

August 28, 2019

Dear Members of the Transactions and Use Tax Citizens' Advisory Committee:

We are writing on behalf of the Budget Advocacy Workgroup to express concern over the Measure A Extension resolution adopted by City Council on August 20, 2019 (19-0807).

The Budget Advocacy Workgroup coordinates the People's Budget and organizes Long Beach communities who face ongoing disinvestment because of race and class to allocate resources according to community priorities. We lift up the wisdom, voices, and experiences of communities through participatory processes that build, demonstrate, and sustain intentional and equitable city budgets.

As such, we were disappointed to not see any commitments to *prevention* and *equity* included in the resolution. When it comes to public safety, it is important to prioritize proactive, preventative approaches to public safety--not just the reactive responses once a crime or emergency has occurred. Our City prides itself in its public-safety continuum, which includes much more than police and fire. It is important to incorporate the prevention and public-health components of public safety into this resolution. Additionally, it is important to allocate our City's resources in an equitable manner, and our City's commitment to equity should be included in any Measure A investment plan.

We did an analysis of the current and planned spending of Measure A for Fiscal Years 2017-2027 and found that although there was a heavier emphasis on infrastructure in the initial years of the tax, the trend has moved toward increasingly funding police and fire. Under the existing Measure A investment plan, public safety will get twice the investment as infrastructure--a 2-to-1 ratio of public safety to infrastructure--under the current 10-year plan.

It is imperative that we recognize how land use, including infrastructure investments, are linked to the safety of a community and that we continue to invest in infrastructure. The historic disinvestment in Central, West, and North Long Beach as well as other discriminatory policies have created areas of concentrated disadvantage where residents have not benefited from the same public or private investments, infrastructure maintenance, and other quality-of-life improvements as people living in other parts of the city. These are the same neighborhoods where people experience fewer opportunities, heavier policing, and lower life expectancies overall.

We encourage you, as the Citizens' Advisory Committee, to prioritize and commit to equitable infrastructure investments as well as a definition of public safety that emphasizes prevention strategies connected to youth development and other community and public-health interventions.

Thank you for your consideration.

On behalf of the Budget Advocacy Workgroup:

Gaby Hernandez, Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition

Gary Hytrek, Long Beach Coalition for Good Jobs and a Healthy Community

Jacky Guerro, Advancement Project California

Lian Cheun, Khmer Girls in Action

Christine Petit, Long Beach Forward

Peter Madsen, Long Beach Residents Empowered

Susana Sngiem, United Cambodian Community

Susanne Browne, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles