



IMELDA PADILLA
COUNCILMEMBER
6TH DISTRICT

May 7, 2025

Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee
200 N Spring St
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Mayor's Proposed Budget

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for your continued leadership during this challenging budget season. I recognize the City's difficult fiscal situation.

I support the Mayor's proposed investments in public safety, including funding for the Fire Department and continued support for the Human Trafficking and Prostitution Detail in the Valley.

I respectfully urge the Committee to prioritize the following:

Homelessness Strategy – Fund Hyper-Local Response

With the County's withdrawal from LAHSA and the City considering its own governance restructuring around homelessness, we are facing a period of uncertainty. This funding allowed Council Districts to respond to hyper-local needs with targeted outreach, encampment resolution, and interim housing strategies. The needs of unhoused individuals differ across neighborhoods. Each Council District should have the flexibility to respond with a hyper-local strategy tailored to the specific conditions, population, and geography of their communities. I strongly recommend preserving this flexibility by restoring the \$17 million in General City Purposes (GCP) funds for Additional Homeless Services and allocating it evenly across all 15 Council Districts. This funding has been effective for Council to bridge service gaps and provide solutions tailored to hyper-local needs.



Bureau of Sanitation: Preserve CARE and CARE+ Team Levels

Reducing CARE/CARE+ to 12 teams citywide would create unacceptable service gaps, especially in my district and across the Valley, where encampments grow quickly without regular engagement. I urge the restoration of funding to maintain current service levels. CARE/CARE+ services are among the most requested by my constituents. When CARE/CARE+ teams are deployed in my district, the impact is immediate and appreciated. Our office has received hundreds of emails attesting to the value of these programs. Not restoring these teams would be disastrous, undermining both sanitation and public trust. As we work to move unhoused residents indoors, we must also keep public spaces clean and safe.

City Planning: Protect the East San Fernando Valley Transit Neighborhood Plan

The Proposed Budget eliminates the team responsible for the East San Fernando Valley Transit Neighborhood Plan, an important planning initiative for housing and mobility equity. This plan supports inclusive zoning, affordable housing development, and community revitalization along the East Valley Light Rail corridor. I strongly urge restoration of this team to keep the plan on track. Its loss would harm Council District 6 and neighboring communities in Districts 7 and 4.

Fund Pacoima Wash Bridge Mitigation – \$1.2 Million

This shovel-ready project addresses recurring fires and encampments beneath the bridges along the Pacoima Wash in my district. The Bureau of Engineering has completed a cost estimate to secure the bridges. Funding this mitigation effort now will reduce risk and protect both infrastructure and residents.

Support Community Safety: Reinstate \$1.1 Million for Day Laborer Program

Day Labor Centers are a critical resource for many residents, and provide a valuable community safety service. However, the Proposed Budget does not continue the \$1.1 million in contractual services funding for the Day Laborer Program. This cut would destabilize informal labor markets and weaken worker protections. As a Sanctuary City, Los Angeles must uphold its commitment to immigrant communities and their role in our economy. We must restore this funding.

Additionally, it's important to remember the historical role of these sites. City-funded, staffed day laborer centers serve as vital liaisons among the City, LAPD, the business community, and workers. Before their existence, constituents had few alternatives and often turned to federal agencies out of frustration. Preserving this infrastructure is both practical and principled.

Preserve the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office (CEMO)

CEMO plays a central role in preparing the City for worsening climate events. Valley communities experience extreme heat regularly, and January's disaster illustrated the need for preparedness. CEMO plays a vital role in pushing forward policies that protect frontline communities. This office should remain funded.

Support Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's (DONE) Proposed Realignment

I support DONE's proposal to consolidate roles and enhance field operations to restore five critical filled positions. These adjustments reflect responsible management adapting to reduced resources and should be supported.

Preserve the Youth Development Department (YDD) and Transfer GRYD Under Its Authority

YDD is the only department dedicated to advancing opportunities, leadership, safety, and well-being for young Angelenos. YDD has made progress in building a Citywide infrastructure that elevates youth voices and supports community-based programs. It fills a critical gap in City services by coordinating prevention, intervention, and leadership development for youth.

Additionally, the Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD) program, which is effective in providing community-based intervention, should be under YDD. GRYD's success depends on its integration into a structure where it can be supported and strategically aligned with broader youth development goals. GRYD currently provides prevention services at New Directions for Youth and El Nido in Council Districts 2 and 7, respectively. Council District 6 should also be considered for a location to meet strong local demand for prevention services. I urge the Committee to preserve YDD and transfer GRYD under its leadership. This will expand GRYD's impact and strengthen the City's capacity to serve youth equitably.

The above priorities are based on urgent needs and alignment with City goals. I understand that the City must make difficult decisions and appreciate the thoughtful deliberation that the Committee brings to its review process. I ask for your support in ensuring that these critical investments are funded in the budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Imelda Padilla". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Imelda" being more prominent than the last name "Padilla".

IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, 6th District
City of Los Angeles