

MOTION

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

The City of Los Angeles in the late 1980s began the practice of establishing gang injunctions referred to as Safety Zones with the goal of deterring gang activity and violence. Injunctions aimed to control behavior such as when and where someone could be and the types of clothing a member of the community could or could not wear.

By the end of 2016, there were 46 gang injunction cases filed on behalf of the City of Los Angeles. Several cases named more than one gang in each petition to the court for the injunction.

On March, 21, 2016 the Council adopted a recommendation by the City Attorney (CF 16-0081) to accept a court settlement in the case entitled Christian Rodriguez, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, et al., United States District Court Case No. CV11-01135 DMG (JEMx) (this matter arises from incidents involving members of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office between October 2007 and March 2013). This class action represented 6,000 Angelenos impacted by the creation and enforcement of gang injunctions with unconstitutional provisions upheld by the court. The City agreed not to enforce the unconstitutional curfew provisions as well as other provisions that have been invalidated in subsequent appellate decisions for the City's gang injunctions. The City also agreed to payments not to exceed \$7.5 million per year, for four years totaling no more than \$30,000,000 over the four-year period, 2017 to 2021 to non-profit organizations that will assist plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit.

Unfortunately, in the settlement language, the City limited the scope of services the 6,000 class members could receive and specifically tied resources to job readiness programs, apprenticeship programs, vocational counseling, and mentoring. The City centralized the services under the Los Angeles Reconnections Career Academy with the Economic and Workforce Development Department.

According to CF 16-0081-S3, our most recent program report dated January 9, 2023 by the Economic and Workforce Development Department, we are leaving more than 75% of the 6,000 class members behind. **Only 987 of the 6,000 class members (or eligible relatives) have been assisted and we have only expended \$13,301,863 of the \$30 million settlement amount.** Annual program participant numbers show an unacceptably low participation rate that could imply recruitment flaws, lack of needed service delivery and resource options, service providers not understanding the population they are serving and poor retention efforts.

On February 2, 2022 the Council adopted a third extension of the program by having the City Attorney modify the settlement agreement to extend its term for one year, until June 27, 2023 and to modify the settlement agreement to allow class members until March 27, 2023, to sign up for benefits under the settlement agreement (CF 17-0026).

The original intent of the settlement must be honored by supporting those affected by the gang injunctions through resources and services. This is the only way we can restore faith in the City after this violation of rights.

This is an opportunity we should not take lightly. This committed funding and the associated resources can assist in reducing gang violence and save lives. To effectively fulfill the settlement, we must extend the current terms and make changes to honor the 6,000 class members.

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The City must involve and fund partners fluent in gang intervention strategies and services that support those impacted by the gang injunctions and their families, taking the lead on identifying class members and supporting them through the process of service provision. Next, the City must implement necessary changes to the current program by expanding service delivery and resource options. Services and resources provided must include childcare, housing/ rental/ utility assistance, food, and other essential living expenses. Finally, the city must utilize the data provided by those contracted to build on the needed services and resources proven to be effective, while also ensuring provider competency through ongoing training and technical assistance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council authorize the City Attorney to modify the settlement agreement to:

- extend its term for two years, moving the end date from June 27, 2023 to June 27, 2025 and to modify the settlement agreement to allow class members to sign up for benefits under the settlement agreement until March 27, 2025; and
- expand the benefits to include services such as childcare, housing/rental/utility assistance, food and other essential living expenses and ensure that these resources are not contingent on work or education path requirements.

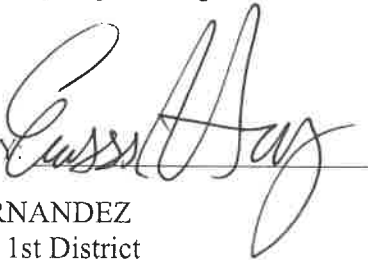
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Economic and Workforce Development Department to work with Council Offices and the Mayor's GRYD Office to report back in 15 days on trusted organizations in the community that are effectively working with gang-impacted Angelenos and a plan for the Economic and Workforce Development Department to contract with them for the purpose of identifying class members and supporting them through the eligibility and benefits process.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council instruct the Economic and Workforce Development Department to identify and report back in 15 days on the following:

- Outcome data from the existing providers and recommended expanded use of those demonstrating efficacy,
- Agencies effectively working in gang and criminal justice system impacted communities that could be additionally contracted with, and
- How the department will maintain cultural and social competency with the class members through ongoing training and technical assistance.

PRESENTED BY:

EUNISSES HERNANDEZ
Councilmember, 1st District



CO-PRESENTED BY:

TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District



SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL