



**Date:** August 31, 2022

**To:** Councilman Al Austin, Budget Oversight Committee, Chair  
Councilman Roberto Uranga, Budget Oversight Committee, Vice Chair  
Councilwoman Suzie Price, Budget Oversight Committee, Member

**From:** Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, 9<sup>th</sup> District

**Subject:** Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

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Dear Chair Austin and members of the Budget Oversight Committee,

I want to thank you, once again, for your service on the Budget Oversight Committee (BOC). While this is not an easy undertaking, I hope you will continue to build on your successes in previous years, shaping a balanced budget that responds to present challenges and anticipates Citywide needs.

During this year's budget hearings, we've heard about the need to invest in an equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting economic consequences, invest in our City's libraries, meaningfully recognize our city employees to deal with cost-of-living issues and improve morale, and continue investing in efforts to create safer communities.

This year's budget and 5-year infrastructure plan do much of that, and although we have made progress, more needs to be done to shape a healthy and inclusive city, from investing in our health department administration to supporting language access and our Long Beach Justice Fund. This memo will highlight these successes and offer additions where necessary.

Please find the following priorities for your consideration below.

**Public Safety**

- o Support for the addition of one new REACH Team to the Health Department Budget to add more proactive outreach capacity to our homeless services team, [in accordance my council action on 4/5 to explore the expansion of the REACH model.](#)
- o Support for, in [accordance with my council action on 7/5](#), the creation of a new Collaborative Response and Engagement Bureau within the Police Department, including the addition of 16 new Bike Officers and 4 new Quality of Life Officers, to provide

increased outreach and community engagement with residents, enhance crime reduction strategies, provide additional support to better address the root causes of crime through relationship-based community policing models, and expand outreach to people experiencing homelessness.

### **Libraries**

- o Restoration of full service at the Alamitos, Brewitt, and Dana Libraries, and funds to allow each of the city's 12 libraries to be open at least 48 hours each week

### **Reproductive Rights**

- o \$250,000 in one-time funding for any necessary feasibility studies or pilot programs arising from the Mayor's 2/8 motion to activate the Long Beach Health Department in regional efforts to increase access to reproductive health in response to the overturning of Roe vs. Wade

### **Employee Recognition**

- o Direct the city manager to establish a new bonus program for City employees in order to fully recognize their exemplary contributions to our City during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- o \$50,000 in structural funding to provide a \$600 Employee Incentive Program bonus to all Equity Champions and Equity Committee members who have served in good faith for the majority of the fiscal year

### **Ethics Commission**

- o \$100,000 in one-time funds to support the commission's operations budget, allowing for additional staff and complaint processing ability

Thank you for taking the time to consider these critical recommendations.