



**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:	
48.		Oppose	Araya Blakely	
			Brooklyn Love	
			ChiChi Navarro	
			Chief Marcella fain-sims	
			Cynthia Meza	
			Daijah Scott	
			Daniel Rodriguez	
			Daniel V Rodriguez	Release Measure J CFCI Funds Now
			De Anna Pittman	
			Derek Steele	
			Emily Paz	
			Estafani Hernandez	
			Evelyn Espinal	
			Felicia carbajal	
Jael Villanueva				



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48.		Oppose	Jessica Farris	<p>Hello. My name is Jess Farris and I'm a Senior Policy Counsel for the ACLU of Southern California. For many years, community members have been loud and clear: we want to see a reduction in law enforcement budgets and an increase in spending on affordable housing and community-based services. We want to see--and have a say--in a true Care First Budget.</p> <p>We cannot continue to overfund already bloated law enforcement budgets and expect anything to improve.</p> <p>For example, the sheriff department's Homeless Outreach Street Team spends its budgeted dollars on things like overtime and weapons and sees the same results year after year: increased uses of force against unhoused populations, increased criminalization, and a failure to connect people to meaningful services. And yet the HOST program continues to receive funding despite being a counterproductive response to homelessness.</p> <p>Every dollar we give to law enforcement is a dollar we aren't spending on building mobile mental health teams, on creating permanent, Housing First solutions, on hiring more caseworkers, funding more restorative justice and diversion programs—on community solutions that save lives instead of endangering them.</p> <p>We're calling on you create a true care first budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to expedite the distribution of unspent CFCI dollars and simplify getting those dollars out - to increase the overall investment in Measure J and CFCI funds - to increase budget transparency and - to include those most impacted by systems of harm in budget decisions. <p>LA County will only realize its Care First vision through meaningful community input to ensure investment in communities with a history of disinvestment. Those community members have long led the fight to have a say in the budget process and should have a substantial role, because they're the ones most negatively impacted by the Board's funding decisions.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
			Joey Williams	



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Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
48.		Oppose	Joey Williams	<p>No funds from CFCI should be spent by any Supervisor on Probation and Sheriff Lawsuits. That is forbidden. JCOD is responsible for \$130 million in underspend, not surplus. 65 million of that needs to be returned to CFCi to be regranted according to our priority areas. The remaining 65 million need a one year spend down plan.</p> <p>I urge the LA BOS to fully fund the 10% of unrestricted funds and develop a community approved plan on what is restricted instead of pencil whipping the budget.</p> <p>Hands off CFCI funds!</p> <p>The budget needs to: Expedite the distribution of unspent CFCI dollars. Cut the red tape: Though the CFCI body is prepared and ready to distribute CFCI funds to eligible organizations, the county's bureaucracy and barriers has prevented CFCI funds from being distributed. Simplify the reporting process. Increase the overall investment of Measure J and CFCI funds. 10% is the minimum! Budget Transparency: The county distribution process and TPA have worked in the shadows and the process has been unclear even to those who serve on the CFCI Advisory. Community Participation: Those most impacted by systems of harm should have a seat at the table and be able to provide their insight to the TPA and BOS. Decarcerate girls and gender expansive youth. (Fulfill the promise of the 2021 -2022 Motion). Provide meaningful investment in YES/Care Teams to provide girls and gender-expansive youth with wraparound support. Shrink the probation departments budget and address the crisis of vacant positions by right-sizing the budget. Reject Probation's "Global Plan," which would shuffle girls and gender expansive youth to different facilities instead of releasing youth. Protect the \$7MM Transgender, Gender Non-conforming and Intersex Wellness Funds held in the Department of Public Health. Be ready for a Jan 2026 Roll Out. Create a pathway into LA County Jobs. Provide adequate funds to pay for the bootcamp program</p>
			Kaelaunie Brown	



