



Mandy Morales <mandy.morales@lacity.org>

Public Comment: \$5M Long COVID Line-Item to Prevent \$3B in Losses (CF 25-0600)

1 message

Kiki Burghardt <kikibtattoos83@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at 4:48 PM

To: katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org, CityClerk@lacity.org, Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

Cc: Councilmember.Blumenfeld@lacity.org, heather.hutt@lacity.org, councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org, councilmember.hernandez@lacity.org, DOD.Contact@lacity.org, controller.mejia@lacity.org

Dear Budget and Finance Committee Members,

Please accept this email as my official public comment for inclusion in the record for Council File 25-0600 regarding the Fiscal Year 2025–26 City of Los Angeles Budget.

In the face of a \$1 billion budget shortfall, it is essential to act strategically. I urge you to reverse the proposed \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability and to allocate a \$5 million Long COVID Response line-item as a critical fiscal stabilization and cost-containment measure.

Key facts:

- \$1.075 million cut to the Department on Disability proposed
- \$5 million requested dedicated for Long COVID case management, benefits navigation, public outreach, prevention, and more
- \$3 billion in projected five-year economic losses if Long COVID is ignored¹
- \$5 million investment now is less than 0.2% of projected losses over the next five years
- 268,000 Angelenos living with Long COVID (and growing)²
- Over 20× the number impacted when the City first funded AIDS services³

By Harvard economists estimations, Long COVID will cost Los Angeles over \$3 billion in five years¹. Globally, Long COVID is already costing more than \$1 trillion per year⁴, and U.S. losses exceeded \$152.6 billion in 2024 alone⁵. Without intervention, these costs will continue to rise and directly undermine the City's tax base and services.

For comparison, during the AIDS crisis, Los Angeles began allocating dedicated funding in 1987, and by 1990 independently invested from its general fund—even though annual AIDS diagnoses in the County peaked at roughly 4,000 cases in 1992. Today, over 267,000 adults in Los Angeles are living with Long COVID, which is more than twenty times the peak impact of AIDS. Targeted investment at scale is again urgently needed.

A \$5 million starter investment today would stabilize residents, reverse critical service cuts, prevent escalating liabilities, and position Los Angeles to leverage future State and Federal pandemic recovery funds. This small, targeted investment today is a cost-saving, revenue-protecting action for the City's future. It strengthens our workforce, protects public health infrastructure, and positions Los Angeles to leverage additional State and Federal recovery funding. And, it's the right thing to do.

Investing now is responsible governance. Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical measure.

Respectfully,

[Your Name]

[Neighborhood or ZIP Code]

References:

¹ Cutler, D. (2022). The Economic Impact of Long COVID. Harvard Kennedy School.

² CDC Household Pulse Survey. (September 2024). Long COVID Prevalence Estimates.

³ Los Angeles Times. (1990). City Council Approves Funds for AIDS Prevention.

⁴ Nature Medicine. (2024). Global Economic Cost of Long COVID Estimated at \$1 Trillion Annually.

⁵ Economist Impact. (2024). Incomplete Picture: Understanding the Burden of Long COVID.

Sent from deep space nine



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1 message

'angel' via Clerk Budget and Finance Committee <clerk.budgetandfinancecommittee@lacity.org>Wed, Apr 30, 2025 at
3:05 PM

Reply-To: angel <angel.enith@googlemail.com>

To: katy.yaroslavsky@lacity.org, CityClerk@lacity.org, Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

Cc: Councilmember.Blumenfield@lacity.org, heather.hutt@lacity.org, councilmember.mcosker@lacity.org,

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