

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Lionel Mares

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2022 06:02 PM

**Council File No:** 22-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Budget and Finance Committee, I am writing in response to the Budget Proposal (Fiscal Year 2022-23), and I strongly urge the L.A. City Council to reconsider the Budget as it now stands. The police department is over-funded, while other departments and city services are under-funded. The city of Los Angeles does not invest in sidewalk repair, tree care/tree planting, cool blocks, homelessness services, youth programs to deter gang memberships, job creation, Targeted Local Hire (TLH), and Bridge to Jobs program, etc... The city of Los Angeles needs to invest in social and community development programs and services to help alleviate poverty in Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley. I don't agree that the budget for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) should be increased. The LAPD already has the highest budget increase of all city departments combined. It is not fair that the residents of Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley are not getting services from the city of Los Angeles because the money is going to the police who are not residents of Los Angeles. I believe that the Budget and Finance Committee should consider cutting funding from the Los Angeles Police Department and to redistribute the funds to other departments that need it to help make Los Angeles a better place.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Isabel Gonzalez

**Date Submitted:** 05/11/2022 10:25 PM

**Council File No:** 22-0600

**Comments for Public Posting:** Hello prestigious members of LA City Council, My name is Isabel Gonzalez, I am a resident of the city of Los Angeles and for the past 4 years I have actively worked as an Early Care and Education Advocate in the Eastside with the purpose of increasing funding within the ECE sector in our city and fortifying the access to pathways to quality childcare so that all low income families of color in our city can be properly served. I provide this public comment today because I am saddened to hear that the Mayor's FY 2022-2023 proposed budget eliminates an estimated \$100 million from community-based programs, including childcare and eldercare services and supports for residents experiencing food and housing insecurity. Families in our city are still waging war against a devastating pandemic and the devastation that it brought to our health, our economic standing and housing security, to name a few. The impact of the pandemic has been felt by all, yes, but it continues to be faced the hardest by those who were already struggling with gentrification, police aggression, and decades long disinvested public services like the Eastside residents I work with. During the 2008 recession child care centers were closed in the city due to an unstable economy and as of yet have not fully been re-opened. We didn't properly respond to families in need then in their time of crisis, let's not repeat the same mistake twice. We need the City to ensure that all funds provided to essential programs last year remain in place until they are fully spent. We also need community-based funded programs to be placed on an equal footing with all other City programs. We deserve a permanent solution to these ongoing challenges. You have the power to provide lasting change for our residents most in need, don't ignore, don't turn a blind eye to their needs. You can do this by committing to: -\$300 million to MLAW priority programs -Guaranteed Basic Income Program -Utility Assistance Debt Relief -Childcare and Learning Centers -Business Assistance Programs -Senior Meals Program -Parks and Recs Staffing for Community Programs -Universal broadband services. - & roll over unspent funds and allocate to these same programs -Create a permanent Community Investment Fund As our leaders, we need you to do right by the community and take action to NOT increase the Police Budget. Security means resources not bullets. Protect our communities and heal by investing in us, not against us. I

thank you for taking the time to read my comment and hope that it leads you to take the proper steps to do right by our communities and secure the much needed funding to public programs that are true lifelines for those of highest need in our communities.