

Communication from Public

Name: Nidya Garcia
Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 11:55 AM
Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to express serious concern about the proposed budget cuts to Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS), specifically the reductions to animal food and medical supplies and the lack of funding for the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) program. These cuts are not just numbers on a page—they directly impact the health, safety, and survival of animals in the city’s care. The reduction in the animal food budget to \$200,000 is clearly insufficient, as LAAS has already been forced to rely heavily on donations to meet basic needs. Essential care should not depend on unpredictable external funding. The situation with medical supplies is even more alarming. The proposed allocation of only \$49,000 is drastically lower than previous budgets and does not reflect the real cost of providing necessary veterinary care. As a result, LAAS has had to rely on hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations in recent years. This is not sustainable and puts animal welfare at serious risk. Equally concerning is the decision not to fund the Dogs Playing for Life program. DPFL is not simply an enrichment activity—it is a critical program that improves behavior, increases adoptability, supports staff and volunteers, and helps create a safer shelter environment. Removing this program would have negative consequences for both the animals and the people who care for them. The continued reliance on the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to cover basic operational needs will further deplete resources that are meant to supplement—not replace—city funding. I urge the City Council to restore adequate funding for animal food and medical supplies and to reinstate funding for the Dogs Playing for Life program. LAAS must be properly funded to provide humane and responsible care. These decisions are still within your control. I ask that you take immediate action to ensure that LAAS has the resources it needs to serve both animals and the community effectively.

Communication from Public

Name: Karen Sosa

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 01:10 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Cutting funding to animal care is not what LA wants. 87% cut to medical supplies funding, leaving \$50,000? That's a joke - I spent more than that on my ONE sick cat in one month. \$0 is allocated for animal food. ZERO DOLLARS. Have the courage of your convictions and say it loud and proud - this budget completely defunds LA Animal Services. Then Angelenos can vote accordingly. I and many I know will vote against any councilmember who does not fight the outgoing mayor on this.

Communication from Public

Name: Debe Waisman

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 01:11 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Stop the injustice to animal welfare and support protection and care for all animals including those on streets, shelters, even abusive homes! Treat them with respect and dignity!! They deserve better. No politician who doesn't prioritize animal care will get my vote.

Communication from Public

Name: Carter Moon

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 02:22 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We have seen very plainly that LAPD's mishandling of mental health and other crises has lead to dozens of tragic, preventable deaths which have cost the city hundreds of millions in liability settlements. We cannot afford to keep using LAPD to respond to situations they are not equipped to handle. We need to see an increase in funding for the Unarmed Model of Crisis Response, the mayor's budget does not come close to adequately funding this vital service which saves lives and is dramatically more cost effective for our city. I concur with LA Forward's recommendation that the funding be increased to at least \$30.7 million to ensure that this model is available in 15 police divisions and is fully funded by the 2028 Olympics. Every year we underfund UMCR is another year we allow LAPD to kill our neighbors and sink this city further into the liability doom-spiral that department has placed us in. I would also encourage the council to look at other opportunities to divert resources from LAPD towards alternatives to policing wherever possible, decommissioning helicopters and removing police from traffic enforcement being the two most obvious examples of freeing up expensive police resources and replacing them with cheaper alternatives. Additionally, I find it completely reprehensible that the mayor is proposing starving RepresentLA of resources in a time when our immigrant communities are under constant attacks by the Trump administration. Providing at minimum \$3 million to RepresentLA in order to fund legal services for immigrant families is essential as we live through the ongoing assaults on our most vulnerable neighbors by this fascist administration. Finally, I want to urge the council to ensure that CF# 24-0600-S37 is brought back to council for implementation. It is absurd that LAPD is not required to carry liability insurance against the very real chance that an officer will likely make a mistake that costs the city millions. We should not be on the hook for LAPD's mistakes, poor training, and malicious abuse of force.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 02:25 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Strongly opposed to the proposed Los Angeles Animal Services budget cuts. These reductions will likely lead to a significant increase in euthanasia rates for dogs, cats, and other animals, while also worsening already unsafe and unsanitary shelter conditions. Why have our City of Los Angeles government leaders failed to take meaningful action to address these issues?

Communication from Public

Name: Charlotte Bjorlin
Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 02:28 PM
Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing with serious concern about the proposed 2026–27 Los Angeles Animal Services budget. The budget appears to eliminate the dedicated Animal Food/Feed and Grain line item, reducing it from \$200,000 in 2025–26 to zero in the proposed 2026–27 budget. It also appears to reduce Medical Supplies from \$388,591 to \$48,968. These are essential care items, not optional expenses. Animals in City custody depend on Los Angeles for adequate food, medical treatment, and humane care. A budget that removes dedicated food funding and sharply reduces medical supply funding places unacceptable strain on shelter operations and increases reliance on donations for basic necessities. I am also deeply concerned that the Dogs Playing for Life program was not funded. This program supports behavior, safety, adoptability, and humane handling for shelter dogs and provides real operational value to staff and volunteers. I urge you to restore: dedicated funding for animal food, adequate medical supplies funding, and funding for Dogs Playing for Life. Please stand up for the animals in the City’s care and revise this budget accordingly.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:23 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please Restore Funding for Dogs Playing for Life at LA Animal Services Dear Councilmember, I'm writing to urge you to restore funding for the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) program at LA Animal Services in the 2026-27 budget. As a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, you have a direct opportunity to save this program before it lapses on July 1. DPFL playgroups are the only out-of-kennel time most of these dogs ever get. Without it, dogs will sit confined for weeks or months — on-site dog bites go up, volunteers and staff get hurt, fear, anxiety, and stress climb with prolonged confinement, and euthanasia pressure grows. The City of LA has a \$14.85 billion budget. DPFL's entire annual contract is less than 1/100th of 1% of that. This isn't about money. It's about who we are as a city. Do not let it lapse July 1. Thank you for your time and service. Roxanne Baker LA City Council District 14

Communication from Public

Name: Meaghan M

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:24 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please Restore Funding for Dogs Playing for Life at LA Animal Services Dear Councilmember, I'm writing to urge you to restore funding for the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) program at LA Animal Services in the 2026-27 budget. As a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, you have a direct opportunity to save this program before it lapses on July 1. DPFL playgroups are the only out-of-kennel time most of these dogs ever get. Without it, dogs will sit confined for weeks or months — on-site dog bites go up, volunteers and staff get hurt, fear, anxiety, and stress climb with prolonged confinement, and euthanasia pressure grows. The City of LA has a \$14.85 billion budget. DPFL's entire annual contract is less than 1/100th of 1% of that. This isn't about money. It's about who we are as a city. Do not let it lapse July 1. Thank you for your time and service. Meaghan Mascorro Council District 5

Communication from Public

Name: Ann Jones

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:48 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of Los Angeles writing to strongly urge you to allocate sufficient funding in the 2026-27 budget for the Department of Animal Services (LAAS). Specifically, please restore and increase funding for:

- Animal food: to prevent shortages that leave shelter animals hungry and reliant on inconsistent donations.
- Medical supplies and veterinary care: to treat sick and injured animals and reduce suffering.
- The Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) program: which provides critical daily playgroups and enrichment for shelter dogs. This program improves their mental and physical health, reduces stress, and significantly boosts adoption rates.

Los Angeles' six city animal shelters care for thousands of dogs, cats, and other animals every year. Chronic underfunding has already led to overcrowded conditions and heartbreaking outcomes. Eliminating food funding or slashing medical supplies is not sustainable and risks animal welfare crises that the public will not accept. Programs like Dogs Playing for Life have proven effective at saving lives by giving dogs a better chance at finding forever homes. These animals are voiceless members of our community. Investing in basic care, medical needs, and enrichment is a compassionate and responsible use of city resources - and it costs a tiny fraction of the overall budget.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 11:16 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council, I am writing as a concerned Los Angeles citizen expressing my disgust of how the well-being of unhoused animals, especially dogs, are simply disregarded by our elected officials. So many helpless dogs, which are living in shelters, roaming on streets, or living a brutal life on downtown Los Angeles Skid row, where they are tragically forgotten, abused, and not cared for by the people elected to follow city laws to protect them! Why is this severe animal abuse still occurring in Los Angeles? Why hasn't the City Council taken serious steps to end the abuse of animals on skid row? Dogs on skid row are tortured, starved, injected with drugs and raped by humans living there... generally suffering every minute of their life. Why is this allowed? There are multiple videos taken by animal rescue groups showing evidence of these atrocities. Shelter dogs are suffering as well; without the care from volunteers, dogs would spend every minute sitting in a cage until they are euthanized. Why hasn't a program been designed to provide shelter dogs with basic necessities, and care for their physical and mental well-being? Currently, our shelter dogs are able to participate in a playgroup sponsored by Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL); However, according to the Mayor's shelter budget, DPFL will not exist next year due to not being funded. Would any Council member want their beloved pet to live in any of the conditions mentioned above? City Council Members, as a life-long citizen of Los Angeles, I am pleading to you to take serious action to help our city dogs~ they are depending on you. Thank you for your time in reading this. Please help the dogs living in Los Angeles. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Wendy Miranda
Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 11:02 AM
Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: We support the City allocating more funds and resources to protect frontline communities from the harms of neighborhood oil drilling. We cannot continue catering to oil industry profits over the expense of public health and the well being of communities across LA City. We're not just phasing out oil, LA also has the opportunity to usher in a sustainable and just energy future. In addition to passing a durable phaseout ordinance, the City should prepare for a post-fossil fuel future by developing a just transition plan for workers, communities, and the land itself. We urge members of this committee to approve additional funding to support the strong passage of the oil and gas phaseout ordinance.

Communication from Public

Name: Roxanne Steiny

Date Submitted: 04/22/2026 03:04 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello Ms. Yaroslovsky, I hope this finds you well and happy. I'm writing as one of your constituents, to voice my concern about Mayor Bass' proposal to not renew the contract for Dogs Playing for Life at LAAS. I've been a volunteer at South LA for 2 years and have witnessed firsthand what a lifeline this program is for dogs under LAAS's care. DPFL allows dogs to exit their kennels when they never would otherwise, increases confidence and makes them more adoptable. They assess the dogs behavior, keep notes on them and help both staff and volunteers better interact with dogs during their stay. DPFL provides much needed enrichment and dignity to every dog they handle, which in turn helps keep the shelter safe and productive for every person who interacts with the dogs. I encourage you to visit the South LA Shelter to see the magic of DPFL and hope you'll consider encouraging Mayor Bass to keep this contract in place. My understanding is that the budget has not yet been approved and changes can be requested by the city council. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about DPFL, and I hope and pray you see the value in this innovative and important program. Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.
Respectfully yours, Roxanne Steiny

Communication from Public

Name: Margaret price

Date Submitted: 04/22/2026 08:22 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The budget for the shelters cannot be cut. If anything they need more money for all the dogs coming in. It is also inhumane to let dogs sit in cages for days, weeks and months on end without some stimulation. Do something to fix this catastrophic situation besides killing good dogs and cats. Take action against breeders, abusers and offer mandatory spay and neuter NOW!!!.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:01 AM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Regarding the proposed budget for LA animal services - the animals have ZERO money allocated for food & only \$49k to medical supplies for ALL 7 la city shelters . Also ZERO MONEY was allocated to DPFI playgroups which is a much needed program for both safety of staff & the public & adoptability as well as mental health of the dogs . La City shelters need to remain open intake as animals cannot be left to suffer & starve & be hit by cars or worse in the streets. The proposed budget will not allow basic care so urging the council to NOT APPROVE. Nothing unreasonable is being asked; please just give adequate funds to animal services for the animals' CARE, please just make this make sense. Taxpayers want & deserve this !

Communication from Public

Name: Bailey G.

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 05:52 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Restore funding for Dogs Playing for Life at LAAS. Restore funding for animal food and medical supplies. Please do not let the funding lapse for these on July 1. These are all life-saving infrastructure. Do not let this funding lapse.

Communication from Public

Name: Estela Avalos

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 07:14 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, I have several comments on three separate issues. 1) I'd like to ask you specifically first not to allow for the mayor's budget proposal to go through as it makes slashes to animal food and medical supplies. Also, the Dogs Playing for Life contract wasn't funded. Animals are an important part of our families and communities and can help people with stress, anxiety and are our companions. The Dogs Playing for Life Contract should be renewed as it helps dogs become confident and calm in stressful situations; it also helps them become more adoptable. This program also helps train staff and volunteers. Please don't support these budget cuts. Don't allow them to happen. 2) Also, as a separate issue, there have been reports of dogs being used by drug dealers and addicts to test drugs on to see if they have fentanyl. That's horrible and I know that some homeless people have dogs as companions and for safety and take care of them. But, anyone found to be harming animals and abusing them (please pass laws to ensure dogs and animals are given to safe owners) should be arrested and prosecuted for animal abuse and drug usage. These people that harm are unwell and need to be institutionalized. Please also encourage this to be addressed in your district but also in that of Ysabel Jurado - in district 14, as this is also happening on skid row. 3) This is in regards to ICE. If any agent is found to disobey the law and is harming people, they should also face prosecution by the District Attorney office. Communities don't deserve to be abused and wrongfully detained. There must be a way pets of those detained are also not just abandoned and left as if they're not a life. That's wrong. There needs to be safeguards for them. And this should apply to children and dependents of any people that are detained, as well. Thank you and I hope you take these matters seriously. Estela Avalos

Communication from Public

Name: Mae Godwin

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 07:25 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, I'm writing to oppose most of Karen Bass's budget proposal for the FY26-27. 1. It's absolutely insane to up the LAPD's budget at all, let alone into the billions. When you have the most violent police force in the country with the worst reputation, you'd think upping the budget every year wouldn't be helping since nothing has changed. It's pretty common sense to try not just a few things differently, but EVERYTHING. The LAPD causes harm to innocent people and is soft on crime. Worse of both worlds. We should feel protected by them, not endangered. 2. You're not helping the homeless or protecting low income people that need 1000% more support with better funded social services. Skid row shouldn't exist and this mayor and council should be embarrassed that their legacy includes not helping anyone and making peoples lives worse. Shameful all around. It's like when you see a fire, you think the solution is to add more gasoline instead of water to fix it. Add water (well funded social services) not gasoline (more money towards the LAPD and their lawsuits).

Communication from Public

Name: Megan S

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 07:28 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: The mayor's proposed budget changes that allocate no food and absurd cuts to medical funding are completely unacceptable, unsustainable and inhumane, as is the removal of the Dogs Playing for Life contract which helps dogs maintain some semblance of sanity in our shelters' horrific conditions.

Communication from Public

Name: Chris Kessler

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 07:45 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: To Los Angeles City Council, My name is Chris Kessler and I live in Highland Park. I've seen Karen Bass' proposed budget and it is a slap in the face to every citizen who wants a safer, cleaner, more progressive Los Angeles. The idea that she would include increasing the LAPD's budget by nearly a quarter of a billion dollars the year after the LAPD cost the city nearly an identical amount of money in liability payouts isn't just poor accounting, it's disgusting. Bass would rather have her people living in a crumbling police state than actually hold the LAPD to account for their lawless violence. The LAPD's budget should not increase one cent, and that money should be redistributed amongst other programs that would actually lower crime by providing a better quality of life for the people of Los Angeles. At a time when we are seeing how progressive politics are serving the people of New York City under the leadership of Zohran Mamdani, it is baffling to me that Karen Bass would instead continue down the path centrist, corporate Democrats across the country who continue to aid and abet the rightward shift that the United States is being pushed into. As a resident of Highland Park, an historically latino community, I can attest to how the LAPD's presence causes nothing but ill will and operates as an occupying force rather than a tool for community safety. At all times there are LAPD helicopters flying over head, performing circling maneuvers reminiscent of anti-terrorism raids in Iraq rather than community-based police work. No matter the crime, no matter the severity, the LAPD's overblown budget causes them to approach all situations with maximum force so as to maintain a feeling of maximum subjugation in the citizenry. These tactics are, as usual, directed toward communities of color. According to the Controller's Office, as led by true public servant Kenneth Mejia, "... Brown and Black people are arrested at a disproportionate rate, making up an average of 78.26% of all arrests over the past four years (2019-2022) despite being only 56% of the LA City population according to 2020 Census data." We see this in the day to day, as well as see it in the LAPD's response to the extraordinary times we are living in. As Angelenos rise up to protest the fascist takeover of our country, the LAPD has been unleashed onto crowds of protestors, beating them, blinding them, and bloodying their freedoms. One such freedom is the freedom

of the press, as the LAPD has consistently, illegally, assaulted and arrested reporters covering these events. Karen Bass has also rejected using the LAPD to hold racist, unjust, kidnapping ICE members to account for their actions. Instead of standing with the people of Los Angeles, the city has determined that the LAPD is a tool of the state, a bludgeon to be used to quell dissent rather than standing for and with the citizenry. If our policing is racist, why would we increase the LAPD's budget? If our policing is leading to hundreds of millions of dollars in liability payouts, why would we increase the LAPD's budget? If our policing is a tool to suppress our rights, why would we increase the LAPD's budget? If our city is crumbling and we must cut the very programs that are statistically shown to decrease crime, why would we increase the LAPD's budget? Council, you have a duty to look at this budget with clear eyes and logic, regardless of favor to any coercive force that may lean on you to protect the LAPD. This country has chose to walk down a dark path where militarized police with budgets that can never be decreased for fear of political blowback has destabilized the very safety the police are purported to help create. Do the right thing—don't give the LAPD a dime more. And, if you have any conviction of principle at all, go a step further and decrease their budget. At the very least, change it so liabilities come out of the LAPD's budget, not the general fund. Rise to the moment your city is faced with and you will be remembered as a body that turned the tide. Fail to and be remembered as collaborators who chose to act as a tool of class violence over increasing the wellbeing and livelihoods of their very citizens. Thank you for your time, Chris Kessler

Communication from Public

Name: Catherine Spencer
Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 07:57 PM
Council File No: 26-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Please restore funding for Dogs Playing For Life at LAAS. Please do not let it lapse. This is critical in the humane treatment and sustainability of these dogs in this shelter to get out and socialized and be more adoptable as a result. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Clare Summers
Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 08:02 PM
Council File No: 26-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut budget for animal services- especially the dogs play for life program!!

Communication from Public

Name: Anastasia Shepherd

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 08:16 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Safe parking sites are crucial for preventing more people from slipping into homelessness. It's a very important part of the safety net at the earliest stages of homelessness, when people still might have a job or school to get to, they might still be able to get on their feet - and all they need is a safe place to park their vehicle. This safety is especially important for women, elderly and youths experiencing homelessness and for everyone to get connected to resources and community. This is a life saving program and it needs to continue.

Communication from Public

Name: Amanda

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 08:22 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I'm deeply concerned about the priorities reflected in the proposed 2026–2027 budget under Mayor Karen Bass. At a time when Los Angeles is facing a severe homelessness crisis, ongoing mental health challenges, and growing inequality, it's hard to understand why so much funding continues to go toward the Los Angeles Police Department instead of toward the systems that actually help stabilize people's lives. We've been relying on policing as a primary response to social problems for decades, and the results are clear—it doesn't solve them. It moves people around, it escalates situations, and it often targets the most vulnerable communities without addressing why those conditions exist in the first place. If anything, over-reliance on law enforcement has deepened mistrust in many communities and reinforced long-standing inequities. When the city's first response to poverty, homelessness, or mental health struggles is enforcement, it sends a message about whose lives are being supported and whose are being managed. That approach isn't just ineffective—it's harmful. Public safety should mean something more than enforcement. It should mean clean and maintained streets, access to food, mental health care, addiction support, and safe, stable housing. These are the things that actually reduce harm and create safer communities over time. Instead, we continue to pour resources into a system that responds after a crisis has already happened, while underfunding the services that could prevent those crises in the first place. The homelessness crisis, in particular, reflects years of misaligned priorities. Despite enormous spending, we have not seen the kind of progress that justifies continuing the same approach. People are still living outside in large numbers, and communities are still struggling to cope. It's time to try something different—and we already know what works. Invest in community-based outreach. Expand sanitation and street services. Fund mental health care and harm reduction programs at a scale that matches the need. Build and maintain truly affordable housing. Support organizations that are already doing this work on the ground. These are not radical ideas—they are practical, evidence-based solutions. This is not about eliminating public safety. It's about redefining it in a way that actually works. Right now, the balance is off. We are over-investing in enforcement and under-investing in care. I urge

the city to reconsider this budget and to shift resources toward the systems that address root causes, not just symptoms. Because if we keep funding the same approach, we should expect the same results—and Los Angeles can't afford that.

Communication from Public

Name: Ilexa
Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 08:24 PM
Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Commissioners - I am writing in my individual capacity as a volunteer at the South Los Angeles Animal Shelter— someone who is regularly on the ground and directly witnesses the conditions animals are living in. I am extremely concerned that the proposed fiscal year budget appears to allocate no funding for animal food and only \$49,000 for medical supplies. These are not discretionary expenses. They are the most basic requirements for humane care. A budget that does not clearly and adequately fund food and medical needs raises serious concerns about how the Department can meet even minimum standards of animal welfare. I am also deeply troubled by the apparent lack of funding for the Dogs Playing for Life program. This program is critical to the well-being of shelter dogs. Without it, some dogs remain confined to their kennels for 60 days or more without meaningful enrichment. This level of isolation leads to increased fear, anxiety, and stress, contributes to behavioral deterioration, raises bite risk, prolongs length of stay, slows adoptions, and ultimately increases euthanasia pressure. Failing to fund this program does not reduce costs, it creates worse outcomes. Additionally, while there have been mentions of increased support from organizations such as Best Friends and the ASPCA, there must be clear transparency and accountability regarding how those funds are being used. Are these resources directly improving daily conditions for animals? Are they supporting enrichment, medical care, and adequate staffing? The public deserves clear answers. Finally, funding alone will not resolve systemic issues without a parallel commitment to culture and accountability within the shelters. Animals must be treated with compassion, euthanasia decisions must be made responsibly and not for unreasonable or preventable reasons, and volunteers, who play a critical role in animal care, should be respected and supported, not intimidated or discouraged. As it stands, this proposed budget raises serious concerns about the City's ability to provide humane, effective care for animals in its custody. I urge you to revise this budget to ensure adequate funding for food, medical care, and critical enrichment programs like Dogs Playing for Life, and to commit to transparency and accountability within the Department of Animal Services. Thank you for your time and consideration. Ilexa Landau

Communication from Public

Name: Bee Curiel

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 08:36 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to submit public comment in strong support of including the TGI Wellness and Equity Initiative as a dedicated line item in the FY26/27 Recommended Budget. Please find the attached letter from the TransLatin@ Coalition outlining the urgent need, proposed investment, and demonstrated impact of this initiative. As detailed in the attachment, transgender, gender-expansive, and intersex (TGI) Angelenos continue to face disproportionate barriers to housing, healthcare, and economic stability - conditions that require targeted, community-based solutions. This proposal builds on successful models already implemented at the state and county levels and represents a cost-effective opportunity for the City of Los Angeles to expand access to care, strengthen local infrastructure, and reduce long-term reliance on emergency systems. We respectfully urge Mayor Karen Bass and Councilmembers to support the inclusion of this initiative in the FY26/27 budget, whether fully or partially funded, as part of the City's ongoing commitment to equity and public health. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.



The TransLatin@ Coalition

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April 20, 2026

The Honorable Mayor Karen Bass
Los Angeles City Hall
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple St., Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Investing in Transgender, Gender Expansive, and Intersex communities; TGI Wellness and Equity Initiative for the FY26/27 Recommended Budget

Dear **Mayor Karen Bass**, **CAO Matt Szabo**, and **Deputy Mayor Matt Hale**,

The TransLatin@ Coalition appreciates your continued leadership and engagement in addressing inequities across Los Angeles. We write to urge the inclusion of the **TGI Wellness and Equity Initiative** as a dedicated line item in the FY26/27 Recommended Budget.

Los Angeles is home to a significant and underserved population of transgender, gender-expansive, and intersex (TGI) residents who face disproportionate barriers to housing, employment, and healthcare. National data shows that **20-30% of transgender adults live in poverty**,¹ nearly **30% have experienced homelessness**,² and unemployment rates are up to **3 times higher than the national average**. Local data further underscore the depth of inequity: in Los Angeles, **73% of transgender and nonbinary immigrant respondents reported living at or below the federal poverty level**, far exceeding both local and national benchmarks.³

These disparities are compounded by rising violence. In 2024, Los Angeles recorded the **highest number of anti-transgender hate crimes to date**, with **95% classified as violent offenses**. At a time of escalating attacks, economic exclusion, and shifting federal policies, the need for targeted, community-based investment has never been more urgent.⁴

A **\$4 million investment in TGI-led community-based organizations** represents a strategic and cost-effective response. This initiative would expand the City's capacity to deliver life-saving services, including workforce development, housing support, violence prevention,

¹ James, S. E., Herman, J. L., Rankin, S., Keisling, M., Mottet, L., & A,nafi, M. (2016). *The report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey*. National Center for Transgender Equality.

<https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/usts/USTS-Full-Report-Dec17.pdf>

² Ibid, p 13

³ The TransLatin@ Coalition & the Williams Institute. (2023). *The economic and health needs of transgender and nonbinary immigrants in Los Angeles County*. UCLA School of Law.

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/trans-immigrants-la/>

⁴ Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. 2024. "2024 LA County Hate Crime Report-"

<https://lacounty.gov/2025/12/04/la-county-report-reveals-the-second-highest-hate-crimes-in-44-years/>.

youth and elder services, and mental and behavioral healthcare. Even partial funding would significantly strengthen care coordination, improve access to services, and reduce long-term costs associated with homelessness, emergency care, and crisis intervention.

Tangible Evidence of Impact

This proposal builds on proven models at both the state and county levels. Through the California Department of Public Health's TGI Wellness and Equity Fund, the state established a dedicated TGI Unit and expanded programs that have improved healthcare access, navigation, and outcomes for TGI Californians.

At the county level, the 2024 TGI Wellness and Equity Motion demonstrated both demand and readiness. Originally designed to fund nine organizations, it received more than 20 applications, resulting in **14 organizations funded**. These investments have helped stabilize essential services and mitigate the impacts of funding instability and federal policy changes.

A City-level investment would extend—rather than duplicate—this work by closing service gaps and expanding access across Los Angeles. We propose funding **5–10 TGI-led organizations at \$200,000 annually over two years**, creating a coordinated, citywide safety net that increases linkage to care and reduces reliance on emergency systems. Appendix A provides a sample program model and budget.

Call to Action

With the City's support, Los Angeles can expand access to care, strengthen community-based infrastructure, and ensure that TGI residents are not left behind. This initiative represents a critical opportunity to build a safer, healthier, and more equitable city.

We respectfully urge you to include the TGI Wellness and Equity Initiative in the FY26/27 budget, whether fully or partially funded, and to champion this investment as part of the City's broader commitment to equity.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. For follow-up, please contact Bee Curiel, Director of Policy and Training, at beec@translatinacoalition.org, or Maya Daniels, Local Policy Initiatives Organizer, at mayad@translatinacoalition.org. We look forward to partnering with your office to advance this work.

Respectfully,



Bamby Salcedo, President and CEO
The TransLatin@ Coalition

Appendix A

Sample Program Budget (1 out of 5 proposed)

A \$200,000 annual investment in organizations can support a comprehensive, community-based linkage-to-care program serving approximately **300–500 TGI clients per year**, with a focus on service linkage, crisis and mental health support, HIV care, primary care access, and behavioral health services.

Program Components & Budget

1. Staffing (\$110,000)

- Program Coordinator (full-time) – \$65,000
- Peer Navigator (full-time, lived experience) – \$45,000

2. Direct Client Support (\$55,000)

- Transportation (bus passes, rideshare for appointments)
- Identification support (IDs, legal documents)
- Emergency assistance (food, hygiene, crisis stabilization)
- Health access incentives (appointment attendance, treatment adherence)
- Rental assistance (short-term stabilization support)
- Workforce training and certificate programs
- Professional clothing and employment readiness support

3. Outreach & Engagement (\$12,000)

- Community outreach (street, digital, events)
- Culturally competent health education materials

4. Program Operations (\$3,000)

- Supplies, data tracking tools, minimal operational needs

5. Capacity Building & Training (\$10,000)

- Staff training (trauma-informed care, HIV navigation, benefits access)
- Peer leadership development

6. Administrative Costs (\$20,000 – 10%)

- Fiscal management, HR, compliance, reporting

Projected Annual Outcomes

- **300–500 TGI clients served (per organization)**
- **200+ individuals linked to needed care**
- **150+ individuals retained in ongoing care and skills development**
- Increased housing stability through targeted rental support
- Improved employment readiness and income stability
- Reduced barriers to care through culturally competent peer navigation and direct assistance

City-Wide Impact

1) This initiative would fund at least **five TGI-led organizations strategically distributed across Central, South, East, West Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley**, ensuring equitable geographic access to care in areas that currently lack culturally responsive services. This structure creates a **citywide service network rather than isolated programming**, allowing the City to reduce service deserts and strengthen coordinated entry points into housing, healthcare, and violence prevention systems.

2) With this investment, the City would directly serve an estimated **2,500 to 4,000 TGI residents annually through direct services**, including case management, housing navigation, mental and behavioral health support, workforce development, and crisis intervention. When accounting for prevention, peer navigation, and community-based programming, the total reach would extend significantly beyond direct service users, amplifying impact across households and social networks.

3) Program evaluation would demonstrate **measurable improvements in housing stability, linkage to care, and overall well-being among participants**, using standardized service metrics and client-reported outcomes. Expected results include **increased rates of successful housing placements, higher retention in healthcare and behavioral health services, and improved self-reported mental health and safety outcomes over time**. These outcomes directly align with City priorities by reducing unsheltered homelessness, improving continuity of care, and decreasing long-term public system costs associated with crisis response, emergency healthcare utilization, and chronic instability.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:09 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am deeply concerned about the proposed budget cuts for LA Animal Services. I am a volunteer at one of the shelters and it is already extremely strained. There's not enough staff to clean the kennels (they rely on volunteers) so dogs are regularly living in their feces, the dogs only get out because of volunteers because staff does not have time, the euthanasia rates keep rising, spay and neuter vouchers run out every month. Relying on food donations to fund city shelters is a disgrace. Dogs Playing For Life has been the single good thing the city has done for LAAS. This group makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the dogs. Before they started, it was extremely common for dogs to go 2 weeks without leaving their kennels even once. It was inhumane. They are a valuable resource to work with staff, volunteers, and the public. Please renew their contract - the consequences of not doing so will be immediately felt and result in an already strained system getting even worse. I will be voting with these considerations in mind.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:13 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please restore the crucial infrastructure of animal wellness that is the funding for Dogs Playing for Life. Without this program, shelter dogs do not get the out-of-kennel movement and socialization that is foundational to their wellness and adoptability. Happy, healthy dogs have much higher adoption rates, and providing time outside of the concrete boxes of their kennels is essential for this. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Charles Lusher

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:27 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, As a LA City resident, I am urging you to support LA Forward's three current budget requests: 1. Increase the Mayor's Proposed Budget of \$18.3 million to \$30.7 million to expand UMCR's reach from 9 to 15 police divisions, with a plan to finally fund and operate UMCR citywide in all 21 divisions by 2028. 2. Increase the Mayor's Proposed Budget of \$1 million to \$3 million to support RepresentLA's provision of life-saving legal services for immigrant Angelenos and their families – via a dedicated, permanent line item. 3. Ensure CF# 24-0600-S37 (exploring options for liability insurance) comes back to Council for implementation by the 2027-78 budget. We believe these budget requests are in line with the Mayor's vision to keep Angelenos safe and bolster crisis response. These investments amount to less than 0.5% of the City's unrestricted budget funds. With this funding, UMCR can continue expanding towards citywide coverage, immigrant Angelenos can access life-saving legal services, and the City can work to reduce police liability costs. At LA Forward, we understand that the City's annual budget is the ultimate statement of what it values. With an erratic federal government flooding our streets with masked agents, multiple mega-events approaching rapidly, and a continuing budget deficit, it is time for our City government to invest in community safety programs that protect our most vulnerable neighbors. Thank you, Charles Lusher, North Hollywood

Communication from Public

Name: Noelle Riley

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:31 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly encourage you to find space in the budget for both food and Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL). In 2025, I adopted a dog from LAAS North Central. Without his detailed behavior and playgroup notes, I would not have felt nearly as confident in choosing the dog that I did. Since his adoption, I have trained this former shelter dog to become my actively working medical alert service dog. Because he was provided with the enrichment outlets that DPFL provides, he was able to go straight from the shelter into training with very minimal down time to reset. More than that, he has now been to and successfully worked at other open intake facilities. Most other dogs never want to re-enter a building that smells like a shelter. Because DPFL made his time at LAAS a positive experience, he has no such fears. Please fund DPFL's amazing work at all LAAS open intake facilities. Keep the shelter dogs from LA more adoptable than any other in the country

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:32 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: PLEASE REVERSE UNACCEPTABLE BUDGET CUTS TO LAAS! The mayor's proposed budget contains unacceptable cuts to animal food and medical supplies. She also decided not to fund the Dogs Playing for Life contract. In 2018-19, the animal food budget was \$520,000. This year's budget only allotted \$200,000 and when LAAS ran out just a few months into the new fiscal year, they had to start using donations from the Animal Welfare Trust Fund (AWTF). Since 2020-21, the city has forced LAAS to use around \$900,000 in donations to buy food. The medical supplies budget has also been slashed. In 2018-19, the department had \$488,591 to buy medical supplies. In 2022-2023 the amount was cut to \$388,591 and in the proposed budget the mayor only allotted \$49,000. These cuts have forced LAAS to use over \$740,000 in donations from the AWTF to buy medical supplies since 2019-20. The AWTF will be further depleted if these cuts are allowed to remain in place. The contract for Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) was not funded. DPFL does more than playgroups: they help terrified dogs become confident, they help match dogs with adopters, help train staff and volunteers, and help the medical team with fractious dogs. They not only save lives, they make the shelter safer for everyone. To not fund this essential program is devastating for the dogs and the people who love them. The budget is not yet final as changes can be made by the City Council. We demand that money be please be allocated for animal food and medical supplies, as well as Dogs Playing for Life!

Communication from Public

Name: Angela

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:33 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please reinstate funding for the Dogs Playing for Life program. This is a life-saving effort to improve dog's quality of life, humane treatment, reduces the burden on shelter staff, and helps dogs be seen and saved by animal rescues. Removing this budget will cause critical harm to animals that are already suffering and dying. Please reinstate this funding immediately.

Communication from Public

Name: NICOLE Patrice Allen

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:37 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Bass should be ashamed of herself for proposing to slash services for animal shelters. Between eliminating the animal food account and cutting funding for medical supplies by almost 90%, it's almost as if Mayor Bass wants the animals to starve to death or die from lack of medical care. In a further blow to our poor animals, the "Dogs Playing for Life" program, which provides socialization to reduce stress-related behaviors, is being completely eliminated. These animals need socialization and stimulation, they need to get out of their depressing concrete surroundings and play. Stress-related behaviors and depression can hinder an animal's chance of getting adopted. If the city council decides to approve this atrocious proposal, I hope your conscience is fine with the blood of thousands of animals on your hands. I can also assume you would have no problem with the public advertising to your friends and family that you are all essentially puppy killers. How do any of you sleep at night knowing how horrible you are? If Mayor Bass and city council are serious about cutting the budget, then you should drastically reduce your bloated salaries and MANDATE that police carry their own insurance. The City of Los Angeles spent approximately \$152 million on police-related liability payouts in the most recent completed fiscal year (2024–25). Our tax dollars could have easily gone to so many other serious concerns instead of payouts because the police are too busy beating people up. \$52 million went to payouts for excessive force/violation of civil rights.

Communication from Public

Name: Larissa Stanton

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:40 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Appropriate budgeting for the welfare of our animals within the city's animal shelters is vitally important to maintaining the health, safety, and general welfare of anyone and everyone who interacts with the animals in LA. Part of that budgeting is accounting for their behavioral welfare through meeting their mental and physical needs. LA city reached a milestone just this past week where every single dog left their kennel during the day. Getting every dog out every day means elevating the welfare of our shelter dogs. Doing so requires appropriate leadership, budgeting, and knowing who to work with. Dogs Playing For Life is vitally important to providing the guidance, leadership, oversight, and knowledge to keep every shelter dog in LA getting out of their kennel. In the long term, having DPFL assisting LA's shelters allows for better allocation of staff time, increasing adoptability of dogs, shortens their stays in LA's shelters, and is one step toward a more humane city. Budgeting for Dogs Playing For Life to continue their contract with LA's city shelters should not be seen as an optional line in the budget, but one just as critical as paying the energy bill.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:46 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please Restore Funding for Dogs Playing for Life at LA Animal Services Dear Councilmember, I'm writing to urge you to restore funding for the Dogs Playing for Life (DPFL) program at LA Animal Services in the 2026-27 budget. As a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, you have a direct opportunity to save this program before it lapses on July 1. DPFL playgroups are the only out-of-kennel time most of these dogs ever get. Without it, dogs will sit confined for weeks or months — on-site dog bites go up, volunteers and staff get hurt, fear, anxiety, and stress climb with prolonged confinement, and euthanasia pressure grows. The City of LA has a \$14.85 billion budget. DPFL's entire annual contract is less than 1/100th of 1% of that. This isn't about money. It's about who we are as a city. Do not let it lapse July 1. Thank you for your time and service. Greta Devoney

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 09:50 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Please do not cut the budget for animal shelters! Why is the budget for food completely being slashed along with an almost 87% decrease for medical funding? How will animals get fed or receive appropriate medical care?! The Dogs Playing For Life program costs our city nothing and it's also being slashed. This program is essential for shelter dogs, it helps to reduce stress related behaviors and increases morale. Our city shelters will be even more overloaded if animals are not being adopted due to poor behavior. Additionally, since it costs the tax payers money to euthanize an animal, isn't it more beneficial to try to decrease their chances of being euthanized? None of this makes any sense. Please do not allow Mayor Bass to cut these very essential things for animal shelters. We need more funding not less!

Communication from Public

Name: Sierra Wood

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:02 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am a volunteer with LAAS with over 300 hours of service. I have witnessed first hand the positive and life saving effect Dogs Playing for Life has on our shelters. I urge you to fund their services for the 2026/2027 budget. They make the shelters safer for dogs, staff, and the public.

Communication from Public

Name: Jon Glines

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:05 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am Jon Glines from District 14. Restore funding for Dogs Playing for Life at Los Angeles Animal Services. Do not let it lapse July 1.

Communication from Public

Name: Jacob Dennis

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:07 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: I am Jacob Dennis. I live in District 14. Restore funding for Dogs Playing for Life at Los Angeles Animal Services. Do not let it lapse July 1.

Communication from Public

Name: Colby Cochran
Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:11 PM
Council File No: 26-0600
Comments for Public Posting: My name is Colby Cochran. I live in District 14. Restore funding for Dogs Playing for Life at Los Angeles Animal Services. Do not let it lapse July 1.

Communication from Public

Name: Kevin LaMont Reed

Date Submitted: 04/23/2026 10:21 PM

Council File No: 26-0600

Comments for Public Posting: This is a great alternative instead of additional taxes