



25-0600_pc_05-20-2025

1 message

City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Tue, May 20, 2025 at 8:28 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 07:32:09 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

amirashaer@icloud.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Amira Shaer' via Clerk - CityClerk** <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 12:28 AM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson and Council Members,

The City of Los Angeles is facing a \$1B budget shortfall. At the same time, Council File 24-0500-S3 proposes to reprogram \$13.15M in unspent federal COVID relief into unrelated capital upgrades and small business programs. This is a critical mistake. The money is still eligible for pandemic response and should be used to prevent a much larger fiscal threat: the \$12B in projected costs from Long COVID.

According to Harvard economist David Cutler, Long COVID is expected to cost the City more than \$12B over the next five years in lost wages, reduced workforce participation, rising disability, increased medical spending, and pressure on public benefit systems. These losses are already materializing across departments. They are growing every month the City delays a coordinated response. What is being dismissed today as a medical issue will very soon reveal a cavernous and structural budget problem if left unaddressed.

Long COVID is a disabling, multi-system condition affecting over 268,000 Angelenos. One in four people with Long COVID are unable to work. Nearly half have lost income. Less than 10% ever recover. This is a large, persistent economic driver that is increasing strain on housing, labor, health, and emergency systems. Despite that, there is no City infrastructure to address it. No plan, no budget line item, no public health accountability. The silence is conspicuous. It creates disorganization and leaves departments unsupported as they absorb rising costs and unmet needs.

Long COVID is not a previous historic one-time event. People are still getting Long COVID. It results from new, repeated, and ongoing COVID infections. Vaccines do not prevent Long COVID in any meaningful or reliable way. That means the risk is not behind us. It is active and compounding. As reinfection rates grow, so does the financial liability. Every delay increases the cost and the suffering. Without action, this will become one of the most expensive and embarrassing failures in the City's public health history.

The clearest, most effective use of the \$13.15M is to establish a permanent Office of Long COVID. The City has done this

before. In 1989, Los Angeles created the AIDS Coordinator's Office in response to another federally neglected health and humanitarian crisis. That office was created when the number of affected residents was far smaller than it is today. It was led by patients complete with coordinated services, partnered with trusted groups, identified gaps, and reduced long-term costs through focused infrastructure. That model worked. It remains the best precedent for how to manage Long COVID today. The scale of Long COVID already exceeds that of HIV/AIDS in its early years. The severity is comparable, and the vacuum of federal infrastructure has again left patients to take the lead. It is a mistake to assume the cost will ever become manageable without an organized, durable, patient-led response.

The \$13.15M in CF 24-0500-S3 includes \$4.23M in CARES Act CDBG-CV funds and \$8.92M in regular CDBG funds. HUD guidance allows these dollars to be used for post-COVID care coordination, case management, job reintegration, housing support, financial navigation, and related services. The CDBG-CV funds are not subject to the usual 15% public services cap. This is one of the last remaining federal funding sources that can legally be used for Long COVID response. If these funds are redirected away from COVID entirely, there is no alternate source waiting. The opportunity will be lost and needless and avoidable suffering will continue.

CDBG-CV funds cover exactly what Long COVID drives: loss of income, loss of housing, need for health access, case management, and job reintegration. The match is direct. HUD gave cities this flexibility for COVID's fallout. This is the clearest and most cost-saving use left on the table.

Applying this funding to a City of Los Angeles Office of Long COVID would reduce service demand, protect revenue, and ensure coordination across departments already impacted by rising costs. Redirecting the funds to generic capital upgrades and broad business uses provides no protection from the \$12B in projected losses. It leaves the costliest problem of the pandemic untouched. It trades long-term stability for short-term optics while leaving hundreds of thousands of Angelenos in physical and financial pain.

Not using this money as intended is not only a missed opportunity, it's a misuse of federal relief. These dollars were created to mitigate pandemic fallout. Long COVID is absolutely the costliest and most enduring part of that fallout. Refusing to address it does not make the crisis disappear. It makes the crisis more expensive, more fragmented, more difficult to contain, and more painful for all.

I urge you to amend Council File 24-0500-S3 to allocate the full \$13.15M to the creation of an Office of Long COVID in the City of LA Budget. Doing so would reduce long-term liability, use federal dollars as intended, and apply a proven model from the City's own history to meet this crisis with strategy, not delay. The economic case is clear. The cost is measurable. The moment is now.

Respectfully,

Amira Shaer
North Hollywood, CA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 07:31:39 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

hcluxr@pm.me

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'CL Huang' via Clerk - CityClerk** <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 5:14 AM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, CityClerk@lacity.org <CityClerk@lacity.org>, katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, DOD.Contact@lacity.org <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, heather.hutt@lacity.org <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

[lacity.org](mailto:rita.moreno@lacity.org)>, rita.moreno@lacity.org <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, contactCD4@lacity.org <contactCD4@lacity.org>, Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, councilmember.park@lacity.org <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, councilmember.price@lacity.org <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, councilmember.padilla@lacity.org <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Respectfully,

Ceil Hoang, Los Angeles CD10

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From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 07:30:19 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bianca Guillen** <binkiege@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 6:02 AM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Respectfully,
Theresa D'Aiello, New York

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From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 07:30:11 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Milena Joy Morris** <milenajoymorris@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 4:33 AM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Respectfully,

Milena Joy Morris
Redondo Beach CA

Sent from my iPhone 🦋

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To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

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Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 07:30:03 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Faith Forgione** <faith.forgione@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 1:59 AM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

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The clearest, most effective use of the \$13.15M is to establish a permanent Office of Long COVID. The City has done this before. In 1989, Los Angeles created the AIDS Coordinator's Office in response to another federally neglected health and humanitarian crisis. That office was created when the number of affected residents was far smaller than it is today. It was led by patients complete with coordinated services, partnered with trusted groups, identified gaps, and reduced long-term costs through focused infrastructure. That model worked. It remains the best precedent for how to manage Long COVID today. The scale of Long COVID already exceeds that of HIV/AIDS in its early years. The severity is comparable, and the vacuum of federal infrastructure has again left patients to take the lead. It is a mistake to assume the cost will ever become manageable without an organized, durable, patient-led response.

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Not using this money as intended is not only a missed opportunity, it's a misuse of federal relief. These dollars were created to mitigate pandemic fallout. Long COVID is absolutely the costliest and most enduring part of that fallout. Refusing to address it does not make the crisis disappear. It makes the crisis more expensive, more fragmented, more difficult to contain, and more painful for all.

I urge you to amend Council File 24-0500-S3 to allocate the full \$13.15M to the creation of an Office of Long COVID in the City of LA Budget. Doing so would reduce long-term liability, use federal dollars as intended, and apply a proven model from the City's own history to meet this crisis with strategy, not delay. The economic case is clear. The cost is measurable. The moment is now.

Respectfully,

Faith Forgione
North Hollywood

Faith A. Forgione, M.A.

00 1 (516) 526-9244
faith.forgione@gmail.com

6 attachments

-  **Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600).eml**
21K
-  **Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600).eml**
24K
-  **Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600).eml**
21K
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21K
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21K



May 20, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles to oppose the proposed FY 25-26 budget cuts to the Department on Disability (DOD), which would have an immediate and direct, negative impact on the community. The proposed cut to the DOD team is not only illegal under the many state and federal disability laws, but withholds the dignity and suspends the rights of people with disabilities. These cuts will endanger the most vulnerable among us. At a higher number of dollars cut to DOD than to any other area of the budget, it is unacceptable to allow this to stand.

These cuts will impact the following areas with direct lines to public health, including:

- HIV prevention and harm reduction programs
- Community outreach and direct referrals
- Emergency response access, including ASL interpreters and accessible shelter planning
- Digital accessibility

Families and communities in Los Angeles will lose out on services, will not be aware of what is going on during emergencies, and may not be able to access crucial information that they need. And it does not just impact that one person, the impact spreads and will have unintended consequences among community members. We will have higher numbers of people who will go untreated for conditions that are manageable with resources, and families waiting for respite care, or to be seen at all for services. When we fail to prioritize the most vulnerable among us, we are harming the community, taking away people's dignity, and disregarding their humanity.

The Coelho Center was founded by Representative Anthony "Tony" Coelho in 2018. Rep. Coelho was the original sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities and a leader in disability rights. Among other work, The Coelho Center builds a scholarly community dedicated to studying disability related issues, fosters students and practitioners interested in working with the disability community, and actively supports legislation that advances the rights of people with disabilities at the local, state, and federal levels. The Coelho Center has partnered with LA DoD to co-host policy discussions.



On October 16, 2024, Mayor Karen Bass joined Tony Coelho and the LMU community at The Coelho Center ribbon-cutting event at Loyola Marymount University where she gave a speech in which she said:

In four short years we will have the Olympics here... [and] in 2028 it will be the first time we host the Paralympic Games. ...When we think about the Games coming, it's an opportunity to lift up this [accessibility] issue. So, I would definitely like to establish a partnership with the [Coelho] Center to look at [] how we continue the 'inclusion revolution' that really was launched by the Americans with Disabilities Act. It's an opportunity to highlight the fact that people have challenges which should not limit them, all that they can accomplish with those challenges, and I know that working here with the Center will be an opportunity to really do that. So, forging a new partnership with your Center, the students and the alumni as we prepare for 2028, we will do it in a way that benefits Angelinos directly. And, for those Angelinos who feel that they have to be excluded, or that they are excluded, or that they have to stand in the shadows, it will be an opportunity to tell them that is not true. LA is an inclusive city. We are on the cutting edge in our state [] California on inclusion, and we have an opportunity to really call attention in a very positive way. So, congratulations to LMU, and I will look forward to that partnership that we will establish.

We are now three short years from the Olympic and Paralympic games, and we are not prepared for accessibility in our city. In addition to serving Angelinos, it is not the time to be cutting DoD because of the critical role it plays in advocating for access in LA28 planning. LA is going to be on an international stage soon, and our lack of accessibility and the negative impact and dire consequences for people with disabilities will be imminent. We urge you to reconsider the cuts here, especially as these programs are already needing more resources and we urge you to consider taking that funding from elsewhere in the budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Katherine Perez".

Katherine Perez
Director
The Coelho Center

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Tony Coelho".

Tony Coelho
Founder
The Coelho Center



05/20/2025

1 message

City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Wed, May 21, 2025 at 9:08 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:36:05 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ellie Lipton** <ellieliptontherapy@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 8:59 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson and Council Members,

The City of Los Angeles is facing a \$1B budget shortfall. At the same time, Council File 24-0500-S3 proposes to reprogram \$13.15M in unspent federal COVID relief into unrelated capital upgrades and small business programs. This is a critical mistake. The money is still eligible for pandemic response and should be used to prevent a much larger fiscal threat: the \$12B in projected costs from Long COVID.

According to Harvard economist David Cutler, Long COVID is expected to cost the City more than \$12B over the next five years in lost wages, reduced workforce participation, rising disability, increased medical spending, and pressure on public benefit systems. These losses are already materializing across departments. They are growing every month the City delays a coordinated response. What is being dismissed today as a medical issue will very soon reveal a cavernous and structural budget problem if left unaddressed.

Long COVID is a disabling, multi-system condition affecting over 268,000 Angelenos. One in four people with Long COVID are unable to work. Nearly half have lost income. Less than 10% ever recover. This is a large, persistent economic driver that is increasing strain on housing, labor, health, and emergency systems. Despite that, there is no City infrastructure to address it. No plan, no budget line item, no public health accountability. The silence is conspicuous. It creates disorganization and leaves departments unsupported as they absorb rising costs and unmet needs.

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I urge you to amend Council File 24-0500-S3 to allocate the full \$13.15M to the creation of an Office of Long COVID in the City of LA Budget. Doing so would reduce long-term liability, use federal dollars as intended, and apply a proven model from the City's own history to meet this crisis with strategy, not delay. The economic case is clear. The cost is measurable. The moment is now.

Respectfully,

Ellie Lipton, LCSW
Long Beach, CA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:36:40 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Use COVID relief funds to establish Office of Long COVID (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

jlfrehn@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: '**Jennifer Frehn**' via Clerk - CityClerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 10:55 PM

Subject: Use COVID relief funds to establish Office of Long COVID (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, CityClerk@lacity.org <CityClerk@lacity.org>, katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, DOD.Contact@lacity.org <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, heather.hutt@lacity.org <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>

lacity.org>, rita.moreno@lacity.org <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, contactCD4@lacity.org <contactCD4@lacity.org>, Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, councilmember.Lee@lacity.org <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, councilmember.park@lacity.org <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, councilmember.price@lacity.org <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, councilmember.padilla@lacity.org <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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The clearest, most effective use of the \$13.15M is to establish a permanent Office of Long COVID. The City has done this before. In 1989, Los Angeles created the AIDS Coordinator's Office in response to another federally neglected health and humanitarian crisis. That office was created when the number of affected residents was far smaller than it is today. It was led by patients complete with coordinated services, partnered with trusted groups, identified gaps, and reduced long-term costs through focused infrastructure. That model worked. It remains the best precedent for how to manage Long COVID today. The scale of Long COVID already exceeds that of HIV/AIDS in its early years. The severity is comparable, and the vacuum of federal infrastructure has again left patients to take the lead. It is a mistake to assume the cost will ever become manageable without an organized, durable, patient-led response.

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As a public health researcher and Los Angeles County resident, I urge you to amend Council File 24-0500-S3 to allocate the full \$13.15M to the creation of an Office of Long COVID in the City of LA Budget. Doing so would reduce long-term liability, use federal dollars as intended, and apply a proven model from the City's own history to meet this crisis with strategy, not delay. The economic case is clear. The cost is measurable. The moment is now.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Frehn, PhD, MPH

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:35:34 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kris** <krcox.kc@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 10:54 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Respectfully, Kris

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:35:14 -0700
Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Stephann Johnson** <stephannjohnson1996@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 10:55 PM
Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)
To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>
Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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The clearest, most effective use of the \$13.15M is to establish a permanent Office of Long COVID. The City has done this before. In 1989, Los Angeles created the AIDS Coordinator's Office in response to another federally neglected health and humanitarian crisis. That office was created when the number of affected residents was far smaller than it is today. It was led by patients complete with coordinated services, partnered with trusted groups, identified gaps, and reduced long-term costs through focused infrastructure. That model worked. It remains the best precedent for how to manage Long COVID today. The scale of Long COVID already exceeds that of HIV/AIDS in its early years. The severity is comparable, and the vacuum of federal infrastructure has again left patients to take the lead. It is a mistake to assume the cost will ever become manageable without an organized, durable, patient-led response.

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I urge you to amend Council File 24-0500-S3 to allocate the full \$13.15M to the creation of an Office of Long COVID in the City of LA Budget. Doing so would reduce long-term liability, use federal dollars as intended, and apply a proven model from the City's own history to meet this crisis with strategy, not delay. The economic case is clear. The cost is measurable. The moment is now.

Respectfully,

Stephan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:34:45 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Couch Potato** <couchdelasitt2@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 10:56 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Respectfully,

Jennifer Connelly

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:34:20 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kirstin Brown** <kirstinbrown329@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 11:04 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files

24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Respectfully,
Kirstin B

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:33:53 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kris October** <octkrsss@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 11:05 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Regards,
Mx. Kris

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>, Clerk - CityClerk <CityClerk@lacity.org>
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Wed, 21 May 2025 07:32:41 -0700
Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Celey Schumer** <celey.schumer@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 11:20 PM
Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)
To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>
Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson and Council Members,

"There is always money for disaster, never money for prevention." Please, have the foresight necessary to spend the

money you DO currently have more wisely. The below is a well researched and well argued letter that I wholeheartedly support and I hope you will see the wisdom in it. Please do right by the people you are entrusted to represent. This will benefit more people than you realize. Thank you.

Celey

The City of Los Angeles is facing a \$1B budget shortfall. At the same time, Council File 24-0500-S3 proposes to reprogram \$13.15M in unspent federal COVID relief into unrelated capital upgrades and small business programs. This is a critical mistake. The money is still eligible for pandemic response and should be used to prevent a much larger fiscal threat: the \$12B in projected costs from Long COVID.

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Respectfully,

[YOUR NAME AND LOCATION]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 16:41:33 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Save Barnsdall Art Park + Hollyhock House from Budget Cuts (Council File 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jennifer Liu** <jl.jenniferliu@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 4:40 PM

Subject: Save Barnsdall Art Park + Hollyhock House from Budget Cuts (Council File 25-0600)

To: <CityClerk@lacity.org>

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my opposition with the proposed cuts in the City of LA's proposed 2025-2026 budget that will negatively impact the staff, educators, artists, community members and visitors to the beloved Barnsdall Art Park.

Knowing that these cuts will threaten the livelihoods of seven essential staff positions, including three of Hollyhock House's four full-time employees, is appalling on its own.

The impact of defunding their vital work is only made worse when considering how it will coincide with reduced programming at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, as well as the low-cost fine art classes at Barnsdall Arts Center and Barnsdall Junior Arts Center, which has enriched the lives of thousands of local children and adults for over 50 years.

I first visited LA three years ago and after spending an afternoon at Barnsdall knew that the neighborhood would be my new home. In my short time here I've found peace in the park in so many ways: I've celebrated moments with friends and neighbors, supported local vendors at events, marveled at the LA skyline and the stunning art and architecture on the grounds. I've been lucky enough to take an art class at the BAC and have been inspired by educators who are committed to sharing their craft at accessible prices.

People come to Barnsdall looking to build stronger ties with the vibrancy of LA, its people and its history. Given that people are more isolated than ever under the threat of economic hardship and political discord, now is not the time to get rid of these community-enriching spaces, but rather to invest even more in them. Doing so is a crucial way to build strong communities for a better and brighter LA. I urge you to reconsider and not move forward with the budget cuts that will impact this vital LA institution.

Jennifer Liu

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 13:41:46 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kira Morrison** <kiratoherescue@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 1:17 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>,

<DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>,

<heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

Dear Council President Harris-Dawson and Council Members,

The City of Los Angeles is facing a \$1B budget shortfall. At the same time, Council File 24-0500-S3 proposes to reprogram \$13.15M in unspent federal COVID relief into unrelated capital upgrades and small business programs. This is a critical mistake. The money is still eligible for pandemic response and should be used to prevent a much larger fiscal threat: the \$12B in projected costs from Long COVID.

According to Harvard economist David Cutler, Long COVID is expected to cost the City more than \$12B over the next five years in lost wages, reduced workforce participation, rising disability, increased medical spending, and pressure on public benefit systems. These losses are already materializing across departments. They are growing every month the City delays a coordinated response. What is being dismissed today as a medical issue will very soon reveal a cavernous and structural budget problem if left unaddressed.

Long COVID is a disabling, multi-system condition affecting over 268,000 Angelenos. One in four people with Long COVID are unable to work. Nearly half have lost income. Less than 10% ever recover. This is a large, persistent economic driver that is increasing strain on housing, labor, health, and emergency systems. Despite that, there is no City infrastructure to address it. No plan, no budget line item, no public health accountability. The silence is conspicuous. It creates disorganization and leaves departments unsupported as they absorb rising costs and unmet needs.

Long COVID is not a previous historic one-time event. People are still getting Long COVID. It results from new, repeated, and ongoing COVID infections. Vaccines do not prevent Long COVID in any meaningful or reliable way. That means the risk is not behind us. It is active and compounding. As reinfection rates grow, so does the financial liability. Every delay increases the cost and the suffering. Without action, this will become one of the most expensive and embarrassing failures in the City's public health history.

