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HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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July 16, 2020

Mayor Eric Garcetti
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Council File 20-0692 (Los Angeles Police Department Budget Cut/Disadvantaged and Communities of Color Reinvestment)

Dear Mayor Garcetti:

On July 14, 2020, our Board voted 0-0-0 to recommend the following as the City of Los Angeles is cutting funds from the LAPD budget and reallocating those funds to serve disadvantaged and communities of color. We note that ninety four percent of our residents are people of color and five of our internal Districts have a black population of from 29% to 54%.

The listing below represents a partial list of our needs for police or other City Departments to take responsibility for problem issues within our Neighborhood Council area. As you will see, many of these are basic to improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods and addressing long term issues of neglect. These issues can and should be addressed urgently, regardless of the current budget conversation.

- prioritize regular community patrols in each of our basic car area (18A97, 18A63, and 18A41) in Southeast Division
- add one additional Senior Lead Officer for each basic car area (18A97, 18A63, and 18A41) in Southeast Division to provide coverage during vacations/illness of the Senior Lead Officer
- installation of equipment to monitor security cameras in key illegal dumping locations, such as under freeway overpasses:
 - 1) 168th Street under the 110 Freeway
 - 2) Gardena Blvd. under the 110 Freeway

- 3) Alondra Blvd. under the 110 Freeway
- 4) 149th above the 110 Freeway
- 4) 117th Street between Figueroa Street and Broadway
- 5) Main Street under the 105 Freeway
- 6) San Pedro Street under the 105 Freeway
- 7) Stanford under the 105 Freeway

- Pilot program for illegal dumping enforcement, with significant penalties for offenders, in the Harbor Gateway North area, including a program for apartments to only hire licensed haulers who take furniture, etc. out of vacated apartment units to the dump, with an enforcement mechanism set up by the City of Los Angeles, possibly in the Bureau of Sanitation.
- increased funding for 911 operators (civilian employees) to reduce the often excessively long wait times for a 911 operator to respond to emergency calls and for the non-emergency 877-ASK-LAPD operators

We also recommend the following reforms which would save money for the LAPD by reducing the number of lawsuits paid out by the Department and which would focus LAPD activity on truly protecting and serving the community:

- On-going and frequent training of officers, including in de-escalation techniques, implicit bias, and use of non-lethal force
- Keep officers' disciplinary history accessible to police departments and the public
- Early warning system to identify problem officers
- Participation by LAPD in a nation-wide database which would identify officers who have been fired for gross misconduct
- End quotas for officers issuing tickets and arrests
- Establish restrictions to prevent the LAPD from purchasing or using military weaponry
- Use non-armed responders for public health situations, such as domestic violence, mental illness crises, public drunkenness, loud noise and fireworks, etc.
- Require the cost of misconduct settlements to be paid out of the LAPD budget instead of the City's general fund

In addition to the listing above of community needs that can be addressed by policing, there are others that cannot. These community needs are equally necessary as enforcement to create community buy-in, collective identity, and things the community can say “yes” to. To build our community we need carrots, not only sticks. Our area is a forgotten area of Los Angeles that has received little financial support from the existing social service and cultural sector funded by the City budget.

For example, Harbor Gateway North has very few cultural organizations or forums for positive collective engagement. There are no regular events that bring the community together around a positive sense of community identity and collective enrichment. While there are City organizations such as the Department of Cultural Affairs which supports venues and programs in other parts of the City, Harbor Gateway North is ignored. A strongly conceived and funded program is needed, as well as basic services noted above.

As an initial step, we propose the creation of a Harbor Gateway North Cultural Commission that would facilitate and fund community events around the diverse cultural traditions and artistic practices of the community. This could operate as a collaboration between local stakeholders and the Department of Cultural Affairs and we propose one million dollars of the budget reallocation be put toward the purpose of running a pilot program to create a physical location, staff, and programming over a five year period. There are a number of vacant storefronts in our area, such as along Main Street, between 120th Street and Imperial Highway and along Central Avenue south of the 105 freeway to 120th Street. We envision the non-profit then collaborating with some of our LAUSD schools for use of their auditoriums, Parent Teacher organizations, Rosecrans Recreation Center, Ignite Hope (job training for welding careers), Crossroads, the City's Workforce Development Department, various Los Angeles County Departments providing social services, such as Mental Health and Public Health, South Bay Family Health Care, True Love Missionary Baptist Church at 100 E. 119th Street, and the Nuestras Rasices dance group, among other of our existing community organizations. The site could help coordinate not only cultural community events but also be a site for needed information on jobs and social services.

We urge you to engage with our Neighborhood Council in the creation of such a Commission.

Sincerely,

David Matthews, Chairperson
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: Councilmember Joe Buscaino – Council District 15
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson – Council District 8
Eileen Decker, President - Board of Police Commissioners
Captain Lou Pagliolonga – LAPD Southeast Division
Carol Newman, Co-Chair – Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates
Jack Humphreville, Co-Chair – Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates