

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 12:57 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident, I would like to comment in opposition to the proposed budget, specifically in the increase to LAPD. When protestors and we who supported them took to the streets last summer, we demanded defunding LAPD. We don't want reforms that have proven for decades to cost more and not change things. We want money taken from LAPD to fund social services that are not in partnership with police. There is not only an increase in the proposed budget for LAPD, but the amounts promised last summer to be transferred to services for our communities have not been met. The report recently released that analyzed the police response to protestors seems to recommend reform, but it is written and researched by police or retired law enforcement. These studies, and the police as a whole, should be analyzed and held accountable by independent citizens, not their own officers. PLEASE choose to reject this budget, change it so NO critical, non-police services are defunded, and keep your promises. The majority of your citizens, voters, support defunding the police and will remember how these promises are met when we vote.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Sonia Rodriguez  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 12:58 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** ments are limited to one minute\*\* Hello my name is Sonia Rodriguez and I am a volunteer with Equipo Verde Trust for Public Land. I am here to speak on agenda item #1, specifically the Mayor's 2021-22 budget. I am asking the Budget Committee to restore Recreation and Park's hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic. The inability to refill 140 positions of Rec & Park staff will have a disproportionate impact on all communities in the City but will most significantly impact communities of color. 1. First, the majority of positions that have been vacated are from within the Land Maintenance Program – when parks are not well-maintained community members do not feel safe accessing them. When parks aren't well used they can become places for unwanted activity, adding further to the feeling that they are not safe places for families to thrive outside. 2. Second, many positions listed are from the Recreational Programming section- a section that often hires directly from the community. By not refilling these position, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity. 3. Third, COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our park system. Many people had the opportunity to get outside during the pandemic and remain safely distanced, many more people did not. Losing the ability to refill 140 positions will only further exacerbate the inequities in LA's park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the work, how will they be able to get this done? 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. 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 park system, and the mental, social and physical health on our communities. We need your help to make the right decision to continue to keep our parks stable and safe.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Akio Katano

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:00 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Regarding the mayor's proposed budget: It is ridiculous that the mayor, in a time of financial crisis and enormous need, would increase by millions the already-massive budget of LAPD while ignoring departments like EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS and ETHICS. Over the last year the LAPD's violent behavior at protests has shown that they lack leadership and accountability, and we have nothing even close to an accounting of the millions of dollars that the city will be forced to pay out to settle lawsuits related to that misconduct. We have been throwing good money after bad for too long and need to radically rethink how we achieve public safety, because LAPD has failed to deliver.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:00 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Eric Garcetti is proposing to increase LAPD spending by \$40 million after an entire year of Los Angeles residents calling to defunding the already bloated LAPD budget. The LAPD spent the entirety of last summer brutalizing protestors, ignoring court orders, and violating our constitutional rights. There is no amount of money that is going to fix them. They already eat up BILLIONS of dollars that should be spent actually helping the people living in this city for things like housing, health care, schools, and social services. The LAPD budget has increased by over half a billion dollars since Garcetti became mayor in 2013 and that amount of money has not made any of us safer. This week alone the LAPD has murdered three people. If they cannot adequately train their officers with over THREE BILLION DOLLARS then they all need to be fired. I am sick and tired of seeing the police be rewarded for their absolute incompetence and inability to do their jobs. And I am not the only one. A Loyola Marymount study found last fall that almost 2/3 of Angelenos want to redirect more LAPD funding to other services and over 1/3 want to completely dismantle the police. After a year of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which most LAPD officers refused to wear life-saving masks when interacting with the public (especially at protests), you cannot seriously expect the people of this city to be fine with you providing even more funding to an organization that does literally nothing to keep us safe.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ty

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:09 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** LAPD spends \$3.2 billion each year, and their \$1.7 billion operational budget consumes half the city's discretionary funds. I OPPOSE LAPD's latest demand for a budget increase. Following months of widespread calls to defund police, LAPD last November made a demand for their largest budget ever. I opposed Mayor Garcetti's budget proposal to increase LAPD spending by over \$40 million, while cutting critical city services. The LAPD budget has grown by \$500 Million – OVER HALF A BILLION DOLLARS – since Garcetti took office. This is UNACCEPTABLE. The city's budget process continues to be stacked heavily in favor of police, with the public getting almost no opportunities to confront police spending. Police hide details of their overall budget, ask for millions more each year, and work their way through a parade of public officials eager to give police everything they want. The people deserve to have representation that takes action according to the people's voice. This cycle is suspect at best, and corrupt at worst. It must stop! L.A has way too many police making pretextual traffic stops and harassing and killing people of color and way too few units of permanent supportive public housing and no social housing. It is past time to use funds for massive public housing that will really reduce crime!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Shelley L Billik  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:13 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please restore funding for Planning's Wildlife Pilot project, including the 2 currently vacant positions and 2 new positions. It is imperative that Planning finish the draft ordinance, collect public comments and then finish the final ordinance so it can begin to be implemented right away. We are losing so much native habitat and with it, all the insects, flora & wildlife. If this Mayor and council truly wants to be a sustainable city, as promoted in the Green New Deal, Biodiversity report, and 30 by 30 efforts, you MUST get the Planning department back on track. Also, please restore and increase the budget for the Urban Forestry Division and the Office of Forest Management. Here too, the city is unable to care for newly planted trees, which is a waste of public resources, and neither are we caring for existing mature trees which provide the greatest environmental benefit. PLEASE put the funding behind the programs that are needed in order to meet the climate crisis challenges ahead, the goals of the GND, Biodiveristy, and especially in order to restore our city to a healthy, livable place for ALL communities. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:17 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** \$3billion for policing is not a "Justice Budget", reject this budget first for a misleading title, and second for wasting billions of dollars.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Aaron Stein-Chester  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:42 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** People across the U.S. like me took to the streets last summer to demand defunding the police, and we meant it. If we're looking to make our communities safer, more police isn't the answer. Every year, we do this same dance with LAPD where they tell us, without any real evidence to support their claim, that the thing they need to make us safer is more money. You all in government give in to their demands fearing backlash from the most reactionary elements in our society. Then, crimes that can be directly traced to suffering and austerity go up, at which point the police say "Ah ha! Look at that. Crime's up! Know what'll fix that? Giving us more money." And the cycle continues. The LAPD budget has increased by over HALF A BILLION DOLLARS since Garcetti became mayor in 2013. Regardless of your take on this budget, I don't think anyone can honestly say the city has gotten safer in that time. More money for a fundamentally broken institution isn't the answer, yet we continue to see it prioritized. I want to see different approach from the council. I want to see more investments in services, housing, health care, school, and jobs—things that actually make our neighborhoods safer. Investing in people makes us safer. And, this approach is 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.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** James Hillmer

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:44 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Koreatown (CD 10), an area that has seen an increase of homeless neighbors on the street in massive encampments, I find the proposed increase of the LAPD budget by \$40 million to be quite troubling. We are experiencing an unprecedented crisis in housing with more people living on the street than I have ever seen in my ten years living on the same block. I sometimes have to step over people and wonder if I have seen a corpse. To be clear, this problem is not the fault of people experiencing homelessness, but a sheer lack of effort or political will of this council to divert the necessary resources from bloated, militarized policing budgets into solving our city's internationally notorious homelessness issue. Add to this the animosity felt by the community towards their violent police force that cannot and will not find itself accountable for the violence it enacted on peaceful protestors in the past year's Black Lives Matter movement, or the countless murders of unarmed individuals in officer-involved shootings. The LAPD cannot be reformed with more funding thrown at training and certainly should not be expanded. I urge the council members to think about their constituencies and ask if more policing is what they want their legacy to be. I ask that the council drastically reduce Mayor Garcetti's proposed budget for policing and divert those funds to solving our city's housing crisis.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Scott Doyle

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 02:05 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to express my extreme disappointment in the Mayor's so-called "Justice Budget," and my hope that the City Council will exercise some independence and vision in shepherding a more progressive budget that truly meets this moment in history. It is impossible to talk about the Mayor's budget without addressing the elephant in the room: the massive allocation for LAPD. In responding to public pressure last year and announcing a \$150 million cut to LAPD last year, Mayor Garcetti was acknowledging that his original budget was not in step with the times. He said he saw this move as "an inflection point," and that he was "committed to making this moment not just a moment." A year later, it seems we are back to the status quo. The moment was indeed just a moment, a blip on the screen, and not a genuine turning point. Rather than continuing to divest from policing & punishment & incarceration, the Mayor has restored LAPD's budget to an amount comparable to last year's initial allocation. It should be noted that Council President Martinez last year echoed the theme of an inflection point and pivot. The cut to LAPD, she said, is "just one small step... as we reset our priorities in the wake of the murder of George Floyd." If the Council approves the Mayor's current budget without dramatic changes, these words will have been proven hollow. For her and City Council, last year's moment will have just been a moment. Let me finish with one telling example of the human cost of Mayor Garcetti's Status Quo Budget. Three years ago the City (in partnership with the County and private foundations) launched the LA Justice Fund, which provides legal representation for community members facing deportation proceedings. The initial funding was for a limited two-year pilot to assess the efficacy of the program. Last year the Mayor allocated \$1 million to LAJF as "bridge funding" while waiting on reports from the County, USC, and others. This bought the program another year but also left it in limbo. With future funding up in the air, it was impossible to build capacity or grow the program. A year later the reports have weighed in with a clear consensus: The program is highly effective at keeping immigrant and mixed-status families together, so effective that it merits a long-term commitment and expanded access so it more closely resembles the universal right to due process offered by our Public Defender model. These reports recommend an initial

2-year allotment of a little over \$3 million a year--not an extravagant amount, but enough to build toward the vision of a guarantee of due process in immigration court. (And a fraction of a percent of LAPD's oversized budget.) A true Justice Budget would pursue such a vision of expanded due process. Instead, the Mayor's Status Quo Budget merely continues last year's bridge funding, putting this essential program in continued limbo. The pandemic has revealed just how flawed and precarious our social safety nets are, especially when it comes to the most vulnerable among us. The Mayor's refusal to commit to a Justice Budget, and to building on the promise of the 2-year LAJF pilot, leaves immigrant and mixed-status families in limbo themselves, even as ICE and Border Patrol continue their predatory policies, and as the backlog in LA Immigration Court exceeds 70,000. The most diverse and immigrant-rich city in America deserves better leadership. Let's see if its City Council can step up and provide it.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Dorina Arellano  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 02:34 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a long time concerned citizen of Los Angeles, I oppose this budget. Our city budgets should go to our communities, not the LAPD, which has decades of evidence against them for their treatment of our citizens and journalists. Our money should go to public housing, education, food distribution, not police military weapons. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Franci Levine-Grater

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 03:01 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** On behalf of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI), I am commenting on agenda item #1, the Mayor's 2021-22 budget, and asking the Budget Committee to restore Recreation and Park's hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic. The inability to refill 140 positions of Rec & Park staff will impact all communities in the City, but will have a disproportionate impact on communities of color and communities designated as low-income -- the precise communities where LANI works. COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our park system. Many people -- typically in more affluent neighborhoods -- had the opportunity to get outside during the pandemic and remain safely distanced; many more people did not. Losing the ability to refill 140 maintenance positions will further exacerbate the inequities in our park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but the necessary staff is needed to do the work on the ground. When parks are not well-maintained, community members do not feel safe accessing them. In addition, when parks aren't well used by communities, they can become places for unwanted activity, adding further to the feeling that they are not safe places for families to thrive outside. Also, by not refilling these positions, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity. 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 our communities if these positions are not refilled and parks are not properly maintained for safe use. 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 park system, and the mental, social, and physical health of our communities. LANI supports refilling the 140 maintenance positions at Rec & Parks in order to ensure that every city park is safe, clean, and accessible, and particularly those in neighborhoods that are already "park poor" or otherwise lacking in open and green space.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Paula Sandoval

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 01:26 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello my name is Paula Sandoval and I am a volunteer with Equipo Verde for Trust for Public Land. I am here to speak on agenda item #1 specifically the Mayor's 2021-2022 budget. I am asking the Budget Committee to restore Recreation and Park's hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic .

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Yelena Zeltser

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 11:02 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Southeast Asian Community Alliance (SEACA) respectfully urges the Budget Committee to restore Recreation and Park's hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic. Our community of Chinatown is one of the poorest areas in the City where families rely on public parks as an outlet from overcrowded housing conditions. The ½ acre Alpine Recreation Center serves as the community's de facto senior center, day care center, and youth gathering space. This has become even more pronounced during the pandemic when people need opportunities for outdoor recreation more than ever. The inability to refill 140 positions of RAP staff will most significantly impact low-income communities of color, like ours. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but cannot do this without the necessary staff to conduct maintenance, support programming, and provide the welcoming community spaces our low-income seniors, youth, and families desperately need. Please reinstate RAPs authority to hire 140 park staff, our community depends on this public resource.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Gina Viola

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 09:16 AM

**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.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tiana McKenna  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 09:30 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Budget and Finance Committee: I urge you to oppose Mayor Garcetti's proposed budget given the nearly \$40 million increase to the budget of the Los Angeles Police Department. This is beyond negligent at a time when there are widespread calls for public funds to be reallocated away from policing and towards services that deliver true public safety. Loyola Marymount University released a survey last fall that demonstrated that a majority of LA residents support such a budget overhaul - the city's budget must reflect this priority. LAPD's budget has increased by half a billion over the past 8 years under Mayor Garcetti with absolutely no indication that such an increase has led to anything but increased surveillance, violence, and terrorizing of our communities. As a parent and LA resident, I feel safer when my neighbors have access to resources to help them meet their basic needs - not when I see more police on the streets. Please heed the overwhelming public call to prioritize true public safety over policing and imprisonment.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ashley Brim

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 09:32 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The Mayor's proposed budget is completely out of line with the needs of the public. It once again prioritizes law enforcement funding rather than investing in services for the communities of Los Angeles. I urge this committee to push back against investment in "police reform" and call for a People's Budget that prioritizes community care over punishment. LAPD continues to kill Angelenos, beat up peaceful protestors, and harass and criminalize unhoused folks. They MUST NOT be rewarded with more dollars. LAPD has proven time and time again that investment in retraining officers is a waste of money.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** CHRIS R RIDDLE

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 09:33 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** 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. 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. 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. This proposed budget clearly doesn't reflect the values and desires of the people of Los Angeles. I ask the council to do your jobs and accurately represent the values of those who elected you in the budgeting of our city. NO MORE BLANK CHEKS FOR COPS! MORE INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING, JOBS, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Socorro Chacon  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 09:58 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am here on behalf of Friends of Hollenbeck Park we are a group of around 25 residents working on improving Hollenbeck Park. Today, on their behalf I am here to speak on agenda item #1, specifically the Mayor's 2021-22 budget. We are asking the Budget Committee to restore Recreation and Park's hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic. Majority of this positions are maintenance staff, it may help you, but it is going to affect our communities. We already have a lot of public health issues, such as people defecating in public, accumulation of trash, sometimes cuts are necessary but never at the expense of public, mental, and physical health. So, please before you make any permanent decision, please consider the safety, well-being, and health of our communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tiffany Do  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 10:16 AM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** DEFUND THE POLICE. Reject this budget proposal because it is an increase in policing rather than an investment in communities.  
DIVEST FROM POLICE, INVEST IN COMMUNITIES.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Glen Dake