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48.		Oppose	Karen Garcia	In opposition of the recommended budget, specifically on the recommended allocation to the Sheriff and Probation department. Combined, they are being given over \$5B of county funds, while Probation is costing the county \$4B in settlements and litigation. The BOS should prioritize shrinking these departments and allocating funds to youth, CFCI, MCJ closure, mental health, and housing. There are urgent needs from our communities. We've been demanding accountability over law enforcement misconduct and now the lack of action from the County has allowed for abuse to go on for so many years. Don't make community members pay that price.
			Lakell White	
			Lena Mallett	
			Leslie Guardado	
			Maya Sanchez	
			Megan Castillo	



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48.		Oppose	Michae De La Cuadra	<p>In 2020, over 2 million Angelenos voted to pass Measure J with the goal of allocating county dollars towards forms of care ie; alternatives to incarceration, housing services, and community programs that keep our communities safe and intact. LA County will be entering its fourth CFCI year and yet there are still unspent dollars from Year 1. On April 15th the county CEO will present the county's recommended budget to the Board of Supervisors (the administrating body of LA County). It is imperative to our work that community members, CFCI recipients, and engaged citizens show out to let the BOS know that people want care over cages. This year, the Sheriffs/Probation have a combined total budget of \$5.1BILLION dollars, on top of over \$4Billion in litigation that taxpayers are footing the bill for because of Probation's sexual abuse of youth inside carceral facilities.</p> <p>Community demands:</p> <p>Expedite the distribution of unspent CFCI dollars. Cut the red tape: Though the CFCI body is prepared and ready to distribute CFCI funds to eligible organizations, the county's bureaucracy and barriers has prevented CFCI funds from being distributed. Simplify the reporting process. Increase the overall investment of Measure J and CFCI funds. 10% is the minimum! Budget Transparency: The county distribution process and TPA have worked in the shadows and the process has been unclear even to those who serve on the CFCI Advisory. Community Participation: Those most impacted by systems of harm should have a seat at the table and be able to provide their insight to the TPA and BOS. Decarcerate girls and gender expansive youth. (Fulfill the promise of the 2021 -2022 Motion). Provide meaningful investment in YES/Care Teams to provide girls and gender-expansive youth with wraparound support. Shrink the probation departments budget and address the crisis of vacant positions by right-sizing the budget. Reject Probation's "Global Plan," which would shuffle girls and gender expansive youth to different facilities instead of releasing youth. Protect the \$7MM Transgender, Gender Non-conforming and Intersex Wellness Funds held in the Department of Public Health. Be ready for a Jan 2026 Roll Out. Create a pathway into LA County Jobs. Provide adequate funds to pay for the bootcamp program.</p>



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			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
48.		Oppose	Monica Juarez	
			Nicole Brown	
			Nina Moore	
			Olivia Gleason	
			Olivia Shields	
			Olivia Shields	<p>For years, I've been attending Board meetings and giving public comment saying the same thing- the Board continues to fund in incarceration, law enforcement, and punishment at exponentially higher investments than community-based safety and wellbeing. When will the commitments of the Board to the care first vision not only be stated, but acted upon?</p> <p>The County's \$4 billion tentative settlement to resolve over 6,800 claims of childhood sexual abuse dating back to 1959—largely stemming from failures within the Probation system—is the costliest in County history, behind the \$1.5 billion payout of the Catholic Church. While survivors deserve justice and healing, this massive payout underscores a devastating legacy of harm and institutional negligence. Furthermore, a blanket 3% cut across the board is DEEPLY inequitable. We ask that instead, the board survey the departments with significant long term vacancies and establish a formula that balances positions hoarded by Probation and LASD.</p> <p>The Probation Department is sitting on 1600 vacant positions, with an average of 3.5 years remaining unfilled. This is equivalent to millions of dollars that should be invested in other strategies and departments in support of bringing Youth Justice Reimagined to life. Without any check, transparency or accountability, Probation is using the unspent dollars associated with these vacant positions to fund the fundamental flaws of the institution - staff calling out, lawsuits, heightened security technology, etc. The number of budgeted positions for the Probation department has decreased by 1,058 budgeted since 2013/2014. Additionally, the average daily population inside Probation facilities decreased by 86% between 2009-2021. Despite the shrunken workforce and youth population, Probation's budget has grown by over \$300M since 2013.</p> <p>In a time where the County budget is particularly limited, it is unacceptable to continually increase investment in Probation, especially considering commitments to alternative models of care. Probation has continuously pointed to staffing as one of the primary reasons behind their inability to maintain compliance in juvenile facilities. Investing in strategies that reduce the incarcerated youth population not only relieves staffing pressures, but allows for more young people to be supported by evidence-based, community-rooted practices.</p>



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	<p>The Board should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fund and systematize Youth Empowerment and Support Teams to provide wraparound care for youth as they navigate the legal system and reentry - Fund youth development infrastructure, like Youth Development Networks, proven to support young people in community and prevent system involvement - Invest in expanding step-down facilities and community placements <p>We know the Probation has a decades-long, deeply entrenched culture of harm and an inability to care for young people. Probation is a liability that the Board must not continue to invest in. Lastly, but not least, expedite the distribution of unspent CFCI dollars. Though the CFCI body is prepared and ready to distribute CFCI funds to eligible organizations, the county's bureaucracy and barriers has prevented CFCI funds from being distributed. It's unacceptable that we're entering the fourth year of CFCI and there are unspent dollars from year one. Simplify the reporting process. Increase the overall investment of Measure J and CFCI funds. 10% is the minimum!</p>
Rachel Featherstone	
Reba Stevens	
Sir Bailey	<p>What does GOD require? Do Justly, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly in Love. Reimagine LA Coalition served citizens of LA to pass Measure J/ CFCI. This budget recommendation fails miserably in expressing objectives of this mandate of the people. A mandate to divest, reduce funds and footprint of police, prisons, probation and parole to invest, increase funds and footprint of CBO's and families. Not only do we reject, oppose the budget but we demand and will support ensuring transparency and community control in the process of setting a world example for restoring and transforming justice. Investing in those invested in job creation, mental health services, healthy food and homes. Cut the red tape, cut the blue bull, and cut the peoples peoples checks. The City is watching, the state and nation are watching, the world and only GOD of it are watching and as stated at Psalm 94:15 Justice will again be founded on righteousness, and all the upright in heart will follow it. Will you follow the will of right, the will of the people whom put you in powers? Reject Global Plan and this budget likewise. Defund the Police and Fund People's Practices of Peace!</p>
Sophia Ventura	<p>At a time of budget austerity, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors allocate the necessary dollars for initiatives like Care First Community Investment and TGI Wellness that already promote greater budget transparency and community participation, and move funds away from the Sheriff and Probation Department's bloated budgets and towards decarceration of jails and youth detention centers.</p>



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		Symphoni Braggs	
		Tencha M Chavez	
		Tori Gomez	
		Tracee M Porter	
		Wynter Knowles	
	Other	Alexander Tron	<p>My name is Alex Tron, and I am submitting this comment in strong support of Reimagine LA and the urgent need to expand sustainable, direct funding to community-based nonprofits that are on the front lines of transformative justice work.</p> <p>Los Angeles County voters made their vision clear when they passed Measure J. That vision was rooted in investing in care, not cages—in community wellness, not incarceration. The success of Reimagine LA thus far proves that when we trust and resource grassroots organizations, especially those led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, undocumented, and system-impacted communities, we see real, measurable outcomes in public safety, healing, and opportunity.</p> <p>However, many of these organizations continue to face enormous barriers in accessing and sustaining public funding due to burdensome requirements, delayed reimbursements, and inconsistent support. If the County is truly committed to equity and transformation, then funding must not only be allocated—it must be accessible, sustainable, and community-driven.</p> <p>We urge the Board to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand and streamline Measure J and Care First funding opportunities to reach small and mid-sized nonprofits rooted in directly impacted communities. • Increase general operating support, so organizations can pay staff living wages, retain talent, and build long-term infrastructure. • Create flexible, multi-year grant programs that reduce administrative burdens and promote innovation, collaboration, and growth. • Honor community voices and leadership by including impacted residents and nonprofit partners in the decision-making process around allocations and program design. <p>It's time to shift away from reactive, punitive systems and toward proactive investment in care, dignity, and equity. Reimagine LA is not just a funding stream—it is a commitment to justice. Let's honor the will of the people and continue building the Los Angeles our communities deserve.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
		Diana Zuniga	
		Efrain Escobedo	
		Gabriela Vazquez	



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Gabriela Vazquez	
Kate McNeil	<p>Re: Agenda Item (Recommended Budget) 25-2111 CEO Fiscal Year 2025-26 Recommended Budget</p> <p>Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>My name is Kate McNeil. I am a resident of El Monte in Supervisor Solis's district. I have worked in the criminal justice field for the last six years, and I am a member of Loyola Law School's Pre-trial Justice Practicum where I have learned about the criminogenic effects of pre-trial detention and the proven alternatives and strategies that address crime and public safety. I write today to strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to uphold the commitments of Measure J by allocating unspent funds into the care first community programs that they were intended for, and not divert them as proposed by the Chief Executive Office on March 7th, 2025. The funds were intended to dedicate at least 10% of the county budget into alternatives to incarceration and community support that combats root causes of crime. While I fully recognize the urgency and importance to support those impacted by the recent fires, using the Care First Community Investment funds for that purpose would undermine the collective efforts of the public in its vision for preventing crime and addressing the structural inequities of the criminal legal system through alternatives to incarceration. Measure J was designed to direct resources away from punitive systems into community-based services that address root causes of crime in Los Angeles while promoting public safety. One way to achieve this is by building robust pretrial services, which are instrumental in the reduction of re-arrests. This model has been successful in the Airport Courthouse pre-trial service pilot where enhanced support to justice involved individuals has resulted in 350 referrals since last June to various service providers that assist with homeless outreach, substance abuse management, and employment assistance. Additionally, since last June it has assisted in over 136 court transports and 410 court reminders, keeping those who face charges accountable, while reducing failures to appear and delays which strain our overburdened court system. This board should invest in our community through alternatives to incarceration, reduce the pre-trial jail population, and encourage court support services to improve safety in Los Angeles, the very goals Measure J. I urge you to honor the will of the Los Angeles voters by keeping these funds where they belong.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kate McNeil El Monte, CA (SD1)</p>
Kate Mcneil	
Keegan Gulati	
Leah Perez	
Maya F Daniels	



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			<p>Robert Gamboa</p> <p>Subject: Oppose Further Cuts to Measure A-Funded Programs – Preserve Critical Homeless Services</p> <p>Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>I am writing to express strong opposition to any additional cuts or bed reductions in Measure A-funded homeless services in response to the \$21 million in restorations for TAY (Transition Age Youth) and prevention services recently approved by your Board. Please reaffirm the budget decisions you approved recently, including full restorations for TAY and homeless prevention—without offsetting these investments with cuts to other critical programs.</p> <p>The CEO-HI’s proposal to cut or reduce beds to “pay for” these restorations is unnecessary and premature. This Board has multiple options to manage a temporary \$21 million budget gap, including making mid-year adjustments once Measure A’s actual revenue and spending patterns become clearer. This is a well-established practice. In fact, Measure H operated this way for years—with spending and revenue rarely matching allocations exactly, and substantial unspent fund balances rolling over annually. There is every reason to expect Measure A will follow a similar pattern, especially in its early phases. Assuming some level of underspending is not only reasonable—it’s consistent with LA County’s own past practice.</p> <p>Let’s be clear: Voters just approved a doubling of the homelessness sales tax under Measure A. The last thing they want to hear is that the County is already cutting Measure A programs before implementation has even begun.</p> <p>If some argue that relying on underspending or projected revenue is not a fiscal “best practice,” it’s important to recognize that this exact “imprecision” was routine under Measure H. As homeless services advocates have stated, the County never aligned allocations precisely with spending or tax receipts under Measure H. The only difference now is that we’re asking the County to acknowledge this reality up front to prevent harmful cuts, rather than underspending and discovering a surplus too late to help anyone.</p> <p>Let’s not shortchange our most vulnerable communities—especially youth and people at risk of becoming homeless—because of a temporary and fixable accounting issue.</p> <p>We urge you to protect the full range of homelessness services, affirm the budget as restored, and avoid unnecessary reductions. The tools exist to manage this responsibly and compassionately.</p>
			<p>Russell Maycumber</p>
			<p>Soma Snakeoil</p> <p>I am here to insist on the release to community the unspent Measure J funds that are at risk of being spent in ways that were not intended. My org is a CFCI program for our skid row community ambassador violence interruption program that includes responding to overdoses, messy situation escape for</p>

			<p>survivors of sexual violence, safe passage for children & stipends for unhoused people. While police force incidents continue to cost lives & millions to the county, our heroic deescalation ambassadors save lives & prevent & interrupt violence in Skid Row & are grossly underpaid, and themselves face police harrassment. During the wildfires my skid row team worked 24/7 & served 26 neighborhoods with life saving. Measure J funds languish in county budgets, while urgent crises in housing, sexual violence, and youth services continue to escalate-clearly considering the millions County is paying in lawsuits. It is unacceptable for transformative funds to sit idle while our communities are in survival mode. For a period of a couple months this year we were overspent on hotel rooms for women fleeing violence by 30,000 while DV shelters and single beds were full. We have had to sometimes put rooms on our own credit cards while we wait for beds to open up. Please liberate and strengthen Care first dollars, to ensure LA County commitment to care first is more than a sound bite. Thank you.</p>
		Sonya A Guerra	<p>Hello. Sonya Guerra. Dir of ops for the sidewalk project. Instead of prioritizing the wellbeing of its unhoused residents, departments choose to ignore the families with young children living on the streets of skid row. Our team does not. Our Community ambassador team is in the street daily offering support and services to these families. This can include anything from safe passage to opening our drop in center for children's mental health events. This is the same team that helped push a non operational rv with their bare hands when someone called to have it towed because the sight of an unhoused family was inconvenient for their business. It's very clear that our federal government does not care about its people. Now more than ever we need the \$325 million care first dollars to be released and protected for our communities to survive this era.</p>
		Zaya Perysian	
		Item Total	56
Grand Total			56

April 15, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors:

Via submission: <https://publiccomment.bos.lacounty.gov/>

Re: Agenda Item (Recommended Budget) 25-2111 CEO Fiscal Year 2025-26
Recommended Budget

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

My name is Kate McNeil. I am a resident of El Monte in Supervisor Solis's district. I have worked in the criminal justice field for the last six years, and I am a member of Loyola Law School's Pre-trial Justice Practicum where I have learned about the criminogenic effects of pre-trial detention and the proven alternatives and strategies that address crime and public safety.

I write today to strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to **uphold the commitments of Measure J by allocating unspent funds into the care first community programs that they were intended for**, and not divert them as proposed by the Chief Executive Office on March 7th, 2025. The funds were intended to dedicate at least 10% of the county budget into alternatives to incarceration and community support that combats root causes of crime. While I fully recognize the urgency and importance to support those impacted by the recent fires, using the Care First Community Investment funds for that purpose would undermine the collective efforts of the public in its vision for preventing crime and addressing the structural inequities of the criminal legal system through alternatives to incarceration.

