

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 09/01/2026 02:53 PM

Council File No: 26-0906-S12

Comments for Public Posting: Good afternoon, Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. My name is Yesenia, and I am a resident of Boyle Heights who has been directly impacted by the Lineage warehouse fire. I am here to support Agenda Item 20, but I am asking you to strengthen this measure before moving forward. I appreciate the proposal to establish a mitigation response fund because our community needs resources now. But creating a fund is only the first step. The real question is whether those resources will actually reach the people who have been impacted. I am asking you to make sure this fund is designed around the realities of our community. Please make assistance accessible to renters, working families, immigrants, small businesses, and residents who may not have extensive documentation or the ability to navigate complicated City programs. Please establish clear eligibility requirements and a simple application process. People should not have to become experts in government bureaucracy just to receive assistance after a disaster. I also ask that the City prioritize speed and transparency. Residents deserve to know when this money will become available, who qualifies, how much has been distributed, how many people have been helped, and where the remaining funds are going. And most importantly, I ask that the City protect taxpayers by aggressively pursuing reimbursement from Lineage and any other responsible parties for eligible costs. We did not cause this fire. Our community should not be expected to absorb the financial consequences of it. The impacts of this disaster did not disappear when the fire was extinguished. Recovery is ongoing, and the City needs to recognize that. So I respectfully ask Budget and Finance to strengthen Agenda Item 20 with clear accountability, equitable access, transparent reporting, and a commitment to getting assistance directly to impacted residents and businesses. Please don't just create a fund. Create a fund that our community can actually access—and make sure the people who need it are not left behind. Thank you.