

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Laura Gracia

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:40 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge the City to: - Restore funding to the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) to last year's budget of \$750,000. CEMO is vital in ensuring frontline communities that are most impacted by the climate crisis are at the center of policy co-design and decision-making. The decision to cut CEMO undermines the progress we've made toward equitable climate resilience and community empowerment. CEMO has served as a resource hub for communities during extreme heat by sharing important heat and health alerts and distributing air filters to low-income communities after the January wildfires. - We urge the City to preserve critical projects related to protecting frontline communities from the harms of oil and gas drilling. As a Wilmington resident- I am surrounded by active and plugged oil drilling sites. If the Mayor's proposed budget cuts the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas, who will community members be able to hold responsible for the clean-up of environmentally racist oil drilling sites. The City MUST preserve critical projects to protect frontline communities from the harms of oil and gas drilling. This includes the air quality monitoring program of oil sites, a public transparency dashboard for oil and gas company compliance, and a drill site remediation policy. Through the STAND-LA coalition, we have been advocating for a citywide clean up and remediation policy- without continued work on this policy, oil operators will be able to get away with the decades of spewing toxic pollutants in our communities without the responsibility of cleanup and remediation of their sites. - Protect LA Sanitation's Brownfields Program which is currently slated to be eliminated. This program directly improves the health of low-income and communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by toxic polluters. My community has oil drilling sites that release noxious odors and impact my health. The Brownfields program would create opportunities to clean-up after toxic polluters and build healthier neighborhoods. Restore General Plan Health and Environmental Justice positions that are responsible for the Health and Air Quality Elements of the General Plan. As a community member in an environmental justice community, I believe the City must create and implement a community-led Environmental Justice Plan to protect public health, plan for healthy and resilient neighborhoods, and address

the decades of environmental racism. Therefore, I urge the City to take the climate crisis seriously and rather than cut vital programs that support my family and my community to instead invest towards building a healthy and equitable Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jacqueline

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:44 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Jacqueline, and I'm a LA resident. 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, green energy, small businesses, and community development. As LA faces a \$1 billion budget deficit and thousands of union jobs at risk – this is urgent. Delays will keep costing the city billions in debt service and finance costs. It's time to stop sending public money to Wall Street, reinvest it in our communities, and help prevent future budget deficits.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alexandra Lee Carcieri

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:44 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is alex carcieri, and I live in CD13. Thank you to the Budget, Finance, and Innovation committee for not only approving the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot but also EXPANDING it to 3 additional police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. We at LA Forward see UMCR as part of the City's long-term commitment to establishing a 24/7, comprehensive city-wide,unarmed crisis response program. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to provide critical coverage to almost 43% of the city, and we look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years. Sincerely, alex carcieri

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marina Simone

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:50 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please don't make any budget cuts to the Barnsdall Art Park staff! The program is excellent and is one of the few surviving art programs left in Los Angeles. It serves individuals of all communities and has an incredibly positive impact on people's lives, something that is desperately needed during these difficult times. All of the staff is incredibly gifted and completely devoted to delivering first class art instruction.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Zein Delgado Jr

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:33 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please do not cut the budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs as well as all other Departments and save Barnsdall Art Park. In a time where the economy is crippling and inflation is high, it would be foolish to cut jobs that support Angeleno families. It is detrimental to the city government's reputation to lay off 100s of workers while it is growing more expensive to live.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alexandra Lee Carcieri

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:39 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting the City of Los Angeles' environmental future by restoring positions critical to parks, brownfields, LA River restoration, and climate initiatives. In the face of increasing climate challenges, these dedicated professionals will help ensure Los Angeles remains safe, resilient, and livable for all residents. Their work to expand green spaces, manage urban heat, and implement climate adaptation strategies is more vital than ever as our city confronts rising temperatures and environmental pressures. Your support for these positions reflects a meaningful investment in both our present quality of life and our future sustainability. We deeply appreciate your foresight and dedication to creating a cooler, greener, and more climate-resilient Los Angeles. Sincerely, alex carcieri

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:20 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to express my strong support for Eva Bitar and for her continued leadership and role of the Los Angeles Manager of Motion Picture and Television—a position that is vital to the well-being and long-term sustainability of the entertainment industry in our city. I have worked with Eva on many productions throughout my career. All of these had the benefit of filming in Los Angeles playing a different city. Veep, Eagle Eye, Ocean's 11, Thor, and currently The Lincoln Lawyer. Eva is always the person who can get that final hurdle crossed allowing for the production access for the work requested. Los Angeles has long been the heart of the global film and television industry. However, over the past several years, our production community has faced unprecedented challenges: from the global COVID-19 pandemic to prolonged industry-wide work stoppages and labor strikes. These disruptions not only halted production but also deeply impacted tens of thousands of workers across all sectors of the industry—from set crew and cast members to local businesses that rely on production-related activity. In this context, the role of the Manager of Motion Picture and Television has never been more essential. This position serves as a critical liaison between city departments, production entities, labor organizations, and community stakeholders. The manager facilitates smooth, efficient permitting processes, ensures productions comply with health and safety guidelines, and advocates for policies that support job creation and economic resilience within the industry. This position is not just administrative—it is strategic. The manager plays a key role in ensuring that Los Angeles remains a competitive and welcoming environment for production, particularly as other cities and states offer aggressive tax incentives to attract business. Without strong leadership and dedicated advocacy at the city level, we risk losing both jobs and economic activity to other regions. Now, more than ever, we must invest in the structures that support recovery and growth in one of our most iconic and economically vital industries. I urge you to continue supporting and strengthening the office of the Los Angeles Manager of Motion Picture and Television. The economic impact reaches far and wide throughout our great city. We are the Hollywood capital of the world. Keeping Ms. Bitar in this role is a big step in helping restore us to that spot in the world



of production. Thank you for your time.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:27 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** With regards to the position of Motion Picture & Television Manager, Department of Public Works, City of Los Angeles As a Film and Television Producer who also worked in a Film Commission in California and collaborated directly with Film Liaisons in California, Statewide (FLICS), as well as the California Film Commission, I've spent years helping to fight for and retain film production in California. For over 20+ years, I produced and directed the California On Location Awards, helping to strengthen and celebrate the culture of on-location filming throughout the cities and counties of California. Filming is more than just an industry. It is part of California's identity. At the heart of it all are the people, whose creativity and dedication make the entertainment industry shine and serve as the true heartbeat of our great state and this great city. California and, more specifically, Los Angeles' Film and Television Industry is facing serious challenges. For those of us working in the field, the individuals who staff government offices dedicated to supporting, streamlining, and expediting production are vital. Among them is Eva Bitar, whose position as Motion Picture & Television Manager for the City of Los Angeles is reportedly under consideration for elimination. That should not happen. Eva Bitar has played a critically important role in supporting filming across Los Angeles. Her deep institutional knowledge and quick problem-solving have helped countless filmmakers and creatives keep their productions moving. She is an exceptionally knowledgeable representative who demonstrates the value of City Hall's support for film and television production. Through her proactive approach and constant availability, she bridges the gap between the fast-paced demands of our industry and the often complex processes of local government. Her presence provides stability, clarity, and efficiency at crucial moments in production. Eva Bitar is not only effective; she is essential to the continued success of filming in Los Angeles. The number of people who not only support but also actively study and advocate for the health of Los Angeles' entertainment industry is small. The suggestion that her position could simply be added to someone else's job description is not only unrealistic. It would further contribute to the runaway production crisis we are facing at record levels. The City of Los Angeles should be the strongest ally to creatives

trying to bring their visions to the big or small screen. Removing those who actively protect and fight for our work, especially during the most difficult phases of production, would be a devastating blow. We have already lost far too many projects to other states and countries. Please do not accelerate that trend by eliminating Eva Bitar's position.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Roesha Taylor

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 03:26 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Protecting our youth should be the focus. We when fail them, we fail our Village! May is Mental Health Month, we are not doing enough to help , if we don't set the example by going to a therapist, and practice what we preach, we will continue to lose them!

## **Communication from Public**

**Name:** Noah Suarez-Sikes  
**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 04:57 PM  
**Council File No:** 25-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** See attached.



@better\_LA  
betterneighborsla.org

May 20, 2025

Los Angeles City Council  
Budget & Finance Committee  
c/o Office of the City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Solutions to the FY 2025-2026 Budget Shortfall**

Dear Budget & Finance Committee Chair Yaroslavsky, & Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

We understand the City of Los Angeles is facing a budget deficit of over \$1 billion, which could result in significant cuts to city services and workforce.<sup>1</sup> Like you, we want to do everything possible to avoid such devastating cuts. We believe there is a simple, effective path forward that the City can take to raise revenue and avoid cuts to city services: **fine violators of the Los Angeles Home-Sharing Ordinance (HSO).**

**Fining Illegal STRs Could Boost City Revenue—If the City Increases Enforcement**

The City's inability to adequately enforce the Home-Sharing Ordinance over the years has left a significant amount of money on the table. According to a 2022 study by Professor David Wachsmuth of McGill University, **if the City had maximally fined violators of the Home-Sharing Ordinance in just that year, it would have been able to raise \$302.2 million in a single year.**<sup>2</sup> As we face cataclysmic cuts to City programs, **the City has an obligation to its residents to enforce the HSO, fine law-breakers, and use the revenue to preserve as much of its capacity as possible.**

Given the lack of enforcement of the Home-Sharing Ordinance, illegal STRs have flourished in Los Angeles. Between July 2023 and July 2024, BNLA found that only 1 in 400 non-compliant listings are cited; in its very best month on record, October of 2023, the City only cited around 1% of all non-compliant listings.<sup>3</sup> In June of 2024, Los Angeles had over 8,000

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1NPIvB8Kas>

<sup>2</sup> [https://upgo.lab.mcgill.ca/publication/strs-in-los-angeles-2022/Wachsmuth\\_LA\\_2022.pdf](https://upgo.lab.mcgill.ca/publication/strs-in-los-angeles-2022/Wachsmuth_LA_2022.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Data on file with BNLA, June 2024, from City of Los Angeles Planning Department.

listings that were noncompliant with the Home-Sharing Ordinance;<sup>4</sup> despite this, in the entire period between January and September of 2024, the City only issued 128 citations in total.<sup>5</sup>

Even worse, when the City *does* issue citations, it imposes an artificial cap of 10 assessed violations as a matter of policy—even when the host cited perpetrates hundreds or even thousands of violations. This allows STR operators to avoid the consequences of breaking the HSO, and shrug off fines as the “cost of doing business.” The recent \$68 million-dollar lawsuit brought by the City Attorney against Akiva Nourollah and Hiller Hospitality suggests the kind of significant fines that could be levied against corporate operators violating the HSO if this cap were removed. The City should stop imposing this cap, and fine lawbreakers for all their violations, not just a select few.

The potential revenue stream from enforcing against non-compliant STRs is significant. For example, in May of 2024, BNLA found 1,884 non-compliant listings on Airbnb alone.<sup>6</sup> Assuming these listings were advertised for the full month of May, the City might have assessed \$34,280,227 in fines against noncompliant hosts. If each noncompliant listing was booked only one time during the month, the City might have also assessed an additional \$1,884,000 in fines against the Airbnb platform.

### **The City Must Prioritize Enforcement and TOT Collection With Adequate Resourcing**

Cutting the Planning Department’s budget by nearly a third,<sup>7</sup> however, will make enforcement of the Home-Sharing Ordinance significantly more difficult and potentially reduce fine and permitting revenue from STRs. Moreover, it threatens Planning’s ability to ensure that the appropriate amount of TOT is being remitted to the City, especially when there are already significant amounts of money being lost to HSO evaders.

While it is difficult to calculate the exact amount of revenue lost to TOT evasion, the City’s lawsuit against Akiva Nourollah and Hiller Hospitality revealed that a single set of bad actors is responsible for \$880,000 in lost revenue.<sup>8</sup> When extrapolated out to the other lawbreakers engaged in similar bait-and-switch scams, and accounting for other HSO violations related to a range of other short-term rental scams, BNLA feels confident in concluding that millions of dollars are lost every year.<sup>9</sup> The true number is most likely in the tens of millions of dollars, which is consistent with past estimates regarding unremitted TOT. For example, in the McGill University study, Professor Wachsmuth estimates that STR hosts may have failed to pay up to \$14 million in TOT owed to the City in 2022.<sup>10</sup> In order to increase revenue, the City must

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<sup>4</sup> Data on file with BNLA from Los Angeles City Granicus data. <https://granicus.com/>

<sup>5</sup> Data on file with BNLA from Los Angeles City Planning Department.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.betterneighborsla.org/s/July-2024-HSO-Monthly-Enforcement-Report-Better-Neighbors-LA.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/california/newsletter/2025-05-03/mayor-bass-said-her-offices-budget-will-be-cut-the-numbers-tell-a-different-story>

<sup>8</sup> <https://cityattorney.lacity.gov/updates/city-attorney-hydee-feldstein-soto-files-62-million-suit-against-group-accused-massive>

<sup>9</sup> TKTKTK Upcoming Monthly Report

<sup>10</sup> [https://upgo.lab.mcgill.ca/publication/strs-in-los-angeles-2022/Wachsmuth\\_LA\\_2022.pdf](https://upgo.lab.mcgill.ca/publication/strs-in-los-angeles-2022/Wachsmuth_LA_2022.pdf)

focus both on enforcement and adequate staffing to ensure that enforcement occurs. Weaker enforcement could encourage more STR operators to flout the law, leading to more law-breaking and potentially further decreasing TOT revenues as operators cease compliance with existing regulations.

Increasing enforcement could pay for itself, both in direct cost recovery and in economic benefits to Angelenos. To return to the May 2024 example, the maximal estimate of fine revenue, \$34,280,227 could have paid for the salaries and benefits of over 300 City Planning Associates. Even the minimal estimate consisting solely of fines levied on platforms, \$1,884,000, would pay for around 17 such positions.<sup>11</sup> Cracking down on illegal STRs would also help alleviate their deleterious effects on Los Angeles renters, who pay an average of \$810/year more in rent as a result of the widespread STRs.<sup>12</sup>

We recognize that the Mayor and City Council face difficult decisions about allocation of funding given the size of the budget shortfall. The City should pursue the solutions presented here: **enforce the existing Home-Sharing Ordinance, fine violators appropriately, and ensure adequate funding and staffing for the Planning Department in order to prioritize this enforcement and TOT collection.** As you consider allocation of resources and increasing revenue, we hope that you will choose to enforce the law to protect long-term housing and city services for the residents and communities that make this city great. Should you have any questions, please contact Noah Suarez-Sikes at [noah@betterneighborsla.org](mailto:noah@betterneighborsla.org).

/s/

Randy Renick

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<sup>11</sup> <https://transparentcalifornia.com/salaries/search/?q=City%20Planning%20Associate&y=2023>

<sup>12</sup> [https://upgo.lab.mcgill.ca/publication/strs-in-los-angeles-2022/Wachsmuth\\_LA\\_2022.pdf](https://upgo.lab.mcgill.ca/publication/strs-in-los-angeles-2022/Wachsmuth_LA_2022.pdf)



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Christopher Bowen

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 04:59 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Mayor and LA City Councilmembers, On behalf of the Building Owners and Managers Association Greater Los Angeles (BOMA/GLA), I'm writing to express our strong opposition to the CAO's proposal to cut LAPD sworn hiring from 480 positions to just 240 in the upcoming fiscal year. This reduction would prevent the department from even keeping pace with attrition, let alone growing the force. It will result in fewer officers available to support public safety at a time when Angelenos are already feeling increasingly vulnerable. Our members are on the ground every day, working hard to bring people—both locals and tourists—back to LA's urban core. But that work becomes exponentially more difficult when stories of personal and property crime in Downtown LA, Hollywood, and even the Westside dominate the headlines night after night. There's a real sense of insecurity across the city. And because, like you, we're deeply invested in LA's success, we strongly urge you to maintain full funding for LAPD—not reduce it. If there's even a perception that public safety isn't a priority, revitalizing our commercial areas becomes nearly impossible. These proposed cuts would not only undo recent progress in reducing crime but also threaten our ability to recruit and prepare a sufficient number of officers ahead of major global events like the World Cup, Super Bowl, and Olympic Games. The long-term risks to public safety—and our city's economic future—are too great. We know tough budget choices lie ahead. But decreasing police funding is not the solution. We urge you to explore innovative revenue strategies, including tapping a portion of the city's nearly \$15 billion investment portfolio and eliminating duplicative programs and services. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration. Sincerely, Michele Ware BOMA/GLA President

May 20, 2025

Honorable Karen Bass  
Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
200 N Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Opposition to Cuts to LAPD Sworn Hiring**

Dear Mayor and LA City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Building Owners and Managers Association Greater Los Angeles (BOMA/GLA), I'm writing to express our strong opposition to the CAO's proposal to cut LAPD sworn hiring from 480 positions to just 240 in the upcoming fiscal year.

This reduction would prevent the department from even keeping pace with attrition, let alone growing the force. It will result in fewer officers available to support public safety at a time when Angelenos are already feeling increasingly vulnerable.

Our members are on the ground every day, working hard to bring people—both locals and tourists—back to LA's urban core. But that work becomes exponentially more difficult when stories of personal and property crime in Downtown LA, Hollywood, and even the Westside dominate the headlines night after night.

There's a real sense of insecurity across the city. And because, like you, we're deeply invested in LA's success, we strongly urge you to maintain full funding for LAPD—not reduce it. If there's even a *perception* that public safety isn't a priority, revitalizing our commercial areas becomes nearly impossible.

These proposed cuts would not only undo recent progress in reducing crime but also threaten our ability to recruit and prepare a sufficient number of officers ahead of major global events like the World Cup, Super Bowl, and Olympic Games. The long-term risks to public safety—and our city's economic future—are too great.

We know tough budget choices lie ahead. But decreasing police funding is not the solution. We urge you to explore innovative revenue strategies, including tapping a portion of the city's nearly \$15 billion investment portfolio and eliminating duplicative programs and services.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration.

Sincerely,



**Michele Ware**, President

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sandra Morales

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:13 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a constituent of Los Angeles County District 1 and a California Realtor, and writing to you today to ask you to support funding for a public bank study. The City of LA is facing a \$1 billion budget deficit, with thousands of jobs at risk of being furloughed. At the same time, the city spends over \$1.4 billion every year on debt service, and more than \$300 million in interest and fee payments to Wall Street banks. That's money that could be going toward affordable housing, public transit, and community programs, but instead, it's ending up in the pockets of bankers. This financial drain makes it even harder for the city to tackle urgent needs and improve life for Angelenos. It's time for a public bank so LA can stop lining the pockets of big banks and start investing in its own people. This letter is sponsored by the Power to the Tenants campaign and the Democratic Socialists of America, Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jacob Hart

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:18 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm Jacob Hart, and I live in Council District 13. So glad to hear that Unarmed Model of Crisis Response pilot is continuing and expanding. I'm writing to urge you to retain the Mayor's proposed allocation of \$9.3 million and to approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee. This program saves lives, and a call responded to by a UMCR team costs the city \$35, while a comparable police response call costs \$85. The proposed funding would get 43% of the city covered by UMCR, which is a great start. Hopefully a future where the entire city is covered is not too far off. Thank you, Jacob

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kim ORbe

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 05:18 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council, On behalf of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, I am writing to urge you to protect LA's climate initiatives and jobs. With the climate crisis at our front doors, it is critical to maintain our current commitment and investments in protecting the public sector workforce that LA relies on for climate resilience. Please see the letter attached for our further comments in detail.



May 20, 2025

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council  
JOHN FERRARO COUNCIL  
CHAMBER  
ROOM 340, CITY HALL  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS  
ANGELES, CA 90012

Subject:

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

On behalf of the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, I am writing to urge you to protect LA's climate initiatives and jobs. With the climate crisis at our front doors, it is critical to maintain our current commitment and investments in protecting the public sector workforce that LA relies on for climate resilience. The City's environmental justice progress is possible because of city workers, including those in LASAN, Street Services, Planning, Recreation and Parks, and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. City workers are critical to programs like brownfields remediation, LA River restoration, environmental planning, cooling centers, the Rec and Parks programs, and shade that families rely on. These jobs are climate jobs that working families and LA's climate progress rely on. In a time when working people and the environment already face unprecedented federal threats to the resources and regulations necessary for health and well-being, the role our city can play in our collective safety and well-being is more crucial than ever. Please do everything possible to protect the workforce in these departments.

The Sierra Club is committed to addressing the climate crisis by protecting communities and centering equity and justice as we work to address environmental and climate priorities. Continued budget cuts will significantly restrict our ability to improve air and water quality, stay safe during periods of extreme heat, and meet the CO2 emissions reduction goals for the Los Angeles region. Any cuts to these programs would negatively impact our local commitment to:

- Center environmental, social, and climate justice when policy decisions are made
- Advance local decarbonization efforts
- Advance 30 x 30 goals and local biodiversity Initiatives
- Manage air quality monitoring around oil and gas drill sites and a public transparency dashboard for oil and gas compliance and our work to phase out harmful and polluting oil drilling operations.
- Protect workers. The Office of Wage Standards (OWS) helps ensure Angelenos are making the wages they deserve and are legally owed. City workers are a critical part of the LA economy, and widespread layoffs will have significant negative impacts to the

region. Protecting workers and prioritizing local, environmental social justice jobs is intersectional to our climate efforts.

We support a budget that will avoid laying off further staff. Please defend as many of the City of LA's workforce as possible and protect LA's climate initiatives that build public power, create union jobs, and allow us to meet the current moment and urgency for climate justice and resiliency.

Sincerely,

Kim Orbe  
Acting Chapter Director  
Angeles Chapter, Sierra Club

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Raya

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 06:04 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Raya Johnson, and I live in Woodland Hills. Thank you to the Budget, Finance, and Innovation committee for not only approving the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot but also EXPANDING it to 3 additional police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. We at LA Forward see UMCR as part of the City's long-term commitment to establishing a 24/7, comprehensive city-wide, unarmed crisis response program. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to provide critical coverage to almost 43% of the city, and we look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years. Sincerely, Raya J.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alan Berman

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:28 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I would like to suggest that we need fewer police helicopters serving Los Angeles. As far as I have been able to find, there is no proof that helicopters have been effective in fighting crime but they have served to greatly increase air pollution and noise pollution. They are very expensive to operate and maintain and we would be better off without all 17 in the fleet. The responses to the audit of December 2023 (which came the following year) contained nothing concrete to assert their absolute need. Perhaps five would be enough--decommission the others unless there's a proven need. We do have proven needs in many other areas that could use this money.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:21 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Greetings, At this point, NONE of your existing policies or procedures have meaningfully benefited or included the Freedmen community. We are in crisis, suffering from disproportionate levels of unemployment, homelessness, and premature death. We must demand accountability from all agencies that receive public funding to ensure they put in place systems to hire and retain the community competent staff, e.g. from the Freedmen community. Your current plan does not work for us. And with the Employment Development Department being closed and the Department of Public Social Services being inaccessible to the community, you're making a homelessness issue worse, especially within Council District 8 (CD8). This matter is urgent and needs to be done right away. Respectfully, Gabrielle Barnes

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sarah Cayer

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 03:17 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I write in support of restoring funding to the RepresentLA Legal Fund. Los Angeles has the opportunity to be a safer haven to many people who have been abandoned by the United States' archaic, cruel, and racist immigration system. We should push back with every opportunity to protect our neighbors from the threat of deportation and prevent the further erosion of due process rights for all people. Funding RepresentLA is a critical step toward being a city that appropriately values the deep routes that immigrant communities have and the way those communities have shaped Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:50 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** To Whom It May Concern, Up to this time, your policies and procedures have always left out the American Freedmen community. We are facing repeated and worsening crisis rampant unemployment, homelessness, and unequal sickness and mortality rates all directly connected to neglect on the systemic level. We call for action now. All agencies that receive public money need to establish systems for hiring and keeping culturally competent Freedmen personnel. Representation is not a choice, and without it, public services continue to miss or ignore our community's urgent needs. The current strategy does not reflect our reality. The Department of Employment Development remains closed. The Department of Public Social Services remains inaccessible. These deficits are costing us directly in the homelessness crisis in our CD8 community. We are not asking for special treatment we are demanding equal access, fair representation, and actual inclusion. It's time for your agencies to reflect the communities you serve. Respectfully, Giselle Barnes

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Claire Truman

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:53 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Claire, and I live in CD-13 (Hollywood). I appreciate your commitment to the UMCR pilot. When finalizing the budget, I am asking that you retain the proposed allocation of \$9M+ and approve the \$4M+ for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee. UMCR provides crucial services to the most vulnerable Angelenos. UMCR response saves the city money - UMCR only costs \$35 per call on average. A similar response from the police costs \$85. The city must dedicate to the mission of establishing long-term, comprehensive & city-wide unarmed crisis response program available around the clock. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to expand to nearly 43% of the city. I look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years. Sincerely, Claire Truman

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amy Slocum

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:30 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I support the budget as it currently stands

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Emily Perez

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:31 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Day Labor Centers provide preventative services to workers who otherwise wouldn't be reached. Day laborers are on the front lines during climate and political disasters (COVID and Wildfires) but haven't been recognized as an important part of the city. Mayor Bass defunding Day Labor Centers makes workers' contributions to the economy of LA invisible.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sandra Morales

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:38 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Sandra Morales a Realtor, CA 01759559, DSA\_LA member & LA Forward member, former CHIRLA member, immigrant from Mexico, mother of 4 children ages 31 to 3 years, with a mixed status family, and I live in Covina ,California, Los Angeles County District 1. I do most of my business in Los Angeles City. The City of Los Angeles has defended thousand of Angeleno families against family separations through represent LA since 2017. Represent LA upholds the rule of law by ensuring Angelenos have access to due process in legal proceedings. The city must not abandon it's commitment to this life-saving program, especially when our community has never been in a greater risk. I urge that you ensure that the City continues to provide due process and legal representation to immigrant Angelenos by funding Represent LA.



## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 01:03 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Vehicles are parking at curbs corners and red zones. I don't see any parking enforcements in the city of LA besides Events. Are they around for public safety LADOT that will go around neighborhoods that are blocking driveways and taking over streets and park anywhere they can like on red zones?

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jerilyn Ramirez

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 01:08 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I want to extend my support for the Unarmed Crisis Response program. Reducing the demand on LAPD to answer non-violent calls in the community helps both police and the public. Helping people get the appropriate response and access to services from their distress calls is a win-win. I am glad to see this has remained in the budget and I hope it continues to grow and receive support from the City Council.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 01:22 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Los Angeles City Fire Department personnel oppose the recommendation to eliminate 42 Emergency Incident Technicians. Please see attached letters

## Recalling a Hero Who Gave His Life for L.A.

By Jon McDuffie

We provide a faceless, nameless service to a community that rarely knows how much they need us. We are a group of thousands, each with our own personality, family, and troubles. A band of anonymous “heroes” who subordinates ego and self-interest to serve a populace who only knows that we will be there when they call. We get paid for what we are able to do and the occasions when we are called to do it.

This week, one of us got a name, a face, a rank, a family...a life beyond the badge. His life now recognized, but only because it was sacrificed. He gave his life defending the property of a person he did not know, in a city that did not know him. His name was Joseph Dupee. I knew him before you, and I will remember him long after his name wanes in your short-term memory.

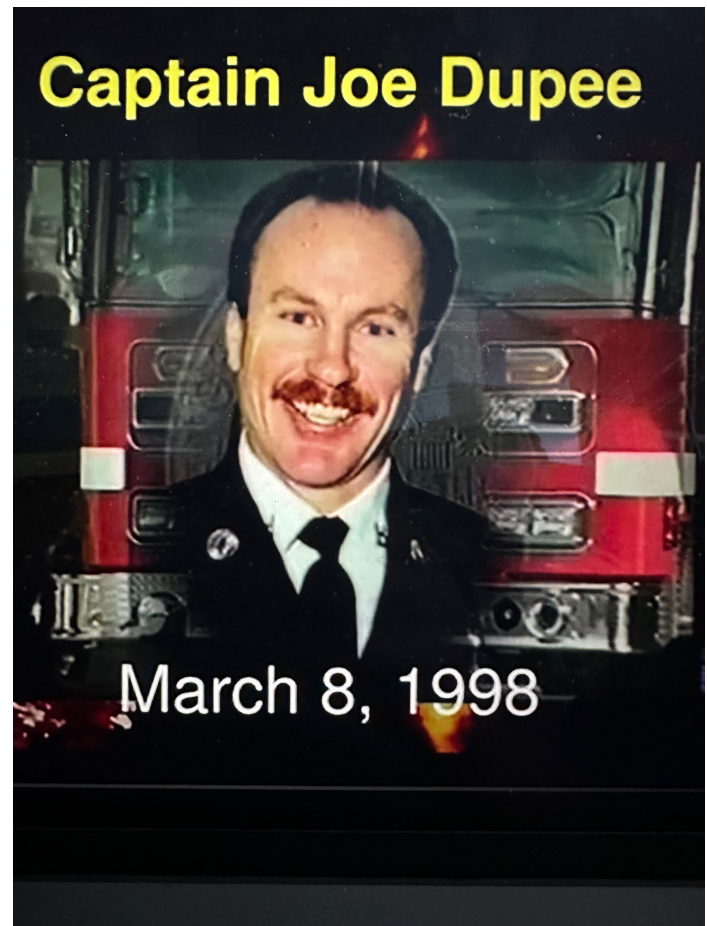
Ten mornings a month, Joe rose before the sun, kissed his sleeping family goodbye, and made the drive to his second home. He exercised; he trained himself and his crew. He laughed; he sulked; he handled tedious projects; he read his bible and spoke about it with others. He shared his opinions at the kitchen table. His brothers and sisters drank thousands of cups of coffee with him, all the while attempting to solve the problems of the world.

And then he would wait. And sometimes they worked harder than you could imagine.

Some of his workdays were spent waiting. Some days his city did not need him as much as other days, but he still waited. If you need Joe for small things—a broken water pipe, a child locked in a car, a pot of beans that cooked just a bit too long—he responded to your call.

Other times you needed him for life threatening emergencies—to rescue you from natural and man-made disasters, from fire, from accidents, from illness, from yourselves—he responded to your call.

You never doubted that Joe would be there for you. You never knew his name and he never asked you to justify your need. He served you because he wanted to help and he



loved to help and he loved to help you. You could have stopped giving him pay raises, repairing his station, hiring more firefighters, and he would still be waiting to answer your call.

Joe loved his family, his God, and his country. He was an opinionated prankster who loved to talk, could not cook, and drove too fast behind the wheel of a fire engine. He was a good fire ground officer who worked aggressively at incidents and diligently at his post. He was on my platoon for three years; he will be my brother always. But you did not know him then. You only know him now.

Choose to think of him as a hero in death, and I tell you that he was a hero in life. Use Joe's memory for sadness and I will use it to comfort his family and my brothers and sisters that must continue to wait. Continue pouring out sympathy until it becomes a faint trickle, and I will still be waiting for the next call.

I provide a faceless, nameless service to a community that rarely knows how much they need me. If I am called from a sound sleep to sacrifice my life attempting to save the life or property of someone I do not know, I will do it without regret.

Joe did it. Why wouldn't I?

*Written by Jon McDuffie ( Los Angeles firefighter)*

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Timothy Hillman

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 01:28 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** To whom it may concern: It is my understanding that the City of Los Angeles is considering doing away with the position of the Motion Picture and Television Manager, a position currently held by Ms. Eva Bitar. Having been a Location Manager for Film & Television in Los Angeles for the last 36 years, I would strongly advise against this move. During my years in the industry I have done extensive filming in the City of Los Angeles on such shows as CSI:NY (yes, it was filmed in Los Angeles for nine years, spending only 2 - 3 days per season in New York), Lethal Weapon and most recently the 9-1-1 television series. All of these shows were extremely complicated involving large stunts, explosions and all the disruption that comes with motion picture filming. Throughout the years I had many occasions where I needed a liaison to help me find my way through city departments and get the right person to talk to in order to pull off this type of filming. That person was Eva Bitar, the Motion Picture and Television Manager. She was always available to me and always willing to go that extra step to help us get what we needed to "get the shot". If we were not able to get the shot, we were not able to film the show in Los Angeles and the producers had no problem taking the work, OUR WORK, to other states or now other countries. It costs on average \$200 - 250,000 dollars per day to put a motion picture company on the street. That money is paid to actors, writers & directors. It is also paid to working stiffs like me, the Location Managers, Set Dressers, Drivers, Carpenters, Caterers, prop rental houses, cleaning services, dumpster services, tent companies, portable toilets, the list goes on. And all that money that is paid to all of these workers and business is spent by these folks so that they can live and work in Los Angeles. Not to mention the tourism that is created by people wanting to see the locations where these films and TV shows are shot. We need Eva Bitar to take away some of the massive hurdles we face on a daily basis just trying to keep a show running. I hope you will seriously consider how many of your constituents will be affected by this move and come to the correct conclusion that Ms. Bitar and her position should remain in place and in full force. Thank you

## Communication from Public

**Name:** J O'Brien

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 01:33 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a healthcare provider who contracted Covid19 in 2020 and subsequently developed and became disabled by Long Covid while serving patients in Los Angeles. I am vehemently opposed to LA misusing the \$13.15M in unspent federal pandemic money when Long COVID is still completely unfunded: \$4.23M in CDBG-CV (CARES Act) funds and \$8.92M in regular CDBG funds. This money was intended to be used as a response to the Covid19 pandemic. Long COVID is the largest and most costly outcome of the pandemic. These funds are eligible and available and absolutely should not be redirected by the City to unrelated building upgrades and business programs under Council File 24-0500-S3. LA is in a \$1 billion budget crisis. Ignoring Long COVID will make it worse. Harvard economist David Cutler estimates the cost to LA will be over \$12 billion in five years! Failing to act is a public health failure and a fiscal one. CDBG-CV funds are specifically designed for COVID-related services, including post-COVID care, navigation, and coordination. There is no legal or policy reason this money can't go directly to Long COVID needs. Misappropriating federal funds is not acceptable. Please apply the \$13.15M as intended and fund Long COVID research and care. Don't deepen the crisis. This is a critical cost-saving need. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 01:44 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I've been working in Locations for the filming industry in Los Angeles for 14 years. Eva Bitar has been vital countless times, in helping facilitate film shoots on location. She has been an advocate for the film crew when problems arise with city properties and unnecessary red tape. She listens to all sides and helps bridge the gap so we can be more efficient in communicating needs so filming run smoothly.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Olivia Powell

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 01:51 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council President Harris-Dawson and Council Members, I live in Reseda and I have been living with Long Covid for 3 years now, without any meaningful improvement. This was a result of only one infection. I am now mainly housebound, but for medical appointments. It has come to my attention that Council File 25-2600 proposes to reprogram \$13.15M in unspent federal COVID relief into unrelated capital upgrades and small business programs. This is devastating to me. These funds are eligible for pandemic response and should be used as such. Long Covid affects over 268,000 other residents of Los Angeles. 1 in 4 are unable to work, including myself. There is currently no treatment. I have been a patient at USC Keck Covid Recovery Clinic since 2023, trying many different possible medications like a guinea pig, and they are no closer to finding a root cause of my condition. And I am one of the 'lucky' ones that I have been able to access this level of care, after much struggle and at much expense. More and more Angelenos are being infected and developing this condition in Los Angeles every day. This is a large, persistent economic driver that is increasing strain on housing, labor, health, and emergency systems. According to Harvard economist David Cutler, Long COVID is expected to cost the City more than \$12B over the next five years in lost wages, reduced workforce participation, rising disability, increased medical spending, and pressure on public benefit systems. The clearest, most effective use of the \$13.15M is to establish a permanent Office of Long COVID. Applying this funding to a City of Los Angeles Office of Long COVID would reduce service demand, protect revenue, and ensure coordination across departments already impacted by rising costs. Redirecting the funds to generic capital upgrades and broad business uses provides no protection from the \$12B in projected losses. It leaves the costliest problem of the pandemic untouched. It trades long-term stability for short-term optics while leaving hundreds of thousands of Angelenos in physical and financial pain. Not using this money as intended is not only a missed opportunity, it's a misuse of federal relief. These dollars were created to mitigate pandemic fallout. I urge you to amend Council File 25-0600 to allocate the full \$13.15M to the creation of an Office of Long COVID in the City of LA Budget.

Respectfully, Olivia Powell

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Belinda Campos Bresnahan

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 12:14 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Youth Development Department was created because for too long, youth services were scattered, underfunded, and hard to access. Our Task Force made clear recommendations: build Youth Hubs, create a youth portal, make programs trauma-informed, and most importantly let youth lead and decide how funding gets spent. But three years later, the department still doesn't have the staff, funding, or tools it needs. Now the City wants to merge it into a bigger department and one that serves children, families and seniors, too. That's not fair!! Young people deserve focus, not to be pushed to the side. We need the department to stay independent, and we need it to be fully funded. Youth voices, youth leadership, and youth needs matter. We're asking the Council to stand with us — protect the Youth Development Department and give it what it needs to actually make a difference. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Richelle Callies

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 12:14 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, As of today NON of your policies or procedures have included the American Freedman's community. We are Jobless, homeless and dying daily. It is in the best interest of our American Freedmen community; Demand all agencies receiving funding ; Have a system put in place to ensure agencies HIRE and RETAIN cultural competent (Freedmen) staff. Your current plan does not include the American Freedman because our Employment Development Department is CLOSED, the Department for Public Social Services is CLOSED and your plan is causing the Homeless Crisis; Within our community CD8.  
Truthfully, Richelle Callies

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alex Wolinetz

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 12:16 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing today to ask you to please protect the staff at the Office of Wage Standards and at Day Labor Centers, and defend as many of the City of LA's workforce as possible. Fair wages keep working families housed and prevent homelessness. Existing national and regional research shows that higher wages improve the local economy by spurring economic growth and new employment opportunities throughout the local economy. When workers can afford to live where they work, they are able to spend more in the local economy — at our local restaurants, cafes, shops, and grocery stores. When workers thrive, we all thrive. The Office of Wage Standards (OWS) helps ensure Angelenos are making the wages they deserve and are legally owed. City workers are a critical part of the LA economy, and widespread layoffs will have significant negative impacts to the region.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sandra Morales

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:03 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Submit a public comment via the City Clerk's Public Comment Page for Council File 25-0600. Sample language:: My name is Sandra Morales a Realtor, CA 01759559, DSA\_LA & LA Forward member, and I live in Covina, CA, Los Angeles County District 1, most of my business is in Los Angeles City. Thank you to the Budget, Finance, and Innovation committee for not only approving the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot but also EXPANDING it to 3 additional police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. We at LA Forward see UMCR as part of the City's long-term commitment to establishing a 24/7, comprehensive city-wide,unarmed crisis response program. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to provide critical coverage to almost 43% of the city, and we look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years. Sincerely, Sandra Morales

*My name is Sandra Morales a Realtor, CA 01759559, DSA\_LA member & LA Forward , and I live in Covina ,California, Los Angeles County District 1. I do most of my business in Los Angeles City.*

*Thank you to the Budget, Finance, and Innovation committee for not only approving the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot but also EXPANDING it to 3 additional police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85.*

*We at LA Forward see UMCR as part of the City's long-term commitment to establishing a 24/7, comprehensive city-wide,unarmed crisis response program. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to provide critical coverage to almost 43% of the city, and we look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years.*

*Sincerely,  
Sandra Morales*

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:06 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please stop funding legal counsel for illegal immigrants. Tax dollars should be spent for services to citizens and property tax payers who pay your salaries. Also reduce salaries of council members and the mayor. You have all failed at your duties.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Eldrena Hannah

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:09 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The LADOT Crossing Guard Unit is a vital Ambassador to a safe passage for students and pedestrians. Crossing Guards provide safety skills for crossing the streets that may not have traffic lights, signals, signs or painted crosswalks. In most assigned areas, the Crossing Guard is the traffic signal. They are the safety buffer between the traffic and students/pedestrians. There has been several incidents where the presence of a Crossing Guard has prevented the kidnapping of a child and/or the potential of a hit and run. There are students who walk to school alone and feel safe, because they know the Crossing Guard is present to assist and direct them. There are countless parents who can't escort their child to school and they trust the duties of a LADOT Crossing Guard to provide a safe passage for their child to reach the school door. LADOT Crossing Guards have pride in performing their jobs. LADOT Crossing Guards perform their duties in "ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS" and honor the Oath they have made. This job affords the average Crossing Guard to provide for their families, maintain a household and livelihood. Without this employment, it would be a great injustice to many. On behalf of the LADOT Crossing Guards, I respectfully ask, Mayor Karen Bass and every City Council Member to, "NOT CUT THE LADOT CROSSING GUARDS FROM THE CITY BUDGET". It is a pleasure to be of service to the City Of Los Angeles.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Alesan

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 02:10 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. My name is Alesan, and I'm a LA resident of Council District 01 representative of Inclusive Action for the City. 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, green energy, small businesses, and community development. As LA faces a \$1 billion budget deficit and thousands of union jobs at risk – this is urgent. Delays will keep costing the city billions in debt service and finance costs. It's time to stop sending public money to Wall Street, reinvest it in our communities, and help prevent future budget deficits.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kathryn Ryan

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 07:55 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Kathryn Ryan, and I live in Palms, Council District 5. Thank you to the Budget, Finance, and Innovation committee for not only approving the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot but also EXPANDING it to 3 additional police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. We at LA Forward see UMCR as part of the City's long-term commitment to establishing a 24/7, comprehensive city-wide, unarmed crisis response program. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to provide critical coverage to almost 43% of the city, and we look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years. This program offers a valuable service to the people of Los Angeles, and I hope you will continue to support it as it grows. Sincerely, Kathryn Ryan

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sandra Morales

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 07:15 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers: I am a constituent of Los Angeles County District 1, I seasoned Realtor , and writing to you today to ask for your support in amending LA's Rent Stabilization Ordinance. We have several state of emergencies and this ordinance would give peace of mind to renters with a way forward to stability. As it stands, the RSO has allowed rent to far outpace inflation. The 3% minimum increase provides landlords with guaranteed growth in their passive income every year (even when inflation rates are lower) at the direct expense of struggling tenants. The 8% maximum allowable rent increase is also far too high. Too many Angelenos face overcrowding, are rent-burdened, and have been evicted and/or become unhoused due to increasing rents. Los Angeles is among the country's worst cities in housing affordability and homelessness, and that is not a coincidence. Landlords claim they need to raise rents to afford rising costs, but increasing "stabilized" rents have been outpacing costs for decades. We cannot afford to continue making this housing crisis worse. As the city with the most renters in the state, we deserve and will fight for the strongest rent control protections. We hope that you will join us. This letter is sponsored by the Power to the Tenants campaign and the Democratic Socialists of America, Los Angeles. Thank you Sandra Morales

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ari R

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 08:01 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Ari and I've lived in Koreatown for over five years now. I am so excited about the expansion of the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot. I am in full favor of retaining the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approving the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee. UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. As someone who lives in a densely populated neighborhood, armed LAPD officers are simply not capable of properly responding to the needs to people in my community. I've seen UCMR help people and I want that to expand to all parts of LA.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carter Moon

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:23 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As LAPD continues to rampage through our communities and murder people, we often find that the people they kill are experiencing a mental health crisis when they are shot. Unarmed crisis support is essential for preventing these deaths and connecting people to services when they're in most desperate need of them. LAPD officers are not properly trained in de-escalation nor are they licensed clinicians. As with so many other social problems we erroneously attempt to bludgeon with the police, mental health crises cannot be resolved with handcuffs, jail time, or bullets. I personally have experienced the consequences of police showing up and being unequipped to deal with a mental health crisis. I had a neighbor who was struggling with alcoholism and would routinely fall into states of alcohol induced psychosis. When police were called, they would take a very long time to arrive and on multiple occasions simply observed my neighbor screaming inside his apartment and declared there was nothing they could do, leaving after less than a minute. This situation eventually escalated to the point where I was assaulted by my neighbor when he was in a particularly bad episode. My assault could have been prevented through an intervention from mental health counselors who could've directed him to treatment resources. I have been encouraged to see the initial funding of this program and its successes and highly encourage the council to expand the program with an additional \$4.4 million. I want to see all of the city provided with coverage for unarmed crisis response that's available 24/7. Lastly, I'll note that having these unarmed responses is literally cheaper than having LAPD respond, and in a time of acute budget distress finding more cost effective means to deliver services is more vital than ever.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gabriella Landman

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:39 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm a Los Angeles resident and STRONGLY oppose the proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services. These cuts would lead to half of the city's shelters closing which is unfathomable. If anything, more budget should be raised to help the shelter system which faces crises including running overcapacity and already being underfunded. Please reject these cuts and redirect efforts to finding long term, humane solutions for our city's animals.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Christy Lambertson

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:25 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Christy Lambertson, a constituent of County District 11. I am a resident and home owner in Venice. Thank you to the Budget, Finance, and Innovation committee for not only approving the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot but also EXPANDING it to 3 additional police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. We at LA Forward see UMCR as part of the City's long-term commitment to establishing a 24/7, comprehensive city-wide,unarmed crisis response program. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to provide critical coverage to almost 43% of the city, and we look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years. Sincerely, Christy Lambertson

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Steve A Gincig

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:27 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Good afternoon to you all. As the Director of Development and Community Engagement for the Valley InterCommunity Council (VIC....soon to be known as the Valley Council on Seniors), please permit me to be brief and succinct: Food Insecurity and Social Isolation are at epidemic levels among our beloved Senior population. The number of Seniors suffering...living in fear and despair...feeling helpless, even worse, hopeless, continues to grow, even as we provide them over 300,000 nutritious meals annually. Seniors are already experiencing the fastest growth in poverty of any segment of our population and in our local communities. It is essential, indeed crucial, that funding for our Seniors...specifically for programs dedicated to (but not limited to) feeding our Seniors who will otherwise go hungry, continues. YOU can make a difference in their lives NOW. It IS crucial that you do so. And it IS the right thing to do. Our Seniors vote in the greatest numbers...entrusting their futures, their health and the health and strength of our communities, to you. These are the very same people that we looked to earlier in our own lives to help us... To support us... To give us hope... This far too often forgotten segment of our community... These invaluable members of our society, are too often voiceless.. They are looking to you now and in dire need of you now being their voice for them. Speaking on behalf of our organization that has been active for over 60 years... And speaking on behalf of all nonprofits locally who represent and provide Senior services of all types, especially those providing meal to at-risk Seniors: It is essential that the Department of Aging remain its own separate entity so that the concerns and welfare of our Seniors are most effectively addressed. Their needs are best met by the DOA continuing as a stand-alone Department and It is vital that funding for our Senior programs certainly at least remain at Current levels if not increased. Please do NOT take away the voices of our Seniors. Their lives are not over... They need you to protect, support, uplift and speak for them. Our Seniors and we here at VIC are looking to you to stand up for them in this most important time. Warmly, Steve Steven Gincig, MA Director of Development & Community Engagement Founder: Project Golden Cell: 310-400-2056 VIC: Valley InterCommunity Council [www.vic-la.org](http://www.vic-la.org)





# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

821 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles CA 90012  
PHONE: 213-974-3333 | FAX: 213-625-7360

**LINDSEY P. HORVATH**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
THIRD DISTRICT

April 7, 2025

Steven Gincig  
13300 Victory Blvd, Suite 354  
Van Nuys, CA 91401

## **RE: SUPPORT FOR VALLEY INTERCOMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Dear Mr. Gincig:

As the Supervisor representing the Third District of Los Angeles County, I am writing in strong support for the Valley InterCommunity Council (VIC) and its ongoing commitment to providing vital services to the seniors, families, and individuals in the San Fernando Valley. VIC plays an indispensable role in supporting the health, wellness, and social well-being of our older adult community, particularly through its comprehensive nutrition programs, transportation services, and the wide variety of other support services it offers. From the homebound meal program for seniors over the age of 60 to the welcoming and social dining atmosphere provided at its three centers, VIC's ability to meet the diverse needs of the community is truly remarkable.

What stands out even more is VIC's responsiveness to the changing needs of the world around us. In addition to providing essential health and wellness activities, social and recreational events, and case management services, VIC works tirelessly to ensure that seniors and caregivers are supported throughout their journey. The initiative "Project Golden" helps at-risk low-income homebound Seniors by providing accessible space to enjoy the company of others, nutritious meals, wellness programs, arts, exercise & social activities. These types of programs are critical to help build bridges within the community, which is essential to creating a future where seniors, caregivers, and all members of our society feel supported and cared for.

It is my honor to support your organization and its continuous effort to meet the needs of our community. I am confident that your ongoing work will continue to enrich the lives of countless people in the San Fernando Valley for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Lindsey P. Horvath  
Supervisor, Third District  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

**EAST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
DISTRICT OFFICE**

7555 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 1  
Van Nuys, CA 91405

**WEST VALLEY/MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES  
DISTRICT OFFICE**

26600 Agoura Road, Suite 100  
Calabasas, CA 91302

**METRO/WEST HOLLYWOOD  
DISTRICT OFFICE**

6464 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 710  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Brittany D. Rivas

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:41 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Honorable City Council Members, My name is Brittany D. Rivas. I am the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Enhancement Coordinator at Communities for a Better Environment working out of Wilmington and living in Southeast LA. I am very concerned about the climate crisis because our community is impacted by oil drilling, freeways, refineries, the Port of Los Angeles, gentrification, etc. I urge the City to: Restore funding to the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO) to last year's budget of \$750,000. CEMO is vital in ensuring frontline communities that are most impacted by the climate crisis are at the center of policy co-design and decision-making. The decision to cut CEMO undermines the progress we've made toward equitable climate resilience and community empowerment. Recently, our organization was able to receive air purifiers to offer to our community members in Wilmington, many burdened by the health impacts of the surrounding refineries, oil drilling and other industry. Many of these members have shared a deep appreciation for how this has improved their indoor air quality and the noticeable health improvements for themselves, their kiddos and other loved ones. Restore General Plan Health and Environmental Justice positions that are responsible for the Health and Air Quality Elements of the General Plan. As a community member in an environmental justice community, I believe it's important for my health and that of my communities that the City create and implement a community-led Environmental Justice Plan. After decades of historical redlining and environmental racism- the City has an opportunity to correct prior mistakes by working directly with community members to plan for healthy and resilient neighborhoods. Therefore, I urge the City to take the climate crisis seriously and rather than cut vital programs that support my family and my community- to instead invest towards building a healthy and equitable Los Angeles. Thank you, Brittany D. Rivas

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Greg Bartlett

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:46 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please continue to support unarmed crisis response. These programs have proven time and again to help solve problems which are usually exacerbated by police presence. It helps solve the problems that exist without creating new ones. It's also cheaper although that's not enough of a reason. Police chiefs around the country have been asking for these types of unarmed response programs for decades. Their officers are not prepared to handle domestic or mental health crises and that leads to trauma on every side. Please support unarmed crisis response: it's the moral, ethical, economical answer.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ashley Brim

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:48 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live in Council District 10 and I'm writing in support of the Budget, Finance, and Innovation's approval of the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) and their proposal to expand it to 3 more police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget I am asking you to retain the Mayor's proposed budget of \$9.376 million and approve the \$4.4 million dollar expansion is recommended by the Budget Committee at the minimum. Considering that the average call responded to by UMCR only costs the ccity \$35 versus a police response call of the same type/duration costs \$85 (an A LOT MORE if there is a law suit because of officer misconduct), we should be striving to implement this program city-wide. It is a bargain. And it is saving lives! It is clear to Angelenos that LAPD is draining the city of resources - they get the biggest piece of the total budget, get large portions of other departments budgets, and payouts for lawsuits incurred by officer misconduct are one of the primary reasons we are in a budget crisis to begin with. Bearing this in mind, please make every cut you can to their budgets and return that money to our communities with programs like UMCR.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Norma Santa Cruz

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:49 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. My name is Norma A. Santa Cruz, and I'm a LA County Resident. 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, green energy, small businesses, and community development. As LA faces a \$1 billion budget deficit and thousands of union jobs at risk – this is urgent. Delays will keep costing the city billions in debt service and finance costs. It's time to stop sending public money to Wall Street, reinvest it in our communities, and help prevent future budget deficits.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:59 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Clerk, My name is Lizzy Weinraub, and I'm a resident of Council District 13 and a member of DSA-Los Angeles. I'm writing to urge you to fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. As an Angeleno born and raised, I believe we have a responsibility to keep our public dollars local, accountable, and working directly for our communities—not siphoned off into the coffers of Wall Street banks that don't share our values, priorities, or bear any responsibility to the residents of Los Angeles county. Every year, the City of LA spends over \$300 million in interest and fees to big banks, while critical public needs—affordable housing, green infrastructure, local business support—remain underfunded. This is not sustainable. A publicly owned bank would allow Los Angeles to reinvest those funds locally and operate more like a city lending to itself. Through strategic partnerships with credit unions and CDFIs, a public bank could expand lending power to historically underserved communities, all while reducing costs and increasing financial resilience. I believe banking should be treated like a public utility—transparent, accountable, and designed to serve the public good. As we face a \$1 billion budget deficit and mounting economic pressures, now is the time to rethink our financial systems. A Public Bank for LA is a long-overdue step toward fiscal responsibility, economic justice, and long-term community investment. Please fund the feasibility study and move us toward a future where LA's money stays in LA—supporting people, not profits. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Lizzy Weinraub Silver Lake Resident, CD13

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Paul Schreiber

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 12:00 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** During the past 7 years of filming "Bosch" and 3 years of "Bosch: Legacy" for Amazon, Eva Bitar, the City of Los Angeles Motion Picture and Television Manager has been vital. Not long ago I had secured verbal approval to film a simple dialogue scene in a City golf course maintenance yard. To avoid affecting golf course operations, the production would film it after hours. We proceeded with our planning and brought the director on site to scout. He gravitated to the mechanics' garage for his opening shot which would then look out over the queue of mowers awaiting repair and find our main character walking through the yard. We had subsequent scouting trips, and fine tuned parking, equipment staging, we even got permission for the use of various props and a mower that would drive through the background. As the film day approached, our permit was denied. What many in the process don't realize is there is a point in production where the ship has left the port. Altering location or schedule is tremendously costly and at times not a possibility. Denial was unacceptable. I spoke with the stakeholders I had been dealing with up to that point and tried to understand what the issue was. None offered an explanation. When logic fails to exist, when personalities flare up, when it seems that a simple shoot becomes unnecessarily complicated, I consult with Eva Bitar. Her knowledge of how the City functions coupled with her position and authority allows her to break through what often are simple miscommunications. She was able to learn that the mechanics were behind in their work and the golf course operations didn't want the mechanics distracted (whether real or perceived). With this information, we were able to find middle ground and we tailored our shots to avoid the mechanics' area. Not a problem. What should have been easy for a production, became messy and potentially costly because the different people and entities that filmmakers rely on don't always understand all that goes into the filmmaking process. And let me be clear, I don't expect them to. They are City workers running a golf course. It's not their job to know the ramifications of their actions to a production. What I do expect from a City that houses and wants to continue housing "Hollywood", is that they provide someone to fill this gap. Someone who does understand all that film production requires, and has access to converse with those in the City that are otherwise unavailable to filmmakers. Eva Bitar

sees the bigger picture. She is a fixer. She bridges the divides between film productions and City departments and residents. She always answers the phone. She listens. She acts. She helps find resolution. Her role in the process is crucial and I find it confounding that her position is threatened, a rethink is needed here. Thank you for your time, Paul Schreiber Producer & Supervising Location Manager ?(presently unemployed and needing film work to stay in LA!!!)



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Maya Mackey

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 08:32 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Maya Mackey and I'm a resident in city council district 5. I want to thank the council and Mayor Bass for voting to keep the life changing, city improving Unarmed Crisis Response Services and seeking to expand it three more LA neighborhoods/cities. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million AND approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as Unarmed Crisis Reports not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call response to a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. Those \$50 add up and we need to keep the pilot program going in order to extract data on the amount of city savings we can have with a fully expanded program. We know that our city is in a financial deficit and we want to be part of the solution! Unarmed Crisis Response Model is a huge step forward in increasing public safety whilst reducing the sometimes fatal harm of untrained, fearful police officers at the scene of distress. This program will also create jobs as the demand for mental health crisis professionals is at an all time high following the 2020 pandemic. Thank you for hearing your constituents and being a part of an innovative solution to protect our city, decrease violence and help those on the margins suffering the most. Keep the Mayor's 9 Million dollar budget and throw in an additional \$4.4 million so that we can continue the good work! Thank you very much!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hyde Park Organizational Partnership for Empowerment

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 08:41 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Hyde Park Organizational Partnership for Empowerment residing in District 8 zip code 90043 wants to stress that it is critical that your budget take into consideration the lack of job services that exist in our area. It is the largest population of Black people in the city of Los Angeles but seriously lacks training and employment opportunities. Our EDD Building has been closed since October 4, 2017 and helped to further the lack of access to opportunities for training and employment. The lack of economic development in our area must be included in the budget to begin creating justice for our community with living wage employment so we too can feed our families, have stability in affordable housing and home ownership, have medical care and all of the basic necessities of life. Our fore-parents were 26 of the 44 founders of the city of Los Angeles and know that our contribution to this city helped to build this city. The local hire needs to reflect the actual population that lives in the area. Because the Department of Public Social Services and the EDD have been closed and are not options in our area to receive employment and training services, we assert that the Freedman Bureau needs to be formally recognized as an institution to address the historical and current disparities that continue to plague our communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marlene D McCurtis

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 08:57 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to let you know that I am very opposed to the proposed budget cuts to the Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center (LHYAC) and other vital DCA Community Arts Centers across the City of Los Angeles. For decades, these cultural centers have served as essential hubs for creativity and education in our neighborhoods, promoting critical thinking, dialogue, and empathy. They create moments of wonder, joy, connection, and beauty. These unique and important city facilities provide safe spaces for youth to express themselves through art, music, dance, and culture, offering accessible opportunities that are often unavailable elsewhere. In particular, the Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center has empowered generations of young people and families, nurturing artistic talent, building confidence and a positive sense of identity, and strengthening community ties

# YOGA@

May 20, 2025

Dear Honorable Mayor Karen Bass, City of Los Angeles Councilmembers including local CD 1 Councilwoman Eunisses Hernandez, and DCA General Manager, Daniel Tarica:

My name is Marlene McCurtis, and I am a community member as well as the founder and director of Yoga@, a grassroots organization offering yoga to underserved communities. Yoga@ has provided yoga at the Lincoln Heights Youth Art Center (LHYAC) for six years. First as an artist in residence, and then, under contract with the Department of Culture Affairs. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the budget cuts to the Lincoln Heights Youth Arts Center and other Department of Cultural Affairs Community Arts Centers proposed in the City of Los Angeles Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.

Yoga@, with the support of the Art Center's director and staff, has provided programs in yoga, meditation, and mindfulness to community members of all ages, from toddlers to seniors. This unique partnership has not only enriched the community but also positively impacted each yoga teacher who has taught and interacted with the students and families. As a yoga practitioner, a creative writing teaching artist, and a community member, I have witnessed the impact LHYAC's multidisciplinary arts program and various cultural events have had on hundreds of students and families in the predominantly Latino and Asian immigrant community of Lincoln Heights. A reduction in these services, particularly when our immigrant communities are under increasing threat, is even more distressful. This is a time when, as Los Angelenos and caring citizens, we need to support our most vulnerable communities instead of reducing much-needed services.

The local community of Lincoln Heights is predominantly low-income and deserves fair funding for the arts in our own backyard. The City's budget should be allocated equitably to support the full-time staffing needed for the Center to continue providing high-quality arts education and culture programming to everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Marlene McCurtis  
Yoga@  
Founder/Director



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stephanie Bunker

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 09:03 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hawaii abolished its felony murder rule in 1972. Given that that this law has been misused and overly used on people of color it is imperative that we expand the unarmed crises response. I have a step daughter that is schizophrenic, and it is imperative that we start to have an option other than armed response for mental health calls and even domestic disputes. This will save our city money, and allow resources to be distributed more properly.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Hannah Bruhns

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 09:11 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name Hannah; I have been a lifetime resident in Los Angeles and a proud member of LA Forward. I would like to express my profound appreciation for the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee's approval of the Mayor's proposal to continue the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response (UMCR) pilot and also expanding it to 3 additional police divisions. As the Council finalizes the budget, I am asking that you retain the Mayor's proposed budget allocation of \$9.376 million and approve the \$4.4 million for expansion as recommended by the Budget committee as UMCR not only provides crucial services to assist some of the most vulnerable Angelenos but also saves LA taxpayers money. The average call responded to by a UMCR team only costs the city \$35 whereas a police response to a call of the same type and duration costs \$85. We at LA Forward see UMCR as part of the City's long-term commitment to establishing a 24/7, comprehensive city-wide, unarmed crisis response program. The current proposed funding will allow UMCR to provide critical coverage to almost 43% of the city, and we look forward to the City Council allocating funding to expand the program to cover 100% of the city in the coming years. Sincerely, Hannah

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Karina Hernandez

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 09:56 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to the Budget Committee to express my gratitude for restoring positions critical to Brownfields, LA River Office, and parks programs and climate initiatives. In the face of increasing climate challenges, these dedicated professionals will help ensure Los Angeles remains safe, resilient, and livable for all residents. Their work to expand green spaces, manage urban heat, and implement climate adaptation strategies is more vital than ever as our city confronts rising temperatures and environmental pressures. Sincerely, Karina Hernandez



## Communication from Public

**Name:** dante alencastre

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 10:14 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As an immigrant, free lance artist and volunteer arts administrator I read the latest news from Councilman Soto and I did not see see any funds being allocated to support the arts. Especially the arts ecosystem that nurtures and produces young and emerging artists of color, LGBTQ+, euro divergent and immigrant populations. We are all essential workers and art is a healing tool that creates lasting change and gives our communities hope and a vibrant voice. Please do not silence us.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 10:15 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** "Fund the Public Bank Feasibility Study. My name is Chih-Wei Hsu, and I'm a LA resident / member of Council District 13. 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, green energy, small businesses, and community development. As LA faces a \$1 billion budget deficit and thousands of union jobs at risk – this is urgent. Delays will keep costing the city billions in debt service and finance costs. It's time to stop sending public money to Wall Street, reinvest it in our communities, and help prevent future budget deficits."

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Da In Choi

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 10:23 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Day laborers are on the front lines during climate and political disasters (COVID and Wildfires) but haven't been recognized as an important part of the city. Our lives are interdependent. We can live our day-to-day lives because of day laborers whose contribution to our collective well-being is fundamental. Mayor Bass defunding Day Labor Centers makes workers' contributions to the economy of LA invisible. Please continue supporting day laborers and worker centers!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Monica Curtin

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 11:17 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmember, Thank you for your leadership and commitment to restoring positions critical to parks, brownfields, LA River restoration, and climate initiatives. Work to expand green spaces, manage urban heat, and implement climate adaptation strategies is crucial as our city confronts rising temperatures and environmental pressures. Please note, extreme heat is the most deadly natural event. Our elderly, sick, and financially struggling neighbors are most at risk in the face of climate events such as extreme heat. Your support for these positions reflects a meaningful investment for all of your constituents, as well as for posterity. Thank you for your commitment to a climate-resilient Los Angeles.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Curtis Collins

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 06:20 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Members of the City Council, My name is Curtis Collins. I am a native Angeleno and also a working location manager in Los Angeles for over 35 years. I am writing to express my deep concern over the deletion of the Motion Picture and Television Manager position in the Department of Public Works held by the incomparable Eva Bitar. The last several years location professionals have had very little assistance from the city's for-profit permitting agency, Film L.A. or its predecessor EIDC. We had been left on our own to contact various city departments for help in order to satisfy the needs of production and safely accomplish filming a particular special effect or stunt sequence. I have had to drive to the DOT yard on Ave 19 in Lincoln Heights more than once to get signs and post my own no parking signs. Eva Bitar changed all that when she became the Motion Picture and Television Manager. Location professionals finally had someone to advocate for common sense solutions and to navigate the boondoggle of city bureaucracy. For example, on the last day of filming my most recent series, SEAL Team, we had a drive by scene with actors seeing a sign on the side of the road. Griffith Park was chosen and a small post had to be placed on the easement. A park monitor was required for this simple shot, another unnecessary labor cost adding to the high cost of filming in L.A., although noted on the permit, the monitor refused to allow the post to be placed. 50 people standing around waiting while he tried to get his supervisor on the phone. Eva saw the senselessness in that and gave the go ahead and informed the monitor. There are countless other instances when Eva Bitar paved the way through the city bureaucracy and helped me and my crew complete seven seasons of high action drama on SEAL Team. Several years ago, I filmed Live Free or Die Hard in Los Angeles. I had support from Mayor Villaraigosa, the permit office's V.P., Caltrans, LA World Airports and others enabling me to film an unbelievably difficult sequence on the 105 freeway. I had months to plan and negotiate the sequence. On SEAL Team, as with other television shows, we have but a few days to sometimes arrange nearly as complex a sequence. The support from almost all those agencies has dried up. Eva holds the knowledge and expertise to get to the correct people and enlighten them to the value of filming in L.A. and get them to be part of the production team. Film L.A. has become

more of a hindrance to filming than a help. Permitting turnaround times have become untenable. What used to take a day or two, now takes five days to permit. We often have to pull permits without knowing exactly what a given shoot day will require. This means permitting things that aren't required and spending vast amounts of money for no reason, one of the many reasons productions have left the city. Eva sees the big picture and can reach and explain the needs of production to the management at Film L.A. The best option to help location professionals and therefor productions film in Los Angeles, save money and get the thousands of tax paying industry professionals back to work is to cut the bureaucracy, reduce city services cost and keep Eva Bitar as the most helpful resource for location professionals. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Curtis Collins  
Location Manager Teamster 399

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tasha Le Mel & Andrew Werner

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 06:22 PM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** To the members Budget and Finance Committee: As a native of Los Angeles (speaking on behalf of myself and my husband Andrew Werner, a 30-year resident of L.A.) it has been deeply distressing and shameful to watch as city government repeatedly disregards the preservation of the few remaining historic landmarks and aesthetic character of my hometown, all in the service of accruing ill-gotten money from big developers! Though I understand that L.A. is trying to balance the budget, the truth is that cutting the staff of the already tiny Office of Historic Resources will scarcely put a dent in the budget shortfall, and will significantly weaken the ability to protect beautiful HPOZ neighborhoods, Historic-Cultural Monuments, and National Register historic districts. Furthermore, the layoff of the only staff member maintaining Historic Places LA and ending the city's Survey LA program will be detrimental to documenting and protecting L.A.'s past well into our future. DO NOT FORGET that L.A.'s history is a major reason that tourists visit Los Angeles, and we desperately need the revenue that tourism brings. Please reconsider these cuts bearing in mind that you'll be a part of destroying the history of our beloved city! Sincerely, Tasha Le Mel & Andrew Werner Hollywood

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kristen Schwarz

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 09:02 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I work in CD1 and live in CD 13, and as a constituent I am writing to urge you use your power in budget decision making to protect critical jobs and city services that we cannot afford to lose. The Office of Wage Standards and City Day Labor Centers are already dangerously understaffed in order to be able to effectively defend LA's workforce. Drastic cuts to city departments including the Office of Wage Standards (OWS) could turn the clock back on long-overdue reforms to fighting wage theft in Los Angeles. We need to properly fund the departments in our city that are responsible for enforcing the laws that protect working class families and their ability to achieve economic prosperity. We also can't afford to walk back our efforts to make Los Angeles a more climate resilient city. The City's environmental justice progress is possible because of city workers including in LASAN, Street Services, Planning, Recreation and Parks, and the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. City workers are critical to programs like brownfields remediation, LA River restoration, environmental planning, cooling centers, and the Rec and Parks programs and shade that families rely on. These jobs are climate jobs that working families and LA's climate progress rely on. In a time when working people and the environment already face unprecedented federal threats to the resources and regulations necessary for health and well-being, the role our city can play in our collective safety and well-being is more crucial than ever. Please do everything possible to protect the workforce in these departments. I know that making decisions around the budget is difficult, but I urge the Council not to lean into austerity when we will pay much more for it later.



## Communication from Public

**Name:** LOUIS DE FONTANES

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 09:07 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** To Whom It May Concern: My name is Louis de Fontanes. I have been a Motion Picture and Television Manager for the past 30 years. My entire career has been spent in Los Angeles and California. I am writing to the city of LA and Mayor Bass to communicate my support to the exceptional and dedicated work Eva Bitar has done for the city of LA and our film community. In learning that her position within the city has been challenged, I can assure you that this decision would be a monumental mistake for the City of Los Angeles. The City of LA is at a turning point right now as many of our jobs have been lost to foreign countries due to soaring permit costs and excessive regulations. I believe that any California State incentives will not be enough to bringing back runaway productions to California if the film industry doesn't feel that they are strongly supported by the State and the City of Los Angeles. Eva Bitar is the last link between city government agencies and our industry. She is one of the few city employees that knows better than anyone what the city requires from us and what our industry needs. Her positive attitude and understanding of the community have greatly helped our film productions in smoothing filming projects in Los Angeles. Our Producers have gradually lost confidence in Los Angeles. We, as location Managers, can work anywhere in the world, but Los Angeles is our city, and Eva Bitar is who brings trust in filming here. The City of Los Angeles needs to make the right cuts but cannot afford to make the wrong ones. Cutting Mrs. Bitar from her job will be a monumental mistake with lasting negative effects. I am hopeful that the City will make the right decision in keeping Eva Bitar in her pivotal role. Sincerely Yours, Louis de Fontanes, Teamsters 399 California On Location Awards Winner, Location Manager of the Year, 2011 and 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Louis de Fontanes. I have been a Motion Picture and Television Manager for the past 30 years. My entire career has been spent in Los Angeles and California.

I am writing to the city of LA and Mayor Bass to communicate my support to the exceptional and dedicated work Eva Bitar has done for the city of LA and our film community.

In learning that her position within the city has been challenged, I can assure you that this decision would be a monumental mistake for the City of Los Angeles.

The City of LA is at a turning point right now as many of our jobs have been lost to foreign countries due to soaring permit costs and excessive regulations. I believe that any California State incentives will not be enough to bringing back runaway productions to California if the film industry doesn't feel that they are strongly supported by the State and the City of Los Angeles.

Eva Bitar is the last link between city government agencies and our industry. She is one of the few city employees that knows better than anyone what the city requires from us and what our industry needs. Her positive attitude and understanding of the community have greatly helped our film productions in smoothing filming projects in Los Angeles.

Our Producers have gradually lost confidence in Los Angeles. We, as location Managers, can work anywhere in the world, but Los Angeles is our city, and Eva Bitar is who brings trust in filming here.

The City of Los Angeles needs to make the right cuts but cannot afford to make the wrong ones. Cutting Mrs. Bitar from her job will be a monumental mistake with lasting negative effects.

I am hopeful that the City will make the right decision in keeping Eva Bitar in her pivotal role.

Sincerely Yours,

Louis de Fontanes, Teamsters 399

California On Location Awards Winner, Location Manager of the Year, 2011 and 2019

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 09:36 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Sam Warford, and I am writing to urge the City of Los Angeles to reverse the proposed 2025–2026 budget cuts to the Department of Cultural Affairs, which would severely impact Barnsdall Art Park—a vital cultural and community resource. Barnsdall is home to Hollyhock House, L.A.'s only UNESCO World Heritage site, and has served generations of Angelenos through accessible arts programming. The proposed elimination of seven key staff positions—including three of four full-time roles at Hollyhock House—would suspend public tours, dramatically reduce programming at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and Gallery Theatre, and gut affordable fine arts education at the Barnsdall Arts and Junior Arts Centers. For over 50 years, Barnsdall Art Park has offered low-cost, high-quality arts education to thousands of children and adults each year. These programs are not just classes—they are essential to the cultural fabric of Los Angeles. Eliminating them would dismantle a cornerstone of public access to the arts in our city. My partner and I have personally benefited from Barnsdall's fine arts classes. These classes brought us joy, purpose, and creative expression during incredibly difficult and uncertain times—both in our personal lives and nationally. At a time when the federal government is threatening to cut funding for the arts, the City of Los Angeles must stand firm in its support for creativity and community. Affordable arts programming like Barnsdall's is not a luxury—it's a lifeline for countless residents seeking inspiration, healing, and connection. I respectfully urge you to protect Barnsdall Art Park and preserve funding for the Department of Cultural Affairs. A Los Angeles without Barnsdall as we know it is not the Los Angeles we know and love.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Zoe

**Date Submitted:** 05/20/2025 09:37 AM

**Council File No:** 25-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I am a resident of Los Angeles and am very concerned about the proposed budget. Cutting \$520,000 in HIV prevention funding, eliminating contracts that reduce overdose deaths and serve unhoused residents is harmful to our city as a whole. This proposed budget also limits our ability to provide ASL interpretation in emergency situations, further endangering my fellow residents. This budget is cutting essential services and it doesn't need to happen, there is money sitting from the City's \$27.5 million opioid settlement fund that can be reallocated to retain critical staffing and restore HIV services. I am writing because I care about our city and its residents and this proposed budget not only leaves the City liable for law suits, it is causing direct harm to our most vulnerable residents.