Measure J was designed to direct resources away from punitive systems into community-based services that address root causes of crime in Los Angeles while promoting public safety. One way to achieve this is by building robust pretrial services, which are instrumental in the reduction of re-arrests. This model has been successful in the Airport Courthouse pre-trial service pilot where enhanced support to justice involved individuals has resulted in 350 referrals since last June to various service providers that assist with homeless outreach, substance abuse management, and employment assistance. Additionally, since last June it has assisted in over 136 court transports and 410 court reminders, keeping those who face charges accountable, while reducing failures to appear and delays which strain our overburdened court system.

This board should invest in our community through alternatives to incarceration, reduce the pre-trial jail population, and encourage court support services to improve safety in Los Angeles, the very goals Measure J. I urge you to honor the will of the Los Angeles voters by keeping these funds where they belong.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kate McNeil
El Monte, CA (SD1)

April 14, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Urgent Need to Expand and Expedite Measure J & Care First Community Investment Funds and Budgetary Processes

Dear Honorable Supervisors,


The Center for Nonprofit Management (CNM) joins the collective call from our community partners across Los Angeles County urging the Board to fully expand and promptly allocate Care First Community Investment (CFCI) funds. These resources are essential for delivering on the promise of Measure J—to invest in community-based alternatives to incarceration, and to address critical needs in mental health care, housing, and youth development.

However, beyond the immediate delays, we must address a deeper systemic challenge: the very same barriers affecting CFCI implementation reflect broader, long-standing issues our sector faces. Complicated contracting processes and slow reimbursements make it hard for community-based organizations—especially those led by and serving communities with the greatest needs—to get the funding they need to do the work and make a real difference

As the region's trusted capacity builder for the nonprofit and social impact sector, CNM works with hundreds of organizations that are already doing the work CFCI is meant to support. The nonprofit sector is one of the largest employers in Los Angeles County, providing jobs to over **411,000 people**, according to the California Employment Development Department's 2024 report on the nonprofit workforce. But even the most capable nonprofits are held back by systems that delay funding and create unnecessary burdens—putting staff retention, payroll, and program delivery at risk.

“Nonprofits are on the frontlines of LA's most urgent challenges—yet they're asked to do more with less, often navigating outdated systems that weren't built with them in mind,” said Efrain Escobedo, President & CEO of CNM. “If LA County is truly committed to Care First values, it must also commit to changing the systems that hold back the very organizations doing the work.”

To help CFCI achieve its goals and ensure Measure J funding delivers real impact, we encourage the County to take a few practical steps. This includes fully and transparently allocating all approved CFCI funds, addressing disbursement delays, and improving communication with grantees. We also recommend making the contracting process more



accessible, equitable, and efficient. Finally, sustained investment in nonprofit capacity is essential—so organizations have the support they need not only to carry out this work, but to do so effectively and over the long term

Nonprofits selected to carry out this vital work must receive their due resources without delay. Anything less risks undermining trust, slowing progress, and failing the very communities this initiative was created to support.

At CNM, we foster thriving communities across Southern California by equipping the social impact sector with the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to fulfill their missions and enact meaningful change. We envision a strong, resilient, and trusted social impact sector that is a cornerstone of Southern California's economy, where organizations have the power, capacity, and tools to build equitable, thriving communities.

Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing equity and supporting the social impact sector that uplifts our communities.

Sincerely,
Efrain Escobedo
President & CEO
Center for Nonprofit Management

Hello, my name is Daniel Vigil Rodriguez, Senior Manager at The Social Impact Center, who lives in District 1. I'm a Queer Mexican American organizer who grew up in Southeast LA, where my own experiences growing up in a system-impacted, divorced household filled with stigma shaped my deep appreciation for the community. My parents, victims of the war on drugs, felt like they didn't have a future, and that story is echoed by many of the community members we help today.

