

From: Elsa Tung <elsa@lbforward.org>

Sent: Friday, August 21, 2020 9:13 AM

To: Desiree Gutierrez <Desiree.Gutierrez@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

Cc: James Suazo <james@lbforward.org>

Subject: General Public Comment: Reimagining Public Safety in the use of Measure A (8/21/2020 meeting of the Transactions and Use Tax Citizens' Advisory Committee)

-EXTERNAL-

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

I am writing on behalf of the People's Budget Coalition. In August 2019, we collectively submitted a letter to this committee that stated: "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."

What the People's Budget Coalition was calling for last year was grounded in what the Movement for Black Lives has been calling for for years: **the reimagining of public safety.**

Today, we are at a critical juncture in our city's history and our nation's history. Amid a global pandemic and uprising, we are all bearing witness once again to systemic oppressions driven by racism, capitalism, and white supremacy. Now is the time for bold change that puts Black lives at the center and reduces harm in every way, prioritizes communities first, invests in real essential services, and reimagines community safety. **The People's Budget for FY 2021 calls on the City of Long Beach to divest from the Long Beach Police Department and reinvest in Black lives and communities of color.**

By directly funding the Long Beach Police Department -- helping the department consume nearly half of the City's General Fund at the expense of essential public services -- Measure A has helped to perpetuate racist police systems and cause harm for Black residents and people of color in Long Beach, people like **Donte Jordan** and **Feras Morad** who were both killed by LBPd officers in 2013 and 2015 respectively.

Per Resolution No. RES-16-0033, the Transactions and Use Tax Citizens' Advisory Committee is charged with "advising and making recommendations to the City Council regarding the use of TUT revenue." **Therefore, we urge you to pass a resolution to recommend to City Council that the definition of "Public Safety" in the Measure A spending resolutions (RES-16-0018 and RES-19-0127) should be expanded to include services along the City's own Continuum of Public Safety, including affordable housing, homeless and health services, code enforcement (for habitable housing), workforce development, libraries, parks and park programs, and infrastructure.**

The People's Budget for FY 2021 is attached here and available to download at <https://www.lbforward.org/peoples-budget>. I ask that this entire email and attachment be included as public comment for the August 21, 2020 committee meeting.

Thank you.

Elsa Mei Tung

(She/Her/Hers)

Land Use Program Manager
Long Beach Forward

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Christine Petit** <christine@lbforward.org>
Date: Thu, Aug 29, 2019 at 12:16 PM
Subject: Correspondence to Measure A Commission
To: <desiree.gutierrez@longbeach.gov>
Cc: <cityclerk@longbeach.gov>

Dear Desiree:

Please share the following correspondence with the Measure A Commission prior to this afternoon's meeting.

Many thanks!
Christine

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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

--

Dr. Christine E. Petit

She/Her/Hers

Executive Director

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THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET PROPOSAL – FY 2021

For the past two years, the People's Budget campaign has forced conversations and action for equity and justice in the Long Beach city budget. Because Black, Latinx, Cambodian, Filipino, White, and other members of the community came together, Long Beach started reversing historic patterns of disinvesting in communities of color. From language access funding, to a youth strategic plan, to universal legal representation for immigrants, the people have proven we know how to make our communities safe and healthy.



Today, we are at a critical juncture in our city's history and our nation's history. Amid a global pandemic and uprising, we are all bearing witness once again to systemic oppressions driven by racism, capitalism, and white supremacy. Whether it is police criminalizing and committing direct violence on Black bodies or greedy developers gentrifying our neighborhoods and displacing our neighbors, our communities have had enough. Now is the time for bold change that puts Black lives at the center and reduces harm in every way, prioritizes communities first, invests in real essential services, and reimagines community safety.

As a multicultural and multigenerational alliance, we are calling on Mayor Robert Garcia, all nine City Councilmembers, and City Manager Tom Modica to adopt the People's Budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

Black Lives Matter, and all our communities cannot wait any longer.

1. DIVEST FROM THE LONG BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Defund the Long Beach Police Department to end their pattern of targeting low-income communities of color and criminalizing poverty. Policing is not the answer to our schools' and communities' most pressing needs, including jobs, housing, homelessness, health, and immigration. When we divest from police, we redirect resources so that Black, Indigenous, and people of color can live successful lives.

2. REINVEST IN BLACK LIVES AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Reallocate funds and direct additional resources on an on-going basis to community-led priorities that create health, opportunity, community, and justice:

1. Reimagined community safety without police terror and grounded in restorative justice and Black Empowerment:

-  Invest in Black family unification, community-led crisis response, violence reduction, and prevention strategies that are outside of the police;
-  Provide reparations to Black/African American people from the war-on-drugs era and to victims and their families of racial profiling and police violence;
-  Prioritize families directly impacted by the war on drugs in all social and economic opportunities, especially in the equitable ownership of cultivation and distribution in the cannabis industry;
-  Invest in community-led restoration events to support stronger connections among neighbors.

THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET PROPOSAL – FY 2021

REINVEST IN BLACK LIVES AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR (CONTINUED)

- 2. Affordable and Supportive Housing:** Establish a dedicated source of funding for supportive housing with wrap-around supportive services for residents experiencing or on the brink of homelessness.
- 3. Right to Counsel for All Renters:** Establish a Right to Counsel to provide legal resources and representation to renters in need regardless of immigration status, effectively reducing evictions, preventing homelessness, preserving affordable housing, and stabilizing communities.
- 4. Citywide Rental Housing Division:** Establish a Rental Housing Division within the Development Services Department to communicate with both tenants and landlords, issue legal bulletins and updates, enforce renter protection laws, centralize information and forms, and administer a citywide Right to Counsel program for renters.
- 5. Community Health Councils:** Establish funding for neighborhood-based Community Health Councils to implement community-led crisis response for mental health, safety, and well-being emergencies.
- 6. Job Training:** Prioritize free job training and job opportunities for Black residents, regardless of their background or education level. Revise the City's Project Labor Agreement by requiring an independent jobs coordinator, re-defining who qualifies as a Disadvantaged Worker, and adding penalties for noncompliance, so that Black residents actually benefit from these union jobs subsidized by the City.
- 7. Language Access:** 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 and Khmer interpretation without advance request at all City Council and Charter Commission meetings. Provide community based organizations who work with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) residents ongoing stipends to conduct outreach about the policy.
- 8. Senior and Youth Programming:** Increase funding for senior and youth development programs and supportive services through community-based organizations, community centers, public libraries, and parks in historically disinvested neighborhoods. Initiate the implementation of the AARP Liveable Cities Initiative that the City committed to over two years ago and has yet to implement.
- 9. Universal Legal Representation for Immigrants:** Renew and increase funding to the Long Beach Justice Fund to provide free universal legal representation to immigrant residents facing deportation regardless of their background.

ADOPT THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

The City's budget is a moral document that reflects our city's values and priorities. Adopting the People's Budget is more than just a shift in the way the City has done business--it is a pathway to ending anti-Blackness and structural racism in the City, undoing historical disinvestment that has continued for generations, and moving us closer towards a Long Beach that is safe and healthy for all.

The People's Budget campaign is led by Black Lives Matter LBC, the Sanctuary Long Beach Coalition, the Invest in Youth Campaign, the Language Access Coalition, the Housing Justice Coalition, and the Long Beach Gray Panthers.

EL PRESUPUESTO DEL PUEBLO – AÑO FISCAL 2021

Durante los últimos dos años, el presupuesto del pueblo ha obligado a tener conversaciones y acciones para equidad y justicia en el presupuesto de la ciudad. Debido a que se unieron los miembros negros, latinos, camboyanos, filipinos, blancos y otros miembros de la comunidad, Long Beach empezó a cambiar los patrones históricos de desinvertir en las comunidades de color. Unos ejemplos son fondos para acceso al idioma, un plan estratégico para jóvenes y representación legal universal para inmigrantes. Hemos comprobado que sabemos cómo hacer que nuestras comunidades estén seguras y saludables.



Hoy estamos en un punto crítico en la historia de nuestra ciudad y en la historia de nuestra nación. En medio de una pandemia y un levantamiento global, todos estamos atestiguando nuevamente a las opresiones sistémicas impulsadas por el racismo, el capitalismo y la supremacía blanca. A la criminalización que hace la policía a los negros, a la violencia hacia los cuerpos negros, a los desarrolladores codiciosos que urbanizan nuestros vecindarios y al desplazamiento de nuestros vecinos, nuestras comunidades dicen ¡ya basta! Ahora es el momento de efectuar el cambio audaz que pone a las vidas negras en el centro y que reduce todo tipo de daño, que prioriza a las comunidades, que invierte en servicios esenciales verdaderos y que vuelve a imaginar la seguridad de la comunidad.

Como alianza multicultural y multigeneracional, apelamos al alcalde Robert García, a los nueve concejales y al administrador de la ciudad Tom Modica a adoptar el presupuesto del pueblo para el año fiscal 2021.

La vida de los negros importa y nuestras comunidades no pueden esperar más.

1. DESINVERTIR DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE POLICÍA

Retirar el apoyo financiero a el Departamento de policía de Long Beach y así terminar su patrón de acosar a las comunidades de color de bajos ingresos y de criminalizar la pobreza. La policía no es la respuesta a las necesidades más urgentes de nuestras escuelas y comunidades, necesidades que incluyen trabajos, viviendas, el estar sin hogar, la salud y la inmigración. Cuando retiramos el apoyo financiero de la policía, reorientamos los recursos para que la gente negra, indígena y otra gente de color puedan tener vidas exitosas.

2. REINVERTIR EN LAS VIDAS NEGRAS Y LAS COMUNIDADES DE COLOR

Redistribuir los fondos y dirigir recursos adicionales consistentemente en las prioridades dirigidas por la comunidad que crean buena salud, oportunidad, comunidad y justicia:

1. Seguridad comunitaria recreada sin el terror de la policía y que está fundado en la justicia restaurativa y en el empoderamiento de los negros:

-  Invertir en la unificación de familias negras, respuestas a crisis que son dirigidas por la comunidad, reducción de violencia y estrategias de prevención fuera de la policía;
-  Proveer reparaciones a las gente negra/afroamericana de la era de la guerra contra las drogas y a las víctimas del uso de perfiles raciales y la violencia de la policía y sus familias;
-  Priorizar a las familias que han sido impactadas directamente por la guerra contra las drogas en toda oportunidad social y económica, en particular en la propiedad equitativa del cultivo y la distribución en la industria de cannabis.
-  Invertir en eventos de restauración dirigidos por la comunidad para apoyar conexiones más fuertes entre los vecinos.

EL PRESUPUESTO DEL PUEBLO – AÑO FISCAL 2021

REINVERTIR EN LAS VIDAS NEGRAS Y LAS COMUNIDADES DE COLOR

- 2. Viviendas económicas y de apoyo:** Establecer una fuente dedicada de fondos para viviendas de apoyo con servicios completos de apoyo para los residentes que están sin hogar o que están al punto de estar sin hogar.
- 3. Derecho a un abogado para todo inquilino:** Establecer el Derecho a un abogado para proveer recursos y representación legal a los inquilinos necesitados sin importar su estado migratorio, lo cual eficazmente reducirá los desalojos, prevendrá el estar sin hogar, preservará las viviendas económicas y estabilizará las comunidades.
- 4. División de viviendas en alquiler en toda la ciudad:** Establecer una división de viviendas en alquiler dentro del Departamento de Servicios de Desarrollo para comunicar con tanto los inquilinos como los dueños, publicar boletines legales y actualizaciones, ejecutar las leyes de protección al inquilino, centralizar la información y los formularios y administrar un programa en toda la ciudad del derecho a un abogado para los inquilinos.
- 5. Consejos de salud comunitaria:** Establecer fondos para Consejos de salud comunitaria en los vecindarios para implementar una respuesta comunitaria a crisis para emergencias de salud mental, seguridad y bienestar.
- 6. Capacitación laboral:** Priorizar la capacitación laboral gratis y oportunidades de trabajo para los residentes negros, sin importar su historial o nivel de educación. Revisar los Acuerdos Laborales para proyectos de la ciudad al requerir un coordinador de trabajos independientes, cambiar la definición de quienes califican para ser trabajador desamparado, agregar sanciones de incumplimiento para que los residentes negros en verdad se beneficien de estos trabajos de sindicatos que son subsidiados por la ciudad.
- 7. Acceso al idioma:** Dedicar suficiente personal para implementar completamente la política de acceso al idioma (LAP, por sus siglas en inglés) de la ciudad consistentemente en toda la ciudad y por fin crear una cultura de justicia de lenguaje. Tener servicios internos permanentes de interpretación y traducción. Proveer interpretación y traducción más rápida y de más alta calidad. Proveer interpretación en español y Khmer sin aviso previo en toda reunión del Concejo municipal y Comisión Chárter. Proveer a las organizaciones comunitarias que trabajan con los residentes de competencia limitada en inglés (LEP, por sus siglas en inglés) estipendios continuos para hacer alcance sobre la política.
- 8. Programas para personas de tercera edad y jóvenes:** Aumentar los fondos para programas de desarrollo y servicios de apoyo para las personas de tercera edad y los jóvenes mediante organizaciones comunitarias, centros comunitarios, bibliotecas públicas y parques en los vecindarios que históricamente han sido desinvertidos. Empezar la implementación de la iniciativa de ciudades saludables del AARP al que se comprometió la ciudad hace más de dos años y que todavía no ha implementado.
- 9. Representación legal universal para inmigrantes:** Renovar y aumentar los fondos al Fondo de Justicia de Long Beach para proveer representación legal universal gratis a los residentes inmigrantes que enfrentan deportación, independientemente de su historial.

ADOPTAR EL PRESUPUESTO DEL PUEBLO

El presupuesto de la ciudad es un documento moral que refleja los valores y las prioridades de la ciudad. El adoptar el Presupuesto del Pueblo es más que un cambio en la forma en la que opera la ciudad—es un camino hacia el poder terminar con la anti-negritud y el racismo estructural en la ciudad, un camino hacia el deshacer la desinversión histórica que ha continuado por generaciones y un camino que nos acerca más a un Long Beach que es seguro y saludable para todos.

El Presupuesto del Pueblo es organizado por Black Lives Matter LBC, la coalición de Santuario Long Beach, la campaña Invest in Youth, la coalición del Acceso al idioma, la coalición de Justicia de Vivienda, y las Panteras Grises de Long Beach.

