County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

June 18, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ISSUES RAISED AT PUBLIC BUDGET HEARINGS
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED - 3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Receive and file the attached report containing issues raised at the public budget hearings.

PROPOSED/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Your Board may wish to consider these issues raised at the public budget hearings during Budget Deliberations. Since you will be addressing these items at that time, I am recommending that you receive and file all issues presented.

Attached is a compilation of issues raised at the public budget hearings by oral (Attachment I) and written testimony (Attachment II) including individual Supervisor's and departmental requests for additional funding for various programs.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

No fiscal impact.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:DIL:SK
EC:CL:ljp

Attachments

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller

budget hearings.bl

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 9, 2007
ORAL TESTIMONY

SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Bruce Saltzer, Executive Director	Association of Community Human Service Agencies	Probation • Additional funding for the Suitable Placement Program to place youths in foster homes rather than in probation camps. • Additional funding to hire more Deputy Probation Officers (DPO) and management staff to handle increased youth workload.
Charles Rich, Executive Director	Association of Community Human Services	Probation • Additional funding for the Suitable Placement Program to assist DPOs in completing their youth case plans. Only receive approximately 12 percent of youth case plans that they should have. • Current DPOs are over-burdened with youth cases and unable to complete their work in a timely period. • Recommend shortening the timeline for youth to return home, as DPOs are unable to visit their home for approval for the youth to return home. • Not enough management to produce policies and procedures for DPOs.
Jameel Ali	Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721	Health Services • Request more allocations for lead therapists, as respiratory therapists regularly take on this role due to understaffing, and there is potential for retirement for many long-term therapists.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Paul Schmidt	SEIU Local 721	Health Services • Request increasing the allocations of budgeted positions to the third level classification for critical care specialists. Lack of increased allocation restricts bulk of their positions to a noncompetitive wage, and will lead to inability to fill positions and attract talent.
Deborah Myles	SEIU Local 721	Health Services • Request allocations for Senior and Lead Respiratory Care Practitioner (RCP) positions to provide competitive wage and qualified new hires.
Natalie Ambrose	Area Agency on Aging Council	Community and Senior Services • Primarily discussed the need for County funding for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) programs. • Department's function of leading and working between agencies is needed to meet changing needs of the senior population.
Joshua Rutkoff	SEIU	Health Services • Request that positions be allocated properly with the reclassed RCP series. • Request creation of budgeted items for the newly created Healthcare Interpreter classification.
Marvin Schachter	Area Agency on Aging Council, County Commission on Aging, and American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)	Community and Senior Services • $1.0 million request for Meals on Wheels program. • $3.6 million request for Transportation program. • $1.0 million request for staff work to coordinate volunteers, raise money, and improve work.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 9, 2007
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Bob Erlenbusch, Executive Director	Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Concern that $80.0 million of $100.0 million funded is only one-time money; ask for funding to be made permanent. • The Homeless Prevention Initiative is one of the last places to obtain funding for supportive services, as the federal government, through Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is walking away from funding those services.
Rachel Feldstein, Associate Director	New Directions	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Her agency depends on the fund to provide services to over 700 homeless veterans. • Need consistent operating funds to meet changing needs and increasing costs.
Denise Michelle Torres	Community Stakeholder	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • A homeless vet who expressed her gratitude for the County's efforts on homelessness.
Susan Burton	A New Way of Life; and Board Member, Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Need to examine requirements needed for homeless to access services, have multi-year funding, and measure the results of its efforts.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Ruth Mayfield	A New Way of Life	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Excessive documents required for homeless to access basic services. • Funding and contracts need to be examined to see if they disqualify populations that are in dire need.
Susie Shannon, Executive Director	Poverty Matters	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Need to provide additional funding for housing and supportive services to get people off Skid Row.
Gilbert Saldate	Tri-City Mental Health; Board Member, Coalition to End Hunger and Homelessness; and East San Gabriel Homeless Consortium	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Program needs ongoing funding, and it will be hard to sustain projects using one-time funding. If these dollars are cut, these efforts are wasted.
Carrie Gatlin	Eimago Inc., Union Rescue Mission	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Needs to continually support and fund public-private partnerships.

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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Walter Johnson	Community Stakeholder	Homeless and Housing Prevention Initiative • Additional funds needed to prevent homelessness before it occurs by providing screening, shelter, and guidance for people released from County jails and hospitals and do not have a home to return to. Ensure appropriate housing and supportive services are met prior to discharge. Sheriff • Need to give Sheriff the requested amount of custody positions to prevent homicides within jails.
Mariko Kahn	Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON)	Mental Health • Need to fund indigent services and better access to services by improving linguistic accessibility. • Concern that as agency provides language access to its populations, reimbursement funding is decreasing, leading to agency to take hits for providing services without reimbursements. Health Services • $500,000 request to hire healthcare interpreters, whose classification was approved but unfunded. • In 2002, Board gave instructions to integrate cultural and linguistic competency standards, but this has not been accomplished due to insufficient funding. • Express concern about the services available to the Asian Pacific Islander community.

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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Lawrence Lue	Executive Director, Chinatown Service Center Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council	Children and Family Services • Request increased funding for Asian Pacific Islander Countywide Family Preservation Network. • Requests reimbursement for travel expenses when serving clients. • $200,000 to expand funding to the Asian and Pacific Islander Older Adults Taskforce.
Melinda Bird, Senior Counsel	American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)	Sheriff • Improve inmate-to-deputy staffing ratio to reduce violent assaults in jail. • Downsize the jail system by bringing stakeholders in the criminal justice system to address inefficiencies and explore alternatives to incarceration. • Fund a Population Management Study. • Suggest supervised release as an alternative to incarceration. • Many detainees are disabled - if they are housed in community facilities with enhanced supervision, they can qualify for Social Security and Medi-Cal benefits, instead of spending County money to keep them in jail. County Counsel • Possible violation of State Penal Code for continual arraignments past the two days maximum period. • Stop overcharging families of inmates for telephone calls. Collect call rates from jails are up to four times the rates in local communities.

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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Lee Baca, Sheriff	Sheriff	Sheriff • $10.0 million and 175 positions (mostly nurses) to expand inmate medical program. • $14.5 million and 109 positions to acquire 954 more beds to eliminate jail overcrowding. • Additional $3.039 million to appropriately staff the gang emergency operations center, designed to coordinate various aspects of gang suppression. • $2.7 million for the Unincorporated Community Violent Crime Enforcement, specifically for overtime during the critical summer months. • $1.5 million for psychologists and support personnel to provide psychological services. • 226 positions for continued expansion of the department. • $416,000 for the Regional Community Policing Institute, to train deputies on community-based policing. • $1.0 million and 10 positions for the Community Oriented Multi-Agency Narcotics Team (COMNET) • Request cost offset for new recruit training costs, which were traditionally absorbed by the department. • Request funding for equipment such as weapons, uniforms, support communication systems (especially management information systems), as well as a fifth academy. • Request cost offset for unfunded leave costs.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Steve Cooley, District Attorney	District Attorney (DA)	District Attorney • Board requests D.A., Sheriff, Public Defender, and other agencies in the Court system to examine the issues behind overly long pre-trial detention, as well as consolidating cases under one jurisdiction for more efficiency, under the auspices of Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee Mission Statement (CCJCC). • Request staff required for new courts opened. • Request a squad of investigators and an attorney to combat identity theft. • Request an additional captain at the Bureau of Investigations. • Request funding for Lifer Hearings. • Request funding for the seven investigators needed in the Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN) program.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Mr. Robert Taylor, Chief Probation Officer	Probation Department	Probation • Board previously requested for his unmet needs assessment for field services. Department needs 313 positions for the Adult side, 50 positions for Placement, 120 positions for Juvenile Placement staff, and 92 positions for Field Juvenile staff. • Requested an addition of 10 Developing Increased Safety through Arms Reduction Management (DISARM) deputies to catch high risk probationers that may possess weapons. • Currently has 30 vacancies in the Placement Unit that needs to be filled. Need an additional 50 positions in the Placement Unit to meet increasing workload due to an increased number of people arrested, with 98 percent of people processed in the criminal justice system placed on probation. Workload is an issue that dissuades employees from working in Placement. • Need to reduce to the current DPO to probationer ratio of 50 to 1 to a more manageable 23 to 1. • Request $1.5 million in Neural Behavior Screening to develop an assessment tools for screening juveniles entering Juvenile Hall and provide services at the point of entry.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 18, 2007
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Gloria Molina, Supervisor	First District	2007-08 Proposed Budget Funding for the following: • Sheriff - Increase patrol and parking enforcement in unincorporated areas. - Continue the Sheriff-Summer Gang Suppression Program. • Public Library • Parks and Recreation • Unincorporated Areas - Publication of community guides and websites. - Graffiti removal. Identify funding to address ongoing needs of our healthcare delivery system. Identify a stream of funding for programs targeting at-risk youth. Expand child care facilities and establish a mechanism to create a permanent fund for expansions.
Yvonne B. Burke, Supervisor	Second District	2007-08 Proposed Budget Funding for the following: • Health Services - School-based methamphetamine program. - Healthcare interpreter services. - Smoking cessation programs for priority populations. - Rehabilitate healthcare clinics. • Mental Health - Rehabilitate Mental Health Centers. • Community and Senior Services - Elimination of waiting lists for senior citizen meals programs. - Additional staff for Willowbrook Senior Center.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 18, 2007
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		• Consumer Affairs - Address financial abuse complaints from elderly consumers. • Public Library • Parks and Recreation • Sheriff - Information Technology (IT) Program Manager. - Reinstatement of service area lieutenants in high crime areas. • Public Safety • Regional Planning • Human Resources - Employee Performance Management System. • Arts Commission • Museum of Natural History Restoration of Elder Abuse Prevention Program sites countywide. Restoration of funds for Public Private Partnerships. Current and future required County matches for Healthy Families and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) Programs separate and apart from current Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Augmentation of Self-Help Legal Access Centers in high need areas. Expansion of identity theft programs at the departments of Consumer Affairs, Sheriff, and District Attorney. Implementation of English as a Second Language Program for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 18, 2007
WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		Continued support for initiatives to end homelessness. Expansion of County employment and career training opportunities for youth. Reallocation of funds in Community Development Division to finance "Red Team Task Force" to serve as a one-stop service center to expedite development projects in low-income areas; and funding to restore unincorporated area neighborhoods.
Zev Yaroslavsky, Supervisor	Third District	2007-08 Proposed Budget Sufficient revenue to sustain operations of the County's public hospitals and clinics. Funding to reopen adolescent psychiatric inpatient beds at the Olive View Medical Center. Funding to support Alcohol and Drug Program Administration outreach programs for crystal methamphetamine addiction for hard-to-reach and/or underserved populations. Funding to establish and operate a pediatric trauma service. Consideration of funding to support tobacco cessation programs to reduce the rate of smoking among adults in the County. Funding to support the Department of Regional Planning request related to salary equity.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 18, 2007
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		Ongoing funding to sustain and link specialized supportive services to existing and new permanent housing for homeless individuals. Consideration of funding for the Workforce Investment Act Adult Special Needs population to ensure the sustainability of provider programs. Consideration of funding to reinstate Youth Jobs, an employment program for youth living in a California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) household to transition into self-sufficient adulthood. Funding to meet California Coastal Commission requirements imposed on the Will Rogers Coastline Deck project. Adequate funding for Beaches and Harbors capital improvement projects. Consideration of increased funding for escalating retiree health costs.
Don Knabe, Supervisor	Fourth District	2007-08 Proposed Budget Funding for the following: • Animal Care and Control - Additional positions and upgrade classifications. • Arts Commission • Beaches and Harbors - Unfunded beach capital improvement projects, including facility upgrades, replacements and beach re-nourishment. - Marina facilities and projects.

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		• Chief Administrative Office - Newsletter to serve all unincorporated communities. - Safely Surrendered Infant Program. • Child Support Services • Children and Family Services - Various foster youth programs and enhancement of post-adoption services. • Community and Senior Services - Enhance transportation options, and meal programs for seniors. - Expansion of summer job programs for youth. • Community Development Commission - Community Business Revitalization Program in Whittier. - Community Center at Harbor Hills. • Consumer Affairs - Additional positions to support special investigations, Small Claims Court Advisor Program, increased workload, financial crimes against seniors, homeowner fraud, and strategic plan. - At no additional cost, create mechanism to set-aside savings to replace obsolete computers. • Coroner • District Attorney • Fire - Capital improvements on Catalina Island. - Lifeguard staffing, operations, facilities, and equipment. • Health Services - Keep Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center open as a County hospital. • Homeland Security

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		• Human Relations Commission - Zero hour school programs. - Youth Human Relations Leadership Camp. - Prevent violence in transitioning communities. • Mental Health • Military and Veterans Affairs • Museum of Natural History • Office of Public Safety • Ombudsman • Parks and Recreation • Probation - Enhance "Suitable Placement" unit. - Reduce Deputy Probation Officers' (DPO) caseloads. - Developing Increased Safety through Arms Reduction Management (DISARM) Program. - Operation Read Program. - School-Based Supervision Program. • Public Library • Public Social Services • Public Works • Regional Planning • Sheriff - Reopen Sybil Brand Jail. - Unincorporated area patrol service. - Town Sheriff Program in unincorporated areas. - Expand Gang Alternative Program (GAP). • Unincorporated Areas
Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor	Fifth District	2007-08 Proposed Budget Funding for the following: • Animal Care and Control • Chief Administrative Office - Community Connections Guides. • Children and Family Services

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 18, 2007
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		• Community and Senior Services - Facilities upgrades. - Senior Meals. • District Attorney - Summer Gang Suppression. • Health Services - South Valley Expansion ($5,358,000) - Antelope Valley Health Center (AVHC) Prenatal Clinic Care Expansion ($1,764,000) - Lake Los Angeles/Littlerock Expansion ($1,591,000) - High Desert Infusion Clinic ($2,769,000) • Internal Services - Cooling Centers Emergency Power ($120,000 dual feed; $200,000 stand-by generator - for 11 designated centers) • Parks and Recreation - $2.5 million for Arcadia pool refurbishment. - Soccer fields for the Antelope Valley. - Ongoing money for park maintenance. • Probation - 10 DISARM DPOs. - Additional DPOs for suitable placement. • Public Health • Public Library - Castaic Library. • Public Social Services - $200,000 to include Community Development Commission (CDC) in the Data Warehouse Project. • Regional Planning

