

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

CAROLYN M. HULL
GENERAL MANAGER



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**ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

1200 W. 7TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

April 21, 2021

Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Mandy Morales
City Clerk
200 North Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT COMMENTS
ON THE MAYOR'S FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET**

The Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) has reviewed the Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget. The EWDD respectfully submits this correspondence to discuss the newest opportunities and the Department's resources needed to implement the Mayor's vision.

The EWDD welcomes and appreciates the new opportunities presented by the Mayor's Proposed Budget as the City moves forward from a difficult year to a new phase of restoration and rebuilding. While the past year saw unprecedented challenges brought on by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the incoming fiscal year offers many opportunities to turn the course of the pandemic and offer expanded services to Angelenos with a collective emphasis on equity and inclusion. The new Angeleno Corps, LA Optimized, Restaurant and Small Business Recovery, and Student to Student Success Pilot programs included in the Mayor's Budget will enhance the already broad range of programs in business support, employment and youth development currently administered by the Department.

EWDD's programs are administered by a team of grant-funded and General Funded positions whose work involves critical programmatic and administrative functions in grants management, program monitoring, financial, auditing, technology, and other functions. Given the expansion of services in the Mayor's budget, as well as anticipated discretionary grants and support from the American Rescue Plan, it is imperative that the EWDD maintain sufficient staffing levels to push forward the Mayor's vision and successfully implement and administer the new services.

Maintaining the following positions in the EWDD's budget would support operations as follows:

- **Senior Real Estate Officer**, Citywide Economic Development: This position supports economic development services that assist businesses and create new jobs. The Senior Real Estate Officer position is essential to management of City-owned development sites and performs tasks involving real property rights that include negotiations, acquisitions, dispositions, leasing, and appraisals. The position manages Opportunity Zone sites and Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District (EIFD) sites in addition to other real estate activities.
- **Management Assistant**, Economic Development and Comprehensive Job Creation: This position provides indispensable support in the administration and accounting of the Excess Non-Housing Bond proceeds from the former Redevelopment Agency. This support is critical in ensuring the City meets the bond covenant requirements of this \$94 million fund.

- **Management Analyst**, Jobs and Economic Development Incentive (JEDI) Zones: Council approved four (4) Management Analysts in the EWDD's Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget specifically for the JEDI Program. JEDI Zones are areas where economic incentives, enhanced services, and programs are used to enhance existing businesses and attract new businesses and industries to the City of Los Angeles, particularly in underinvested communities. The EWDD requests to continue two (2) of the positions in Fiscal Year 2021-22 in order to successfully implement and move this Council-mandated task forward.
- **Senior Project Assistant**, YouthSource Centers, Hire LA, and Cash for College: The position assists in the provision of Youth services in Boyle Heights; the City may lose grant funds due to reduced services if the position were deleted.

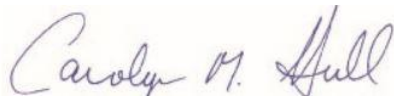
CONCLUSION

We are pleased with the continued support for the EWDD's key Workforce and Economic Development programs, as well as the continuation of key fiscal and administrative positions formerly identified for deletion. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) funding of \$5.6 million will allow the EWDD to greatly increase participant levels while meeting the current minimum wage. Increased General Fund funding for the EWDD's LA:Rise Homelessness program and Day Laborer Program will enhance the ability of these vital services to address the needs of the City's homeless and underserved population.

Additionally, the EWDD appreciates the Mayor's support in providing the continued General Fund funding for the EWDD's HireLA, YouthSource Centers, and Cash for College programs.

We thank you for your time and consideration and look forward to discussing EWDD's proposed FY 2021-22 budget.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN M. HULL
General Manager

CH:AS

cc: William Chun, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office of Economic Development
Brenda Shockley, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity
Raoul Mendoza, Budget Director, Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation
Richard Llewelyn Jr., City Administrative Officer
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst