



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Katy Yaroslavsky
Chairperson, Budget and Finance Committee
200 N Spring Street, Suite 440
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Chairperson Yaroslavsky:

As your Committee is beginning its consideration of my Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, I wanted to take a moment to clear up some questions raised around certain elements of the Proposed Budget, make recommendations for your Committee's consideration, and offer ongoing support as you consider options to pass a balanced budget for FY 2025-26 that leads the City closer to greater efficiency and more structurally balanced budgets in future years.

After considering several of the comments that have been offered in your Committee so far, I hope to address several issues that have been mentioned:

Animal Services Department

There has been confusion regarding funding for the Animal Services Department in my Proposed Budget. My budget contains funding for the department in two different areas – in the departmental budget but also an additional \$5 million in the Unappropriated Balance. Combined, this means all six shelters will be able to stay open. We understand the need to continue operating all City shelters and I thank you and your Committee for already taking action to allocate this funding for its intended purpose and to avoid the closure of any shelters.

Consolidation of the Aging, Economic and Workforce Development, and Youth Development Departments into the Community Investment for Families Department

Some have expressed concern that the programs and services that they rely upon from the departments that will be consolidated into the Community Investment for Families

Department will suffer from the consolidation. My Proposed Budget proposes the consolidation of those departments for the expressed purpose of strengthening them. Each department provides services with duplication of staffing roles and responsibilities. By consolidating the departments into one department, we anticipate saving at least \$5 million and the program participants will be better served by the operational efficiencies and the reduction of silos. Acting to make these structural changes at this time will enable the consolidated department to be more adaptive to future changes in service needs or available funding sources.

Child Care Centers

There is funding to continue operating the child care centers through the new year, when an RFP is expected to be completed to transfer the child care operations. The Department of Recreation and Parks has been in communication with parents to keep them updated with available information and has communicated that there is no plan to displace families at these facilities. The department does not anticipate any disruption in service. The department is planning to issue the RFP by June and expects to have completed the selection process by December 31, 2025.

Legal Services

The Mayor's Office and the Community Investment for Families Department are working on a solution to maintain the critical services for L.A. residents that will not incur a General Fund expense. I know how critical it is that the City continues to offer vital legal aid, and look forward to communicating with the Council on a proposal to continue funding legal services.

Planning Department

The department proposed adjustments to several fees to help offset some of their layoffs that ultimately require Council deliberation and adoption, actions which had not yet been taken at the release of the Proposed Budget. I encourage the Budget and Finance Committee to engage with the Planning Department in considering these proposals and restoring filled positions that will help the department perform its work.

Proprietary and Special-funded Departments

To give life to Instruction 13 in Exhibit H of the Proposed Budget, I am working with the General Managers of the Airport, Harbor, and Water and Power to help identify as many positions as possible in common city job classifications to find options for our public servants that may be impacted by potential layoffs. We will marshal as many of the city's resources as we can to provide options to safe guard city careers, in addition to options that the Council may consider in its deliberations over the Proposed Budget.

Health Commission

On the advice of the City Attorney's Office, I am recommending that the Council strike Instruction 10 in Exhibit H.

LAFD Equity Bureau

The Equity Bureau of LAFD is proposed to be consolidated into the Professional Standards Division. This places the function of promoting a safer working environment for all firefighters with the unit principally responsible for fair hearings and disciplinary matters. There is no change in our commitment to accomplishing the goal of this bureau in the LAFD.

The Mayor's Office is looking forward to working with the Budget and Finance Committee and the entire City Council to implement a balanced budget for our next fiscal year. If you have any questions or concerns about the Proposed Budget, please do not hesitate to contact Deputy Mayor Matt Hale or my Budget Chief, Bernyce Hollins, to discuss these matters in more detail and to develop additional solutions to ensure service delivery.

Sincerely,



KAREN BASS
Mayor

cc: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Vice Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Councilmember Heather Hutt, Member, Budget and Finance Committee
Councilmember Tim McOsker, Member, Budget and Finance Committee
Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, Member, Budget and Finance Committee
Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Chief Legislative Analyst Sharon Tso
City Administrative Officer Matthew W. Szabo