

Communication from Public

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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 today because I support Agenda Item 19, but I am asking you to strengthen it and make sure it results in real accountability for our community. This fire did not end when the flames were put out. For residents living near the facility, the impacts have continued. Our community has been left dealing with the consequences while we are still waiting for answers about what happened, what we were exposed to, and who is going to take responsibility. If the City is going to spend taxpayer dollars responding to this disaster, then I believe the City must also make every effort to recover those costs from the parties responsible. But accountability cannot just mean asking the City Attorney to investigate. There needs to be a clear plan, transparency, and follow-through. I am asking Budget and Finance to strengthen this item by requiring the City to track the costs associated with this fire—including emergency response, environmental monitoring, cleanup, public-health response, and assistance to impacted residents and businesses. I also ask that you make that information transparent to the public, so residents can see exactly how much this disaster is costing our City and what efforts are being made to recover those costs. And please remember who is paying the price while these decisions are being made. We are working families. We are renters. We are residents who may not have the resources to wait indefinitely for government agencies and corporations to figure this out. We should not have to carry the financial burden of a disaster we did not cause. Please strengthen Agenda Item 19, protect the public fisc, and make sure that accountability is not just promised—it is pursued. Thank you.