

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 03/01/2021 08:31 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S83

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge the Council to support Item 34 to reinvest LAPD funds in ways/programs which will directly support Black Angelenos. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Paul Pulido, Interim Executive Director, South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone

Date Submitted: 03/01/2021 03:09 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S83

Comments for Public Posting: To the Honorable Members of the City Council, The South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) supports the allocation of funds to pilot bold ideas that address the systemic challenges that deepen racial disparities and drive inequity. We appreciate the equity measures used in the initial proposed funding allocation, and advocate for the same amount, if not more, directed to South L.A. while acknowledging Mayor Garcetti's recommendations for these funds to be utilized in a revolutionary manner, before June 1, 2021. As it has been the intent of the Reinvestment funds to benefit the communities that have been most negatively impacted by generations of systemic racism and the regions of LA with the highest populations of African-American residents, additional resources are needed to ensure that South LA is transformed into a healthy, vibrant and thriving community for every resident, school and business. The partners that formulate our Promise Zone partnership broadly operate in the following issue areas: Workforce and Economic Development: acknowledging how systemic barriers impede black/brown communities from successful careers, our partners innovate in career placement programs Public Safety: in the face of mounting over-policing, our partners engage in collaboration models that emphasize diverse community relationships in creating safer neighborhoods Education: centralizing the importance of youth trauma, our partners innovate approaches that tackle the complexity of trauma stemming from justice involvement, houselessness, and a myriad of other factors affecting disconnected youth Local Business Cultivation: combating the effects of redlining that have marred black/brown communities for decades, our partners cultivate an ecosystem for local businesses to bridge systemic gaps to greater opportunity Transportation Equity: so that South LA residents can access these wide ranging services, our partners advocate for equitable access to transit and a safer built environment in our neighborhoods South LA is home to 35% of the City's Black population, compared to 9% region-wide, and is 60% Hispanic compared to 48% across the city. The population of South LA experiences extreme poverty with 50% of the population below the federal poverty line, and 2/3 of the population experience

financial hardship due to the cost of living. Further, South LA continues to experience the highest levels of crime, violent crime and youth arrests. Further, South LA schools and students have among the lowest outcomes across nearly every academic indicator. Despite these challenges, the South L.A. community demonstrates strong organizational capacity to address these barriers, especially across our five issue areas. Our partnership aims to combat disproportionate, rising unemployment rates through training, retraining, and aligning career and college track opportunities for youth and adults. Partners have also leveraged federal, state, and local technical assistance with public and private resources to abate business closures, generate capital, and bolster inclusiveness with South LA businesses. Education initiatives have tackled barriers to academic achievement by bridging the digital divide and providing critical alternative programming to the justice system for disconnected youth. These efforts include career opportunities as well as community intervention models. Our partners are community members, local agencies, and philanthropic entities designing alternatives to incarceration and highlighting trauma-informed practices into public safety prevention, intervention, gang diversion, and reentry services. These inexorably tie with issues around transit, through which South LA residents connect to these critical services and demand to live in safely maintained neighborhoods. An infrastructure of bold ideas exists in South L.A., but it needs sustained and increased investment to continue creating, maintaining, and expanding initiatives and programming that enhance community benefits, attract local, state, and federal opportunities, and strengthen philanthropic partnerships. Our partners collaborate with residents, local agencies, and philanthropic entities to inform initiatives that break cycles of poverty and trauma and equip youth and adults for success at home, at school, and in the workforce. They have built an equitable and just framework that is primed for more innovation and expansion. Directing funding to our South L.A. partners will enhance the programs that are in place and catalyze the pursuit of multiple layers of funding from county, state, federal and philanthropic sources. Therefore, we call upon our city leaders to direct at least the same amount of the funds, if not more, designated to South L.A. in the City Council's initial proposal. This opportunity not only opens up much needed support for South L.A., but also sets a foundation for expanded projects and partnerships into the future.



March 2, 2021

Los Angeles City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Room 1050
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: 20-0600-S83, Community Funding Allocation for Re-Imagining Public Safety

To the Honorable Members of the City Council,

The South Los Angeles Transit Empowerment Zone (SLATE-Z) supports the allocation of funds to pilot bold ideas that address the systemic challenges that deepen racial disparities and drive inequity. **We appreciate the equity measures used in the initial proposed funding allocation, and advocate for the same amount, if not more, directed to South L.A. while acknowledging Mayor Garcetti's recommendations for these funds to be utilized in a revolutionary manner, before June 1, 2021.** As it has been the intent of the Reinvestment funds to benefit the communities that have been most negatively impacted by generations of systemic racism and the regions of LA with the highest populations of African-American residents, additional resources are needed to ensure that South LA is transformed into a healthy, vibrant and thriving community for every resident, school and business.

The partners that formulate our Promise Zone partnership broadly operate in the following issue areas:

Workforce and Economic Development: acknowledging how systemic barriers impede black/brown communities from successful careers, our partners innovate in career placement programs

Public Safety: in the face of mounting over-policing, our partners engage in collaboration models that emphasize diverse community relationships in creating safer neighborhoods

Education: centralizing the importance of youth trauma, our partners innovate approaches that tackle the complexity of trauma stemming from justice involvement, houselessness, and a myriad of other factors affecting disconnected youth

Local Business Cultivation: combating the effects of redlining that have marred black/brown communities for decades, our partners cultivate an ecosystem for local businesses to bridge systemic gaps to greater opportunity

Transportation Equity: so that South LA residents can access these wide ranging services, our partners advocate for equitable access to transit and a safer built environment in our neighborhoods

South LA is home to 35% of the City's Black population, compared to 9% region-wide, and is 60% Hispanic compared to 48% across the city. The population of South LA experiences extreme poverty with 50% of the population below the federal poverty line, and 2/3 of the population experience financial hardship due to the cost of living. Further, South LA continues to experience the highest levels of crime, violent crime and youth arrests. Further, South LA schools and students have among the lowest outcomes across nearly every academic indicator.



