



**ERIC GARCETTI**  
**MAYOR**

April 21, 2022

Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
and Honorable Members of the  
Budget and Finance Committee  
c/o Andrew Suh, City Clerk's Office  
Room 395, City Hall  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**SUBJECT: Mayor's Fiscal Year 2022-23 Proposed Budget - Comments on the  
Proposed Budget for the Youth Development Department (Council File 22-0600)**

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Honorable Councilmembers:

The Youth Development Department (YDD) greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on Mayor Eric Garcetti's 2022-23 Proposed Budget for the department. The proposed budget represents a truly admirable commitment by the Mayor, City Administrative Officer Matthew W. Szabo, and their respective budget teams to provide the YDD with critical resources in its second fiscal year to strengthen the department's ability to improve programs, policies, and overall outcomes for young Angelenos.

After carefully reviewing the 2022-23 Proposed Budget, the YDD respectfully requests the Budget and Finance Committee's support for an additional budget appropriation of \$215,670. This new appropriation will provide the necessary funding to cover monthly educational stipends for youth members of the Olivia E. Mitchell L.A. City Youth Council; three additional months of funding for one Human Relations Advocate, one Principal Public Relations Representative, and one Management Analyst; and Salaries, As-needed funding for two more Community and Administration Support Workers III.

Outlined in Ordinance No. 187125 and the 2022-23 Proposed Budget, the responsibilities of the YDD are significant. The department is responsible for serving as the central information center for the public to access youth services in the City; developing a road map for long-term youth program planning; coordinating with other City departments, regional agencies, and other providers of youth services to develop a citywide, three-year Youth Development Strategic Plan; advising the Mayor and the City Council to ensure efficient use of City resources and the greatest return on investment; and providing necessary staffing for the City Youth Council. The additional budget appropriation request is necessary to augment the department's capacity to carry out its core responsibilities more effectively and properly engage community stakeholders and youth-serving organizations. The department proposes that the Committee consider the YDD's Fiscal Year 2021-22 projected year-end Salaries, General Account surplus as a potential request offset.

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### **Request Specifics**

#### Educational Stipends for L.A. City Youth Council Members - \$108,000

Funding to provide monthly educational stipends to the 30 members of the City's new youth council. As a guiding principle of the YDD and an inclusive practice in positive youth development, the department seeks to honor whenever possible the time, effort, and expertise young people provide to the City. This is a principle also in alignment with the recommendations by the City's Executive Task Force on Youth Development. In the case of the L.A. City Youth Council, the department seeks to provide stipends to youth for their active, responsible, and impactful participation on the Council. Doing so will also remove a barrier for many prospective members, particularly low-income youth, who too often have to choose between opportunities for advancement and experience, and financial stability.

#### Additional Three-months Funding for Three Positions - \$67,583

The Proposed Budget includes six-months funding and resolution authority for one Human Relations Advocate, one Principal Public Relations Representative, and one Management Analyst. The YDD kindly requests consideration to increase the funding for these positions from six months to nine months. Hiring these three roles expeditiously and for a longer part of the fiscal year is imperative to support the department's effective implementation of its core services. The Human Relations Advocate will manage the L.A. City Youth Council, coordinating all the meetings and activities of the 30-member advisory body. The individual will facilitate training for the members, connect them to supportive services, and engage other youth groups and coalitions to create partnerships that strengthen the work and reach of the council. The Principal Public Relations Representative will develop and distribute information on City youth services, programs, and events to the community, in coordination with the offices of elected officials, other City departments, and community-based organizations. The individual will also manage an inclusive social media campaign to encourage more young people to participate in civic engagement, leadership development, and public service opportunities in the City. The Management Analyst will provide much-needed additional administrative support to help the department adequately execute its increasing operational responsibilities, including the administration of contracts, preparation of financial reports, and management of the department budget.

#### Two Community and Administration Support Worker III Positions - \$40,087

Funding and resolution authority for two additional Community and Administration Support Worker (CASW) III positions. The CASWs will be indispensable part-time employees and community ambassadors of the department, who will directly engage and provide City program information to youth, their families and guardians, and community-based organizations. The establishment of CASW community ambassadors also fulfills another key recommendation of the City's Executive Task Force on Youth Development, which called on the City to create such roles at the YDD to deploy them to communities to conduct outreach, engage youth in programs, lead community projects, and process intakes and referrals to services for youth.

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**Conclusion**

The pandemic and its subsequent health and economic impact have caused great trauma and exacerbated long-standing barriers to access, equity, and justice in the City. Young people are among those who have borne a disproportionate toll, especially the most vulnerable who are low-income, housing insecure, foster, justice-involved, undocumented, disconnected from both school and employment, LGBTQIA+, or at risk of community violence. Adding to the uncertainty and struggle youth endure are the accelerating shifts in globalization and technology in an increasingly competitive world. The City is in a defining moment in its history when its young residents are in need of hope, guidance, and investment to navigate these uncertain and traumatic times.

The YDD understands the ongoing budgetary constraints of the City and the need to live within our financial means to foster a fiscally sustainable Los Angeles for many years to come. At the same time, the department also shares the unyielding passion and commitment of the City's leaders to safeguard the lives and futures of our young Angelenos. Hence, the YDD respectfully requests that the City Council Budget and Finance Committee consider our request, which will provide the department with critical funding resources necessary to support the young people of this great city on the long-term path to healing, recovery, and success.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa T. Salazar', with a stylized, flowing script.

Lisa T. Salazar  
Executive Director  
Youth Development Department