

Communication from Public

Name: Jester Jersey

Date Submitted: 05/27/2026 12:00 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections & Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I'm submitting my written public comment in regards to this Thursday's Personnel, Police & Matters Not Addressed-focused May 28th, 2026 meeting. Please find materials for consideration that were previously looked at by the Charter Reform Commission during their deliberation process from late February to the conclusion of the Commission's work in late March for your continued work to make the recommended matters into ballots for the November election. I have done my best to include only relevant topics, as reflected on the Resources & Materials page found on the Reform L.A. Charter website. Thank you for your work, consideration and service to the city of Los Angeles. Sincerely, Jester Jersey
Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

(Compiled, unedited written comments around Charter recommendations sent to the Charter Reform Commission between February 24th - March 24th, 2026)

Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission(Feb. 24th, 2026 on the Office of an Inspector General),

First and foremost, I write to thank the Commission for last week's vote to approve recommending lowering the voting age to 16 to the City Council. This move not only empowers some of the youngest voters from one of the largest municipalities in the country but also improves democracy as a whole, ensuring that the next generation of democratic participants are heard in the process of choosing their next leaders.

As with lowering the voting age to 16 for municipal and school board elections, it is also critical that not only young people are able to hold leaders accountable, or to place them in positions requiring accountability, just like every other voter who already had that privilege before this, but to also have individuals in supervisory roles to oversee any potential issues that may arise from public leaders as they take on roles to administer governance of the city. Therefore, I support the establishment of an Inspector General(IG) position to be included in the new charter.

We have seen in recent times the move to undermine the importance of several similar offices at the federal level, where procedures have been sidestepped in order to make a more agreeable, homogenized administration that answers to no one other than whoever is lucky to be on top, which in turn creates an office of leadership that is accountable to no one(1). That is not a form of democratic government, and is not in line with the principles of how our nation was founded.

Governance should not be up to the whims of an individual or select few, but in the voice of the people as a whole. An inspector general serves as an accountability officer who supervises those in power in order to ensure that the rights of the people are not impinged upon should they conflict. Incorporating such a position within the new charter will not just help restore local accountability, but also faith with the IG system, thus helping to rebuild the public's trust in local governance, one of the main reasons for the formation of this deliberative body(2).

I advise the Commission during its conversation about the crafting of such a position to insulate whomever is designated to take on the role of Inspector General from both the undue influence of partisan politics and retaliatory actions that those in leadership positions may take to weaken the powers of the IG. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jester Jersey
Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

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<https://ourpublicservice.org/blog/president-trumps-firing-of-inspectors-general-threatens-government-accountability-and-efficiency/>

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<https://thehill.com/opinion/judiciary/5741856-trump-administration-executive-reforms/>

Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission(March 5th, 2026 on the establishment of a Freedmen's Bureau),

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment before you today. I am writing in regards to Agenda Item no. 4, the consideration of a Freedmen's Bureau-style framework for reparative justice mechanisms. I believe there is some precedence for doing so in some capacity for its consideration in today's political climate..

The original concept of this notion was first established by Congress in March of 1865 in order to reconstruct the post-Civil War South(1). At this time, we still currently have Title IX law that guarantees equal opportunity for any applicant to pursue higher education opportunities funded by federal assistance(2). Although that deals more with gender equality rather than a racial one, it does point out that historically, certain groups, whether they're racial minorities or women, have faced challenges accessing equal opportunities experienced by non-female, non-minorities.

While the United States has come a long way after 250 years after declaring its independence from England, we must also remember that it was not too long ago that women's suffrage and segregation laws were fairly recent phenomena(3)(4). However, despite Federal Title IX law helping women today, one can argue that situational challenges, especially of race-based ones, can be harder to overcome than gender ones.

Critics can argue that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act addresses most of this now(5). However, even that is under threat at this time(6). Furthermore, unlike with Title IX, largely centered opportunities around higher learning, the ancestral Freedmen's Bureau version of the 1860's concentrated more on daily living needs, i.e., provisions and clothing(7). Additionally, it provided a humanitarian, supervisory function as it oversaw agreements between slaves and former masters, but also saw that former slaves also received equal treatment in the eyes of the law and political leaders. In some cases, even reuniting separated families(8). Rather than a hand out, it provides a hand up to level the playing field, promoting empowerment rather than dependence.

One can easily see parallels at this time with things happening at the local and national level. Some examples are mistrust of police, mistreatment of individuals by ICE, family separation and other issues(9)(10)(11). We already know the founding of the Charter Reform Commission originated from the scandal of mistrust in some leaders, so by not addressing these issues of inequality today, not only will it compound existing problems, but will also lead to further trust issues down the road, resulting to a degraded quality of living that I fear no future commission will be able to remedy. A reparative mechanism can do for L.A. what Title IX does nationally.

While these examples above are not necessarily exactly the same as it was 160 years ago in a post-Civil War America, it should give one pause as to whether we truly have come a long way in addressing some of the injustices some suffer that we claim to have already addressed, or are trying to address- unsuccessfully. It should also give one a moment to reflect whether we are doing all that we can to address them adequately, or if we can do more. If the answer to that previous question is no, then perhaps a provisional, temporary Freedmen's Bureau-style framework(the more part) may be needed until some or all of these issues can be addressed sufficiently.

If the framework works, keep it. Refine it if needed. If it doesn't, get rid of it. Doing nothing is not an option. Doing something that helps marginalized Angelenos is. Thank you again for your time and consideration on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Jester Jersey

Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

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<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/federal/freedmen%E2%80%99s-bureau/>
2. Title IX and Sex Discrimination
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3. 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Women's Right to Vote (1920)
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4. Jim Crow Laws
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5. Understanding Title VI
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<https://www.milbank.org/quarterly/opinions/the-trump-administration-comes-for-title-vi-of-the-1964-civil-rights-act/#:~:text=Its%20full%20impact%20will%20take,activity%20receiving%20Federal%20financial%20assistance.>
7. Freedmen's Bureau
<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/federal/freedmen%E2%80%99s-bureau/>
8. Ibid
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10. US: ICE Abuses in Los Angeles Set Stage for Other Cities
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/11/04/us-ice-abuses-in-los-angeles-set-stage-for-other-cities>
11. "Hija, I'm so sorry, ICE got me." LA families share life after being torn apart by ICE
<https://lapublicpress.org/2025/06/ice-raids-immigration-detention-family/>
Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission(March 10th, 2026 on recommendations by the Black Workers Center),

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment before you today.

I am writing in regards to Agenda Item no. 4 regarding the charter recommendations from the Black Workers Center.

In the last few weeks, I've spoken on behalf of motions to empower Angelenos, from young people through the opportunity of voting at 16 to police accountability reforms through public comment, to the consideration of an Inspector General to provide city oversight to a local Freedmen's Bureau that would consider reparative justice mechanisms to address generational struggles that are still going on today via written comment. Through a once-in-a-generation reform of the current charter, hopefully some of these be addressed in the near future with the new city charter.

I also believe ongoing efforts to reform the charter through agenda items that have yet to receive a vote are important, especially from diverse groups across L.A., so this is also why I endorse the charter reform recommendations on Agenda Item no. 4 by the Los Angeles Black Worker Center(LABWC)(1). Nothing can serve as a more powerful testament to the struggles of a dedicated group of advocates than shared, lived experiences.

The LABWC provides some suggested reforms that would uplift the Black community in ways that would also align with empowering fellow Angelenos while also holding local government accountable(2). Motions such as participatory budgeting would also align with the LABWC's recommendation that public dollars are used to serve public needs, rather than for privatized uses that do not serve public needs nor are easily accountable for.

Finally, considering the recommendations made by the LABWC would make Los Angeles a more governable, efficiently-functioning city(3). When you have residents who are in fear of law enforcement, who distrust local leaders, and don't believe the system is working for them, this contributes to the city's dysfunction(4)(5)(6).

This charter reform opportunity is one of those rare instances where trusted community leaders representing all walks of life and who call Los Angeles home can make lasting, meaningful change that helps the city to do its job well, that empowers diverse groups, and restores faith in local governance. The LABWC's recommendations can help address many of these issues while enriching the quality of living for Angelenos throughout the city.

I urge the Charter Reform Commission to support the recommendations proposed by the Los Angeles Black Worker Center to make Los Angeles more fair for its residents, favorable for its visitors and functional for governance. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jester Jersey
Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

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1. Los Angeles Black Worker Center
<https://lablackworkercenter.org/who-we-are/>
2. I Support LABWC's Charter Reform Recommendations
<https://lablackworkercenter.org/app/uploads/2026/02/Comissioner-Email-.pdf>
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6. My heart breaks as Los Angeles burns. But where are the city's leaders? | Opinion
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnist/2025/01/09/los-angeles-wildfires-karen-bass-gavin-newsom/77545546007/>

Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission(March 19th, 2026 on an office of Inspector General),

Thank you for taking the time to read my written comment today. I am writing in regards to Agenda Item no. 1L, on the Ethics Commission Inspector General.

Last month, I submitted a written comment on behalf of the creation of the Inspector General within the Ethics Commission(1). I still believe that is an essential part of city government for the very same reasons I already mentioned in my written comment, so I will refer you to my previous submission for it(2). In the absence of recommended Charter Language that will be sent to the City Council prior to the submission of this written comment, I would like to further expound on my submission last month on the importance of the IG for the city of Los Angeles.

Corruption in Los Angeles is a big issue is was the main basis for the same body whose members are reading this comment today. One need not look far in any news headline from any media outlet that has done any kind of reporting in recent memory where some type of scandal or corruption event in Los Angeles is mentioned(3). For one of the largest cities in the country, this does little in favor of both local and national government image. As faith in government working for the people has reached one of the lowest levels in history, the support for the Office of IG is crucial to restoring the people's trust in the Los Angeles city government(4).

If their removal from office by leadership is significant in a way that impacts how the government governs over the people, then surely support of their office or defining greater ways they can serve as the community watchdog of the people is equally as important(5). In a region characterized as a "corridor of corruption" by one elected official, ones in a leadership role should support the continued operations of an IG, especially in Los Angeles(6).

Los Angeles is anything but corruption-free. If anyone even pays remote attention to any news from Los Angeles, it is rarely ever anything positive. Supporting the Office of IG, along with supporting other city oversight roles like City Controller and/or a Public Advocate gives Angelenos better faith in their own city government(7). At a time when national corruption is seen at an all-time high for the country, having government supervisory roles like the IG, City Controller and Public Advocate are more crucial than ever to restore some of that faith in government, even if only at the local level(8). Angelenos need a government that works for them and with them, not against them or against their interests.

Thank you for your continued work on improving the city's charter, and for your time and consideration to my comment.

Sincerely,
Jester Jersey
Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

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1. Written Comment to the Charter Reform Commission, Feb. 24, 2026, p. 268 - 269
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2. Ibid
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Dear Honorable Commissioners of the Los Angeles Charter Reform Commission(March 24th, 2026 on miscellaneous Charter Reform Issues),

Thank you for taking the time to read my written comment today. I am writing in regards to a few of the agenda items in this packed meeting, specifically Agenda Items no. 2D - 2G, 1L, 1O, 1P, 2A. Because I have spoken and/or written on most of these in recent meetings, I won't introduce new material for consideration, but would like to emphasize the importance of each in the context of this agenda.

On Police Accountabilty reforms(Agenda nos. 2D - 2G), I again would like to emphasize that my comments earlier this month that police reforms are essential because they are instrumental in keeping the city peace(1). They are among the first individuals in civilized society that interacts with the public when issues arise, so common sense reform should be enacted to ensure that they are able to keep the peace and have the trust of the people that they serve.

Regarding the Inspector General(Agenda no. 1L), I have written twice on matter, including both last month and as recently as last week(2)(3). I mentioned the importance of an IG serving Angelenos as a local government watchdog in an impartial capacity. At the same time, having such an office in the city of Los Angeles firmly installed will improve the city's reputation as the IG on behalf of the people and against corruption.

For Language Access(Agenda no. 1O), I've spoken on this at a previous Commission Meeting. L.A. is a global city that has native roots from all corners of the globe(4). With diverse origins coupled with even more diversity because of its global status on the global stage, it is essential that all who live, work, play and visit the city are able to navigate the vastness of the city, no matter their reason for being there. Easier language access means all will be able to get around the city unimpeded.

For the Public Bank(Agenda no. 1P), it is crucial that the city works on a local financial infrastructure to deal with the finances that go through the city(5). I highlighted numerous benefits for doing so, but there's obviously plenty of common sense reasons for the existence of a Public Bank. The Public Bank can handle the large amount of finances that goes through one of the largest cities in the country while also allowing the city to invest in both the residents who live there full-time and also deal with the finances brought in by the tourism industry. It is essential that a Public Bank be established for the benefit of both Angelenos and visitors.

Finally, Participatory Budget(Agenda no. 2A), can be better addressed with the existence of a Public Bank, which is why it is essential that the previous reform issue be address to pave the way for better handling of the city's finances. Angelenos don't just contribute financially to the ever-changing city, but should also have a democratic say in the development of the city they contribute towards. When you give a voice on how to proceed from the people who contribute, Los Angeles becomes diverse, stronger and more representative of the voices who call the city home.

These are only a few issues that the Commission is looking at, but I implore the Commission to look at these specific issues along with all the other viewpoints shared citywide to make L.A. a city that Americans and Angelenos can look up to proudly.

Thank you for your continued work on improving the city's charter, and for your time and consideration to my comment.

Sincerely,

Jester Jersey

Vote16California(@Vote16Cal) X/Twitter Administrator

Sources Cited

1. Virtual Public Comment to the Charter Reform Commission, March, 5, 2026
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2. Written Comment to the Charter Reform Meeting of Feb. 24, 2026, p. 267 - 269
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6. Written Comment to the Charter Reform Meeting of March 3, 2026, p. 223 - 225
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Communication from Public

Name: Nicole Brown

Date Submitted: 05/27/2026 10:41 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, As you evaluate the Charter Commission's recommendations, I stand with LA Forward in support of a package of common sense charter provisions to improve police accountability for Angelenos, including: Allowing the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm Ensuring LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes; and Ensuring LAPD protects the first amendment rights of free press and protest in its work These reforms don't give the Chief of Police or Council any special powers; they simply give the Chief and Council tools that other Departments have access to. Additionally, these reforms do nothing to change the high bar of removal of an employee, or the high bar of passing an ordinance with a council majority. These reforms simply reinforce powers typically held by City Council or department heads. I urge you to support all three of these reforms. Thank you,
Nicole Brown

Communication from Public

Name: Bennie C Allen
Date Submitted: 05/27/2026 03:43 PM
Council File No: 26-0489
Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the proposal to amend the city charter to restore funding for our parks. I have lived in LA since 1955 and regularly hike in several parks, along with thousands of others both young and old. Los Angeles is an incredible city, but we don't adequately value the significant role that these wonderful open spaces provide. Let's take pride in our parks! Thanks so much for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/27/2026 04:44 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, As you evaluate the Charter Commission's recommendations, I stand with LA Forward in support of a package of common sense charter provisions to improve police accountability for Angelenos, including: • Allowing the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm • Ensuring LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes; and • Ensuring LAPD protects the first amendment rights of free press and protest in its work These reforms don't give the Chief of Police or Council any special powers; they simply give the Chief and Council tools that other Departments have access to. Additionally, these reforms do nothing to change the high bar of removal of an employee, or the high bar of passing an ordinance with a council majority. These reforms simply reinforce powers typically held by City Council or department heads. I urge you to support all three of these reforms. Thank you, Kate C. from K-town CD10 resident & voter