



Date: August 21, 2018

To: Councilwoman Stacy Mungo, Budget Oversight Committee, Chair
Councilwoman Suzie Price, Budget Oversight Committee, Vice Chair
Councilman Al Austin, Budget Oversight Committee, Member

From: Councilmember Rex Richardson, Ninth District

Subject: Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

Dear esteemed colleagues,

I want to thank you once again for your service on the Budget Oversight Committee (BOC). Over the past four years, the City Council's collective work has placed our city on a strong financial footing while maintaining and improving levels of service and quality that our Long Beach residents deserve.

As the representative of the 9th District, here are a number of my key district budgetary priorities as well as some notable citywide priorities. Please find below the following items for your funding consideration:

- \$50,000 in one-time funding to support outreach and the development of a local revenue option to create additional affordable housing and improve prevention and response to homelessness in Long Beach.
- Re-evaluate the \$250,000 in one-time funding for one Beach Streets event, and re-distribute to five smaller \$50,000 corridor activations and programming. These smaller activations, like Activate Uptown and First Fridays, help to foster a thriving small business community and allow the resources to engage more neighborhoods more frequently.
- \$10,000 in one-time funding to implement a pilot "baby changing station program" in men and women's restrooms throughout city facilities and other Long Beach businesses/organizations to support the Father-Friendly Principles of the Long Beach Father-Friendly Initiative.



Furthermore, I acknowledge and support the following recommendations made by the Mayor and City Manager:

- Four new Quality of Life Police Officers, with one assigned to the North Division
- Structural General Fund funding for a Special Projects Officer to continue the work of the Office of Equity.
- Identification of new revenue to restore Engine 17, which includes 12 new firefighter positions and will further enhance public safety for the entire city.
- \$200,000 in one-time funding to support programs or activities for youth well-being.
 - o In discussions with the "Invest in Youth Coalition," I recommend moving these funds to the Office of Equity in the Department of Health and Human Services.
 - o In addition, rather than utilizing a participatory budgeting process, the community has expressed interest in leveraging the funds to develop a youth development strategic plan in coordination with the "Invest in Youth Coalition" and youth based organizations citywide.
- \$160,000 in one-time funding for Language Access Plan (LAP) implementation.
 - o While I am pleased that the LAP one-time funding has doubled this fiscal year, I recommend that additional one-time funds be allocated to fully fund the LAP Coordinator who is currently only 50% structural part-time. We cannot comprehensively implement LAP policies without appropriate staffing levels.
- \$192,000 in one-time funding to continue the current locations of the Be SAFE program.
- \$250,000 to fully fund the Justice Fund to support immigrants in the community who need legal assistance.
- \$1.2 million one-time funding for critical water needs in the City Parks.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my recommendations.