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 10:19 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I request the Council choose a different course from that recommended in the Mayor's budget with respect to total Position Authorities for Recreation and Parks. To cut 140 Position Authorities for people who provide safe and accessible parks important to all Angeleños to a total of 1398 is to plan for a staff smaller than that of the 2017-18 budget year. I appreciate that the commitment of General Fund support to Recreation and Parks is improved by \$12 million. However, it is backsliding on previous commitments to cut 140 position authorities. The top three goals in the "Park Proud LA" Strategic Plan that was adopted in 2018 speak to the basics that these positions serve: safe, equitable, and well-maintained parks. No frills are to be found here. Through its facilities and programs, our park system plays a central role in helping us become a healthier city. Each day when kids visit the play equipment at their local park, one of the maintenance employees has raked the sand to be sure it is safe for kids. I respectfully request you look carefully at the Recreation and Parks budget detail and that you authorize and fill 1,500 Positions.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Annica Stitch

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 10:31 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear council members, As a Los Angeles community member and resident I highly oppose our LAPD budget. We have tens of thousands of people sleeping on the streets, where is the funding for services to help them? To fund better education for our public schools? To streamline our infrastructure? To serve our community? With all due respect Mayor, do not give the LAPD even MORE funding when we have so many other pressing issues! They are using a totally inappropriate amount of the LA budget. Over two-thirds of Angelenos want our funds to be directed into our communities and AWAY from the LAPD. Please listen to us!! Sincerely, Annica

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 10:33 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I fully oppose any further funding for the police department. We should be defunding, not increasing funding. And no money to be taken from community.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Elise Kalfayan

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 10:51 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** LAPD continues to escalate violence in Los Angeles neighborhoods, with 15 shootings by LAPD (updated this week) so far this year. As in previous years, LAPD continues to respond to calls for help or calls regarding a person in crisis by shooting or killing the person in crisis. The Mayor of LA continues to increase the budget for LAPD. The city should be investing in community services and alternatives to a police response and REDUCING the police budget. The expenses below are contrary to the goal of increasing public safety, and will instead have the effect of making legitimate protest more difficult and dangerous. LAPD has combined all 106 recommendations from three city-requested “after-action” reports into an “Implementation Plan” that would require \$67 million in new spending, including the following: \$53.1 million for new trainings, including \$663,000 just on bullets to shoot at these protest trainings \$4.1 million for a new bureau that will be charged with policing protests \$2.4 million to hire officers who will engage "community members and leaders likely to organize and participate in First Amendment assemblies" \$800,000 for surveillance technology including "software to analyze open-source internet and social media content to provide field operations with vetted and useable intelligence/information" \$492,000 for new policies on Field Jails, \$99,428 to train drivers for buses and vans for mass arrests of protestors \$300,000 for “encrypted radios or another form of private communication” \$125,000 for upgraded technology for the "shadow teams" that infiltrate protests as well as to “study potential new technology for use in public order policing operations” Citywide protests against LAPD violence should be leading to a dramatic reduction in the police budget. The above expenses are completely opposite to what the community and the protestors are demanding. These are constituents and voters who are trying to make their voices heard in an increasingly hostile environment.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 10:55 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am writing to demand you oppose the mayor's proposed budget which increases LAPD's budget by over \$40 million. What our community wants and needs is more resources to help with poverty, homelessness, and mental health — that is where those funds should be allocated. It is a shame that this is the route the mayor takes at a time when our community, city, and the country at large are rightfully demanding the opposite.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Viet Nguyen

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 07:35 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a homeowner in CD 14, I emphatically oppose the Mayor's proposed budget and hope that my council member (DeLeon) does so as well. I specifically oppose the fact that 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. We are watching your every move and hope that you are with your city on the right side of history.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Anna Soffer

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 08:26 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Time and time again the actions of our police force show that increasing funding does NOT lead to an increase in safety. Increasing LAPD spending by \$40 million does not do anything to help the housing crises, homeless population, our schools, or infrastructure. I urge you to reject this budget until money is diverted from the police force and used to fund services for Angelenos who need the most help.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Enzo

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 12:40 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of CD 6, I oppose any further increases to the LAPD budget. The 2020 budget was not a cut, as several council members and the mayor argued, but rather a cancel of increases then. The majority of residents in the city want better services that will improve our quality of life-- housing the unhoused, mental health resources, rent cancellation, direct cash aid, public transportation, etc-- not to the police. I find it appalling that the LAPD is asking for millions more after failing, especially in the past year, to show the city they were not squandering it. The LAPD has been getting the lion's share of our taxpayer dollars for decades and what has this really accomplished? Broken under-resourced communities with serious quality of life issues get the LAPD to crack-down on them instead of the services they really need to heal. I live in a part of CD 6 that knows this very well-- instead of regular trash pickup for homeless encampments and temporary shelter that isn't a glorified prison with arbitrary curfews and dehumanizing rules folks get the exact opposite. We get gang injunctions instead of gang reduction by way of community-based and healing alternatives. We get evictions instead of rent cancellation. We get car and factory pollution instead of cheap, frequent, safe, and reliable public transport and clean jobs for the future. Cut it out with the BS and start cutting the LAPD budget like thousands of city residents have demanded.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mayank Keshaviah

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 12:45 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** To the LA City Council's Budget and Finance Committee, As you meet today, April 27, to consider the Mayor Garcetti's 2021-22 Proposed Budget, I ask you to seriously examine how much money is being spent on the LAPD. 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 continues his wrongheaded policy of a blank check for police, while demanding austerity from 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 one of the most violent police department in the U.S. with an unchecked flow of taxpayer dollars. Calls to defund the police have been made for over a year now, and they have polled as extremely popular. A Loyola Marymount study last fall found that almost 2/3 of Angelenos want to redirect more LAPD funding to other agencies and services, and over 1/3 want to COMPLETELY DISMANTLE the 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. And at the same time city officials ask for all this money for LAPD, they are hiding a full accounting of LAPD's budget. In February the Stop LAPD Spying Coalition filed a public records lawsuit demanding LAPD's budget, but LAPD and City Attorney Mike Feuer have been fighting to keep those records secret. So as a taxpayer and citizen of Los Angeles, I ask you to do your duty to represent the will of the people, and not of the police unions and Michel Moore. Do not approve of the Mayor's budget unless it is stripped of the new spending increases for LAPD. We will accept nothing less. Sincerely, Mayank Keshaviah

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lionel M.

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 12:48 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** April 27, 2021 Honorable Members of the Budget and Finance Committee Office of the City Clerk Room 395, City Hall Los Angeles, CA 90012 SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET Honorable Members: Hello, my name is Lionel M., a constituent and taxpayer in Council-district #6. I am writing to express my concerns over the proposed budget by Mr. Eric Garcetti, Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, California. I am concerned that the proposed budget for the local police department (Los Angeles Police Department) is very high. The cost of policing is overtly expensive and costly to tax-payers. We have lawsuits and out of court settlements due to police misconduct or other issues that are costing the tax-payers millions of dollars annually. As a tax-payer and concerned citizen, I would like for the city of Los Angeles City Council to divert money (funds) from the Los Angeles Police Department to other vital social and community programs and services that help directly impact the communities especially low-income impoverished communities, such as the northeast San Fernando Valley. There are many citizens who are good people but are struggling with loss of income, unemployment, and cost of living. I strongly believe that the City Council (Los Angeles) should DIVERT funds from the Local Police Department and to divert those funds to Programs and Services (e.g., Economic Development, JOB Training, Social Services, Health Services, Community Development, Recycling programs, Disability Dept. Park and Recreation, etc...). Our communities are hurting. We need economic support and direct community involvement from our City Council. Many people are asking and demanding that our City Council and Bureaucrats be more transparent and honest about the City Finances. There is a lot of money that the city is withholding from the public. We are asking for honesty, transparency, and financial accountability. The City Council should be honest and transparent. Many city bureaucrats are not doing their jobs honestly and some may be giving false information and or are not forthcoming about the city's finances. I ask the Budget and Finance Committee be transparent and honest. We must make sure that the public has a say about our city budget. We pay taxes and we demand transparency, honesty and financial accountability. Thank you for your time and

consideration. Signed, Lionel M. California State University  
(CSU)

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Deborah Sale-Butler

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 03:20 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please restore the 140 positions for Los Angeles City Parks. During Covid, South Weddington Park, which happens to be across from my home, was a haven for local residents and others, to walk, spend time in the sun, play with their children and pets and socialize at a distance. We also had an increase in homeless activity, which often left the park with garbage at least and needles, at worst. Without the tireless work of the grounds keepers for the park, our haven could have quickly become a nightmare. Most of the jobs on the block are community hire. In addition to removing crucial personnel, at a time when the city has proposed EXPANDING access to parks, the city would be removing potential job positions, needed by our hard-hit community. Please retain these jobs and keep our common, community spaces safe and green.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melissa Guerrero  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 03:41 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, My name is Melissa Guerrero, a local landscape designer and I would like to comment on agenda item #1, specifically the Mayor's 2021-22 budget. I am asking the Budget Committee to restore Recreation and Park's hiring authority for 140 staff positions that were lost to early retirement during the pandemic. The inability to refill 140 positions of Rec & Park staff will have a disproportionate impact on all communities in the City but will most significantly impact low-income communities of color. First, the majority of positions that have been vacated are from within the Land Maintenance Program – when parks are not well-maintained community members do not feel safe accessing them. When parks aren't well used they can become places for unwanted activity, adding further to the feeling that they are not safe places for families to thrive outside. Second, many positions listed are from the Recreational Programming section- a section that often hires directly from the community. By not refilling these position, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity. Third, COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our park system. Many people had the opportunity to get outside during the pandemic and remain safely distanced, many more people did not. Losing the ability to refill 140 positions will only further exacerbate the inequities in LA's park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the work, how will they be able to get this done? 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. 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 park system, and the mental, social, and physical health of our communities.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Laurie L. Goldman

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 03:46 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** If the pandemic has taught us anything, then it must be that parks are more important than ever to the physical and mental health of all Angelinos. I urge the Budget Committee to refill RAP's 140 positions. Our parks help each of us to heal and to thrive! Laurie Goldman, President Friends of the Hollywood Central Park 6464 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 535 Hollywood, CA 90028

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jennifer Beatty

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 03:53 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** LA is a city that already lacks enough green space for our citizens. We need to make sure LA's parks are clean and safe and fully staffed!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Fredric W. Kessler

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 04:04 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** If the pandemic has taught us anything, then it must be that parks are more important than ever to the physical and mental health of all Angelinos. I urge the Budget Committee to refill RAP's 140 much-needed positions. Our parks help each of us to heal and to thrive! Fred Kessler, Board Member, Friends of Hollywood Central Park

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Susan Polifronio

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 04:16 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Given the CDC guidelines of 4/27/21; it seems counter-intuitive to cut the funding for positions in RAP that service our Parks. The CDC clearly states the only place for people to safely gather is outdoors where there is room to be together in small groups or separate ourselves for larger gatherings. According to today's CDC guidelines ; there is no safe indoor distance to prevent contracting Covid. If the indoor space isn't properly ventilated and people are together for extended periods of time, your chances of catching Covid go up astronomically. Parks provide the outdoor space many in our City lack: yards to gather in. Parks provide a venue for safe gatherings, improving our health, generating oxygen and scrubbing carbon dioxide. Of all the things we might consider expendable: clean outdoor environments for families and friends seems the best way to promote a healthy Los Angeles in this time of Covid or at any time. Covid surges happen when people gather indoors. Budgets are important but it is what we are budgeting for that really matters. I urge the Budget Committee to refill RAP's 140 much-needed positions. Susan Polifronio Friends of the Hollywood Central Park

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Scott Campbell

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 04:20 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Our parks have been a lifesaver during this pandemic and before. They become more and more important to both our physical and mental well-being as our world shrinks. I urge the Budget Committee to fill and refill RAP's open and needed positions. The dividends will be enormous! Thank you, Scott Campbell Friends of the Hollywood Central Park

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melissa Kellogg  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 04:28 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Honorable LA City Council Budget Committee members, In your budget planning, please restore the 140 staff positions for the LA City Department of Recreation and Parks, including the front-line gardener and maintenance staff positions that are critical to the health and safety of our people's parks. When parks are not well-maintained people do not want to use them - and when parks are not actively used and maintained their positive effects quickly go retrograde, leaving an imbalance in public and environmental health and well being. LA City's drive toward zoning changes that provide for increased density, in turn, requires a growth of public parks and public outdoor spaces. The use of these areas will weigh heavily on Recreation and Park staffing. Withdrawing the Department of Recreation and Parks' ability to refill 140 positions would hamstring the Department's leadership and make them unable to realistically contribute to an essential aspect of LA's growth and planning efforts. Thank you for your attention to this issue. Melissa Kellogg 90032

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jeffrey C Briggs

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 04:41 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Our parks are more essential now than ever! Refilling our Recs and Parks positions for the coming year is a top priority for the health and safety of all Angelinos. Jeff Briggs Member, Friends of Hollywood Central Park

## Communication from Public

**Name:** John Goodwin

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 04:54 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** If the pandemic has taught us anything, then it must be that parks are more important than ever to the physical and mental health of all Angelinos. I urge the Budget Committee to refill RAP's 140 much-needed positions. Our parks help each of us to heal and to thrive! John Goodwin Board of Directors Friends of the Hollywood Central Park

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chelsea Bell

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 04:54 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a removal defense attorney with the Immigrant Defenders Law Center and this comment is regarding the Mayor's minimal allocation of funding to the LA Justice Fund (LAJF). LAJF has proven its success time and again in keeping Angeleno families together and mitigating the harmful effects of the immigration detention and deportation system on Angelenos. LAJF was successful as a pilot program from 2017-2019 and even somehow managed to succeed on the very limited bridge funding provided last year. Since its inception, there have been several reports published documenting the successes of and the need for LAJF. In fact, both the City and the County explicitly commissioned independent reports to evaluate the effectiveness of LAJF, and both of these reports (written by the Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) as well as USC's Dornsife Equity Research Institute) overwhelmingly supported not just the continuation of LAJF, but a significant expansion of LAJF. And yet once again, LAJF is forced to beg for a budget that reflects the true scale of the problem and the realities of removal proceedings. Despite the Mayor's claims that this proposed budget is focused on racial equity and social justice, the Mayor is proposing to allocate over \$3 Billion to LAPD – amounting to almost half of the City's total budget – while simultaneously only allocating \$1 Million dollars to the LAJF. A program that since 2017, has provided literally thousands of people in immigration detention the opportunity to speak with an attorney about their case, has provided full-scope legal representation to nearly six hundred Angelenos, has created dozens of jobs for attorneys, paralegals, and case managers at legal service providers, has supported Angelenos affected by the pandemic, and has connected thousands of people to City and County support services. LAPD has continued to target, harass, and kill people of color. There should be no need for discussion, the City Council cannot support the Mayor's budget as it is proposed today. By proposing a budget that increases funds to LAPD while barely funding LAJF, the Mayor is completely ignoring the continued calls from Angelenos to defund LAPD and instead fund justice programs like LAJF, that actually support the community. LAJF is a due process issue as much as it is a racial equity issue. Similar to the criminal punitive system, the immigration detention and deportation system

disproportionately affects communities of color. If the City of Los Angeles genuinely wants to invest in racial equity and support its immigrant communities, funding LAJF is one of the most tangible and direct ways to do that. If the Mayor's funding suggestion is what LAJF ultimately receives, it simply is not enough to continue LAJF and the infrastructure that the City, County and philanthropy have helped build over the past four years will undoubtedly crumble. In 2017, LA was at the forefront of the movement, however, since then, while other cities all over the nation, including neighboring cities like Long Beach and Santa Ana, have stepped up and established holistic removal defense programs to protect their immigrant communities, increasing their funding each year – LA has fallen more and more behind. Instead of stepping up, the Mayor's budget is proposing that LA step back. I urge you all to show the Mayor that protecting Los Angeles' immigrant communities and fighting for racial equity, is worth the \$6.42 million needed to continue and expand LAJF over the next two years. Thank you very much.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Paul D Moore

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 05:35 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, please restore the 140 staff positions for the LA City Department of Recreation and Parks. These positions help keep our parks safe and secure for all to enjoy. Without proper service and maintenance -- many parks, especially Runyon Canyon, need proper support to keep them safe for EVERYONE to enjoy, especially children. Thank you, Paul Moore

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Douglas Campbell

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 05:52 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** If the pandemic has taught us anything, then it must be that parks are more important than ever to the physical and mental health of all Angelinos. I urge the Budget Committee to refill RAP's 140 much-needed positions. Our parks help each of us to heal and to thrive! Parks are increasingly recognized as playing a central role in the strategies of cities globally - toward transformative action to meet the critical challenges of our time. Parks heal the environment, create common ground for community and inspire the imagination. Parks are now more important than ever!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tetlo Emmen

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 06:24 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** If the pandemic has taught us anything, then it must be that parks are more important than ever to the physical and mental health of all Angelinos. I urge the Budget Committee to refill RAP's 140 much-needed positions. Our parks help each of us to heal and to thrive! And bring back the adult soccer leagues! Tetlo Emmen - Friends of the Hollywood Central Park

## Communication from Public

**Name:** David Yale  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 06:24 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Fund the Parks and Recreation positions by better controlling police pension costs going forward.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 06:46 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** If the pandemic has taught us anything, then it must be that parks are more important than ever to the physical and mental health of all Angelinos. I urge the Budget Committee to refill RAP's 140 much-needed positions. Our parks help each of us to heal and to thrive! Best, Lauren Lexton Friends of the Hollywood Central Park (FHCP)

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lois Becker for BASPOA

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 06:58 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I spent close to an hour and a half trying to get into today's Budget Hearing in order to make the following statement and finally had to give up because I kept getting disconnected. Like stakeholders across the city I feel frustrated and shut out of the decision-making process. I understand the pandemic has been challenging for everyone, but the City needs to do better. \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \* As residents of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners believe that protecting wildlife is an essential part of maintaining the fragile urban-wildlands balance in the Santa Monica Mountains, so we urge you to FULLY FUND THE WILDLIFE PILOT STUDY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PILOT ORDINANCE AND THE FOUR STAFF POSITIONS required for the program's effective implementation NOW! In the March 30, 2021 Memorandum in which Planning Director Vince Bertoni unilaterally stripped the Mulholland Design Review Board of its code-mandated oversight of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway's Outer Corridor, Bertoni cited a LIST OF IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS that he claims make Specific Plan-MDRB oversight outmoded and superfluous. In this list he featured the "future regulation to create and maintain Wildlife Corridors", a reference to this very study/ordinance, which of course is still in limbo. We don't agree with the Director regarding the relevance of the MDRB but we do agree that Wildlife Corridor protection is absolutely vital -- and now that we no longer have the guarantee of Specific Plan protections, we need that Ordinance more than ever! It is meaningless to have (and to cite as protective) proposed legislation that has been kicking around City Hall for years now. And it will be useless to pass the ordinance without the necessary support staff. Put the Wildlife Pilot Study and Wildlife Corridor Pilot Ordinance -- and staff -- back in the 2021-2022 Budget!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lee Marks

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 07:26 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please keep the Los Angeles Parks safe clean and fully staffed. The parks are important for the mental and physical health and welfare for youth, teens, adults and seniors. Please restore L.A. City Recreation and Parks 140 positions in the Mayor's budget. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Making Los Angeles Whole Coalition

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 07:56 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** DATE: April 27, 2021 TO: Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair Honorable Bob Blumenfield Honorable Kevin de Leon Honorable Monica Rodriguez Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr. SUBJECT: Mayor's 2021-2022 Proposed Budget As the City of Los Angeles prepares to rebound from the challenges related to COVID-19, it is critical to remember the families and communities that have suffered disproportionately during the last year. Far too often, broader concerns regarding community justice and equitable service delivery are lost in the mechanics of spending plans. However, Mayor Garcetti's Proposed Budget outlines a set of programs and objectives that appear to match spending with the ideals that are important to our communities and families. Similarly, we are encouraged by the motion recently introduced by Council President Martinez that calls on the Council to align investments in support of communities most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. We encourage the Budget and Finance Committee to support the principles and initiatives embodied in the Mayor's Proposed Budget and to ensure that they are captured and implemented in a manner that best serves all Angelenos. As your Committee begins its deliberations on the Proposed Budget, like the Mayor, we ask that you remain mindful of the following principles. • The City's spending plan must reflect equity and justice for all Angelenos. • The spending plan must include investments in women and children, restorative justice, guaranteed basic income and increased access to housing. • The spending plan must be created with an eye toward transparency and include metrics to track success. • Community programs and initiatives must be prioritized and not be the first to be eliminated - if budget assumptions are not met during the year. • A demonstrated commitment from the new Office of Racial Equity to formulate an equity index of indicators that shows the most significant areas of need throughout Los Angeles. We encourage the members of the Budget and Finance Committee to support the goals and programs outlined in the Mayor's Proposed Budget and take meaningful steps to ensure their funding and execution. Sincerely, Alberto Retana, President & CEO, Community Coalition April Verrett, President, SEIU 2015 Charisse Bremond Weaver, President & CEO, Brotherhood Crusade Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle



**DATE:** April 27, 2021

**TO:** Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Honorable Bob Blumenfield  
Honorable Kevin de Leon  
Honorable Monica Rodriguez  
Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.

**SUBJECT:** Mayor's 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

As the City of Los Angeles prepares to rebound from the challenges related to COVID-19, it is critical to remember the families and communities that have suffered disproportionately during the last year. Far too often, broader concerns regarding community justice and equitable service delivery are lost in the mechanics of spending plans. However, Mayor Garcetti's Proposed Budget outlines a set of programs and objectives that appear to match spending with the ideals that are important to our communities and families. Similarly, we are encouraged by the motion recently introduced by Council President Martinez that calls on the Council to align investments in support of communities most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

We encourage the Budget and Finance Committee to support the principles and initiatives embodied in the Mayor's Proposed Budget and to ensure that they are captured and implemented in a manner that best serves all Angelenos. As your Committee begins its deliberations on the Proposed Budget, like the Mayor, we ask that you remain mindful of the following principles.

- The City's spending plan must reflect equity and justice for all Angelenos.

- The spending plan must include investments in women and children, restorative justice, guaranteed basic income and increased access to housing.
- The spending plan must be created with an eye toward transparency and include metrics to track success.
- Community programs and initiatives must be prioritized and not be the first to be eliminated - if budget assumptions are not met during the year.
- A demonstrated commitment from the new Office of Racial Equity to formulate an equity index of indicators that shows the most significant areas of need throughout Los Angeles.

We encourage the members of the Budget and Finance Committee to support the goals and programs outlined in the Mayor's Proposed Budget and take meaningful steps to ensure their funding and execution.

Sincerely,

Alberto Retana, President & CEO, Community Coalition

April Verrett, President, SEIU 2015

Charisse Bremond Weaver, President & CEO, Brotherhood Crusade

Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Brianne Gates

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 08:12 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Support LA City Parks Make sure all LA City Parks are clean and safe! I have been volunteering with 'Over Due' group in the valley and we have been picking up trash at these parks because they are sorely under maintained! Please help. LA Recreation and Parks is on the verge of losing the ability to fill 140 positions vacated during the pandemic. These are mostly front-line gardener positions that are critical to making sure the parks are well maintained. 1. First, the majority of positions that have been vacated are from within the Land Maintenance Program – when parks are not well-maintained community members do not feel safe accessing them. When parks aren't well used they can become places for unwanted activity, adding further to the feeling that they are not safe places for families to thrive outside. 2. Second, many positions listed are from the Recreational Programming section- a section that often hires directly from the community. By not refilling these position, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity. 3. Third, COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our park system. Many people had the opportunity to get outside during the pandemic and remain safely distanced, many more people did not. Losing the ability to refill 140 positions will only further exacerbate the inequities in LA's park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the work, how will they be able to get this done? Access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health. 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.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jean Michel Morot-Gaudry

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 08:13 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Support LA City Parks Make sure all LA City Parks are clean and safe LA Recreation and Parks is on the verge of losing the ability to fill 140 positions vacated during the pandemic. These are mostly front-line gardener positions that are critical to making sure the parks are well maintained. 1. First, the majority of positions that have been vacated are from within the Land Maintenance Program – when parks are not well-maintained community members do not feel safe accessing them. When parks aren't well used they can become places for unwanted activity, adding further to the feeling that they are not safe places for families to thrive outside. 2. Second, many positions listed are from the Recreational Programming section- a section that often hires directly from the community. By not refilling these position, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from communities that most need this type of economic opportunity. 3. Third, COVID-19 has clearly demonstrated the inequities in our park system. Many people had the opportunity to get outside during the pandemic and remain safely distanced, many more people did not. Losing the ability to refill 140 positions will only further exacerbate the inequities in LA's park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the work, how will they be able to get this done? Access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health. 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.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 08:19 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** City council and Mayor Garcetti I do not want you to use my money for more policing. You promised a cut in the budget for policing.. You lied... You are trying to spend more on them Stop stealing our money.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jonathan Pacheco Bell

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 09:50 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** LA Recreation and Parks Department should NOT lose the 140 positions vacated during the pandemic. These are mostly front-line gardener positions that are critical to making sure the parks are well maintained. The majority of positions that have been vacated are from within the Land Maintenance Program. When our parks are not well-maintained, community members do not feel safe accessing them. When our parks are not well used, they can become places for unwanted activity, adding further to the feeling that they are not safe places for families to thrive outdoors. Many positions listed are from the Recreational Programming section. This section frequently hires directly from our communities! By not refilling these positions, good paying jobs with growth potential are cut off from community members who need such local economic and career opportunities. COVID-19 has demonstrated the inequities in our park system. While many Angelenos had the opportunity to get outside during the pandemic and remain safely distanced, many more did not. Losing the ability to refill 140 positions further exacerbates the inequities in LA's park system. The Department's leadership has demonstrated a commitment to closing the equity gap in access to park space, but without the necessary staff to do the important work, the job cannot get done. Access to parks is a determinant of mental and physical health. We must consider the long-term impacts on communities if these positions are not refilled, especially when it is so critical that people get outside to their local parks. In community, Jonathan Pacheco Bell

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Probyn Gregory  
**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 10:27 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0600  
**Comments for Public Posting:** Please refill the 140 positions currently vacant so that LA parks can be safe and beautiful for everyone. thank you

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 04/27/2021 11:18 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** At a time when the public calls for defunding the police, Mayor Garcetti has instead increased the budget by 42 million. We already have a bloated police budget, they don't need more money to not help the people they lie about protecting and serving. 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.