As a current CFCI grant awardee, I'm asking you to commit to maintaining this crucial CFCI funding. Stop investing in systems that perpetuate trauma and continue to invest in compassionate care. Let's close the jails and reinvest these unspent funds into resources that uplift and heal. Expanding re-entry networks like the JCOD Incubator will build bridges to success and reduce recidivism. I have seen first hand positive changes

Investing in our community members isn't just an act of charity—it's an act of justice and a necessary step in fulfilling the promises of Measure J.

How do you see yourself in this movement?

Thank you for your time.

At any time there are up to 50 girls and gender expansive youth incarcerated in LA County juvenile halls. Our children are not animals and they don't deserve to be in cages. Release all young people back to their families and communities that deeply care for them and love them. If we are going to cut budgets jails and probation should be first on the list. While our community members and families are incarcerated they are not undergoing any real rehabilitation. They sit in jail cells like animals and then are just thrown back into the world expected to be changed. But how when no one took the time to pour positive things into them. And let's not get started on probation. That is a pipeline back to jail for most people. We must find alternatives to restore people back to society because clearly crimination doesn't work. That's been proven time and time again.

Good Afternoon, my name is Gabriela Vazquez and I am part of the advocacy organization La Defensa and a member of the Reimagine LA Coalition. Five years ago I worked alongside my community members to help pass measure J at the height of the pandemic when we couldn't canvass or knock on a single door.

Despite that, over 2 million Angelenos voted YES to ensure funding went directly into youth diversion services, mental health services (that do not involve law enforcement btw!), accessible and affordable housing, green spaces, economic development, and alternatives to incarceration programming throughout our county.

Measure J is a MANDATE and our county electeds must do everything in their power to ensure that funds are distributed directly to these vital programs. We will not accept a new whicinterpretation or revisionist history to excuse using CFCI funds for anything other than direct community services and programs.

I am angered to know that hundreds of millions of CFCI dollars have gone unspent, and want to know why the recommendations that came directly from the CFCI advisory board have not been applied to these unspent funds?

This board must continue to call out the departments that are hemorrhaging all the money and take from them, not from CFCI.

LA County now ranks first in the world for sexual abuse settlements at **\$4 BILLION**, which places us ahead of the Catholic Church. (Yikes!)

We Don't Have a Safety Problem — We Have a Spending Problem. The Sheriff's Department is already bloated with a **\$4 billion+ budget**, even as **jail conditions deteriorate**, lawsuits and deaths increase, and public trust erodes. Instead of accountability, we're rewarding failure. The **County is proposing an increase of \$9.5 million**, mostly to fund **retirement perks**, tech upgrades, and more deputies — none of which has proven to make communities safer. Meanwhile, we're still in a **housing and mental health crisis**. That's where our money needs to go.

Throwing Money at the Sheriff Won't Solve What They Created. They're asking for **\$13.6 million for IT** and **\$2.5 million for "employee wellness"** while Black and Brown communities continue to face over-policing, harassment, and deadly outcomes. These so-called upgrades are being used to **"comply" with lawsuits and consent decrees**, but the truth is: the department keeps violating people's rights — and then **asks for more money to fix the violations they caused**.

As always, the Reimagine La County coalition is doing the work to ensure that this budget doesn't leave anyone behind. Our demands are as follows:

1. **Expedite** the distribution of unspent CFCI dollars.
2. **Cut the red tape:** the county's bureaucracy and barriers has prevented CFCI funds from being distributed. Simplify the reporting process.
3. **Increase** the overall investment of Measure J and CFCI funds. 10% is the minimum!
4. **Budget Transparency:** The county distribution process and TPA have worked in the shadows and the process has been unclear even to those who serve on the CFCI Advisory.

Time and time again, we have named a need for greater budget transparency and authentic collaboration between the County and the community.

It is vital to our livelihoods that the community can directly influence County budget decisions.