

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Roy

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 11:33 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I grew up in Los Feliz and currently reside in Council District 13. I lived in an apartment building as a child and Griffith Park was my backyard to explore...and it instilled a love of nature in me. It is vitally important to treat this jewel with the respect it deserves...  
...so, because of my love for City Parks, and especially Griffith Park, I request the Committee take action to recommend corrections to the Mayor's proposed budget: 1. Save the four critical staff positions within City Planning in order to complete the Wildlife Pilot Study and implement upcoming measure to retain wildlife connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation. 2. Grant hiring authority for 140 Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff positions.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Janine Saily

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 02:55 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am Janine Saily and reside in Los Feliz Council District. Because of my love for City Parks, and especially Griffith Park, I request the Committee take action to recommend corrections to the Mayor's proposed budget: 1. Save the four critical staff positions within City Planning in order to complete the Wildlife Pilot Study and implement upcoming measure to retain wildlife connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation. 2. Grant hiring authority for 140 Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff positions. We cannot maintain the health and safety of wildlife as well as the cleanliness and safety of the park without these positions. Too much money has already gone to the implementation of strategies for the covid pandemic a flu variant that has a 99% or higher survival rate. This insane obsession with clean surfaces and distance from other humans must stop and this city must prioritize investing in nature and wildlife habitat or else everyone with any money who wants a high quality of life will leave California and move to more sane environments like AZ and FL, and California will continue to go downhill because of the excessive crime, filth and homelessness that are rising steadily. Don't allow California to lose it's charm entirely by strangling the lifeline and natural connectivity of the animal habitats such as Griffith Park. I personally have been a resident here for over 17 years and I have witnessed the park go severely downhill in many ways. If you continue on this path it will be a HUGE mistake. Start giving back to the environment and stop lining your pockets with kickbacks from the medical hierarchy. Try investing in signs about fines for littering in our natural environment rather than signs about covering your face while out in the sunshine and fresh air!

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Chelsea Bell

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 03:37 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Chair Krekorian and other members of the Budget and Finance Committee, My name is Chelsea Bell and I use the pronouns she/her/hers. I am a removal defense attorney with the Immigrant Defenders Law Center and have had a Los Angeles Justice Fund (LAJF) caseload since 2018. I cannot urge you and the other Budget committee members strongly enough to support LAJF. In order to move forward, LAJF needs to be made permanent with multi-year funding and needs to be made more holistic by removing the criminal carve out and redefining the residency requirement. After a year of consistent social unrest based on racial inequities and a global pandemic that ripped through communities of color in Los Angeles, the City of LA has the opportunity to address both of these issues with one action: fully funding the LA Justice Fund. Not only is LAJF an issue of racial equity, but LAJF has been supporting immigrant Angelenos directly affected by COVID-19 since the very first case was detected in LA. Since it's inception, LAJF 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 the LAJF legal service providers; has supported Angelenos affected by the pandemic; and has connected countless Angelenos to life-saving services. In 2020, despite LAJF's continued success, the City and County insisted on providing limited bridge funding, while they commissioned evaluations of LAJF from third-parties. The reports commissioned by the Board of Supervisors (by Grant makers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees) and the City Council (by USC's Dornsife Equity Research Committee), overwhelmingly supported not just the continuation of LAJF, but a significant expansion of LAJF. Given the undeniable successes and obvious merits of the program, the Budget and Finance Committee members should vote to provide LAJF multi-year funding. Multi-year funding is the only way to ensure that the incredible infrastructure that LAJF built of detained removal defense attorneys - which took five plus years of work and millions of dollars - doesn't crumble. The \$1M allocated by the Mayor to LAJF is simply insufficient for legal service providers to maintain staff and resources for LAJF cases, which can last

several years. I urge the Budget and Finance Committee members to provide additional multi-year funding to LAJF. In doing so, the City is making a vocal commitment to racial equity and due process for ALL, no matter an individual's background or residency. To be a truly universal defense representation program, LAJF must not have ANY exclusions and must be a multi-year program. A permanent and universal Los Angeles Justice Fund would protect all human beings facing deportation in immigration court. LA should lead the rest of the country with this fund. It is one thing to say that our city of Angels protects immigrants, but it is another thing for our budget to actually reflect those values. We cannot allow immigrants who have suffered the most and given the most during the Pandemic to continue to be vulnerable to unjust federal policies. Leaders, like you, have an opportunity to invest in long-term and systemic solutions to help the most vulnerable Angelenos. We implore you to do the right thing- fully fund this critical civil and human rights infrastructure. LAJF is a jointly-funded program by the City, the County, and philanthropy, as it should be, because it affects Angelenos from all walks of life. The City should do its part by allocating one-third of the program costs: \$6.42 million over the next two years, with \$3.16 million earmarked for Year 1 and \$3.26 million for Year 2. This amounts to only .00028% of the City's annual \$11.2 billion budget (and about .01% of the LAPD's \$3+ billion budget). In 2017, LA was at the forefront of the movement, however, since then, at least 43 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 vote to fully fund LAJF. 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. Respectfully,  
Chelsea Bell LAJF Removal Defense Attorney Immigrant Defenders Law Center

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ray Law

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 03:57 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am Ray Law and reside in Burbank. Because of my love for City Parks, and especially Griffith Park, I request the Committee take action to recommend corrections to the Mayor's proposed budget:

1. Save the four critical staff positions within City Planning in order to complete the Wildlife Pilot Study and implement upcoming measure to retain wildlife connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation. I do believe the proposed wild life corridors are important for the sustainability of the health of the animal population and eco system of Griffith Park and our surrounding natural areas.
2. Grant hiring authority for 140 Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff positions. I also believe deferred maintenance of our park areas will lead to deterioration and higher future costs to restore these habitats. The whole park system is important to all citizens..

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Diane Dickey

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 07:25 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** please, do not reduce staff in our open public green spaces - they are suffering as it is and now you're cutting more. i'm a long time, native, resident to the griffith park area and i've seen our beloved park deteriorate from it's once beautiful glory 30-40 years ago. knowing you are a "green mayor" and i thank you for that, wouldn't it be grand to get griffith park looking pretty and green again too? and not just the golf courses! habitat is important to the wildlife - of yeah, by cutting staff you're cutting the wildlife pilot study too. we really need to do that study. i hate balancing my budget to, but sometimes there are persons in our family that make a good point (hopefully this is one!) do your best to cut from somewhere else, i mean - really - griffith park is not a huge part of the budget anyways and frankly it shows. cut something else, not griffith park.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 08:48 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** The La Justice Fund provides critical access to lawyers for those seeking asylum. As a primary care physician who serves children and families, I have personally seen the impact of this access on children's health. The children I care for otherwise would have been deported to highly traumatizing and often life-threatening situations. Instead they are thriving in this country-- safe, healthy and happy. We know the legal representation tips the scales immensely so that children have a fighting shot (see TRAC data that shows 15% versus >70% chance of positive outcome with representation for unaccompanied minors). Seeking asylum/immigration relief is a legal and human right. We owe it to our newest Angelenos to offer them the best chance of finding refuge in our country.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 12:12 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello, I live in Council District 2. I think Griffith Park is one of the treasures of our city! I am writing encourage the Mayor's budget to include funds for maintaining the quality and safety of Griffith Park. PLEASE DO NOT cut them. Hearing of the proposed budget that does not adequately provide for this beautiful Park breaks my heart. Please provide generously for the resources and staff needed to keep it alive and well for all of us! Thank you!



## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andrea Cavanaugh

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2021 04:41 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live in Council District 9. I ask the Committee to recommend corrections to the Mayor's proposed budget: 1. Restore the four staff positions within City Planning in order to complete the Wildlife Pilot Study and implement upcoming measure to retain wildlife connectivity and reduce habitat fragmentation. 2. Grant hiring authority for 140 Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff positions. I love our parks and believe along with many others that short-term savings will cost us more in the long run, in ways we may not even anticipate.