



September 5, 2017

Mayor and Members of the City Council  
City of Long Beach  
333 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council,

Throughout the past few months, we have heard from multiple city departments regarding the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. While the city as a whole is in a balanced financial position, it has become apparent that key areas of focus of the Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) are in need of support from our City Council, namely the need to address rising STD/HIV rates in Long Beach and support for implementation of the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Local Action Plan.


As presented at the August 22nd Council meeting, only 2% of the Health Department's FY 2018 proposed budget is supported by the General Fund, while the department faces increasing pressure on multiple fronts. One alarming challenge, according to the presentation, is that STD/HIV rates in Long Beach have increased over 100% for syphilis and gonorrhea in the past two years, with very limited funds for STD/HIV prevention outreach. In fact, rates for newly diagnosed HIV infections in Long Beach are higher than LA County, and double that of the State of California.

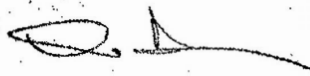
In addition, the City of Long Beach and the Health Department have been extremely successful in the creation of the city's MBK Action Plan, recognized across the nation as a model action plan for the success of boys and young men of color in our city. However, a memo to the City Council late Friday afternoon, September 1st, stated that this effort is in jeopardy, as grant funds to continue the implementation of MBK were not received. If no funds are secured in the FY18 budget, the MBK work will cease.


We must act now to ensure that both of these challenges are addressed for the health, safety and quality of life of our residents. **Therefore, we respectfully request an appropriation of \$220,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services for STD/HIV prevention efforts and to continue the work of the My Brother's Keeper Action Plan, to be allocated at the Director's discretion.**

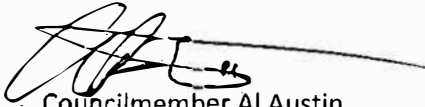
Please take this request under deep and serious consideration. We look forward to adopting an FY 2018 budget that addresses these key areas of focus for our great city.

Respectfully,

  
Vice Mayor Rex Richardson  
Council District 9

  
Councilmember Dee Andrews  
Council District 6

  
Councilmember Roberto Uranga  
Council District 7

  
Councilmember Al Austin  
Council District 8

CC: Budget Oversight Committee  
Patrick West, City Manager  
Kelly Colopy, Director, Department of Health and Human Services