

May 8, 2023

Bob Blumenfield, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Mayor's 2023-24 Proposed Budget

Honorable Bob Blumenfield and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber), one of the largest business organizations in Los Angeles representing over 1400 businesses, we are writing to express our support of Mayor Bass' budget proposal put forth to address homelessness and support of Budget Memo's number: **77, 78, 95, 97, and 137.**

On Homelessness

As a City, we must meet the moment to address the crisis over our time – homelessness. We commend Mayor Bass for following through on her commitment to prioritize this humanitarian crisis. The \$1.3 billion committed, to confront the homelessness crisis this city faces, is a historic investment. The Chamber supports the establishment of an Office of Housing and Homelessness Solutions within the administration to allow for better coordination and collaboration. The investments to Inside Safe and allocation of funding towards the creation of new substance use and mental health treatments beds will ensure those suffering in our streets can also be provided the support they require.

Supporting Budget Memos

Office of Inclusion and Contractor Relations

The Chamber also respectfully requests that your committee fund the City Administrative Officer's Office of Procurement's budget request to establish the Office of Inclusion and Contractor Relations (OICR) and support **budget memo #77.**

The OICR will be tasked with implementing Citywide procurement supplier diversity, outreach programs, small business policy, procurement access to capital programming, City of Los Angeles vendor procurement assistance, and the creation of a Citywide subcontractor utilization program. This office represents the City's investment and connection into the small and diverse business Community. The Chamber and OneLA is excited to partner with RAMP and the Office of Procurement to provide additional small business support and development to the Los Angeles Region.

Vendor Payments

Expedited and efficient payments are a key factor in a small business or non-profit's ability to work with local government. The current payment process is inefficient and

leaves vendors at risk for missing payroll. A centralized invoice management tracking system would be instrumental in tracking the progress of payments and identifying causes for delays. The Chamber asks the committee to support **budget memo #78**.

Workforce Development

The Chamber asks that you increase funding or prioritize established funding for the Youth Employment Program to help young Angelinos develop long-term employment opportunities, expand job site placements, and develop industry-needs aligned career development instruction. The Chamber is here and ready to help build out the Youth Employment Program with local small businesses and supports **budget memo #95**.

Global

The Chamber supports increased line item funding for the Sister Cities of Los Angeles to realize operations capacity to help coordinate, identify opportunities, and build out a long-term global engagement infrastructure to maximize Los Angeles as a global city in advance of the major global events, trade and education opportunities, and dialogues to enhance inbound foreign direct investment coming over the next decade. We ask that you support and expand upon **budget memo #97**.

Economic Development

The Chamber asks that you consolidate line item funding totaling \$550,000 to expedite and realize cost savings for the development of the Citywide Economic Development Strategy and Jobs Report, Jobs and Business Advancement in Los Angeles Action Plan, and the People, Industry and Jobs Report. The Chamber is here and ready to contribute to these reports as well and ask that you support **budget memo #137**.

The Chamber has a deep legacy in tackling homelessness and will continue to prioritize this issue. We urge the committee to support the budget as proposed by Mayor Bass on homelessness and support budget memos: **77, 78, 95, 97, and 137**. Should you have any questions please contact Senior Public Policy Manager Jackie Romero at jromero@lachamber.com.

Sincerely,



Maria S. Salinas
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce