

**From:** Padric Gleason Gonzales [mailto:padric.gleason@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 4:46 PM

**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** Public comment for agenda item #16 for 9/15 City Council meeting re: budget

**-EXTERNAL-**

During your discussions of Community Choice Aggregation, you voted against proceeding because, as Councilwoman Price noted, "\$35,000 is a big price tag for just submitting an application." And yet you continue to fund the Long Beach Police Department at a price tag of over \$500 million per year, you approve multi-million-dollar settlements for police misconduct and city damages, and you regularly approve one-off expenses for city vehicles priced at over \$100,000 each. It's time to put your money where your mouth is and invest in community health, renewable energy, and small business development instead of mindlessly approving big-ticket purchases for police unions and fossil fuel interests.

Padric Gleason Gonzales

**From:** Todd Hawke [mailto:todd@hawkecorp.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 4:46 PM

**To:** Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>

**Cc:** Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>

**Subject:** Mayor Garcia's Proposed Fund To Litigate Against Landlords - Line item In Budget

**Importance:** High

**-EXTERNAL-**

Mayor and City Council,

My wife and I took every penny of savings and bet on Long Beach real estate. When I look a back over the past 18 years at our journey I expected challenges created by market changes and economic storms. At the end of the day, this is part of being an entrepreneur and with adversity brings strength and resilience. We have experienced two real estate cycles and barely hung on through the last banking crisis and downturn. We started with our own money and have made it work. No help or handouts!!

Long Beach use to have a Mayor and Council who were champions for all who lived here. For the majority of you, that ship has sailed.

Mayor Garcia, I have a question for you. When you attended a private lunch at 555 Steakhouse a cost of \$500 per head as a donation to you and you told the group of investors and real estate owners that **“you valued gentrification, the amazing work that we had all done to better the City and the support we as a group gave to the community”**. **What happened to that view?** Your proposal for a legal fund to litigate against landlords shows that you have taken a side. The move to slide this into your budget as a line item, rather than have it presented for public comment and Council discussion is another underhanded political move.

I've spent enough time at Council meetings and have met directly several times with Council members to know that all major and controversial decisions have already been negotiated behind the political scene.

Don't you all get it that the general market volatility creates peaks and valleys? In the investment world it's called "survival of the fittest".

I've watched Council pass legislation that has only made the tenant landlord situation more contentious when there was always a real solution available to deal with the real problem. At the end of the day, the majority of you have no understanding or want to understand the real estate investment business, nor are you interested in a solution that doesn't have a political "chip" to be won.

You have pushed so many away who were so enthusiastic about Long Beach and its future. I am certainly one of them.

Adopting the Mayor's fund to support litigation against landlords is shameful. I trust common sense will prevail and that a truly productive open discussion could be engaged in whereby a fair and equitable solution could be found.

Todd Hawke  
Long Beach Resident and Property Owner

**From:** ayanna holmes [mailto:kamilahholmes@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 15, 2020 2:29 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** City Council Meeting-Budget

**-EXTERNAL-**

I am disappointed with the actions of the City Council at last week's Council meeting and their refusal to receive and file the presentation from the People's Budget Coalition on the People's Budget Proposal FY 2021. I am dismayed at Council person Zendejas' cowardice in her withdrawal of her second of the motion and refusal of any other council member to provide a replacement second.

The LBPD's operation frequently lies in direct opposition to community needs and desires for community safety, especially as it relates to black and brown people. Long Beach needs different resources and programs that promote community safety that don't include more policing which often does more harm than good.

LBPD had adopted an us(police) vs them(the community) philosophy both in their training and operation that is harmful to the community. The council needs to treat the elimination of police violence as a priority and immediately commit to creating preventative solutions and syphon off the bloated police budget. LBPD needs to be defunded and those resources funneled to orgs that are more beneficial to the community.

Sincerely,

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Kamilah Holmes

**From:** Xinyu Lin [mailto:info@sg.actionnetwork.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>  
**Subject:** Adopt the People's Budget

**-EXTERNAL-**

Monique De La Garza,

Honorable Mayor, City Council and City Manager,

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 asking that you adopt the People's Budget for Fiscal Year 2021. Black Lives Matter, and all our communities cannot wait any longer.

#### DIVEST FROM THE 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.

#### 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:

-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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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.

Do the right thing, adopt the People's Budget.

Xinyu Lin