hazmat from the public right of way. To cut our workforce teams in half will make the response to future emergencies dire.



mayorofla



1,000+ LOTS CLEARED AT RECORD PACE REBUILDING CONTINUES

❤️ 86 💬 40 📍 1



mayorofla Crews have now successfully cleared debris from more than 1,000 homes in the Palisades, marking a significant milestone in the community's recovery from the devastating January fires.

This large-scale cleanup effort paves the way for rebuilding

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Davis

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 01:54 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not eliminate Office of Historic Resources staff positions through the proposed budget cuts as the Office is already understaffed given its workload. LA's historic neighborhoods are draws for residents and visitors alike. I live in one, Hollywoodland, and we are already struggling to preserve its unique character while asking the City for help in upgrading its deteriorated infrastructure.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 02:02 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Animals need our help, keep funding Los Angeles city animal shelters. WE are their voice!!

Communication from Public

Name: Elyla Gamez

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 02:17 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study — and Protect GBI. My name is Elyla Gamez and I'm a youth of Council District 9 / representative of UPAS United Parents and Students. The LA City Council has already approved funding for the public bank feasibility study. I urge the Council to immediately fund the next phase. This plan will show how LA can use its own balance sheet to save money, cut borrowing costs, and reinvest in priorities like affordable housing, green energy, small businesses, and community development. At the same time, we urge the Council to preserve and expand funding for Guaranteed Basic Income programs. GBI is a proven strategy to stabilize families, reduce poverty, and lower the long-term demand on public services — ultimately saving the city money. Both the public bank and GBI are fiscally responsible solutions that move us away from costly band-aids and toward lasting change. As LA faces a \$1 billion deficit, we need bold, community-centered investments that protect our future and serve Angelenos directly.

Communication from Public

Name: Larry Fondation
Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 02:35 PM
Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study — and Protect GBI. My name is Larry Fondation, and I'm an LA resident in CD4 and Executive Director of United Parents & Students (UPAS). The LA City Council has already approved funding for the public bank feasibility study. I urge the Council to immediately fund the next phase. This plan will show how LA can use its own balance sheet to save money, cut borrowing costs, and reinvest in priorities like affordable housing, green energy, small businesses, and community development. At the same time, we strongly urge the Council to preserve and expand funding for Guaranteed Basic Income programs. GBI is a proven strategy to stabilize families, reduce poverty, and lower the long-term demand on public services — ultimately saving the city money. Both the public bank and GBI are fiscally responsible solutions that move us away from costly band-aids and toward lasting change. As LA faces a \$1 billion deficit, we need bold, community-centered investments that protect our future and serve Angelenos directly.

deep poverty—teetering on the edge of losing housing, struggling to pay bills, and having difficulty meeting their most basic needs in the midst of the public health and economic crisis brought on by the pandemic.

Despite perilous financial circumstances that had ripple effects on the health and well-being of participants and their families, BIG:LEAP participants experienced overwhelmingly positive outcomes with the infusion of unconditional cash. This landmark study, the largest to date that has concluded since the negative income tax experiments of the 1960s–1980s, demonstrated that GI participants were more likely to save for the future, improve their financial well-being, have sufficient food, reduce their housing cost burdens, reduce stress, maintain their physical health, leave abusive relationships and reduce experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV), support their children in after-school and enrichment activities, feel more secure and build community in their neighborhoods, enjoy a more harmonious home environment, feel that they matter in their community and to others, and take action toward their goals—in a single year and in the most unaffordable city in the country.

KEY FINDINGS - AT A GLANCE

- » Financial Well-Being: The treatment group demonstrated a significantly increased ability to cover a \$400 emergency compared to the control group 6 months into BIG:LEAP
- » Food Security: The treatment group demonstrated a significant decrease in food insecurity and an increase in health-promoting behaviors. After 6 months, nearly 57% of the control group reported an inability to eat preferred foods, compared to about 43% of the treatment group.
- » Safety and Decision-Making: The treatment group reported reduced severity and frequency of IPV over the duration of BIG:LEAP. Narrative data captured how recipients used GI to prevent and exit IPV and homelessness. Recipients moved from establishing immediate safety in the first six months, to establishing proximate safety in months 6-9 and then establishing future safety in months, demonstrating active planning throughout the full course of the tight 12-month time frame.
- » Parenting: Treatment group parents were significantly more likely than control group parents to maintain their children's extracurricular activities like sports and after-school lessons across the duration of the pilot.
- » Community: Treatment group members were significantly more likely to report reduced fear of neighborhood violence and more positive interactions with neighbors across the duration of the pilot.
- » Employment: GI recipients were significantly more likely to secure full-time employment than to remain unemployed not looking for work, compared to control participants across the duration of the pilot.

Communication from Public

Name: Roberto Guzman

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 02:42 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Council, As you consider critical decisions in this year's budget process, we strongly urge you to protect and expand funding for Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) programs in Los Angeles. GBI is not only a moral investment — it's a smart fiscal strategy. Direct cash support helps stabilize low-income households, reduces reliance on crisis services, and improves outcomes across health, housing, education, and employment. In the long term, GBI reduces public expenditures by preventing deeper systemic costs. As the city faces a \$1 billion deficit, we know difficult choices must be made. But cutting programs that save money in the long run is short-sighted. GBI has already shown impact here in LA and in cities across the country. It's a proven, people-first solution that builds resilience from the ground up. We urge you to continue LA's leadership by protecting and expanding GBI as a core part of the city's commitment to economic justice and long-term recovery. Thank you for your service and consideration, Roberto Guzman United Parents and Students 213-800-2252

Communication from Public

Name: Vincent
Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 03:04 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Save the shelters!

Communication from Public

Name: Annie Van Alstyne

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 03:40 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The proposed allocation for Los Angeles Animal Services falls gravely short of meeting the needs of our city's already overstretched animal shelters. Interim General Manager Annette Ramirez has made it clear: without significant increases in funding, three animal shelters may be forced to close — a move that would put the lives of both dogs and cats at even greater risk. Currently, LAAS shelters are operating at 155% capacity and if this budget is passed without amendments, the result will be catastrophic for both dogs and cats. Thank you for your reconsideration of this matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Aileen

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 03:46 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: RAP Licensed Preschool and Childcare is very needed in the community. As it supports the small children that are not ready yet for elementary school and their families. Please continue to budget for these services, if a fee for service is needed at reasonable amount to continue this service, please do so.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 04:16 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please RESTORE the 5 filled positions in a revised budget. LA needs protection of OHR. I don't want to see our historic resources gone and those positions are needed! Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 04:25 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles animal shelters should not be defunded by Mayor Karen Bass because they provide essential care and protection for thousands of homeless and abused animals. Defunding shelters would lead to overcrowding, increased euthanasia rates, and more stray animals on the streets, endangering public safety. These shelters also offer vital services like adoptions, spay/neuter programs, and community education, all of which contribute to a more humane and responsible city.

Communication from Public

Name: Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 04:29 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Attached is a letter from the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) opposing funding cuts to Animal Services in the 2025-26 budget. Thank you, Christina Spitz, WRAC Vice-Chair



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

May 1, 2025

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, City Budget & Finance Committee (BFC)
Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Vice-Chair, BFC
Hon. Heather Hutt, CD 10, Member, BFC
Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President, La City Council
Hon. Traci Park, CD 11
Hon. Nithya Raman, CD 4

Via email to all addressees and submission to the City Clerk filing portal in CF 25-0600

**Re: OPPOSE any proposal to cut animal shelters and/or funding reductions or layoffs for
Animal Services in the proposed City Budget for fiscal year 2025-26 – CF 25-0600**

As you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles.

WRAC members have long been concerned about the deplorable conditions and mistreatment of animals at City animal shelters. See our letter of December 7, 2022:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WRAC-letter-re-Animal-Shelter-Conditions.pdf>

In 2024, we asked for an immediate plan for action to improve conditions and more funding for staff at shelters. See our letter of March 5, 2024:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WRAC-Letter-Animal-Shelters2.pdf>

WRAC accordingly strongly opposes the cutting of animal shelters (including the West LA Shelter and the West Valley Shelter) or other funding reductions or layoffs for Animal Services in the proposed City budget for fiscal year 2025-26, and further urges the BFC to disapprove any such proposed budget cuts or layoffs for Animal Services.

At the same time, we understand from reporting today that the Mayor has now “recommended that \$5 million in what's called the ‘unappropriated balance’ be put back into the Animal Services budget, which would restore funding so no shelters would close” (per reporting on NBC4LA News). WRAC respectfully requests that the BFC approve the recommendation to restore \$5 million in funding to the Animal Services budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg & Christina Spitz

Robin Greenberg, Chair
Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
www.westsidecouncils.com

Communication from Public

Name: STAND-LA Coalition

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 04:54 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The STAND-LA Coalition (Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling - Los Angeles) is writing to urge the Committee to consider amendments to the Mayor's proposed budget to preserve critical projects related to protecting frontline communities from the harms of oil and gas drilling. The STAND-LA Coalition is a racial and environmental justice coalition of community groups working for and with Angelenos on the front lines of urban oil extraction. STAND-LA Coalition is comprised of seven member organizations: Communities for a Better Environment (Co-Chair), Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles (Co-Chair), Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, Holman United Methodist Church, Redeemer Community Partnership, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, and Black Women for Wellness. Our organizations represent frontline communities in South Los Angeles and Wilmington who have fought for over a decade to halt the toxic extraction of oil in our neighborhoods. The Mayor's proposed budget would cut: Ongoing work on the remediation policy related to the cleanup and remediation of former oil sites. Completion, analysis, and application of the amortization studies which will be used to reduce the timeline of the phaseout of oil drilling in the City from the twenty years stated in the 2022 phaseout ordinance. Planned projects such as an air quality monitoring program of oil sites and a public transparency dashboard for oil and gas company compliance. Ongoing enforcement of pipeline franchise agreements which generate \$60 million in annual revenue for the City. Remediation Policy STAND-LA has been advocating for a comprehensive citywide cleanup and remediation policy for many years. This policy is a priority for the coalition and for the frontline residents we work alongside because the cleanup of oil sites is a critical step in achieving our vision of healthy and thriving communities free from contamination and pollution. Without continued work on this policy, oil operators will be able to shirk their responsibility of paying for the thorough cleanup and remediation of their sites. Frontline communities are already overburdened with contaminated sites in their neighborhoods. This policy is essential in ensuring the needed transition away from fossil fuel extraction occurs in a just, equitable, and community-centered manner. We

urge the Committee to safeguard funding and staff time for the continued development of this policy. Amortization Studies As part of the oil phaseout ordinance, the ordinance instructed the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety (OPNGAS) to hire an expert to conduct amortization studies to determine when oil companies have recouped their investments in their oil sites. In Spring 2022, OPNGAS hired three firms to conduct amortization studies which the City would then use to determine when oil sites have been amortized and can be phased out, as opposed to the twenty year phase out period included in the ordinance. The process to complete the amortization studies has taken the City approximately 2.5 years after a series of delays. The first public meeting regarding the study results is set for May 14th. The proposed budget cuts would further prolong the release of the results of the studies and needed community engagement to disseminate the results of the studies in an accessible manner. Furthermore, with the overturning of the phaseout ordinance last September in court, the timeline for the phaseout of sites will be reset to when the ordinance is readopted. This loss of critical time towards the phaseout forces frontline communities to endure more time living next to actively polluting oil drilling sites. Resources are needed to continue the work of releasing the studies and interpreting the results to create a shorter timeline for the phaseout of oil sites. As the City finalizes their 2025-2026 budget, we urge you to preserve critical projects related to protecting frontline communities from the harms of oil and gas drilling, specifically the Remediation Policy and the Amortization Studies. Other ongoing or planned projects including the air monitoring program and the enforcement of the pipeline franchise agreements are also important. Given the overturning of the original oil phaseout ordinance, the multiple environmental and climate rollbacks from the federal government, and the recent destruction in LA from fires intensified by climate change, the City has an opportunity now to be a leader in uplifting environmental justice and ensuring frontline communities are protected and not left behind in this budget. Redirecting increased funds from LAPD to projects focused on social services and protecting public health is one way for the City to demonstrate its commitment to serving frontline communities. We look forward to your response and working with the Committee to protect public health and prioritize environmental justice.



COMMUNITIES
FOR A BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
established 1978

SCOPE STRATEGIC
COMMUNITY
AGENDA



May 1, 2025

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

The Honorable Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair
And Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee

Dear Chair Yaroslavsky and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

The STAND-LA Coalition (Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling - Los Angeles) is writing to urge the Committee to **consider amendments to the Mayor's proposed budget to preserve critical projects related to protecting frontline communities from the harms of oil and gas drilling.**

The STAND-LA Coalition is a racial and environmental justice coalition of community groups working for and with Angelenos on the front lines of urban oil extraction. STAND-LA Coalition is comprised of seven member organizations: Communities for a Better Environment (Co-Chair), Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles (Co-Chair), Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, Holman United Methodist Church, Redeemer Community Partnership, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, and Black Women for Wellness. Our organizations represent frontline communities in South Los Angeles and Wilmington who have fought for over a decade to halt the toxic extraction of oil in our neighborhoods.

The Mayor's proposed budget would cut:

- Ongoing work on the remediation policy related to the cleanup and remediation of former oil sites.

- Completion, analysis, and application of the amortization studies which will be used to reduce the timeline of the phaseout of oil drilling in the City from the twenty years stated in the 2022 phaseout ordinance.
- Planned projects such as an air quality monitoring program of oil sites and a public transparency dashboard for oil and gas company compliance.
- Ongoing enforcement of pipeline franchise agreements which generate **\$60 million** in annual revenue for the City.

Remediation Policy

STAND-LA has been advocating for a comprehensive citywide cleanup and remediation policy for many years. The [original motion](#), passed in January 2022 stated:

“INSTRUCT the OPNGAS, in collaboration with the DCP and the Fire Department, to draft a new city policy to ensure proper plugging and abandonment of wells and comprehensive site remediation to be completed within 3-5 years of those sites ceasing active oil production, with the intention of ensuring oil companies bear the responsibility for abandonment and remediation. OPNGAS should identify which City Departments should play a role in oversight of site remediation and explore collaboration with the Los Angeles Regional Water Board, the California Geologic Energy Management Division, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health in this process.”

This policy is a priority for the coalition and for the frontline residents we work alongside because the cleanup of oil sites is a critical step in achieving our vision of healthy and thriving communities free from contamination and pollution. Without continued work on this policy, oil operators will be able to shirk their responsibility of paying for the thorough cleanup and remediation of their sites. Frontline communities are already overburdened with contaminated sites in their neighborhoods. This policy is essential in ensuring the needed transition away from fossil fuel extraction occurs in a just, equitable, and community-centered manner. We urge the Committee to safeguard funding and staff time for the continued development of this policy.

Amortization Studies

As part of the oil phaseout ordinance, the ordinance instructed the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety (OPNGAS) to hire an expert to conduct amortization studies to determine when oil companies have recouped their investments in their oil sites. In [Spring 2022](#), OPNGAS hired three firms to conduct amortization studies which the City would then use to determine when oil sites have been amortized and can be phased out, as opposed to the twenty year phase out period included in the ordinance.

