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## HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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August 14, 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 August 11, 2020, our Board voted 0-0-0 to recommend the following as the City of Los Angeles in light of the \$150,000,000 that has been cut from the LAPD budget and which will be reallocated to serve disadvantaged and communities of color.

However, in addition to the needs that can be addressed by policing, there are other needs that cannot be. In each of our neighborhoods, we have a significant number of disadvantaged people of color and we are often a forgotten area of Los Angeles in regards to existing social services and cultural activities 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, our area is ignored. A strongly conceived and funded program is needed, as well as basic services such as job preparation, services for addiction treatment, and support for those with disabilities.

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 and a half 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 120<sup>th</sup> Street and Imperial Highway and along Central Avenue south of the 105 freeway to 120<sup>th</sup> Street and Gardena Blvd. We envision the non-profit 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), Southern California 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. 119<sup>th</sup> Street, and the Nuestras Raices dance group, among other of our existing community organizations. The site could help coordinate not only cultural community events but also be a place for needed information on jobs and the social services that our area is in need of.

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

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