FORM GEN. 160 (REV. 6-80)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: September 16, 2026

TO: Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky
Honorable Eunisses Hernandez
Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Honorable Heather Hutt
Honorable Tim McOsker
Honorable Imelda Padilla

Budget and Finance Committee
Public Works Committee

FROM: Joone Kim-Lopez, Executive Director and General Manager
LA Sanitation and Environment

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE POTENTIAL USE OF FUNDS IN THE UNAPPROPRIATED BALANCE FOR THE CARE/CARE+ PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Bureau of Sanitation recommends the Council to note and file this report as it is for informational purposes.

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum is in response to the Budget and Finance Committee instruction relative to the Mayor's proposed budget for FY 2026-27:

- Instruct the Bureau of Sanitation, in coordination with the CLA and CAO, to report [...] prior to the transfer of any expenditure related to the Clean Corridors Program, on the potential to use these funds for CARE or CARE+ teams, including, but not limited to, the Coastal CARE+ team, or any other programs that support the goal of cleaner streets.

BACKGROUND

Livability Services Division Street Hygiene and Environmental Quality Services

The Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN)'s Livability Services Division (LSD) Street Hygiene (LSD SH) and Environmental Quality (LSD EQ) programs focus on street cleanliness, blight reduction, and quality-of-life impacts within the public right-of-way. The Division's portfolio includes the CleanStat Street Indexing Program, Citywide Public Street Receptacle Program, Illegal Dumping

Collection Program, and Comprehensive Cleaning and Rapid Engagement (CARE and CARE+) programs.

The Illegal Dumping Collection Program operates seven days a week, 16 hours per day, providing rapid response to illegally dumped material throughout the City with an average response time of 48 hours. The Public Street Receptacle Program provides and services thousands of receptacles deployed citywide to mitigate litter. CleanStat provides a data-driven framework to assess street conditions, identify areas of need, support the deployment of field resources, and track service fulfillment.

CARE and CARE+ provide dedicated field resources to address trash, litter, debris, health and safety hazards, LAMC 56.11 and ADA-related violations, and the storage of personal property associated with encampments and other impacted areas of the public right-of-way. Teams are deployed regionally and citywide based on service needs and operational priorities.

Collectively, these programs provide a coordinated approach to maintaining cleaner streets through proactive and responsive field operations, strategic deployment of resources, and targeted cleanup services throughout the City.

DISCUSSION

Budget History and Reductions

From FY 2022/23 to present, the LSD has experienced a decrease in its operational budget. The LSD's historical budget allocations are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Amount
FY 2022/23	$67,087,632
FY 2023/24	$78,868,913
FY 2024/25	$72,815,784
FY 2025/26	$53,627,180
FY 2026/27	$49,419,983

CARE/CARE+ Program Services

There are currently 16 CARE+ teams, with one team assigned to each Council District and one dedicated to Skid Row as part of Operation Healthy Streets (OHS). Based on current staffing levels, LSD has been able to maintain providing each Council District with receiving at least two

days of CARE+ service per week. Any service levels above this are provided as enhanced services using discretionary funding from Council Offices.

CARE+ provides critical and essential services that address public health, safety, and cleanliness conditions associated with encampments and impacted areas of the public right-of-way. At the same time, CARE+ is a resource-intensive program that requires significant funding beyond staffing, including contractual services and hazardous waste disposal necessary to support cleanup operations. The annual cost of one CARE+ team providing a minimum of two days of service is $1,842,155.

As LSD's budget has declined, CARE+ has been significantly impacted by these reductions. In managing available resources, the Bureau has sought to balance service reductions while preserving position authorities and maintaining other critical citywide services, including Illegal Dumping collection and other street cleanliness operations.

Providing additional CARE+ teams/services does not provide a one-to-one swap with the Clean Corridors program, which covers distinct budgeted services that include street sweeping, illegal dumping enforcement, trash receptacles, graffiti removal, among other critical coordination cleaning efforts, details of which will be provided in a separate report forthcoming.

CONCLUSION

This report provides an overview of existing Livability Services programs, current service levels, and identified operational needs in support of the City's clean streets objectives and our continued commitment to achieving cleaner streets citywide. This information is provided for the Council's consideration in evaluating funding and service priorities.

Thank you for your continued support of LASAN. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these items further, please feel free to contact me or Assistant Director Gabe Miranda.