

Communication from Public

Name: (Name withheld)

Date Submitted: 06/26/2023 06:28 PM

Council File No: 21-1187

Comments for Public Posting: This comment is in support of Agenda Item #8, LA REPAIR. I urge the committee to approve the June 2023 report from Civil + Human Rights, and Equity Department, and to endorse full-funding for Cohort 1 Programs. I encourage members of the Committee to dedicate a few minutes to review the Report's Attachment 2 (Original Ideas) and Attachment 3 (Summarized Ideas), both of which provide snapshots of concerns in our REPAIR Zones. While the pilot program will initially fund only the winning projects, these attachments provide you -- our elected officials -- with an invaluable 'boots-on-the-ground' view of what we need to make our neighborhoods safe places where we can thrive. Importantly, in 2 of our 3 REPAIR Zones, community-identified needs in infrastructure investments outnumbered (out-prioritized) service needs. Please keep this in mind when you review funding for infrastructure improvements. Our community members are more likely to be pedestrians, bicyclists, and waiting transit-riders than elsewhere in LA; therefore, our neighborhood streets should be the safest, most amenable roads in our area. Yet continued lack of investment means we have markedly fewer trees, less shade, more noise/dust, and more tragic vehicle accidents affecting pedestrians and bicyclists. My fellow Advisory Committee members worked alongside our Community Engagement Partners to uplift the perspectives of our neighbors, most of whom just can't navigate the hurdles and roadblocks to reach out to elected officials and civil servants, to get to committee hearings or neighborhood council meetings. We're living in a time where trust in government is falling: we are paying more in taxes yet urban decay increases; where profit-mining speculators are being treated like saviors as they exploit our remaining affordable neighborhoods; while our hard-won public input is continually threatened "for efficiency". Yet if we want LA to succeed as a great place to live, we have to stop sacrificing our quality of life for the "pay-to-play" lifestyle. Participatory Budgeting, as we have demonstrated with LA REPAIR, is a start in that direction. Through our efforts, we have not only identified what is wrong, we have proposed solutions and handed them, neatly packaged, back to the City. Please provide your support for LA REPAIR to fund these programs developed through an inclusive,

community-building process of Participatory Budgeting. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Cheryl Branch-Los Angeles Metro Churches

Date Submitted: 06/26/2023 02:23 PM

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Comments for Public Posting: Hi, my name is Cheryl Branch and I am emailing my comments to speak about the LA REPAIR Participatory Budgeting Report from LA Civil Rights. ? I urge the Committee and Council to approve this report without delay so that our community voices can be heard. I work in Southeast LA REPAIR Zone. And our nonprofit organization has been in the Southeast LA area for the past 25 years serving over 80,000 residents. ? This is LA's first Participatory Budgeting project - the FIRST TIME that communities have been able to decide FOR THEMSELVES how city dollars should be spent. Given the many challenges we've faced as a city government lately, we are happy to work on a project with the City structured for community and resident leaders. We like LA REPAIR and the participatory budgeting model. It is easy to understand, easy to share and engage with other residents and it also works well with LA Empower/DONE and neighborhood councils. ? The proposals before you were ideas lifted up and voted on by regular people in Boyle Heights, Southeast LA, and Mission Hills-Panorama City-North Hills. They identified rental assistance, community health, and after school programming as priorities. ? I urge the City Council to approve this report and support more participatory budgeting projects in the future. ? I also urge the Council to increase the funding for this program. As the report notes, "the lack of financial support to Advisory Committee members is a significant barrier to their full participation, and is antithetical to the program's core values of empowering marginalized communities." ? We should not ask people to work for free to support underserved communities. I know that is not your intention and I hope that can be resolved. ? Please vote YES on LA REPAIR Participatory Budgeting. Vote YES on these community ideas. Vote YES on people power! Real People making real decisions about real money! Thank you City Council, committee members. Cheryl A. Branch Los Angeles Metropolitan Churches