

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Araceli Rodriguez

**Date Submitted:** 05/01/2022 10:03 PM

**Council File No:** 22-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** My name is Araceli Rodriguez and I am a constituent/youth leader of Council District 14 and a member of the Invest In Youth Coalition. This last year we made history by creating the city's 1st youth development department. Now that the department has been created we want to make sure it is funded properly in order to start serving the Los Angeles city youth. The YDD is currently only staffed with city servants and we need more funding in order to hire a minimum of 6 positions to be reserved for youth and community members. Creating these positions is going to create a pipeline for these folks to have bigger and better opportunities in the future. The task force recommendations that were approved by council this year in January also asked for educational stipends for the youth in the Olivia Mitchell Youth Council and are being left out in this budget. It is so unfair how the YDD is the department with the lowest funding compared to newer departments. Youth are the future, therefore they deserve to be invested in but the LA City proposed budget thinks otherwise. The LAPD's printing budget is equal to the YDD's budget, that in itself says a lot. I urge you to listen to what is being asked on the Task Force recommendations and give more funding to the YDD. The youth did not want this department just to say they have one, they want a fully funded, equitable, and holistic youth development department, therefore stop letting them down. I urge you to support giving more funding to the youth development department. Your support will ensure that this department grows to be a great one in order to be able to serve young folks and become that equitable, holistic department that we the youth envision it to become.