



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
1.		Favor	Michael A Keshish	Please
		Oppose	Janet Asante	
			Megan Castillo	
			Mili Kakani	
			Olivia Shields	
			Rachel L Meisner	
			Siouxsie Calderon	The PB HWY 138 Safe Roads Initiative needs LA COUNTY VISION ZERO to assess and recommend safer roads in our rural community of SPA 1. If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety. he seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. LA COUNTY VISION ZERO informed us about their program and we need them to help us assess safety concerns in rural areas in SPA 1 due to the high number of traffic accidents, injuries and deaths on PB HWY 138. See flyer attached.
			Siouxsie Calderon	The PB HWY 138 Safe Roads Initiative needs LA COUNTY VISION ZERO to assess and recommend safer roads in our rural community of SPA 1. If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety. he seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. LA COUNTY VISION ZERO informed us about their program and we need them to help us assess safety concerns in rural areas in SPA 1 due to the high number of traffic accidents, injuries and deaths on PB HWY 138. See flyer attached.
Tauheedah Shakur				



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1.		Other	Alexandra J Lopez	<p>I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. Just in the Second District unincorporated communities of about 200,000 people, there are about 40 traffic deaths each year. That's the highest in the County and countless studies have shown that those crashes disproportionately kill Black and Brown Angelenos. The County has a Vision Zero Action Plan and 15 of the 20 corridors for pedestrian injury and fatalities are in the Second District.</p> <p>The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address. The traffic violence crisis will take much more. Yet, the Recommended Budget as zero dollars dedicated to Vision Zero. If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest a lot more into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p>
			Danielle Guillen	<p>Hello, my name is Danielle Guillen and I am a resident of SD1. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition. Immigrants are an indelible, prominent part of this county, one that cannot be overlooked when it comes to the problems our community faces or the solutions we can all put in place. County supervisors must respond to and include immigrants because we are a significant part of their constituency. We contribute much to this community, whether through tax revenues and economic activity, or through policy ideas that can help this county solve the truly big problems it faces.</p> <p>Our response to the recommended budget is based on our understanding that despite our priorities being mostly left out of it, we must continue to engage in the legislative advocacy, organizing and communications areas until the county budget reflects the values and priorities of immigrants. We reiterate our main areas of focus in our county budget priorities: language access, housing, worker justice, and stronger social safety net programs for immigrants. The La county Board of Supervisors must ensure that the programs that serve immigrants receive adequate funding in the 2024-25 county budget.</p> <p>We will continue to work with supervisors to find avenues to incorporate immigrant priorities in the budget as it exists now.</p> <p>Sincerely, Danielle</p>
			Lena Mallett	
			Redd Martinez	
			Saul Campos	
		Tyrique Shipp		
Item Total	15			



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2.	1	Favor	Amanda Ramos	
			Brent Daugherty	Everyday I take my daughter to school by bike. And everyday I see cars racing, running stop signs, and generally driving recklessly putting our lives at risk. My family routinely has conversations about whether we should continue biking because we see so many dangerous situations and close calls that we worry something might happen. These "accidents" happen all the time because we don't have safe infrastructure alternatives to cars.
			Christian Rodriguez	Please. I live across the street from a school and drivers are always driving recklessly and endangering children. I get around by public transportation and walking and it's the same everywhere. We must make the streets safe for everyone! Safety should be our top priority thank you.
			Colin T Bogart	I urge you to fully fund the Vision Zero Action Plan. Vision Zero works, but only if it's funded and the county is committed to implementation. The amount being requested by Public Works is the bare minimum needed. It's worth every penny to invest in preventing serious injuries and fatalities. Please include the \$7.5 million for Vision Zero in the budget. Thank you.
			Jeanne Kuntz	Please make sure that the original intent of Vision Zero Los Angeles is carried out. The funds that were allocated for these projects will serve all of our citizens in terms of quality of life and safety. Eventually there will even be financial gains in terms of better health and job availability. Thank you
			Leticia C Gomez	
			Michael A Keshish	PLEASE YES
			Narayan Gopinathan	Dear Board of Supervisors, As a concerned resident, I urge you to prioritize the inclusion of vision zero spending in the County budget. Last year more than 300 residents of LA County were killed on the roads, which means that almost every day somebody was killed in traffic violence. These lives matter and they are not disposable; and these deaths are preventable. The government must implement the necessary spending to ensure that traffic violence is prevented. The budget for vision zero in LA County of \$7.5 million is necessary, and it should be reinstated. The value of a statistical life estimated by USEPA is \$7.4 million, and this means that if these upgrades save even one life, it is worth it, both morally and financially. That being the case, we should ensure that these fund are allocated for Vision Zero.
			Sandy Baker	We are now in a major deficit and the last thing we need is more money going towards street safety when we can't cover basics like Education, and health resources for our people in the city. Please cut all funding for vision zero. It serves no purpose.
		Xochitl Cobarruvias	I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition.	
		Oppose	Arlene Moreno	



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2.	1	Oppose	BRANDON CURRAN	If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.
			Brandon Flores	Vision Zero is critical to keep in the budget and expand in order to improve the livability of everyone in the county. People should not feel the need to drive a car to get around safely, and the more people out on the streets on foot or bikes/scooters/etc the better it is in numerous ways, including land use, infrastructure, the environment, public health and safety, and cost.
			Brett W Hollenbeck	I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.
			David L Tran	As a resident of the San Fernando Valley, I am deeply concerned about the LA County CEO's Budget Proposal excluding the \$7.5M required to fund LA County's Vision Zero Plan. Furthermore, Measure HLA was approved with a resounding majority, demonstrating that the majority in LA want safer streets in the form of dedicated bus lanes, Class IV bike lanes, and improved pedestrian protections from cars and separated pedestrian walkways, among other things. Please provide this bare minimum funding to the Department of Public Works (DPW) to jumpstart the implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan. Traffic violence cannot continue any longer, and we must prepare for the 2028 Olympics. Do we want to show the world that we are still a car-infested city or a world-class city making significant strides toward improving its multimodality and transportation equity for all its citizens (like Paris, which is set to host the 2024 Olympics)? We owe it to those lost in traffic violence, regardless if the city is undergoing a difficult process balancing a tight budget. Funding must be found for this program's implementation; I plead to the LA County BOS to consider the significance in the thousands of lives it will save and the positive optics it will provide for any BOS member's reelection campaign.



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2.	1	Oppose	Dominic Bendinelli	The removal of the Vision Zero budget is very concerning at a time when traffic violence is increasing! I want to be able to walk outside with my children and not have to fear for our lives. Please consider the health and safety of your constituency before passing the 24-25 budget.
			Edith L Carrillo	I'm here to support my local pool, Jesse Owens swimming, because after the pandemic kids are struggling a lot and swimming keeps them out of the streets and gives them opportunity to have more chances to get into a good education, in the future, thank you.
			Erin Hoops	I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. The city of LA just passed HLA and the rest of the county agrees. WE ARE TIRED OF PEOPLE DYING ON OUR STREETS! Vision Zero won't happen without real work and work won't happen without real funding.
			Esteban J Gast	I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.
			Ian Lundy	It is critical that the budget take steps to fund vision zero improvements that save lives, improve general health, and mitigate climate. Please fund vision zero, honor your commitments.
			Jacob Chuslo	I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. - If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.



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2.	1	Oppose	Jake Whitney	<p>I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis.</p> <p>If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p>
			Janet Asante	
			Jonah Kanner	<p>I am writing to request that LA county fund the Vision Zero action plan.</p> <p>Traffic violence is a serious problem in LA county. If we want to eliminate deaths of pedestrians and cyclists, then we need a commitment with real funding to make our streets safer. I have been deeply disappointed by the failure of LA county to implement the bicycle master plan, which would have prevented many, many collisions. Now, it seems the county is choosing to let more people die, but defunding the vision zero plan, as well. These choices cause injuries and deaths.</p> <p>Please fund the Vision Zero plan, and confront the serious problem of injuries and deaths due to traffic violence in LA County.</p>
			kaly trezos	<p>- As a resident of the unincorporated county area of San Gabriel, I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with all necessary investments in executing a successful plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis.</p> <p>- If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest in Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p> <p>-Let the County show the way to make our streets safe and our communities welcoming to pedestrians and businesses.</p> <p>Kaly Trezos</p>