The process to complete the amortization studies has taken the City approximately 2.5 years after a series of delays. The first public meeting regarding the study results is set for May 14th. The proposed budget cuts would further prolong the release of the results of the studies and needed community engagement to disseminate the results of the studies in an accessible manner. Furthermore, with the overturning of the phaseout ordinance last September in court, the timeline for the phaseout of sites will be reset to when the ordinance is readopted. This loss

of critical time towards the phaseout forces frontline communities to endure more time living next to actively polluting oil drilling sites. Resources are needed to continue the work of releasing the studies and interpreting the results to create a shorter timeline for the phaseout of oil sites.

As the City finalizes their 2025-2026 budget, we urge you to **preserve critical projects related to protecting frontline communities from the harms of oil and gas drilling**, specifically the Remediation Policy and the Amortization Studies. Other ongoing or planned projects including the air monitoring program and the enforcement of the pipeline franchise agreements are also important. Given the overturning of the original oil phaseout ordinance, the multiple environmental and climate rollbacks from the federal government, and the recent destruction in LA from fires intensified by climate change, the City has an opportunity now to be a leader in uplifting environmental justice and ensuring frontline communities are protected and not left behind in this budget. Redirecting increased funds from LAPD to projects focused on social services and protecting public health is one way for the City to demonstrate its commitment to serving frontline communities. We look forward to your response and working with the Committee to protect public health and prioritize environmental justice.

Sincerely,

Emma Silber, Co-Coordinator
STAND-LA Coalition

Alex Jasset, Director of Energy Justice
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles, Co-Chair of STAND-LA

Tianna Shaw-Wakeman, Environmental Justice Program Manager
Black Women for Wellness

Wendy Miranda, Policy Associate
Esperanza Community Housing

Richard Parks, President
Redeemer Community Partnership

Reverend Louis Chase, Minister of Community Outreach
Holman United Methodist Church

Roberto Cabrales, SoCal Program Co-Director
Communities for a Better Environment, Co-Chair of STAND-LA

Agustin Cabrera, Policy Director
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)

Communication from Public

Name: Christina Flores

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 05:10 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez Los Angeles City Hall 200 N Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 Dear Councilwoman Hernandez, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to follow up on your question regarding the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD) use of helicopters, which you raised during the Budget Committee meeting on April 30, 2025. To assist your review and support your oversight efforts, I am providing the following publicly available resources and documents related to the City Controller's audit of the LAPD's Air Support Division and the Department's official response: 1. LAPD's Response to the City Controller's Audit The LAPD addressed the audit during a public meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners. A video of this discussion is available here (starting at timestamp 1:48:49): <https://youtu.be/jXz24azVt3A?si=H1jhDZJla3IqMZGg&t=6529> 2. Board of Police Commissioners Agenda – February 27, 2024 See Regular Agenda Item 4B, which includes the Department's Report dated February 16, 2024, in response to the audit: <https://lapdonlinestrgeacc.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/lapdonlinemedia/BOPC-022724-Named-Agenda.pdf> 3. LAPD's Full Written Response (BPC #24-025) This document details the Department's responses to the audit's findings and recommendations: https://www.lapdpolicecom.lacity.org/022724/BPC_24-025.pdf 4. City Controller's Audit (December 2023) The audit conducted by the Office of the City Controller provides a performance and cost assessment of LAPD helicopter operations and is available here: <https://controller.lacity.gov/landings/lapd-helicopters> All linked materials are public records, accessible through the City Controller's and LAPD's official websites. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability in public safety and budgeting. Respectfully, Christina Flores

Communication from Public

Name: Yana Gracile

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 05:18 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Esteemed LA City Council Members, I am writing to you not only as a proud civil service employee of the City of Los Angeles for the past seven years, but as someone who has dedicated more than two decades to public service, including over 15 years as a contractor with Channel 35. For the last two years, I have served as the Principal Public Relations Representative for the Youth Development Department (YDD). I urge you in the strongest possible terms to vote against Mayor Bass' proposed layoffs. I am among the many employees whose positions are being eliminated. These cuts will have a devastating personal impact—causing severe financial hardship for me and my family. But even more alarming is the irreparable harm this will cause to the youth we serve. These layoffs will dismantle a vital department that has been instrumental in changing lives and creating opportunities for some of the most underserved youth in Los Angeles. There must be alternative solutions—whether furloughs, the implementation of a Separation Incentive Program (SIP), or a temporary pause on salary increases. Have these been seriously considered? Since joining YDD, I have put my heart and soul into fulfilling our mission. Under the guidance of our exceptional General Manager, Lisa Salazar, we have made significant progress in keeping youth engaged, educated, and on a path to success. YDD has empowered young people to pursue higher education and meaningful careers—many even joining the ranks of City employees. The recent Youth Summit drew participants from across the country who shared moving testimonials about the life-changing impact of YDD's programs. These results are not theoretical. They are real. They are measurable. And they matter. This department may be small, but its reach is vast and its importance is undeniable. In fact, recent commentary highlighted that YDD reduces crime in Los Angeles at a rate eight times more efficiently than traditional law enforcement. This is the kind of investment that truly strengthens communities. Eliminating these positions not only breaks trust with the young people who have come to depend on us, but also undermines the very progress this City has worked so hard to achieve. We are more than just a city department—we are a lifeline, a source of hope, and a testament to what committed public service can accomplish. Please do not allow this to be yet another example of the government turning its

back on the very people it claims to support. Stand with us. Stand with our youth. Vote NO on these layoffs. Respectfully, Yana Gracile Principal Public Relations Representative Youth Development Department

Communication from Public

Name: Dani Dirksen

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 06:03 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a City employee in the Department of City Planning as a Planning Assistant. I've been employed with the City for two years and this career has changed my quality of life for the better. On a personal note, I cannot afford to lose my job - this would be devastating and I would struggle to pay rent and everyday needs, and would no longer be able to build my savings. From a greater perspective, the cuts proposed to the City budget would be detrimental to residents especially and visitors. I am also a City resident and DTLA's quality of life (where I live) has been suffering since the pandemic begun. These cuts would make streets even more unsafe and dirtier, and lead to greater economic disparities, loss of livelihood, animal euthanasia, and an overall increased sense of despair, to name a few. I urge you to consider no layoffs - or as few as possible. It is not my nor my colleagues' fault that the City is facing economic downturn; my colleagues and I are not responsible for decades of funding mismanagement and misplaced funding priorities, including an overfunding of the LAPD especially in comparison to other City departments. There are alternatives to layoffs, including drawing from the LAPD, and possibly considering furloughs, that could save our jobs and allow us to keep providing for the City. The proposed cuts to City Planning will leave 25% of us without a job and this is simply unsustainable and unfair. We are in a housing crisis and we cannot plan without our planners, including myself.

Communication from Public

Name: Katelyn Levine

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 06:45 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, I just want to make sure that animal services is NOT getting cut. I am seeing word online that it will not be cut but I want to submit a comment that it absolutely should not be cut. Also, when I was at city hall on Tuesday trying to submit a comment in person, I met an older woman outside. She was standing in line for over an hour waiting to get in. She had a walker and it was hard for her to stand there for too long. She finally had to leave but she wanted to stay because she was upset over the cuts to the department of aging. She said services she relies on are at risk of being cut. She was so upset about it and I can't stop thinking about her. Elderly people are already at such risk and with the cost of living going up at such a high rate, their services can't afford to get cut. I also saw so many people from department of transportation there. What an important department to LA, a city where it's nearly impossible to walk anywhere! To cut their budget by so much is ridiculous. And I saw teenagers there upset that youth services were being cut. I am sure those kids rely on those services to help them in and out of school. They could be helping them stay out of trouble and get into college. They can't afford to be cut either. I was upset to see LAPD's budget go up yet again. LAPD always gets SO much money. Yet when I call them I am on hold for forever and I constantly see LAPD helicopters circling with no incidents reported. It costs almost \$3k an hour to fly a LAPD helicopter. Imagine how much that money could help other departments. How many spay and neuters that could stop puppies dropped off at the shelter, how many meals or rides it could give to elderly people in need. Also, while I agree the LAFD needs a bigger budget, it feels like she is giving SO much money to that department (and taking away from others) because she messed up during the fires. She wasn't here and it looked bad and now she is trying to save face. LAFD does need more money, but I don't think it should be at the cost of so many public services. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Linda Yudin

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 09:05 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Linda Yudin, a resident in District 4 since 1986. I am one of the co-founders and co-artistic directors of Viver Brasil, a performance arts organization that conducts programming for communities in our district. Over the last twelve years, we have shared our programming and worked in Districts 8 and 10. I am writing to support Mayor Bass's Inside Safe program wholeheartedly. I learned of this most important and necessary program when the Mayor spoke at a neighborhood meeting in 2024. Inside Safe has successfully cleared two encampments in the greater Hollywood and East Hollywood areas, one at the Gower Street exit and the other at the Bronson Avenue encampment. Mayor Bass adopted an almost insurmountable problem, and since day one, has tirelessly made this gigantic challenge her number one priority among other challenges that our city faces. She provides successful ways to house the unhouse with a strategy that not only provides a comfortable physical space but also effective social services to help maintain the unhoused. Inside Safe provides a win-win situation where all LA citizens are provided a path to safety, comfort, and dignity. We all become partners to Mayor Bass when we support Inside Safe. Inside Safe delivers practical strategies for the unhoused and continues to develop communities that thrive in our many neighborhoods. This is why I am asking the City Council to fund Inside Safe fully.

Communication from Public

Name: Special Service for Groups, Inc
Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 09:55 AM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Special Service for Groups, Inc. is submitting the attached letter to oppose the Mayor's proposed budget cut to the Department of Aging.



Herbert K. Hatanaka, DSW

Executive Director

April 30, 2025

City of Los Angeles Budget and Finance Committee
Council Member Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Council Member Bob Blumenfield
Council Member Heather Hutt
Council Member Tim McOsker
Council Member Eunisses Hernandez
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

ATTN: Mandy Morales, Legislative Assistant
Office of the City Clerk

RE: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

Dear Councilmembers Yaroslavsky, Blumenfield, Hutt, McOsker, and Hernandez,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging's (LADOA) service providers, we are writing to express our deep concerns regarding the Mayor's recent announcement of the proposed changes to the Department of Aging in the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 City Budget. These changes come at a time when federal funding for aging programs are under attack and facing significant reductions in funding, leadership, and oversight, including the recent elimination of the Administration on Community Living (ACL) – further compounding the potential negative impact on the City's older adult population.

By the year 2030, the population of Los Angeles residents age 60+ is projected to make up 24% of the City's total population, representing over one million individuals. This growth in the aging population has long been anticipated, and yet Mayor Karen Bass' proposed budget for FY 2025-26 seeks to strip older adults of leadership and funding for services in eliminating LADOA and condensing services under the Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD). This population shift will have significant impacts on health and wellness, nutrition, affordable housing, transportation and mobility, social interaction, civic engagement, and employment. Yet, this restructuring communicates the lack of importance the City has assigned to older adults their caregivers and their requisite services.

We empathize with the tall order you have been given to put forth a budget that is in the best interest of all Angelenos. However, **we strongly urge you to consider that the \$760,930 in proposed savings by cutting leadership positions and funding for services will show up in excess in costs accumulated by other departments, including emergency**

departments, hospitals, nursing facilities, and fire departments if funding is not properly delegated.

In 2016, Los Angeles joined the global network of age-friendly cities, aiming to promote healthy aging and a good quality of life for seniors. Proposed changes to the City Department of Aging threaten to undo this commitment and progress.

Leadership is paramount to the City's ability to navigate this seismic shift. In order for a quarter of our city's population to age safely in their communities, we need a **dedicated standalone department** that understands the unique needs of older adults and has devoted resources to address them. As residents age, healthcare spending increases exponentially with 70% of older adults managing two or more chronic conditions. Since 1983 the programs and services directed by LADOA have provided access to case management, meals, transportation, health education, socialization, legal services, ombudsman services (advocacy/complaint investigation in skilled nursing and assisted living), and elder abuse prevention, through a network of providers. We represent that network, and our **older adults need a single, visible point of access to our programs and services.** Aptly put by your own City Controller Kenneth Mejia, "The value and impact of the City's efforts to make Los Angeles a more age-friendly City is tied to its ability to engage older adults and inform them about the array of programs and services that are available. The City did not have a comprehensive or centralized inventory of these City-sponsored programs and services; potential program participants would need to navigate a maze of multiple websites, telephone numbers, and brochures to identify these resources."

Impact of Aging Services in City of Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles' aging service providers include 19 community-based organizations contracted to provide case management, meals, transportation, disease prevention and health promotion programming socialization, legal services, ombudsman services, and elder abuse prevention, across 15 Aging Service Areas (ASAs). In the last full fiscal year (2023-24), nearly 1.5 million meals were provided to low-income older adults, nearly 10,000 older adults received Case Management and information referral services, 85,000 transportation rides were given so older adults can access medical appointments, and over 50,000 Senior Center activities and services were provided to Senior Centers throughout the City. In addition, city providers under the leadership of the Department of Aging are the providers and advocates for unpaid family caregivers, providing over 3,500 hours of direct caregiver respite, training, and case management support to caregivers throughout the city.

Last year the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program investigated 5,039 cases including abuse and neglect and conducted 3,390 unannounced monitoring visits to skilled nursing and assisted living facilities in the city, providing much needed advocacy services to this underserved population. We have accomplished all of this with stagnant funding. As Older Americans Act funds have not kept pace with the growth rate of the older adult population, inflation, and increased demands for services, City General Funds have, to date, provided a

significant supplement. Reducing these funds will have a direct impact on our ability to serve a vulnerable, growing population in Los Angeles.

Without sufficient funding for these programs and services, the City of Los Angeles faces increased homelessness and food insecurity among older adults, compounded health issues, and heightened social isolation and loneliness. These factors lead to more emergency room visits, higher hospitalization rates, and added strain on the City's other resources including fire departments and shelters. Currently, older adults are the fastest-growing homeless population in Los Angeles – including individuals who have been homeless for a long time and are aging, and those who are experiencing homelessness for the first time after age 50 due to increased rents affecting individuals on fixed incomes. Additionally, one in four older adults fall each year, requiring lift assists from local fire departments while their efforts are also needed to fight fires.

Consider this – the average cost of a fall-related hospitalization in Los Angeles is over \$60,000. The \$760,930 in savings under the Mayor's proposed budget is equivalent to only **TWELVE** hospitalizations. Reducing funding for a department dedicated to programs and services that have proven to **prevent hospitalizations**, promote good health outcomes, such as decreasing falls among older adults, may result in increased costs in the healthcare system. We strongly urge the City to be a part of the solution, not the problem.

We have mobilized a coordinated effort to ensure that the voices of aging service providers, seniors, and advocates are heard loud and clear during the upcoming budget hearings. We look forward to working collaboratively with City leadership to find a solution that protects our seniors and ensures that Los Angeles remains an age-friendly city where residents of all ages can thrive.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herb Hatanaka', written in a cursive style.

Herbert Hatanaka, DSW

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 09:59 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do NOT close our shelters and do not cut their budgets. You need to do the work to figure out how to help these poor defenseless animals. Your constituents are fostering, adopting, donating, doing all they can do to help and now you need to step up and do the work to figure this out. It's your job. Please do not turn your back on these animals in need. You are responsible for what happens to them.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 10:00 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Los Angeles should be increasing its commitment to the community, not cutting it at an already dangerous time for immigrant workers. I ask that the City of Los Angeles renews the funding to Day Laborer Centers. Day labor centers provide preventative services to workers who otherwise wouldn't be reached - pop up health centers. A real sanctuary city supports all workers! Day laborers are on the frontlines during climate and political disasters like Covid and wildfires but haven't been recognized as an important part of the city. Mayor Bass, not funding day labor centers makes workers' contributions to the economy of Los Angeles invisible. -----

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 10:58 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The budget cuts proposed to the LA animal shelter system can not happen as proposed- there will be endless death and unhealthy conditions as a result. We do not want to be the city that created such a dark and inhumane treatment of animals. It is a direct step to our treatment of all living creatures. I understand that we don't have an endless supply of money available to do all the things we want to do. What must be considered when the spending decisions are made is not just what is easy, but what we want to culture of our community to be. Do we want to be a city who focuses on the care of others? Helping those who can not help themselves? building a community of compassion? Or do we want to be a city that hit a number without any regard for the impact it would have on lives who have no voting voice? it is about more than numbers, it is about what we want this city/ county/ place to be for all those who reside here.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 11:00 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE SAVE OUR LA ANIMAL SHELTERS! It is our responsibility as humans to take care of animals and provide them with a safe and loving environment. Shutting down these shelters would leave countless animals without the care and attention they need. It is important to support and advocate for the continuation of animal shelters to ensure that these innocent creatures and fellow earthlings are not left to suffer and they shouldn't suffer because of human idiocracy. There are other ways to cut down the budget without affecting the animals or causing more people to lose their jobs. This city has already faced enough challenges, it's time to find positive solutions and stop creating more problems.

Communication from Public

Name: Lily Rowland

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 11:35 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Mayor Bass and City Council Members, We, the undersigned residents and animal advocates of Los Angeles, are 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. 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. Mayor Bass and City Council—the animals of Los Angeles have no voice but ours.

Please, listen to the communities who care about their well-being. No animal should suffer or die because of a budget shortfall. We urge you to revise the proposed budget and no animals go without care and no lives are lost due to preventable neglect. With compassion and urgency,

Communication from Public

Name: Angela Chang

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 11:39 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Angela Chang working as a Data Analyst I for the Demographic Research Unit (DRU) at the City Planning Department. I was and will be responsible for the technical preparation of the Decennial Census baseline geographical boundaries that are the foundation for the drawing of City Council Districts, Neighborhood Community Planning Areas, Area Planning Commissions, Los Angeles Police Departments Precinct reporting districts, Los Angeles Fire Department reporting districts and special districts. Data preparation will begin in 2026 and is crucial to ensure all levels of City's geographical and political boundaries are intact with as few inconsistencies and splits as possible. Data from DRU has been used by the Mayor's office for backing up citywide policies like homeless resolution, language spoken, affordable housing crisis, citywide overall demographic status reports, and economic status reports. Furthermore, it is used by LAPD, LAFD, Aging Department, Recreation and Parks Department, Animal Shelter Agency, and LADOT for their required reporting need. The elimination of the Data Analyst I position poses a risk to the data-driven insights that not only City Planning but Mayor's office, Council Districts, and various City department that have come to expect and depend on.

Communication from Public

Name: Hanna Beytebiere

Date Submitted: 04/30/2025 12:12 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: Melodie Hart

Date Submitted: 04/30/2025 03:13 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm making a plea to please keep all L.A. shelters open!!! Even with all six open we are still short to serve our mis-placed and homeless pets. This is so important to so many people, I hope you will find the necessary funding to do so, our tax dollars are best served to the community that needs this much needed service.

Communication from Public

Name: Miguel

Date Submitted: 04/30/2025 03:23 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon, All I have a fact's that I would like to share with you. The Los Angeles Department Of Aging is a pivotal part for seniors living in the Los Angeles area. I've been working for the Los Angeles Department Of Aging's OWEP Division for over five years. This department has helped hundreds of Homeless, Displaced, In Transitional Housing and Formally Incarcerated seniors. I have seen these seniors go from dire situations to receiving housing full time employment and complete a full 360 degree turn in their lives. The mayor and this council committee ran their campaign on these areas asking for growth and execution of helping homeless seniors within the Los Angeles area. The Department Of Aging's OWEP division has provided and has exceeded all expectations placed in front them on providing a comprehensive reintegration into the Los Angeles workforce. The OWEP division and its staff are dedicated to helping all seniors under the guidelines of this program. This program should have never been looked at for removal or reform, instead more funding should be added to help these individuals. The LA City Council chose the OWEP program to help produce results with our senior displacement problem. The OWEP program has proven its effectiveness and transparency through internal and city audits. The program has shown that it has exceeded expectations and is not a large burden on plans for future city budgets. My plans have been to retire with the City of LA supporting our OWEP division and offering support and assistance to this very vulnerable demographic. This budget proposal not only has the potential to displace me and my family, it also will displace all the participants and staff members of the OWEP program. I would appreciate that ALL Council Members review, revisit, and restructure this budget to reflect the hard tireless work that our staff members have put forth in continuous support of our seniors. Thanks for your time Sincerely Miguel Sankitts

Communication from Public

Name: Theresa Torrance

Date Submitted: 04/30/2025 04:39 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I urge members of the City Council to oppose the reduction of the Neighborhood Council's budget from \$32,000.00 to \$25,000.00. While I understand the criticality of the City's nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall as announced at Mayor Bass's State of the City address, Neighborhood Councils have to pay for meeting spaces, storage units, operational expenses and funds for outreach among other expenses. A budget cut would be devastating to Neighborhood Councils who have little more than the funds to cover their basic expenses. As a reminder, the original Neighborhood Council budget over twenty years ago was \$50,000. Over time, the NC budget has been reduced and inflation has increased costs. When the Covid-19 lockdown took effect, Neighborhood Council budgets were reduced to \$32,000. When the City recovered its footing and the department cuts were reversed, the Neighborhood Council budget was not restored. The Neighborhood Councils provide a service to the City. They engage stakeholders in a way the City Council cannot because they are part of their local communities. Many of them work with their Council Offices, each helping the other to achieve their goals. It would be a shame to cripple this exercise in local democracy that is now hanging on by a thread. Therefore, again, I urge the council members to vote no on this budget reduction proposal. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/30/2025 06:47 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR'S 2025-26 PROPOSED BUDGET – Public Comment (Youth Development Hello, my name is Azucena Flores and I am submitting public comment to urge you to keep the Youth Development Department (YDD) independent and fully funded. The YDD was created after years of youth advocacy because young people deserve a department that centers our leadership, our needs, and our futures. Consolidating the YDD into another department like CIFI would erase that vision and weaken the power of youth voice in Los Angeles. Please remember: Youth are not an afterthought. We are the present and the future. Stand on your promise. Protect and invest in the Youth Development Department. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Becky

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 08:41 AM

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:

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 09:13 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Its important and please DO NOT close down any vitally important City of LA and LA County animal shelters. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Tamryn Hawker

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 09:20 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: To Whom It May Concern, As a resident of Los Angeles County, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed budget cuts to our county animal shelters. These facilities provide essential services to our community, including the care and protection of abandoned, abused, and stray animals, as well as support for pet adoption and public health. Reducing their funding would not only endanger the welfare of countless animals but would also burden the communities that rely on these services. I urge you to reconsider these cuts and instead work toward a more humane, responsible, and adequately funded solution. Sincerely,
Tamryn Hawker Pasadena, CA 91105

Communication from Public

Name: Tanner Glenn

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 09:29 AM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The City of Los Angeles is facing a \$1 billion budget deficit while paying over \$1.4 billion annually to Wall Street banks in debt service, fees, and interest. A Public Bank would allow LA to save millions each year by using its own capital and credit to fund affordable housing, infrastructure, and disaster recovery — keeping public dollars working for public priorities, not private profits. By leveraging fractional reserve lending, the Public Bank could multiply every \$1 deposited into up to \$10 in loans, dramatically expanding investments in local housing, green energy, and small businesses. This is a proven model — the Bank of North Dakota has successfully operated for over 100 years, supporting its local economy while generating profits. Without a Public Bank, we continue losing critical public funds to Wall Street. With it, we can protect against politically motivated federal clawbacks, accelerate LA's climate goals, and center racial and economic equity — especially in historically marginalized communities. In short: a Public Bank strengthens our city's financial independence, resilience, and ability to invest in its people and future. The time to act is now.

Communication from Public

Name: LIONEL MARES

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 12:33 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.

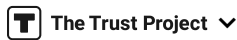
“These animals, they don’t have a voice. We are their voice,” said Suzanne Gutierrez, a Van Nuys resident and longtime animal advocate. “We are the voice for the voiceless and we have to stand up for them.”

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



2025 > April > 28

Communication from Public

Name: Ben Park

Date Submitted: 05/01/2025 01:05 PM

Council File No: 25-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not eliminate the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. We need this office's important and irreplaceable coordination between city departments to address climate change, now more than ever. Especially in the aftermath of this year's devastating wildfires, which underline how urgent it is for the city of LA to prioritize climate action. Environmental safeguards and policy to address and mitigate climate change should be a top priority for the city of LA. The budget cuts would undermine efforts to keep L.A. residents safe during heat waves, which at a national level kill more people than hurricanes, floods and tornadoes combined. We need more funding, not less, for planting trees, adding shade structures at bus stops and taking other steps to bring down urban temperatures — especially if this cut risks losing a \$750,000 state grant to develop a heat action plan, which the Climate Emergency Office is currently working to finalize. The city of LA has an incredibly important role as a climate leader, and now the importance of that role is at its most urgent, with a President in office who is hostile to Climate action. We need LA to step up and lead on climate, in the face of the wildfires - Mayor Bass' proposed cuts are an unacceptable abdication of this city's identity as a climate leader by example. I urge the Budget and Finance Committee NOT to attempt to fix one crisis while causing another.

Communication from Public

Name: Rini
Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 10:36 PM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: DO NOT CUT THE BUDGET FOR YHR ANIMAL
SHELTERS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Communication from Public

Name: Kirsten Hatfield
Date Submitted: 04/27/2025 09:33 AM
Council File No: 25-0600
Comments for Public Posting: The budget for closing 3 animal shelters and firing of 62 employees cannot happen. This would be devastating for Los Angeles with the amount of homeless animals. Karen Bass promised that animals would be taken care of and she is going back on her words.