

Communication from Public

Name: Robin Mark
Date Submitted: 04/26/2021 05:25 PM
Council File No: 21-0600
Comments for Public Posting: Comment Letter on the Mayor's 2021-22 Proposed Budget re:
Department of Recreation & Parks



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tpl.org

April 26, 2021

RE: City of LA Parks Operations and Maintenance Budget FY 21-22

Dear Honorable Los Angeles City Council Members/Budget Committee Members:

We at The Trust for Public Land (TPL) have seen this year more than ever how important public parks are for urban residents. It is our understanding that with the proposed Mayoral budget for FY 21-22 the City's Recreation and Parks department will not be able to fill 140 positions that were vacated during the pandemic. It is important to note that these are mostly front-line maintenance positions that are critical to making sure our City parks are well maintained and remain accessible for all residents.

We urge you to reconsider this element of the budget as part of the critical support needed for communities, and especially low-income communities of color during the COVID19 pandemic who have less access to parks, and less park space per resident than in higher-income, majority white areas of the City. As you know, access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health and nothing has brought this fact to bear more than the current health crisis. We must consider the long-term impacts on community if these positions are not refilled, just when it is so critical that people get outside to their local parks.

TPL has worked closely with the City of Los Angeles to fill the gap in parks and access to nature so that ALL residents have access to a park, a well-maintained park, within a ten-minute walk. Your decision today is critical to ensure that years do not go by with a huge gap in RAP staff which would be detrimental to both the health of our parks, and the mental, social, and physical health of our communities.

Again, we urge you to protect parks for people in Los Angeles by making sure these positions are re-filled as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Mark".

Robin Mark
Los Angeles Program Director
The Trust for Public Land

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 04/26/2021 02:30 PM

Council File No: 21-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Attached.

April 26, 2021

To: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Submitted Electronically

RE: Response to FY 2021 - 2022 Budget Allocation for the Los Angeles Justice Fund

Dear Mayor Eric Garcetti,

The Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAFJ) Coalition, made up of legal, policy, community organizations and direct service providers, write to express our extreme disappointment with the one time, \$1 million allocation for the Los Angeles Justice Fund included in the City of Los Angeles FY 2021 - 2022 Budget released on April 20, 2021.

As the Budget and Finance Committee hearings commence, we call on the Los Angeles City Council to fill in the gap and increase funding that equates to the following: \$3.16 million in Year 1, and \$3.26 million in Year 2, for a total of \$6.42 million over two years.

Since 2016, the LAFJ Coalition has continuously advocated to ensure that immigrant communities are protected from the injustices of this country's immigration detention and deportation system. Most recently, on January 20, 2021, over 100 organizations sent a sign-on letter to the City urging them to renew the fund through multi-year funding.

As it stands, the \$1 million allocation, lacks a structure for multi-year funding, ignores the scale of the problem and the realities of removal/deportation proceedings, which often last years. There is no excuse for this negligence in light of the extensive advocacy and exhaustive reports issued within the last several months by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) as well as USC's Dornsife Equity Research Institute. It is an insult to the immigrant communities who call Los Angeles home.

We need a comprehensive and permanent program that will provide needed time and resources to effectively defend community members against deportation. It is past time to stop "bridging" gaps and to commit to the sustainability of a program that has demonstrated its effectiveness again and again at keeping LA's immigrants and their loved ones together.

Currently, we are also seeing the uprisings and calls for policy changes in support of Black Lives Matter and racial justice throughout the country. Right here in LA, communities are demanding that our elected leaders defund the police and reimagine public safety by investing in alternatives to incarceration through programs that help families and neighbors stay together and thrive. All Angelenos deserve such opportunities, rather than being faced with the harmful immigration/deportation and criminal legal systems that tear them apart. The LA Justice Fund is a key example of a program that begins to address the harm caused by law enforcement while keeping communities whole.

To truly build a city that includes everyone, we cannot continue to invest in the immigrant community through a piecemeal approach. The City of Los Angeles claims to be a city that welcomes and invests in all, but its actions fall short of its rhetoric. The \$1 million allocation is truly an abandonment of

immigrant Angelenos, and \$1 million is not enough for community organizations to continue serving those in deportation proceedings long-term.

Now is the moment for the City of Angels to step up, in a time when support for some of our most vulnerable community members is needed the most. We urge the additional allocation of dollars for the LAJF to ensure due process for all, prevent ICE from operating in our city with impunity, and keep families together.

Respectfully,

The undersigned organizations.

ACLU of Southern California (ACLU SoCal)
Alliance for a Better Community (ABC)
American Indian Movement So Cal
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles (AAAJ-LA)
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON)
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Southern California
California One Care/HEAL California
Central American Resource Center (CARECEN)
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Council on American-Islamic Relations, Los Angeles (CAIR-LA)
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation (Esperanza)
Immigrant Defenders Law Center (ImmDef)
La Defensa
Latino Equality Alliance
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Me Too Survivors' March International
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)
Occupy ICE LA
OneJustice
Public Counsel
Secure Justice
UCLA Labor Center
Unrig LA
Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge and Services (WORKS)
Youth Justice Coalition (YJC)

CC: Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
Councilmember Gil Cedillo
Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Councilmember Bob Blumenfield
Councilmember Nithya Raman
Councilmember Paul Koretz
Councilmember Nury Martinez
Councilmember Monica Rodriguez
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Councilmember Curren Price
Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas
Councilmember Mike Bonin
Councilmember John Lee
Councilmember Mith O'Farrell
Councilmember Kevin De León
Councilmember Joe Buscaino

Communication from Public

Name: Margaret

Date Submitted: 04/26/2021 10:54 PM

Council File No: 21-0600

Comments for Public Posting: Mayor Garcetti is proposing to increase LAPD spending by \$40 million at a time of widespread calls to defund the police as well as growing poverty and dire revenue shortfalls. This is more of his blank check for police, austerity for everyone else. The LAPD budget has increased by over half a billion dollars – over \$500 million dollars – since Garcetti became mayor in 2013. We need to stop rewarding the most murderous police department in the US with a blank check. Calls to defund the police are extremely popular. A Loyola Marymount study found last fall that almost 2/3 of Angelenos want to redirect more LAPD funding and over 1/3 want to COMPLETELY DISMANTLE police. LAPD spends \$65 million on technology, more than the size of some whole city departments. We need to defund LAPD's tools of harm, for example the Palantir platform that LAPD and ICE use to target, banish, and control our communities. People across the U.S. took to the streets last summer to demand defunding the police. Every dollar LAPD spends on surveillance, violence, and caging could instead pay for the life-affirming investments that actually make communities safer, like housing, health care, schools, social services, and jobs. At the same time city officials want all this money for LAPD, they are hiding full accounting of LAPD's budget. In February the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition filed a public records lawsuit demanding LAPD's budget. LAPD and City Attorney Mike Feuer are fighting to keep those records secret.