



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Council President Nury Martinez
Chair of Budget and Finance Committee Councilmember Paul Krekorian

FROM: Making Los Angeles Whole Coalition

SUBJECT: Doubling Down on Our Invitation

DATE: April 13, 2021

DOUBLING DOWN ON OUR INVITATION

The City of Los Angeles will receive an unprecedented infusion of \$1.3 billion from the federal government. President Biden has charged his administration to ensure the benefits of the package “go out quickly and directly to the American people, where they belong.” We the undersigned civic, labor, community, and civil rights leaders call on the City to fulfil the President’s charge and support a vision to Make Los Angeles Whole.

The City has an opportunity to lead the nation and be a model for a recovery effort that places people and communities first. Our proposal centers and uplifts women, families and their children. Women are central to the framework of our plan. Over the past year, women risked their own lives to keep our families safe, supported, and fed as they kept our City afloat. Now is the time to reinvest in them, as they invested in us.

Making Los Angeles Whole centers families most impacted by the pandemic, while also creating opportunities for all of Los Angeles to thrive. While we understand the urge to backfill budget holes, we must lead this moment with a commitment to restore our families.

As we approach budget season in full force, we double down on our collective vision and call on the City of Los Angeles to direct a \$1 billion dollar investment over the next two years toward poor and working-class families hit hardest by COVID, (whereby citizenship status does not bar anyone from obtaining these resources) and develop a formula targeting at minimum 80% of the resources toward the communities most deeply impacted. We have shared our plan and framework, and welcome new ideas to bolster the methodology, so long as it lifts up the people and communities that have borne the brunt of this pandemic.

We call on the City to use no more than \$500 million to restore city budgets. We agree that city employees need full pay for full work and we must do well for employees; however, we adamantly oppose LAPD receiving any additional funding.

There is no time like the present. The City must acknowledge all the powerful organizing and advocacy efforts underway to build an inclusive and equitable LA. These recommendations are a reflection of the current and ongoing work in communities across the City.

As Dr. King reminded us years ago, “The time is always right to do what’s right.” We invite the City to invest in what is right, and reinvest dollars into the people and communities who have saved us during a period of unprecedented social and economic upheaval.

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENTS

Family Care for All

Create a fund of no less than \$250 million for child and elder care. The City should dedicate funds to provide free child care before school and after school until 8pm for families in need. Additionally, the City should dedicate funding to support the in-home care of our elders including: financial resources toward obtaining additional hours of care for IHSS recipients who need more assistance than the maximum allowed by the County, and funding for home modifications for seniors and people with disabilities to ensure safety throughout the home.

Racial Justice Equity Fund for Women

Create an Equity Fund of not less than \$100 million to support women for training, finding employment and supporting women owned small businesses and women led non-profit organizations. There should be special attention to ensure women of color, and trans women,

which have been most impacted by the pandemic, are prioritized. Include technical assistance to ensure that organizations led by and serving women of color have access.

Housing Security: Rent, Mortgage, Utilities Relief

Expand investments to no less than \$250 million to launch a comprehensive local housing stability program to cancel rent debt, and suspend rent payments for eligible tenants, forgive utilities debt, strengthen mortgage protections and support vulnerable landlords. The funds should be used to establish a local fund to provide financial relief to certain qualifying landlords to mitigate the economic impact of rent cancellation and ensure housing stability.

Year-Round Youth Employment and Leadership Opportunities

Invest no less than \$100 million in comprehensive and holistic employment programs focused on leadership development and life skills for high-need youth in South L.A., the Eastside of LA, MacArthur Park, and the East San Fernando Valley. The City should also adopt the recommendations of the Executive Task Force on Youth Development to establish a Youth Development Department.

Guaranteed Basic Income

Dedicate at least \$100 million to provide at least two years of guaranteed basic income of at least \$1,500 a month to families in highest need (without interfering with existing benefits that participants receive). This should be done in collaboration with existing pilots, such as Councilmember Price's Basic Income pilot. There should be no requirement around citizenship for eligibility.

Community Driven Safety Fund

We call on the City to increase investments of no less than \$200 million to support Community Intervention Workers, re-entry services, the establishment of Healing Centers in communities that have fallen victims to police abuse, and establish a reimagine public safety innovation fund to invest in community driven alternatives to policing.

Sincerely,

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Angela Rye, Principal and CEO, IMPACT Strategies

Angelica Salas, Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights

April Verrett, President, SEIU 2015

Aquil Basheer, Founder, Professional Community Intervention Training Institute International,
South Los Angeles Peacebuilders Collective

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Jeffery Wallace, President and CEO, LeadersUp

John Kim, Executive Director, Advancement Project

Joe Donelin, Deputy Director, SAJE- Strategic Actions for a Just Economy

Joseph Tomás Mckellar. Executive Director, PICO California

Karim Webb, Entrepreneurial Activist

Karen Mack, Founder and Executive Director, LA Commons

Kasey Ventura, Community Organizer, Beverly-Vermont Community Land Trust

Kevin "Twin" Orange, Co-Founder, Advocates for Peace and Unity

Laura Raymond, Director, Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles

Lian Cheun, Executive Director, Khmer Girls in Action

Lou Calanche, Executive Director, Legacy LA

Luis Sanchez, Executive Director, Power California

Lyric Kelkar, Policy Director, Inclusive Action for the City

Manuel Pastor, USC Equity Research Institute *Organization listed for identification purposes only

Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle

Mario Fedelin, CEO, Changeist

Mark Wilson, President and CEO, Coalition for Responsible Community Development

Michael A. Lawson, President and CEO, Los Angeles Urban League

Mike De La Rocha, Co-Founder & CEO, Revolve Impact

Mike Dennis, Director of Organizing, Everyone In Campaign /United Way of Greater Los Angeles

Monica Mejia, President and CEO, East LA Community Corporation Nana Gyamfi, Executive Director, Black Alliance for Just Immigration Pamela Agustin-Anguiano, Coalition Manager, Eastside LEADS

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Renato Lira, Executive Director, San Fernando LGBT Community Center Rosa Soto, Executive Director, The Wellness Center

Roxana Tynan, President and CEO, LAANE

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Shashi Hanuman, Directing Attorney, Community Development Project, Public Counsel Shimica Gaskins, CDF-CA Executive Director, Children's Defense Fund-California Tony Brown, Chief Executive Officer, Heart of Los Angeles

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Yvonne Francois Wheeler, National Representative, AFGE District 12, and American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO

Rev. Zachary Hoover, Executive Director, LA Voice

CC:

City Councilmember Gil Cedillo

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City Councilmember Nithya Raman

City Councilmember Paul Koretz

City Councilmember Monica Rodriguez

City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson City Councilmember Curren Price

City Councilmember Mark Ridley Thomas

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