SOUTH LOS ANGELES TRANSIT **EMPOWERMENT** ZONE

Despite these challenges, the South L.A. community demonstrates strong organizational capacity to address these barriers, especially across our five issue areas. Our partnership aims to combat disproportionate, rising unemployment rates through training, retraining, and aligning career and college track opportunities for youth and adults. Partners have also leveraged federal, state, and local technical assistance with public and private resources to abate business closures, generate capital, and bolster inclusiveness with South LA businesses. **Education initiatives have tackled barriers to academic achievement by bridging the digital divide and providing critical alternative programming to the justice system for disconnected youth.** These efforts include career opportunities as well as community intervention models. Our partners are community members, local agencies, and philanthropic entities designing alternatives to incarceration and highlighting trauma-informed practices into public safety prevention, intervention, gang diversion, and reentry services. These inexorably tie with issues around transit, through which South LA residents connect to these critical services and demand to live in safely maintained neighborhoods.

An infrastructure of bold ideas exists in South L.A., but it needs sustained and increased investment to continue creating, maintaining, and expanding initiatives and programming that enhance community benefits, attract local, state, and federal opportunities, and strengthen philanthropic partnerships. Our partners collaborate with residents, local agencies, and philanthropic entities to inform initiatives that break cycles of poverty and trauma and equip youth and adults for success at home, at school, and in the workforce. They have built an equitable and just framework that is primed for more innovation and expansion. **Directing funding to our South L.A. partners will enhance the programs that are in place and catalyze the pursuit of multiple layers of funding from county, state, federal and philanthropic sources.** Therefore, we call upon our city leaders to direct at least the same amount of the funds, if not more, designated to South L.A. in the City Council's initial proposal. This opportunity not only opens up much needed support for South L.A., but also sets a foundation for expanded projects and partnerships into the future.

Thank you for your work and consideration of this request.

In Solidarity,

Paul Pulido
Interim Executive Director
SLATE-Z

Veronica Melvin
President and CEO
LA Promise Fund

Mark Wilson
President and CEO
Coalition for Responsible Community Development



Signatories to the SLATE-Z Memorandum of Understanding:

A Place Called Home (APCH) | AADAP, Inc. | All Peoples Community Center (APCC) | Alliance for Community Transit Los Angeles | Amity Foundation | Anti-Recidivism Coalition | Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (AYE) | Bixel Exchange | Brotherhood Crusade | Cal State University Dominguez Hills | Center for Powerful Public Schools | Chapter TWO | City Year | Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD) | Community Build | Community Coalition | Economic Roundtable | Enterprise Community Partners | Esperanza Community Housing/Mercado La Paloma | Friends Outside Los Angeles County | Going Beyond Boundaries (GBB) | Holman CDC | LA Black Worker Center | LA Conservation Corps | LA Great Streets Initiative | LA LISC | LA Promise Fund | LA Trade Technical College | LA United Methodist Urban Foundation | LA Urban League | LA Voice | Life After Uncivil Ruthless Acts (L.A.U.R.A.) | Lift Communities | Living Advantage, Inc. | Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition | Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI) | Los Angeles Urban League | Managed Career Solutions Business Source Center | MoveLA | Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHM) | Nuevo South | OmniWorks LLC | People for Parks | Playa Vista Jobs Opportunities and Business Services (PVJOBS) | Soledad Enrichment Action | Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing | St. Johns Health and Wellness Centers | Strategic Actions for a Just Economy (SAJE) | Synergy Academies | T.R.U.S.T South LA | The Grantsmanship Center | Transportation Workforce Institute | United Auto Worker Labor and Employment Training Center | University of California, Los Angeles | University of Southern California | Urban Peace Institute (UPI) | US VETS | Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation | Volunteers of America - Los Angeles (VOALA) | Worksite Wellness LA | YWCA of Greater Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Ruth Schwartz, Shelter Partnership

Date Submitted: 03/01/2021 05:43 PM

Council File No: 20-0600-S83

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to strongly support the reinvestment of funds from the Los Angeles Police Department to disadvantaged communities. Shelter Partnership is a nonprofit organization collaboratively solving homelessness in Los Angeles County through policy analysis, program design, resource development, and advocacy in support of agencies and local governments that serve the homeless. Homelessness and inequality are inextricably linked, and communities of color are disproportionately represented in the homeless population. By approving the proposed reallocation of resources, the City will be taking an important step to addressing these inequities. These funds will be used to implement best practices and to support established service providers with a track record in serving people at-risk of and experiencing homelessness. Resources such as the \$1.5 million to fund Encampment to Home Initiatives in Council District 10 and the \$420,000 to expand and enhance the HOPICS Homeless Multidisciplinary Team in Council District 9 will further efforts to prevent and end homelessness in the City. Thank you for all that the City Council has done, and continues to do, to address homelessness in Los Angeles. Ruth Schwartz Executive Director Shelter Partnership, Inc.