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2.	1	Oppose	Keith Morrison	If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.
			Kyeong Hoon Jung	I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. According to our Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, in the Patterns in Mortality Among Los Angeles County Residents from January 1 – June 30 of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 report, one of the consistent leading causes of death for our residents ages 0-29 is by moving vehicle crashes. We should be working towards protecting the young and vulnerable from easily preventable deaths.
			Matthew Finlayson	We need to invest in safe streets for pedestrians. Not doing so is a death sentence to pedestrians and means worse quality of life for all LA residents. I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan
			Megan Castillo	
			Mike Pace	Current budget does not support County Vision Zero Action Plan
			Mili Kakani	
			Nicholas Thell	The Board must continue to be dedicated to investing in Vision Zero and reducing auto and pedestrian deaths. This is truly a public health crisis in the city, and the city can put a relatively small part of its budget towards the issue to make a large change. We must have safe infrastructure for people of all ages so Los Angeles continues to be a safe place to get around by any mode.
			Nick Cron-DeVico	I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments necessary for its execution. The seven and a half million dollars requested by the Department of Public Works (DPW) is the minimum required to address the pressing traffic violence crisis. As a parent, this issue feels deeply personal. The safety of our children is paramount, and I want to ensure they can walk and play in our neighborhoods without fear. If the County aims to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035, the DPW needs a fully dedicated team and a corresponding budget. Investing in Vision Zero and similar programs is essential for ensuring that our children, families, and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets in comfort and safety.
			Olivia Shields	
			Rachel L Meisner	



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2.	1	Oppose	Rohan Abraham	Los Angeles leads the nation in pedestrian fatalities, yet this budget plan includes no funding for the Vision Zero initiative started in 2020 to address this issue. Everyone in this city is a pedestrian at some point in their time here and the city needs to act to support its pedestrians with pedestrian infrastructure and implement the traffic safety improvements required by the Vision Zero Action Plan.
			Shantanu Joshi	The County Vision Zero Action Plan will be toothless without sustained investments. It will simply exist on paper. To put it into practice, or even to make a dent in the direction of its progress, we need a dedicated team and a budget. The overwhelming majority supporting the passing of HLA is itself a call to action. The community believes in this goal and they expect our County officials to come through for us in pulling all the stops to secure and even expand funding for the Vision Zero action plan.
			Siouxsie Calderon	If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety. he seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. LA COUNTY VISION ZERO informed us about their program and we need them to help us assess safety concerns in rural areas in SPA 1 due to the high number of traffic accidents, injuries and deaths on PB HWY 138. See flyer attached.
			Siouxsie Calderon	If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety. he seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. LA COUNTY VISION ZERO informed us about their program and we need them to help us assess safety concerns in rural areas in SPA 1 due to the high number of traffic accidents, injuries and deaths on PB HWY 138. See flyer attached.
			Sophie Nenner	Protect Vision Zero's Budget, protect our lives, please allocate the \$7.5M to fund the vision zero plan. This should be the priority in LA, for all the people. Thank you



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2.	1	Oppose	Stephanie Horwitz	<p>I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis.</p> <p>If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p> <p>My family loves Los Angeles but for us to stay we need to feel that this is a livable community where we are supported in getting around safely.</p>
			Tauheedah Shakur	
			Wesley Reutimann	<p>As a parent of two young children who love to walk, bike and ride public transit in LA County, I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan.</p> <p>A County the size of Los Angeles should be spending hundreds of millions of dollars a year improving the safety of its streets. Cities around the world, including New York, devote these level of resources to this issue, which is a leading cause of premature death and severe injury in the Count of Los Angeles. \$7.5 million is a paltry level of support, but better than nothing.</p> <p>If the County is serious about addressing preventable pedestrian deaths by 2035 then it is essential that the County have a team focused on the issue and a budget to implement improvements. LA County families and communities deserve safe streets.</p>



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2.	1	Other	Abhimat K Gautam	<p>I am discouraged by the possibility of not funding the county vision zero action plan. As someone who bikes and walks to work every day, I regularly fear for my safety from reckless car drivers. I have often faced drivers in large vehicles who disregard safe distances to bikers, disregard bike lane markings, and blow past stop signs and even sometimes past red lights. I hope the Board continues to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan and allocates the necessary budget to implement it.</p> <p>- I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis.</p> <p>- If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p>
			Adam Remba	<p>The fact that we're putting up the Vision Zero Plan up for debate is frankly embarrassing. These investments will lead to quality of life improvements that will impact everyone across the city, rich or poor, in a very meaningful way. LA needs to stop being such a disappointment. Do Better.</p>
			Alexandra J Lopez	<p>I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. Just in the Second District unincorporated communities of about 200,000 people, there are about 40 traffic deaths each year. That's the highest in the County and countless studies have shown that those crashes disproportionately kill Black and Brown Angelenos. The County has a Vision Zero Action Plan and 15 of the 20 corridors for pedestrian injury and fatalities are in the Second District.</p> <p>The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address. The traffic violence crisis will take much more. Yet, the Recommended Budget as zero dollars dedicated to Vision Zero. If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest a lot more into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p>
			Andrea Noriega	<p>Please see my comment attached.</p>



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2.	1	Other	Auguste Miller	<p>Do we not matter as human beings? Because we all live in an urban city.</p> <p>- I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis.</p> <p>- If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p> <p>What can be a bigger priority than this?</p>
			Carol Springer	<p>As I understand it, the DPW budget request is too low to support An adequate team of qualified workers to improve multimodal transportation and safety and achieve Vision Zero. I am 81 and ride a Bicycle, take public transportation, and I am a frequent pedestrian without mobility issues. However, I can barely get across most streets in the time allowed by the green man signal. The team, addressing this issue should have regular experience using our roads as a pedestrian, cyclist, and public transit , And should be observing how others are affected by the Dominant car culture. They should experience what it's like to try to cross the street where there are several blocks between signal lights. So an increased DPW budget Should be tied to hiring people with the above experience. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
			Charles J Capp	



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2.	1	Other	Chasen B Daniels	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for the County Vision Zero Action Plan and to urge the Board to ensure ongoing investments in executing this crucial initiative. The seven and a half million dollars requested by the Department of Public Works is not just an expenditure; it is the bare minimum required to address the pressing traffic violence crisis that affects our communities daily.</p> <p>If Los Angeles County is committed to the goal of eliminating pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035, it is imperative that the Department of Public Works be equipped with a fully dedicated team and a budget that reflects the magnitude of this challenge. A robust investment in Vision Zero and similar programs is essential. This will not only enhance safety but also foster an environment where our children, families, and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with the confidence and security they deserve.</p> <p>Increased funding and resources for the Vision Zero Action Plan will pave the way for safer infrastructure, better traffic management, and comprehensive community engagement. By prioritizing these investments, we can create a safer, more livable county for everyone.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to seeing the Board take decisive action to support Vision Zero and ensure the safety and well-being of all residents.</p>
			Connor Webb	<p>The 2024-2025 recommended budget includes 7.5 million dollars of critical and unmet needs related to Vision Zero Initiatives. I urge the board to remedy this and support the Vision Zero Action Plan by not only fulfilling those unmet budget needs, but also expanding the program with additional resources. Frankly, 7.5 million dollars is not enough if the County wishes to achieve Vision Zero by 2035. Public Works needs additional dedicated funding and a full team working on Vision Zero. Equally as important, the County needs to send a message that the status quo of traffic violence on our streets is not acceptable, and move the many unincorporated LA County communities towards a safer, more sustainable, and more livable future. Adequate funding of Vision Zero is a crucial piece of that message.</p>



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2.	1	Other	Danielle Guillen	<p>Hello, my name is Danielle Guillen and I am a resident of SD1. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition. Immigrants are an indelible, prominent part of this county, one that cannot be overlooked when it comes to the problems our community faces or the solutions we can all put in place. County supervisors must respond to and include immigrants because we are a significant part of their constituency. We contribute much to this community, whether through tax revenues and economic activity, or through policy ideas that can help this county solve the truly big problems it faces.</p> <p>Our response to the recommended budget is based on our understanding that despite our priorities being mostly left out of it, we must continue to engage in the legislative advocacy, organizing and communications areas until the county budget reflects the values and priorities of immigrants. We reiterate our main areas of focus in our county budget priorities: language access, housing, worker justice, and stronger social safety net programs for immigrants. The La county Board of Supervisors must ensure that the programs that serve immigrants receive adequate funding in the 2024-25 county budget.</p> <p>We will continue to work with supervisors to find avenues to incorporate immigrant priorities in the budget as it exists now.</p> <p>Sincerely, Danielle</p>
			Isaac Ramirez	<p>I am writing to say that I'm urging the board to support the County vision zero action plan with ongoing investments on making it happen. The seven and Half million dollars the DPW is requesting is needed in order to put end to traffic violence that has gone on for too long.</p> <p>If there's going to be an end of car traffic fatalities and pedestrian deaths by 2030 then there needs to be a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match by the Department of Public Works, this is important of you are going to reach Vision Zero and protect families, children, and communities who need these protections for going outside on the streets and sidewalks with confidence and comfort.</p>



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KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
2.	1	Other	Jay Ross	<p>I support Streets for All:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis. - If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.
			Jessica N Martinez	
			Kent Strumpell	<p>Dear Board Members,</p> <p>Please preserve the funding for the Vision Zero Action Plan.</p> <p>This program is critical to protecting the people of our county who rely on our roads every day. We cannot accept the norm of deadly traffic collisions occurring with increasing frequency, we CAN do something about this tragedy. The techniques and practices of creating safer streets is well known, but it takes investment. The \$7.5 million needed to continue this valuable program is an excellent return on investment for the lives it will save and the vitality it will bring to communities. Thank you</p>
			Lena Mallett	
			Lila Byock	<p>I am writing to plead with the Board to show your support for the County Vision Zero Action Plan by giving it the budget it needs to succeed. DPW is requesting \$7.5 million, which is the bare minimum for what is required at a moment when we're facing a traffic violence emergency.</p> <p>If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team dedicated to that work and a budget to match. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.</p> <p>Please give this plan the budget it needs to succeed. This should be a top priority for all of us.</p>



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

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			<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lisa Smith</td> <td> <p>I strongly encourage the Board to back the County Vision Zero Action Plan by continuing to invest in its implementation. The \$7.5 million requested by DPW is the bare minimum needed to tackle the ongoing traffic violence crisis.</p> <p>To eliminate pedestrian deaths by 2035, the County must ensure the Department of Public Works has a dedicated team and a budget that supports this mission. We need to invest in Vision Zero and similar programs so our children, families, and communities can safely enjoy our sidewalks and streets.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loren J Johnson</td> <td> <p>I have been a direct victim of traffic violence in the city in the last couple of months. People driving wildly and erratic at all times of the day in all kinds of traffic. Please support the bare minimum budget for the Vision Zero Action Plan. As a pedestrian, bicyclist and driver on the streets of Los Angeles, I see the vehicular violence and nuisances caused by drivers who speed, run lights and ignore traffic laws. Speeds need to be lowered and roads and streets need to follow Vision Zero revisions to slow traffic and make the streets safe for people.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Matt Stauffer</td> <td> <p>Please fully fund Vision Zero. I have been car-free since 2017 and primarily travel by walking, biking, or public transit. I have had more close calls and near misses with drivers and their cars than I can count. People will not get out of their cars if they do not feel safe, and they need infrastructure to feel safe. Statistics show that cars are getting safer, but only for the people inside them. Pedestrian and cyclist fatalities have been increasing in recent years thanks to larger and taller cars, and more distracted drivers, but this is a U.S.-only phenomenon. We need our leaders to prioritize street safety for all users, not just those inside a vehicle.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Michael Dow</td> <td> <p>I urge the Board to support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the bare minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>michael siegel</td> <td> <p>If the county is serious about reducing death on our streets, you must invest in those programs working toward it. County Vision Zero Action Plan requires funding. We have a long way to go to just reduce death from traffic violence, let alone get it to zero. Priorities of this region must be on multimodal transport and street improvements, which require funding.</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Comments	Lisa Smith	<p>I strongly encourage the Board to back the County Vision Zero Action Plan by continuing to invest in its implementation. 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THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
2.	1	Other	Rafael Fabian	<p>Hello, my name is [Rafael Fabian] with [COFEM, Los Angeles City 90012]. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition.</p> <p>Immigrants are an indelible, prominent part of this county, one that cannot be overlooked when it comes to the problems our community faces or the solutions we can all put in place. County supervisors must respond to and include immigrants because we are a significant part of their constituency. We contribute much to this community, whether through tax revenues and economic activity, or through policy ideas that can help this county solve the truly big problems it faces.</p> <p>Our response to the recommended budget is based on our understanding that despite our priorities being mostly left out of it, we must continue to engage in the legislative advocacy, organizing and communications areas until the county budget reflects the values and priorities of immigrants. We reiterate our main areas of focus in our county budget priorities: language access, housing, worker justice, and stronger social safety net programs for immigrants. The La county Board of Supervisors must ensure that the programs that serve immigrants receive adequate funding in the 2024-25 county budget.</p> <p>We will continue to work with supervisors to find avenues to incorporate immigrant priorities in the budget as it exists now.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rafael Fabian]</p>
			Redd Martinez	
			Ritu Mahajan	see attached letter
			Saul Campos	
			Severin Martinez	<p>Please don't cut funding for Vision Zero. \$7.5M is already peanuts and hardly enough, to cut the funding altogether reflects a serious lack of commitment to eliminating traffic deaths. As a parent to a newborn child I challenge anyone to take a walk with me and my baby and say the streets are safe. Despite \$7.5M not being enough there are few things that have better return on investment than building safe streets. Please fund Vision Zero!</p>

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
2.	1	Other	Taylor D Paez	The Board must unequivocally support the County Vision Zero Action Plan by committing ongoing investments for its execution. The \$7.5 million requested by the Department of Public Works is the absolute minimum needed to address the pressing crisis of traffic violence. If the County genuinely aims to eradicate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035, it's imperative to allocate a full team and a commensurate budget to the Department. We must prioritize investments in Vision Zero and similar programs to guarantee the safety and comfort of our children, families, and communities on our sidewalks and streets.
			Thanos Trezos	I am concerned that the recommended budget does not include the \$7.5M required to fund the County's Vision Zero Plan. I live in the unincorporated area of the County and I use my bicycle exclusively when I commute within 10 miles of my home. I feel that my life depends on the success of the Vision Zero Plan. Please make the Plan implementation a priority.
			Tom Rodriguez	Please support LA County's Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. I am tired of seeing and hearing of pedestrian and cyclist fatalities, most of which could have been prevented by plans like Vision Zero Action. If Los Angeles and you, the Board, are serious about mitigating the rising number of pedestrian deaths by 2035 then DPW needs a full team dedicated to that work with a budget to match. I urge you to invest into Vision Zero and similar programs so that my family and the people of my community can travel along our streets safely.
			Tyrique Shipp	
			Vlad Carrasco	My name is Vlad Carrasco, resident for SD3. I'm here in support of the Immigrants Are LA campaign. In particular, around housing and language access. Everyone needs housing. Immigrants cannot be excluded from LA County housing programs because of their status. As constituents, they deserve inclusion. Additionally to ensure equitable access, we need language access across all BOS programs. Please ensure that the county budget reflects these two urgent needs.
		Item Total	74	
Grand Total			89	



Commented [GB1]: The logo looks a little smooshed. I inserted a new one.

Re:: Request to Continue Funding for the LA Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program (Agenda Item #2 of May 15, 2024 Public Hearing on 2024-25 Recommended Budget and Revisions).

Dear Honorable Supervisors: We are requesting that the Board identify funding to continue the LA Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program, which offers free legal assistance and trainings to low-income entrepreneurs and small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. Over the last two years, Public Counsel and Bet Tzedek Legal Services, in partnership with the County's Department of Economic Opportunity, have undertaken extensive outreach efforts to raise awareness of this program among historically underserved low-income small business owners. As a result of these efforts, the program is now providing essential legal services to hundreds of low-income small business owners each year. These business owners have historically had no access to legal assistance. **Unless funding is identified, the LA Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program will end** – leaving even fewer resources for struggling low-income business owners.

Founded in 1970, Public Counsel is a nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to advancing civil rights and racial and economic justice, as well as to amplifying the power of our clients through comprehensive legal advocacy. Public Counsel's Community Development Project (CDP) strives to build healthy, inclusive, economically stable communities through the delivery of pro bono legal services to community-based coalitions, nonprofits, and small businesses in Los Angeles County. CDP also supports community led advocacy groups and community based organizations in their efforts to advance housing, racial, and economic justice and build power in low-income communities and communities of color.

Public Counsel advances economic opportunity by providing one-on-one legal support to low-income business owners, supporting inclusive entrepreneurship, and combating the criminalization of poverty. We assist low-income small business owners and entrepreneurs with the formation of legal entities; the drafting and evaluation of leases and contracts; employment law advice; negotiating debt, including commercial rent debt; business tax issues; and the filing of trademarks, copyrights, and patents. We are also the only legal services provider in Los Angeles County with a focus on providing free legal support to child care providers. In addition to providing legal representation to clients, we regularly provide trainings and publications on issues relevant to small business owners such as contracts, choosing a business entity, compliance with employment law, and intellectual property.

Public Counsel's small business clients are all low-income and most serve and employ individuals from underserved communities in Los Angeles. More than half are owned by people of color. Moreover, the child care businesses we serve are predominantly owned and operated by women of color who do not speak English as their first language. These populations have always needed legal help to form and run their businesses, without the means to afford it, but the pandemic has exacerbated this need.

As stated above, we are requesting that the County identify funding to continue the LA Regional Small Business Legal Aid Program. Through this program and in partnership with the County, Public Counsel and Bet Tzedek Legal Services have assisted with over 1,000 small business matters since 2022 as well as numerous legal trainings and clinics. Our services have helped entrepreneurs start and grow their small businesses. We have helped small businesses remain in their commercial spaces, negotiate debt, limit liability and exposure to risk, understand their rights and responsibilities, and protect their assets and ideas. This program helps entrepreneurs overcome the many challenges involved in opening and operating small businesses and is critical for supporting our County's small business infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ritu Mahajan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ritu" and last name "Mahajan" clearly distinguishable.

Ritu Mahajan
Public Counsel
Directing Attorney, Community Development Project
rmahajan@publiccounsel.org



May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

The American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) has delivered \$350 billion to state, territorial, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program aligns with ARPA’s goals of building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by supporting long-term growth and opportunity in LA County.

In alignment with ARPA’s priorities, the Small Business Legal Aid Program has assisted in creating long-term growth by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. In two years, the Program has assisted with more than 1,000 small business matters related to legal issues such as commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation. The Program has also provided educational programming, specifically over 45 webinars, trainings, and legal academies, on relevant and timely small business legal issues. Vibrant small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy and prosperous communities. In addition to being economic generators, small businesses provide a source of financial self-sufficiency for business owners as well as those that they employ. While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Inclusive Action for the City is writing in strong support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation.



ARPA's priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Doug Smith', is positioned above the typed name.

Doug Smith
Senior Director, Policy and Legal Strategy

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Community Power Collective is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility,

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Sincerely,

Sergio Jimenez

Senior Lead Community Organizer

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **The Program helped me to open my optical business in Lynwood, the community I grew up in (Supervisory District 4). The Program's support has been extremely valuable. They helped me to create a business entity and negotiate my first commercial lease. They also offer highly beneficial webinars and one-on-one legal consultations with specialized lawyers. Thanks to the Program, I gained the confidence to start my business. Whenever I have questions, I turn to the Program and they are always there to help. I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation.** Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Walter Cabrera

Walter Cabrera
The Optical Shop

90262

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **I operate a small family-run bakery in Supervisorial District 1. The Program has helped us keep our business alive as our income declined due to COVID-19 and it became difficult for us to keep up with our rent payments. The Program helped us renegotiate our lease and understand our rights as commercial tenants. As monolingual Spanish speakers, we really struggle to understand legal documents, including our lease agreement, which have only been provided to us in English. The Program provided us legal assistance and support in our native language and their staff was with us every step of the way. Our business would have closed without the Program and we would have lost our sole source of income, which helps us pay for housing and food. I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation.** Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Faustino Perez

Faustino Perez
Todos Los Pastelitos Caseros

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **I operate a small clothing business in Supervisorial District 5. The Program has offered me invaluable support to launch and sustain my business, including assistance with commercial leasing, choosing a business entity, and consultations on obtaining patents and trademarks. As a woman of color and first time business owner, I do not know where I would be without the Program. As I do not have the assets nor the connections and financial means accessible to navigate and aid in the challenging undertaking of starting such a business, the free legal assistance has been a god send in my situation. Free legal assistance is not only invaluable but a huge investment into our community in making sure small businesses succeed and thrive. The services provided through free legal aid are vital, necessary, appreciated and an invaluable support in the lives of the people who just needed the opportunity of a helping hand to make a way to financial stability, which in turn helps communities thrive. I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation.** Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Nadine Lee

Nadine Lee
Pas Boutique
91106

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **I operate a publishing and consulting business in Compton (Supervisorial District 2). The Program has offered me invaluable support to launch and sustain my business, including assistance with creating my business entity, obtaining licenses and permits, and filing for a trademark. I do not know where I would be without the Program, it has been a tremendous support. It is an amazing program that has benefited hundreds of small business owners.** Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Kellie Knight

Kellie Knight
Mighty Queendom Consulting, LLC
90220

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **I operate a small family-run bakery in Supervisorial District 3. The Program has helped us keep our business alive as our income declined due to COVID-19 and it became difficult for us to keep up with our rent payments. The Program helped us renegotiate our lease and understand our rights as commercial tenants. As monolingual Spanish speakers, we really struggle to understand legal documents, including our lease agreement, which have only been provided to us in English. The Program provided us legal assistance and support in our native language and their staff was with us every step of the way. Our business would have closed without the Program and we would have lost our sole source of income, which helps us pay for housing and food. I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation.** Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Faustino Perez

Faustino Perez
Todos Los Pastelitos Caseros

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **I operate an in-home child care business for infants and toddlers in Supervisorial District 3. COVID-19 really decimated the child care industry, but through help from the Program I have been able to scale and sustain my business. I have received assistance drafting admission contracts and handbooks and applying for infrastructure grants. I have also attended valuable legal trainings on issues such as choice of entity, employment law, and child care licensing. Whenever I need legal assistance, I turn to the Program for help. I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation.** Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to child care providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Raven Kras

Raven Kras

Kras Family Child Care LLC
90405



EAST LA COMMUNITY CORPORATION

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

The American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) has delivered \$350 billion to state, territorial, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program aligns with ARPA’s goals of building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by supporting long-term growth and opportunity in LA County.

In alignment with ARPA’s priorities, the Small Business Legal Aid Program has assisted in creating long-term growth by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. In two years, the Program has assisted with more than 1,000 small business matters related to legal issues such as commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation. The Program has also provided educational programming, specifically over 45 webinars, trainings, and legal academies, on relevant and timely small business legal issues. Vibrant small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy and prosperous communities. In addition to being economic generators, small businesses provide a source of financial self-sufficiency for business owners as well as those that they employ. While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

East LA Community Corporation is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small



EAST LA COMMUNITY CORPORATION

businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County’s efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Monica Mejia

President & CEO

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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LA Co-op Lab is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns

with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Citlalli Velasquez

Cooperative Developer, LA Co-op Lab

📍 4059 W Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018

☎️ (323) 840-3311

🌐 cleancarwash.org



facebook.com/carwasherxs 

twitter.com/carwasherxs 

cleancarwashla@gmail.com 

CLEAN

CARWASH WORKER CENTER

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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The CLEAN Carwash Worker Center is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.


📍 4059 W Washington Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018

☎️ (323) 840-3311

🌐 cleancarwash.org



facebook.com/carwasherxs 

twitter.com/carwasherxs 

cleancarwashla@gmail.com 

CLEAN

CARWASH WORKER CENTER

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,



Flor Rodriguez
Executive Director
CLEAN Carwash Worker Center

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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In alignment with ARPA’s priorities, the Small Business Legal Aid Program has assisted in creating long-term growth by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. In two years, the Program has assisted with more than 1,000 small business matters related to legal issues such as commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation. The Program has also provided educational programming, specifically over 45 webinars, trainings, and legal academies, on relevant and timely small business legal issues. Vibrant small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy and prosperous communities. In addition to being economic generators, small businesses provide a source of financial self-sufficiency for business owners as well as those that they employ. While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with

their legal needs aligns with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Kristy Kim



May 13, 2024

**Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

The American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) has delivered \$350 billion to state, territorial, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program aligns with ARPA’s goals of building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by supporting long-term growth and opportunity in LA County.

In alignment with ARPA’s priorities, the Small Business Legal Aid Program has assisted in creating long-term growth by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. In two years, the Program has assisted with more than 1,000 small business matters related to legal issues such as commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation. The Program has also provided educational programming, specifically over 45 webinars, trainings, and legal academies, on relevant and timely small business legal issues. Vibrant small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy and prosperous communities. In addition to being economic generators, small businesses provide a source of financial self-sufficiency for business owners as well as those that they employ. While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street

vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,



Bo Sivanunsakul
Vice President of Economic Development
Director, Business



THAI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER

6376 Yucca Street, Suite B
Los Angeles, CA 90028
Phone : (323) 468-2555 Fax : (323) 461-4488

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

The American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) has delivered \$350 billion to state, territorial, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program aligns with ARPA’s goals of building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by supporting long-term growth and opportunity in LA County.

In alignment with ARPA’s priorities, the Small Business Legal Aid Program has assisted in creating long-term growth by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. In two years, the Program has assisted with more than 1,000 small business matters related to legal issues such as commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation. The Program has also provided educational programming, specifically over 45 webinars, trainings, and legal academies, on relevant and timely small business legal issues. Vibrant small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy and prosperous communities. In addition to being economic generators, small businesses provide a source of financial self-sufficiency for business owners as well as those that they employ. While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

The Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC) is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Furthermore, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chanchanit Martorell".

Chanchanit Martorell
Executive Director

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The legal assistance afforded to small businesses from LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program is vital in maintaining affordable early education and childcare for families. Affordability in early education and childcare is a contemporary crisis. Legal fees incurred by early education and childcare operators present a barrier to maintaining affordability, and we are incredibly appreciative to be able to access these services through public counsel. Importantly, funding for Public Counsel enables this critical sector to operate on a more level playing field, which is otherwise challenging in a low-margin industry. When there are health and safety concerns, leveling the playing field enables early education and childcare organizations to enforce their rights for the benefit of the children under its care, especially when larger entities with higher margins, such as landlords, are ignoring their duty.

At Public Counsel, the early education and childcare team have been impressively attentive to reviewing pressing landlord-tenant concerns and to ensuring compliance with new employment laws. Additionally, they have helped us understand local resources and discuss strategies that may avoid or reduce costly litigation. Their impact on our business has been greatly effective, and their time spent on each small business matter appears notably efficient.

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like ours would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **We operate a large child care center for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in Supervisorial District 2. It has been hard to keep the business afloat during and following COVID-19. Our landlord has increased our rent, refuses to make necessary repairs, and constantly harasses us. Lawyers from the Program are helping us to resolve these issues and**

have been a constant source of support. Without their assistance, we could be forced to 1) significantly increase tuition, impacting affordability of childcare in the area, 2) close the center, which would negatively impact my employees, the children we care for, and all the working families that depend on our services, or 3) operate a deficient facility without means to enforce my leasehold rights, which would significantly affect health, safety, and quality over time. These adverse outcomes would have significant impacts on the community, especially and disproportionately those families with disadvantaged socioeconomic status. **We are writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation.** Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to child care providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liana Austin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "A".

Liana Austin
Discovery World Schools
90274

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like ours would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. From legal services ranging from commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation, many businesses have benefited from the services provided by Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel.

We, as small businesses served by Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel through the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, are writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs helps businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Abe's Mini Market LLC
Julian Castillo and Maria Veronica Cerezo
Zip Code: 90063
castillo.julian128@gmail.com
vero.cerezo0112@gmail.com

Innovation Electric
Lisette Castellon
Zip code: 91702
ecastellon2012@gmail.com

Glowin' Up Personal and Business Advancement Agency
Lilian Alger

Zip Code: 91504
algerlily5@gmail.com

Altadena Mobile Detain
Alex Goddard
Zip Code: 91001
ajgoddardd@gmail.com

Procservice
Donovant Grant
Zip Code: 90043
donig12157@gmail.com

Curly Gurl Luv Beauty Supply
Christina Smith
Zip Code: 90047
curlygurlluv@gmail.com

Greentek Packaging, LLC
Jordan Hinshaw
Zip Code: 90805
admin@greentekpackaging.com

Pinata Design Studio
Yesenia Prieto
Zip Code: 91733
pinatadesignstudio@gmail.com

Realty GIG Group
April Nicholson
Zip Code: 91324
april.l.nicholson@gmail.com4

Kingdom Business Daily, LLC
Michelle Williams
Zip Code: 90706
mwilliams0313@gmail.com

Estetica Paris
Delia Ramirez
Zip Code: 90040
goofball1045@gmail.com



May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

The American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) has delivered \$350 billion to state, territorial, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program aligns with ARPA’s goals of building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by supporting long-term growth and opportunity in LA County.

In alignment with ARPA’s priorities, the Small Business Legal Aid Program has assisted in creating long-term growth by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. In two years, the Program has assisted with more than 1,000 small business matters related to legal issues such as commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation. The Program has also provided educational programming, specifically over 45 webinars, trainings, and legal academies, on relevant and timely small business legal issues. Vibrant small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy and prosperous communities. In addition to being economic generators, small businesses provide a source of financial self-sufficiency for business owners as well as those that they employ. While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help



businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,
Nadia S. Segura
Nadia Segura Narvaez
Director, Small Business Development Program
P: (323) 549-5896
nsegura@bettzedek.org

Writer's Direct Line
323-801-7906
sargueta@lafla.org

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5301 Whittier Blvd., 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
Long Beach Office, 601 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802; 562-435-3501
Santa Monica Office, 1640 5th St., Suite 124, Santa Monica, CA 90401; 310-899-6200
South Los Angeles Office, 7000 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90003; 213-640-3950

community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA's priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits small business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles



Silvia Argueta
Executive Director

Other Office Locations:

East Los Angeles Office, 5301 Whittier Blvd., 4th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90022; 213-640-3883
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May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **The program has helped me and my sister in defending our small convenience store, Abe's Mini Market, against an ADA Lawsuit that was filed by an individual that has sued many small businesses in the area where our store is located. Our store is East Los Angeles, CA— a community that I am part of and am supported by our Supervisor Hilda Solis's office (Supervisory District 1). As a member of the community, I connected to the Small Business Development Team at Bet Tzedek Legal Services through Hilda Solis' office. After connecting with Bet Tzedek, they paired my sister and I with a great Pro Bono attorney. The pro bono attorney, along with Bet Tzedek staff, has been helping me and my sister through a very stressful lawsuit. As an LLC, we cannot represent ourselves and we need an attorney to help defend us in this lawsuit. I don't know what we would have done if Bet Tzedek didn't help us connect with an attorney. I do not know how we could have defended our market. We cannot afford an attorney as we are a small business and barely make enough money to cover our personal expenses from the profits of our market.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,
Julian Castillo
Maria Veronica Cerezo

Abe's Mini Market LLC
90262

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Immigrants Rising is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker

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Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Iliana Perez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "I" and a stylized "P".

Iliana Perez, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Immigrants Rising

May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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SCORE Long Beach is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help

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Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Danon

SCORE Chapter Chair

Long Beach / South Bay

rosemary.danon@scorevolunteer.org



May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Two Embarcadero Center
8th floor
San Francisco, CA 94111
CAMEOnetwork.org
cameo@CAMEOnetwork.org
ph 510.736.0797

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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California Association for MicroEnterprise Opportunity (CAMEO) is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and

entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,



Carolina Martinez

CEO



Randi Sunshine
Executive Director
Phone: 213-315-5409
Fax: 323-967-4279
E-mail: randi@learningrights.org

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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Learning Rights Law Center (LRLC) is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA's priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. These are the communities LRLC serves. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street

vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Randi Sunshine

Executive Director
Learning Rights Law Center
1625 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90015



May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA’s priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA’s mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community

real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pablo Ramirez', is written over a typed name and title.

Pablo Ramirez, Esq.

Executive Director

Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino



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Stacy Horth-Neubert
Executive Director

May 13, 2024

**Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

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May 13, 2024

Page 2

The Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA's priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

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We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacy Horth-Neubert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacy Horth-Neubert

Executive Director

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like ours would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. From legal services ranging from commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation, many businesses have benefited from the services provided by Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel.

We, as small businesses served by Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel through the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, are writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs helps businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

We request that the Program be maintained. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

The Parlor Room
Regina Grogan
Zip Code: 90211
info@parlorroomgrooming.com

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **My small business, GreenTek Packaging LLC, is a minority owned business. We are a manufacturer and distributor of biodegradable plastics. While we were expanding our operations, we needed legal help negotiating a membership agreement for our LLC. Getting legal representation was very expensive, so reached out to Bet Tzedek to see if they were able to assist us. Bet Tzedek went above and beyond, they helped us to connect with pro bono attorneys who provided corporate advice on our matter and helped us with the agreement.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Jordan Hinshaw

Greentek Packaging, LLC
Zip Code: 90805
admin@greentekpackaging.com

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. The program has helped me and my small business, Kingdom Business Daily, a doula services small business. I started my small business in order to connect moms and families with education on pregnancy and birth, as well as providing post-partum support. Bet Tzedek pro bono lawyers assisted me with different contracts and corporate questions. This is a group of professionals that are willing to hard work and provide very much needed services. I trusted the process and was able to get great services.

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

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Sincerely,
Kingdom Business Daily, LLC
Michelle Williams
Zip Code: 90706
mwilliams0313@gmail.com

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **My small business, La Piñata Design Studio is an artistic business that specializes in artisan piñatas. I co-own my small business with Mia Baez. Our business is led by 3rd generation piñata makers and designers reinventing the wheel on the traditional take on the craft. I wanted to change the way things were going for my family. To do this, I went to college and learned that to succeed my family business needed certain things like accounting and lawyers to guide us in the right direction. I felt like getting connected to lawyers was the hardest part because lawyers are expensive, and I didn't know where to start. Thanks to Bet Tzedek, lawyers have provided my business counsel and assistance through business incorporation, so La Piñata Design Studio is better positioned for growth.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Yesenia Prieto

Pinata Design Studio
Zip Code: 91733
pinatadesignstudio@gmail.com

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **The program has helped me and my small business which is a California real estate broker agency. Through my Small Business, Realty GIG, I strive to meet the needs of other small businesses and homeowners. I use my educational background in family and consumer sciences to provide services. Through Bet Tzedek, I connected with lawyers that are helping me in drafting a form agreement and form of disclosure to document the payment of referral fees to third parties that comply with applicable State and Federal laws. I would not have been able to afford an attorney to represent me and my small business to provide these services as I am a currently receiving public assistance benefits to support me and my family as we were severely affected by the pandemic.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,
Realty GIG Group
April Nicholson

Zip Code: 91324
april.l.nicholson@gmail.com

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **Bet Tzedek assisted me with a waiver and a service agreement that protects my business in the event of accidental damage to my customer's property. I am a community member of Supervisorial District 5 represented by Kathryn Barger. I went to Bet Tzedek with assumptions about my business and did not consider many factors. However, the pro bono attorneys and staff of Bet Tzedek outlined legal parameters, and it modified my way of thinking on how to conduct my business. Bet Tzedek helped me become a better businessman.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

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Sincerely,

Alex Goddard
Altadena Mobile Detail
91001

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **I approached Bet Tzedek Legal Services for a consultation on intellectual property and to trademark my business name and logo with the USPTO. I am a community member of Supervisorial District 2 represented by Holly J. Mitchell. The staff of Bet Tzedek were professional and empathetic to my questions. I was later placed with the attorneys of McGuire Woods. The lawyers that I connected with were professional and were invested in my case and showed genuine interest in my business. It is great to know that as a small business, I did not have to pay thousands of dollars to be heard.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

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Sincerely,

Christina Smith
Curly Gurl Luv Beauty Supply
90260

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed free legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **Bet Tzedek assisted me with a comprehensive consultation regarding an intellectual property case. I was then placed with the attorneys of Seyfarth Shaw to (1) provide advice and counsel as to whether my evidence of use in interstate commerce is sufficient to pass the United States Patent Office's scrutiny of my application and, (2) representation with the submission of my service mark application with the United States Patent Agency. I am a community member of Supervisorial District 5 represented by Kathryn Barger. The pro bono attorneys, along with Bet Tzedek staff, have assisted me with legal matters that I could not have been able to pay, and thus slowing the process of my success as a small business owner. Bet Tzedek provides valuable resources in our county, without their help, many small business owners such as myself would immediately fail in our entrepreneurship.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lilian Alger

Glowin' Up Personal & Business Advancement Agency
91504

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Small businesses are integral to Los Angeles's economy and infrastructure – they employ local community members, generate tax revenue, and serve as a key viable path toward economic stability and mobility for many marginalized communities. The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

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Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like mine would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. **Bet Tzedek assisted me with a Master Service Agreement for my small business as a document preparer. I am a community member of Supervisorial District 2 represented by Holly J. Mitchell. I've known of Bet Tzedek's services when I was a Paralegal about 10 years ago. Since then, I have recommended Bet Tzedek to anyone that required legal services in various fields. However, it was not until very recently that I needed the good work of Bet Tzedek Staff. I decided to expand my document preparer business. Paralegal Karla Estrada drafted my service agreement, and I am currently reviewing it to discuss it with the Legal Director. I am blessed to have support, and it validates me as a business owner and community member. The work Bet Tzedek does for our community is invaluable and irreplaceable.**

Today, I am writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding for small businesses to access free legal representation. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. In fact, Public Counsel has specialized in providing free legal aid to childcare providers since 1986. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small businesses and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Donovant Grant

Procservice
90043



May 13, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer:

The profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small businesses, particularly those owned by BIPOC individuals, has been nothing short of devastating. In Los Angeles County, where over 93% of businesses have 20 or fewer employees, the negative repercussions of COVID-19 have disproportionately impacted BIPOC-owned small businesses. Notably, Los Angeles County is home to the most substantial concentration of minority-owned businesses in the nation, with more than 55% of its 244,000 small businesses falling into this category.

The American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") has delivered \$350 billion to state, territorial, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program aligns with ARPA's goals of building a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by supporting long-term growth and opportunity in LA County.

In alignment with ARPA's priorities, the Small Business Legal Aid Program has assisted in creating long-term growth by expanding economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income small business owners, many of whom are women and people of color. In two years, the Program has assisted with more than 1,000 small business matters related to legal issues such as commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation. The Program has also provided educational programming, specifically over 45 webinars, trainings, and legal academies, on relevant and timely small business legal issues. Vibrant small businesses are a cornerstone of healthy and prosperous communities. In addition to being economic generators, small businesses provide a source of financial self-sufficiency for business owners as well as those that they employ. While small businesses play a vital role in our community, they often do not have the means to pay for legal assistance. By providing much-needed legal services, Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have ensured community-serving small businesses are successful and sustainable so they can continue contributing to economic development and job growth in LA County.

Connections for Children is writing in support of continuing the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. ARPA's priorities emphasize the need to support long-term growth in the communities benefited by ARPA. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs aligns with ARPA's mission as legal services help businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Further, the Program is critical to the success of countless other County initiatives, including economic mobility, worker ownership, community real estate ownership, child care, street vending, and micro-enterprise home kitchen operations, which all necessitate legal assistance.

Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.



We request that the Program be maintained through ARPA funds. The Program has greatly benefited our community and will have a long-term impact in LA County. If the Program is discontinued, it will irreparably harm our small business ecosystem and the County's efforts to advance economic opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Cowan".

Jennifer Cowan
Executive Director

May 14, 2024

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Continuation of LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program

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Without the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, small businesses like ours would not have been able to obtain legal assistance. From legal services ranging from commercial leasing, contracts, permitting and licensing, business entity formation, intellectual property, employment law, and debt negotiation, many businesses have benefited from the services provided by Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel.

We, as small businesses served by Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel through the LA County Small Business Legal Aid Program, are writing in support of continuing the Program and maintaining its funding in order for small businesses to access free legal representation. Assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs with their legal needs helps businesses start, scale, and stay open long-term. Bet Tzedek Legal Services and Public Counsel have both been providing free legal services to underserved communities in LA County for over 50 years. They are the only organizations in LA County that provide free legal services to small businesses. Their work advances racial and economic justice, and benefits business owners, their employees, and the community at large.

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Sincerely,

Cynthia Smith, Smith Family Child Care

Natalie Miles Mullaney, Mullaey Family Child Care

Maria Amaro, Amaro Family Child Care
Oak Day Tree School
Angelica Rojas, Rojas Family Child Care
Marcel Douglas, Island Spice-Ting
Jennifer Laurent, LA Legal Assistant
Lidia Garcia Robles, Leo's Bakery
Carolyn Jerry, Jerry Family Child Care Facility Inc.
Jennifer Jackson, Dolled Up LLC
Infamous Incorporated, Angela Monique Frias
Milagros Serrano Ortiz, Benny's General Building Inc.
Rene Castaneda, Tacos los de le Esquina
Kathering Gantino, SOAPIFY LLC
Jair Davalos, Green Ocean Builders
Brenda Burgos, Burgos Family Child Care
Dulce Maria Martinez
Linda Makarians, Hang Loose Shaved Ice
Raven Kras, Kras Family Child Care LLC
Roxanne Hawkins, Simply Media Now
Rita Ortiz, Ortiz Consulting LLC
Cesar A. Benitez, Oasis Gourmet Aguas Frescas
Luis A. Hernandez, Trend Spot Gadgets LLC
Sandra R. Leonor, Tender Hearts Family Child Care, LLC
Nancy M. Baker, Auntie's Place Child Care
Mayra Rodriguez, Grooming Gentleman LLC
Walter Cabrera, The Optical Shop
Connections For Children
Liana Austin, Discovery World Schools
Nadine Lee, Pas Boutique
Kellie Knight
Venius Adams

Faustino Perez, Todos Los Pastelitos Caseros

Protecting pedestrians and reducing the number of traffic fatalities should be a top priority for Los Angeles. I am an LA native and currently live without a car and have to deal with the subpar infrastructure on a daily basis when cycling. We have safe streets that can be easily remedied so that the lifeblood of the Los Angeles people. Seven and a half million dollars should be the *bare minimum* for remedying this crisis.

County Vision Zero Action Plan

Please support the County Vision Zero Action Plan with ongoing investments in executing the plan. The seven and a half million dollars DPW is requesting is the barest minimum for what is required to address the traffic violence crisis and to keep cyclists and pedestrians safe.

If the County wants to eliminate pedestrian deaths and fatalities by 2035 then the Department of Public Works needs a full team, with a meaningful budget, dedicated to that work. We need to invest into Vision Zero and programs like it so our kids, families and communities can enjoy our sidewalks and streets with comfort and safety.

May 15, 2024

Hello, my name is Xochitl Cobarruvias with Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA LA) District 1 and 2. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition.

Immigrants are an indelible, prominent part of this county, one that cannot be overlooked when it comes to the problems our community faces or the solutions, we can all put in place. County supervisors must respond to and include immigrants because we are a significant part of their constituency.

We contribute much to this community, whether through tax revenues and economic activity, or through policy ideas that can help this county solve the truly big problems it faces.

Our response to the recommended budget is based on our understanding that despite our priorities being mostly left out of it, we must continue to engage in the legislative advocacy, organizing and communications areas until the county budget reflects the values and priorities of immigrants.

We reiterate our main areas of focus in our county budget priorities: **language access**, **housing**, **worker justice**, and stronger **social safety net** programs for immigrants. The La county Board of Supervisors must ensure that the programs that serve immigrants receive adequate funding in the 2024-25 county budget.

We will continue to work with supervisors to find avenues to incorporate immigrant priorities in the budget as it exists now.

Sincerely,
Xochitl Cobarruvias

LCLAA LA - 2130 W. James M. Wood Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006

Hello, my name is Leticia Gomez with COFEM Consejo De Federaciones Mexicanas. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition.

Immigrants are an indelible, prominent part of this county, one that cannot be overlooked when it comes to the problems our community faces or the solutions we can all put in place. County supervisors must respond to and include immigrants because we are a significant part of their constituency.

We contribute much to this community, whether through tax revenues and economic activity, or through policy ideas that can help this county solve the truly big problems it faces.

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We reiterate our main areas of focus in our county budget priorities: language access, housing, worker justice, and stronger social safety net programs for immigrants. The La county Board of Supervisors must ensure that the programs that serve immigrants receive adequate funding in the 2024-25 county budget.

We will continue to work with supervisors to find avenues to incorporate immigrant priorities in the budget as it exists now.

Sincerely,

Leticia Gomez.

Hello, my name is Rafael Fabian, with COFEM, Los Angeles city 90012]. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Subject: Advocacy for Permanent Funding of Natural Area Programs

I am writing to you as a dedicated Los Angeles County Volunteer Docent Naturalist and as the Secretary for the San Dimas Canyon Nature Center. My role allows me to interact closely with our community and the natural spaces we are privileged to enjoy. It is from this vantage point that I wish to highlight the indispensable value of our county's natural area programs and advocate for their sustained support through permanent funding.

Personal Significance of Natural Area Programs

For me personally, the opportunity to work within these programs has been profoundly transformative. Engaging with nature and educating others about its importance not only deepens my connection to the environment but also reinforces my commitment to community service and environmental stewardship. This work is not just a duty; it is a passion that fulfills and inspires me daily. Participation in the program has helped me improve my mental health while dealing with a recently diagnosed chronic health condition. Being a leader in this community helped me to heal and find confidence in myself during this time of transition.

Impact of Natural Area Programs on Community and Environment

Our natural area programs play a crucial role in conserving biodiversity, educating the public about environmental preservation, and providing recreational opportunities that are accessible to all. These programs foster a sense of community and connectivity, bridging diverse groups through a shared commitment to safeguarding our environment.

Surge in Park Visitors Post-COVID-19

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed a significant increase in the number of visitors to our parks. This surge underscores the community's growing appreciation of and reliance on these vital spaces for recreation, solace, and rejuvenation. It is a clear indicator of the public's need for continued and enhanced free access to well-maintained natural areas.

Mental Health and Wellness Benefits

The benefits of natural area programs extend beyond environmental education and conservation. Regular access to natural spaces has been shown to greatly improve mental health and wellness. In a world where mental health issues are increasingly prevalent, these programs offer a crucial, accessible solution that helps to alleviate stress, enhance mood, and improve overall physical health.

Call for Permanent Funding

Given the undeniable benefits these programs provide to both individuals and the community at large, I urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to ensure the future of these programs through permanent funding. Stable funding would not only secure the longevity of these programs but also allow for the expansion and enhancement of services that meet the growing public interest and need. In a time of financial challenges, I urge you to continue to fund opportunities to provide free access to these areas and programs.

I am grateful for your consideration of this vital issue and for your ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of our communities and natural environments. I am hopeful that together, we can continue to support and expand these invaluable resources which play such a pivotal role in the life of our community.

Thank you for your attention and support.

Sincerely,

Amanda Ramos

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Executive Summary

LA County's Men's Central Jail (MCJ) incarcerates far more people than it can handle. It has become known for its overcrowding, crumbling infrastructure, and inhumane living conditions. Mandates from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and input from community stakeholders have attempted to improve conditions, leading to the formation of a Jail Closure Implementation Team in 2020. Still, no significant action has been taken by the county. We recommend a large investment in rehabilitative and mental health services with a focus on decreasing recidivism. Furthermore, an emphasis on diversion from Men's Central Jail to handle the mental health needs of the incarcerated population would ease the burden of overpopulation in the jail. While these steps are being taken, we strongly recommend increased investment in basic necessities and improved hygienic living conditions.

Background

22-year-old John Horton, after spending a month at the MCJ for a drug possession charge, was found hanging from a noose in his cell on March 30, 2009. A fellow detainee reported that Horton was held in solitary confinement in a "dimly lit, windowless, solid-front cell the size of a closet."¹ The individuals at MCJ have been experiencing these conditions for decades, and yet, closure or reform of the jail has not occurred. Not only has MCJ failed to provide close to adequate conditions, but it has also greatly lacked resources for incarcerated individuals to increase their well-being before and after their release, including mental healthcare and rehabilitation.

According to Reverend Gary Williams, who had been to MCJ many times in the 2000s, "There's no such thing as rehabilitation in Men's Central Jail, [...] It cannot be rebuilt. It cannot be changed. It needs to be torn down."² Men's Central Jail, initially built in 1963, has long been Los Angeles's biggest jail facility. Inadequate conditions within have been reported for many decades now. The number of individuals with mental illness in the jail system has largely increased in the past decade, according to Los Angeles Sheriff's Department data; as of January 16th, 2024, 53.3% of MCJ's population suffers from mental illness. According to *The Appeal*, mentally ill incarcerated individuals housed in High Observance Housing (HOH) are chained to tables during the few hours that they are given out of their cell and made to wear tear-resistant "suicide gowns." There is also poor plumbing, excess garbage, and poorly lit cells. MCJ is over capacity and has "structural designs that complicate the ability of correctional staff to provide a safe and secure environment, interfere with the staffs' ability to monitor the status of the patient-inmate population clinically and create barriers that complicate the ability to meet the health care service needs of the individuals housed in these facilities."³

¹ ACLU of Southern California. "ACLU Releases Expert's Report on Nightmarish Conditions at Men's Central Jail in Los Angeles." *American Civil Liberties Union*, 13 Apr. 2009, www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-releases-experts-report-nightmarish-conditions-mens-central-jail-los-angeles.

² McCann, Sam. "The County Jail Has Always Been a Murder Ground": Stories from Men's..." Vera Institute of Justice, www.vera.org/news/stories-from-mens-central-jail.

³ O'Connor, Meg, et al. "In La Jails, Mentally Ill People Are Chained to Tables and Rarely Get Psychiatric Care." *The Appeal*

MCJ is not designed to house people long-term. Despite this, some individuals have been living in MCJ for several decades. According to the Department of Health Services, five people with mental illness have been incarcerated there since 2000, and another 126 people with mental illness have been incarcerated for 5 to 10 years. Furthermore, the people experiencing mental health symptoms do not have access to mental health care and are not even living in the correct quarters. One in three incarcerated individuals in MCJ is on psychotropic medication (medication that treats mental illness) but still housed with the rest of the incarcerated population.⁴ This demonstrates the lack of adequate care, particularly for individuals with mental illnesses. Incarcerated individuals suffering from mental health issues are not provided the resources they need for their basic well-being.

However, it is not only those with mental illnesses suffering from the inhumane conditions at MCJ. Overcrowding has led to a myriad of issues that all incarcerated individuals at MCJ have been subject to. These include, but are not limited to, restricted access to basic necessities (food, water, blankets, mattresses, etc.), poor mental health care (due to a lack of funding), poor sanitary conditions (plumbing and hygiene issues), and insufficient rehabilitation services (limited access to soft skills training and educational opportunities)⁵. In addition, marginalized groups, including people of color and low-income individuals, have historically been incarcerated at disproportionate rates. Notably, they are often wrongfully imprisoned. According to the Prison Policy Initiative, Black individuals are 6 times more likely than white individuals to be incarcerated. Consequently, the negative effects of incarceration are disproportionately felt in these communities.

Issue Analysis:

The LA jail system was put under a legal settlement by the Department of Justice to address the inadequate mental health care being administered (2015). The county was required to provide people in high-observation housing (people considered severely mentally ill; have to be checked on every 15 minutes) with 10 hours of out-of-cell time per week and 10 hours of therapeutic programming per week. The DOJ monitor reported in September 2022 that “the county was not providing meaningful group therapy and inmates were not getting required out-of-cell time.”⁶ The county asked to push deadlines for meeting these requirements to 2026.

Since 2020, the Jail Closure Implementation Team has worked on reducing the jail population by 4,000. Other initiatives include: issuing citations instead of detention for misdemeanor, non-violent, and non-serious charges; aggressive pretrial release of individuals primarily charged with non-violent felonies; and increased access to diversion programs.

The Los Angeles County Justice Care and Opportunities Department released a jail closure update on January 30th, 2024. As part of their five-year jail closure plan, they are reducing the jail to 7,169 inhabitants. This depopulation would involve building 1,200 community beds per year by L.A. county, specifically for holding individuals as an alternative to

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ ACLU of Southern California. “ACLU Releases Expert’s Report”

⁶ O’Connor, Meg, et al. “In La Jails”

custody. The maximum time an individual would stay in these beds as a custody alternative would be one year; if their stay exceeds one year, they will be placed in programming not dedicated to custody alternatives. This would prove beneficial, as data has shown that individuals put in community beds decrease their annual recidivism rate from 40% to 10%. Other interventions, such as quicker pretrial releases and faster care processing could accelerate jail releases by 50%. Judges have found it safe to release an additional 7,000 people annually. Other factors that should be considered in implementing a safe and effective jail closure would be preventing increases in crime, bookings to the jail, and legislative changes that create lengthier punishments. Furthermore, relocating all specialized populations within MCJ to other current jail facilities, such as the Medical Observation Specialty Housing and single cells used for classification and discipline is key to the closure. There must also be a guarantee that custody space adjacent to the Inmate Reception Center will be found to comply with DOJ Settlement Agreements.

As reported in the annual Los Angeles County budget, despite having a \$43.4 billion budget, only \$1 million is allocated to diversion programs. In contrast, the Sheriff's department receives \$4 billion, and an additional \$1 billion is given to the probation department. Investing in diversion programs has the potential to significantly reduce the incarcerated population, providing mental health services that more efficiently treat affected individuals and reduce recidivism.

Policy Solutions

Rehabilitative Services and Mental Healthcare

"Men's Central Jail is so grossly overcrowded, dangerous, and dungeon-like that it puts intolerable stress on the jailed as well as the jailers," said Margaret Winter, Associate Director of the ACLU National Prison Project. "The county must do whatever it takes to stop subjecting people to the nightmarish conditions in this jail, and stop denying basic mental health treatment to those who need it."

There is ample research demonstrating the benefits of rehabilitative incarceration. Using Norway's prison system as a case study, The National Bureau of Economic Research found that shorter sentences and an emphasis on rehabilitation over punishment decrease recidivism. In Norway, the average sentence is six months, whereas the average sentence in the United States is about three years. Findings have shown that this increased time of incarceration has no effect on recidivism at best. At worst, it contributes to higher rates. Furthermore, Norwegian prisons do not experience overcrowding or significant underfunding, contributing to reduced recidivism rates. Norwegian prisons also prioritize job training to ensure a smooth integration process for inmates released back into society. To even further the credibility of this case study, the Norwegian prison system adds to employment rates and reduces crime, benefiting both incarcerated individuals and their fellow citizens. Thus, the Norwegian prison system proves that

more time spent focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration upon release yields positive outcomes for the individual offender and society.

To improve the quality of rehabilitative services and mental healthcare in the Men's Central Jail, funds for the Forensic In-Patient (FIP) Step Down program should be increased. FIP Step Down provides inmates with a supportive and less restrictive environment to help improve mental and behavioral health. The program increases unrestrained out-of-cell time to promote and incentivize prosocial behavior. Increasing funding for the program is crucial in improving mental healthcare for inmates in the Men's Central Jail. The funds should increase the number of FIP pods in the jail, creating a therapeutic environment for inmates to participate in activities such as painting.

By increasing funding for the program, more inmates can access FIP step-down and rehabilitative services. Furthermore, funding should also go towards compensating the Mental Health Assistants (MHA), who are incarcerated and help care for and mentor other patients. MHAs in FIP Step Down are currently not compensated, reducing incentives for individuals to be involved in the program. FIP step-down is a crucial program to help facilitate and support the mental wellness of the incarcerated in MCJ, which would help lower recidivism rates.

Diversion

Currently, Men's Central Jail (MCJ) cannot support the number of people living there. One solution is to increase investment into the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), an office within the LA County Department of Health Services working to create and implement programs to divert people with serious mental, physical, and behavioral health needs out of LA County Jails and into community-based care. People could therefore be transferred from MCJ to other non-carceral facilities better equipped to handle the mental health needs of this population.

Not only could ODR help combat the overcrowding problem in MCJ, but it also works to prevent people from getting arrested and provide alternatives to incarceration for people who have already been arrested. Since the program started in 2015, ODR has successfully removed over 10,000 people from LA county jails and placed them in community-based care facilities and housing.

Ultimately, what makes ODR programming unique is the number of people involved in care at each step of a person's journey through the program. Each client is paired with an ODR provider case manager who ensures that the person can obtain general relief benefits, a valid government ID, and social security benefits. The ODR provider case manager also ensures the client can pursue opportunities such as getting into school and/or employment. Finally, the ODR provider case manager ensures the client can get to their appointments with the medical/mental health clinicians, and arrive on time. The ODR housing team works with individuals daily, observing their progress and ensuring their safety. The ODR clinicians are a separate team of individuals focused on the physical and mental health of ODR clients. Finally, probation officers trained in working with individuals suffering from mental health issues, judges, and their defense

lawyers are all involved in the ODR client's care and recovery. Each of these different "teams" plays an essential role in the success of ODR programming.

"Effective therapy cannot happen in jail, because jail is a traumatic experience inherently," ... "Any sort of support groups they might be doing, it's not helping. It's a Band-Aid on a bullet wound. It's not possible to do anything there." Liz Sutton, a licensed clinical social worker who runs a program that helps get incarcerated people with mental health needs released into outpatient care says. Not only can diversion help combat the overcrowding problem in MCJ by reducing the amount of incarcerated people.

Provision of Basic Necessities + Improved Hygiene Conditions

"The conditions [at MCJ] are squalid, unsafe, and inhumane," said Corene Kendrick, the deputy director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) National Prison Project. Also, a 2022 inspection by the Sybil Brand Commission for Institutional Inspections (SBCII) revealed that conditions at MCJ were "unsatisfactory" or "needed corrective action" in every applicable category; the four rating options are satisfactory, unsatisfactory, corrective action needed, or not relevant. These ratings were regarding access to toiletries and appropriate combs/brushes. This can be attributed to the fact that during their stay at MCJ, incarcerated individuals are not guaranteed access to basic necessities, such as soap, toothpaste, a toothbrush, and a razor. These items can be distributed in "fish kits," and it must be the standard for incarcerated individuals to receive the kits. Money should be invested in expanding access to these kits to promote the well-being of incarcerated people while they are at MCJ.

The aforementioned SBCII report expanded on the issue of cleanliness. Showers, (including water temperature, rust, mold, etc.) needed "corrective action." A subsequent comment added that there were "Rat traps and rat poop in both showers and some cells." In addition to a lack of basic hygienic necessities, MCJ has several infrastructural issues that are worsening inhumane and unclean conditions. For instance, toilets cannot be fixed because of these issues, leading to overflowing pipes and other hygienic problems. Individuals within the jail need to be provided with clean living conditions, which can be accomplished with regular cell cleaning.

Recommendation: Budget Reallocation

Diversion programs for Los Angeles County are receiving roughly \$1 million in annual funding. On a \$43.4 billion yearly county budget - \$4 billion set aside for the Sheriff's Department and another \$1 billion for the Probation Department - the Office of Diversion and Reentry is significantly underfunded. Reallocation of funds from inmate welfare and narcotics enforcement towards the expansion of diversion programs will provide alternatives to incarceration for those who have been arrested and significantly reduce overcrowding in MCJ. The lost funding from inmate welfare and narcotics enforcement will be offset by the reduced need for these programs with more inmates relocated.

Even within its current budget, the ODR has relocated 10,000 people from MCJ to community-based care programs. The efficacy of diversion is apparent, and it is currently significantly underfunded across the county. Los Angeles County has continuously increased its funds allocated towards its troubled Sheriff Department - without meaningfully addressing the problems of Sheriff violence and deputy gang membership - rather than programs that address the crisis currently afflicting its jail systems. Reallocation of funds towards diversion programs would represent a step away from this regressive school of thought and towards substantive and proven improvements to the Los Angeles prison system.

Works Cited

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McCann, Sam. "'The County Jail Has Always Been a Murder Ground': Stories from Men's..." *Vera Institute of Justice*, www.vera.org/news/stories-from-mens-central-jail. Accessed 24 Apr. 2024.

Hello, my name is Andrea Noriega and I live in District 1. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition.

Immigrants are an indelible, prominent part of this county, one that cannot be overlooked when it comes to the problems our community faces or the solutions we can all put in place. County supervisors must respond to and include immigrants because we are a significant part of their constituency.

We contribute much to this community, whether through tax revenues and economic activity, or through policy ideas that can help this county solve the truly big problems it faces.

Our response to the recommended budget is based on our understanding that despite our priorities being mostly left out of it, we must continue to engage in the legislative advocacy, organizing and communications areas until the county budget reflects the values and priorities of immigrants.

We reiterate our main areas of focus in our county budget priorities: **language access, housing, worker justice**, and stronger **social safety net** programs for immigrants. The La County Board of Supervisors must ensure that the programs that serve immigrants receive adequate funding in the 2024-25 county budget. Immigrants cannot be excluded from LA County Housing Program because of their status and should have access to life-saving housing and health programs.

We will continue to work with supervisors to find avenues to incorporate immigrant priorities in the budget as it exists now.

Sincerely,
Andrea Noriega
(562) 777-5271

Hello, my name is Jessica Martinez with COFEM in Los Angeles, District 1. I am writing in support of the Immigrants Are Los Angeles Coalition.

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We will continue to work with supervisors to find avenues to incorporate immigrant priorities in the budget as it exists now.

Sincerely,
Jessica Martinez