

**From:** Alise Brillault [mailto:akbrillault@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 8:24 PM  
**To:** Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Budget 2021

**-EXTERNAL-**

Dear Long Beach Mayor, Long Beach City Manager, and City Council:

My name is Alise Brillault, and I am a resident of District 1 in Long Beach. I was born and raised in Long Beach. I have a Bachelor's degree in Integrated Social Sciences from the University of Washington and a Master's degree in International Relations and Development from the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals. This is all to say that I love Long Beach, and I know what I'm talking about!

I am demanding significant reallocation of funding from the Long Beach Police Department towards social and public programming that takes place in our communities. This is imperative for undoing systemic racism in this city and improving the city in ways that benefit everyone. This includes investments in:

- Modern, functional public transportation, including:
  - Bus stops with screens that update arrival times for buses in real time, with buses running no more than 15 minutes apart
  - Expansion of the Los Angeles Metro Rail system or other metro trains/light rail trains. In particular, please add a train line that goes up the coast to connect Long Beach with Santa Monica.
- Improving bicycle lanes:
  - Our city likes to tout that we are the most bikeable city in the country; yet, I can only think of literally 2 streets (Broadway and 3rd- I guess there are 3 bike lanes if you count the bike path on the beach) that have actual protected bike lanes. Riding a bike on the streets of Long Beach is scary and unsafe, as you have to ride directly alongside other cars who are very angry that you are there. Please expand protected bike lanes, especially in underserved neighborhoods.

Improving and expanding on public transportation and protected bike lanes will make our city:

- More equitable and accessible for low-income residents who cannot afford a car; if such residents are better able to get around the city and county, they will be able to commute more easily to jobs and alleviate some of their burdens so as to improve their financial situation
- More environmentally friendly with less pollution from vehicles- this is crucial for improving our air quality, health outcomes, and mitigating the climate crisis
- Less parking- and traffic- impacted
- More attractive to business and startup investment  
(<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-07-18/cities-with-good-public-transit-lure-new-startups>)
- Home to healthier residents who are able to exercise more by riding bicycles safely in the street
- More modern and attractive to tourists- c'mon, we are already 21 years into the 21st century! Can we not take a cue from cities in such places as Europe and Asia who are way ahead of us?

I am demanding a budget that adequately and effectively meets the needs of Black and brown Long Beach residents during this trying and uncertain time, when livelihoods are on the line. I am demanding a budget that supports community wellbeing, rather than empowering the police forces that tear them apart. As policing is an institution born out of racist "slave patrols" that disproportionately murders its own citizens (<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/06/08/us/us-police-floyd-protests-country-comparisons-intl/index.html>) throwing more money at the LBPD for "more training" is counterproductive. Rather, the City of Long Beach should invest in proven programs and policies that Black and brown organizers have been calling for, such as:

- A NON-POLICE 24/7 emergency phone number that residents can call for intervention in such situations as:
  - mental health crises
  - unhoused people who are in need
  - drug use
  - domestic violence
  - (such interventions would be done by social workers, mental health professionals, homeless shelter workers, domestic violence victim advocates, etc. NOT ARMED OFFICERS)
- Investment in quality, affordable housing for extremely low income, low income, and lower-middle income Long Beach residents. This means:
  - No more building of luxury condos that longtime, local residents cannot afford
  - Rent control policies
- Greater allotment of funds for LBUSD, LBCC, and CSULB; provide free preschool education to all
  - Remove LBPD or any other police officers/armed security officials from Long Beach schools
- Investments in parks, green spaces, community centers, youth and senior programming, and libraries in underserved neighborhoods
- Dedicate adequate staff to implement the City's Language Access Policy (LAP) in full consistently throughout the City and finally create a culture of language justice. Permanently move interpretation and translation services in house to provide faster and higher quality interpretation and translation. Provide Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog interpretation without advance request at all City Council and Charter Commission meetings.
- Banning ICE and CBP from Long Beach

It is your duty to represent your constituents. I am urging you to revise the Long Beach city budget and to fund the social programs long proven to be much more effective than policing at promoting community safety and equity. Public opinion is with me.

Thank you,  
Alise Brillault  
District 1 Resident