



Community Impact Statement to Reallocate Funding from LAPD

Council File 20-0692

Hermon Neighborhood Council

We are in tumultuous and unprecedented times. As a result, we need urgent and unprecedented action. The Hermon Neighborhood Council hereby requests the LA City Council increase Neighborhood Councils' annual budget to \$100,000 for the upcoming fiscal year commencing July 2020. It is feasible, fair, long overdue and in tune with recent reallocation of funds away from the LAPD and into the community.

The People of our communities have taken to the streets to demand systemic transformation of how law enforcement and institutions treat Black people and other communities affected by our long history of white supremacy in America. We have demanded that systemic brutality at the hands of the police be addressed by redirecting funds away from the LAPD and instead reinvesting them into community-based programs, jobs, youth-enrichment activities, and other basic needs.

As a response, Council Members Price, Martinez, Rodriguez and Wesson introduced a motion that reads, in part, "There is no doubt that communities of color suffer disproportionately from negative interactions with the police. Crime exists where neighborhoods are destabilized because of a system of institutions that produce economic inequity and underfunded schools. But policing is not responsible for, nor can it solve, unemployment, poor housing and concentrated poverty... We need to produce a society designed to meet people's needs."

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The motion calls for the City Council to “Instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance from the Mayor, work to identify at least \$100-\$150 million of cuts from the Los Angeles Police Department’s budget”. The motion calls for “**recommendations on reinvesting these funds back into disadvantaged communities and communities of color.**” Our South LA Area neighborhoods are ground-zero for systematic disadvantage, disinvestment, and police brutality.

The LAPD budget currently stands at over 53% of the city budget accounting for \$1,857,330,549 (1.85 billion), while the Neighborhood Council Fund has been cut from [\\$4.22 million to \\$3.22 million](#), a drastic cut of nearly 25% to an already minimal budget. This decrease in funding will no doubt act as a barrier, limiting neighborhood councils’ ability to do the tangible work in the communities they serve, and will limit their ability to engage and assist their stakeholders.

Neighborhood councils are the most comprehensive systems of self-governance in the country. We live in our communities and listen closely to our stakeholders in largely open-forum discussions, we promote further community-involvement and voter registration, and we address the issues in our communities before they become unmanageable. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate, regardless of race, gender, citizenship, social status, or other potential barriers.

Funding neighborhood councils is funding food pantries, youth literacy, sports, recreational programs, and enrichment programs where they’re needed most. It’s funding the healing of our neighborhoods through mental health services, violence intervention and prevention, and other specialized programs the councils know our

communities need. It's funding local community park activities, public schools, and after-school programs through Neighborhood Purpose Grants and Community Improvement projects. Funding neighborhood councils is a step towards reducing crime, trauma, and unrest.

Our request is that we be allowed to continue this important work without a reduction in resources, and instead, we ask that the City reinvest in its Neighborhood Council program and thus its communities – and in doing so, work to build a stronger Los Angeles.

In service,

Hermon Neighborhood Council

YES

NO

ABSTAIN