The clearest, most effective use of the \$13.15M is to establish a permanent Office of Long COVID. The City has done this before. In 1989, Los Angeles created the AIDS Coordinator's Office in response to another federally neglected health and humanitarian crisis. That office was created when the number of affected residents was far smaller than it is today. It was led by patients complete with coordinated services, partnered with trusted groups, identified gaps, and reduced long-term costs through focused infrastructure. That model worked. It remains the best precedent for how to manage Long COVID today. The scale of Long COVID already exceeds that of HIV/AIDS in its early years. The severity is comparable, and the vacuum of federal infrastructure has again left patients to take the lead. It is a mistake to assume the cost will ever become manageable without an organized, durable, patient-led response.

The \$13.15M in CF 24-0500-S3 includes \$4.23M in CARES Act CDBG-CV funds and \$8.92M in regular CDBG funds. HUD guidance allows these dollars to be used for post-COVID care coordination, case management, job reintegration, housing support, financial navigation, and related services. The CDBG-CV funds are not subject to the usual 15% public services cap. This is one of the last remaining federal funding sources that can legally be used for Long COVID response. If these funds are redirected away from COVID entirely, there is no alternate source waiting. The opportunity will be lost and needless and avoidable suffering will continue.

CDBG-CV funds cover exactly what Long COVID drives: loss of income, loss of housing, need for health access, case management, and job reintegration. The match is direct. HUD gave cities this flexibility for COVID's fallout. This is the clearest and most cost-saving use left on the table.

Applying this funding to a City of Los Angeles Office of Long COVID would reduce service demand, protect revenue, and ensure coordination across departments already impacted by rising costs. Redirecting the funds to generic capital upgrades and broad business uses provides no protection from the \$12B in projected losses. It leaves the costliest problem of the pandemic untouched. It trades long-term stability for short-term optics while leaving hundreds of thousands of Angelenos in physical and financial pain.

Not using this money as intended is not only a missed opportunity, it's a misuse of federal relief. These dollars were created to mitigate pandemic fallout. Long COVID is absolutely the costliest and most enduring part of that fallout. Refusing to address it does not make the crisis disappear. It makes the crisis more expensive, more fragmented, more difficult to contain, and more painful for all.

I urge you to amend Council File 24-0500-S3 to allocate the full \$13.15M to the creation of an Office of Long COVID in the City of LA Budget. Doing so would reduce long-term liability, use federal dollars as intended, and apply a proven model

from the City's own history to meet this crisis with strategy, not delay. The economic case is clear. The cost is measurable. The moment is now.

Respectfully,

Kira Morrison
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Sent from my iPhone

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 13:41:33 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tanya Vidhyarkorn** <tanyav@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 1:24 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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costs through focused infrastructure. That model worked. It remains the best precedent for how to manage Long COVID today. The scale of Long COVID already exceeds that of HIV/AIDS in its early years. The severity is comparable, and the vacuum of federal infrastructure has again left patients to take the lead. It is a mistake to assume the cost will ever become manageable without an organized, durable, patient-led response.

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Respectfully,

Tanya Vidhyarkorn
90019

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From: Office of the City Clerk <cityclerk@lacity.org>

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Cc:

Bcc:

Date: Tue, 20 May 2025 12:27:28 -0700

Subject: Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **C Cat** <mcamaiore@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, May 20, 2025 at 12:24 PM

Subject: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600)

To: <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>

Cc: <councilmember.soto-martinez@lacity.org>, <CityClerk@lacity.org>, <katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org>, <DOD.Contact@lacity.org>, <councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org>, <heather.hutt@lacity.org>, <Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org>, <rita.moreno@lacity.org>, <councilmember.nazarian@lacity.org>, <contactCD4@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.Jurado@lacity.org>, <councilmember.Lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.park@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.padilla@lacity.org>, <PublicComments@bos.lacounty.gov>

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Respectfully,
Melissa Camaiore, Sherman Oaks

...

[Message clipped] [View entire message](#)

16 attachments

-  **Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600).eml**
21K
-  **Fwd: Use COVID relief funds to establish Office of Long COVID (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600).eml**
24K
-  **Fwd: Urgent Request: Apply COVID Relief Funds to Long COVID to Rescue the Budget and the People (Council Files 24-0500-S3 & 25-0600).eml**
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22K
-  **Fwd: Save Barnsdall Art Park + Hollyhock House from Budget Cuts (Council File 25-0600).eml**
11K
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