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		• Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk - East San Gabriel Valley Satellite Office. • Sheriff - Altadena Sheriff Station. - Additional staff for Unincorporated Area patrols.
Janice Y. Fukai, Alternate Public Defender	Alternate Public Defender	Unmet Needs Costs of $3,817,000 for: • Funding for eight positions to handle the increase in homicide, drug court, and juvenile delinquency cases. ($1,152,000) • Funding for seven positions to begin implementation of the department's DNA program. ($1,333,000) • Funding for six positions to supervise attorneys at the Central and the new Alhambra Branch, and to handle the increase in data systems management and ensure compliance with Auditor-Controller policies. ($1,132,000) • Funding for increases in services and supplies. ($200,000)
Pastor Herrera, Jr., Director	Consumer Affairs	Unmet Needs Costs of $6.1 million and 59 positions, with the highest priorities as follows: • Funding for five positions to assist seniors against financial crimes. ($421,000) • Funding for five positions for Identity Theft Unit. ($400,000) • Funding for three administrative positions. ($245,000) • Funding for one position for the Real Estate Fraud and Information Program. ($80,000) • Funding for Strategic Plan and *Performance Counts!* Consultant. ($50,000)

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MAY 18, 2007
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
		• Implementation of a funding mechanism to replace obsolete computers.
Margaret Donnellan Todd, County Librarian	Public Library	Unmet Needs Costs of $1.01 billion for: • Funding for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Facilities Upgrades. ($3.0 million) • Funding for Customer Self-Service Implementation. ($8.1 million) • Funding for books and library material. ($13.9 million) • Funding for book distribution facility. ($2.3 million) • Funding for Enhanced Bookmobile Program. ($2.1 million) • Funding for Book Detection System Upgrades. ($0.2 million) • Funding for information technology upgrades. ($2.9 million) • Funding for Youth Services Enhancements. ($0.2 million) • Funding for facility refurbishments. ($15.0 million) • Funding for Library Facilities Replacement. ($963.0 million)
Gordon Stefenhagen, Chair	Library Commission	• Thank the Board for ongoing support, current building projects, as well as $4.5 million contribution in the 2005-06 budget for the Integrated Library System (ILS). • Continued need for support of new and renovated facilities to deal with service to new growth areas and upkeep.
Cynthia D. Banks, Director	Community and Senior Services	Unmet Needs Costs of $5.6 million for: • Funding to support planning and coordination efforts to provide services to the senior population. ($1.0 million)

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		• Funding to establish a transportation network that supports senior needs. ($3.6 million) • Funding to reduce the number of seniors on waiting lists for nutrition programs, and to partially offset increased costs among service providers. ($1.0 million)
Robin S. Toma, Executive Director	Human Relations Commission	Unmet Needs Costs of $950,000 for: • Funding of two positions for the Building Bridges Initiative. ($513,000) • Funding of one position for the Youth Human Relations Leadership Camp. ($334,000) • Funding of one position for Conflict Prevention in Transitioning Communities. ($103,000)
Bruce W. McClendon, Director	Regional Planning	Priority Needs of $3,275,000 for: • Funding to close the pay gap with other agencies. ($1,554,000) • Funding of three positions to update community and area plans. ($353,000) • Funding of seven positions to finance staffing needs to provide adequate personnel and community-based planning service. ($556,000) • Funding of one position to conduct community-based public hearings on pending cases. ($300,000) • Funding for Updated Environmental Process and Procedure System. ($200,000) • Funding of one position for Public Hearing Room Technology Upgrade. ($220,000) • Funding of one position for resource management, training and development. ($92,000)

PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
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SPEAKER	DEPARTMENT/AFFILIATION	TOPIC
Becky Dennison, Director Pete White, Director	Los Angeles Community Action Network	• Urge expansion for the Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI), so that the current $100.0 million of one-time funding becomes ongoing. • Expansion is critical, since Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has moved away from funding ongoing supportive services. • Funding should be released through prompt Request for Proposal (RFP) processes.
Vickie Donaldson, Director of Homeless Services	Watts Labor Community Action Committee	• Request expansion of funding for the HPI. • Change one-time only appropriation to ongoing support for homeless services. • Support is critical due to federal funding cuts through HUD.
Leslie Croom, Community Organizer	United Coalition East Prevention Project	• Request expansion of funding for the HPI, so that the current $80.0 million in one-time funding becomes ongoing. • Funding critical due to cuts in HUD funding.