

Communication from Public

Name: Lionel Mares
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Council File No: 25-0046
Comments for Public Posting: PUBLIC COMMENT: Please see attached.

February 14, 2025

Public Comment

RE: 2026 Ballot Measure / Bond Measure / Fire Station Maintenance / Fire Station Construction / Council File No. 25-0046

The City of Los Angeles is in crisis... in January of this year, wildfires devastated the community of Pacific Palisades and other parts of the city. The city is facing a looming fiscal crisis as well as non-sworn civilian shortages due to the hiring freeze imposed by the city council. The Los Angeles Fire Department needs our support. The LAFD needs more civilian non-sworn positions such as mechanics, and other non-sworn positions that are essential in maintaining the Fire Trucks and other Emergency Response Vehicles that are crucial in an emergency.

I am skeptical about the proposed ballot bond measure. I believe that the city should divert funding away from the LAPD, and put a salary freeze on LAPD in order to fund the LAFD and infrastructure/maintenance. The LAPD has the biggest budget while other city departments are defunded. It is wrong and unethical. The city should not burden taxpayers with more taxes while it mismanages the city's funds/reserves.

The city council and mayor's office should restore these essential positions and undo the hiring freeze. The city council should invest more in non-sworn civilian positions, in order to, provide services to residents of Los Angeles. Currently, the Los Angeles Police Department has the biggest budget while the LAFD and other city departments have smaller budgets. This is an ongoing issue and concern because other city departments provide essential services to the residents of Los Angeles and if these positions are cut, the city of Los Angeles won't be able to provide those services especially for the poorest and the working class.

Therefore, the Los Angeles City Council should hire more non-sworn civilian employees, undo the hiring freeze, streamline the Civil Service and support the [mid-year budget](#) request from the Los Angeles Fire Department to restore 16 positions in the supply and maintenance division. See Council File: [24-0600-S36 \(CFMS\)](#).

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully,

Lionel Mares, MPA
Community Advocate