



**TO:** Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair  
Honorable Bob Blumenfield  
Honorable Kevin de Leon  
Honorable Monica Rodriguez  
Honorable Curren D. Price, Jr.

**FROM: Making Los Angeles Whole Coalition**

**SUBJECT: Commit to Protect and Grow Vital Community Programs**

**DATE: April 29, 2022**

### **COMMIT TO PROTECT AND GROW VITAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

Thirty years ago today, Los Angeles witnessed our communities' response to a shameful verdict and the decades-long disinvestment in South LA and other neighborhoods across the City. The LA uprisings laid bare the significant disparities in access to quality healthcare, housing, jobs, and economic opportunities for our families and communities. Although we've made progress, history repeats itself again three decades later. The COVID-19 pandemic, like the uprisings, has revealed the deep-rooted inequities that Los Angeles' working-class residents and communities face every day.

Community Coalition, InnerCity Struggle, SEIU 2015, and the Brotherhood Crusade have all shared the burden of serving our members and their families and empowering them to fight for their communities. These circumstances demonstrate the need for the City not to retreat but recommit to addressing the long-standing demands of families and communities adversely affected by ongoing inequities.

Last year, Mayor Eric Garcetti and the LA City Council heard the voices of the community by including a historic \$170 million investment in priorities advanced by The Making LA Whole coalition and community members across the City. Programs and initiatives focused on job creation, housing, guaranteed income, childcare, and eliminating food insecurity have helped families meet the myriad challenges of day-to-day life in Los Angeles. Over the past year, our collective organizations have witnessed the impact of the critical investments in the communities we serve daily. The potential of bold measures like these to improve the lives of families will require that we continue to maintain and expand funding for these efforts.

Unfortunately, the Mayor's FY 2022-2023 proposed budget eliminates an estimated \$100 million from these community-based programs, including from childcare and eldercare services and



supports for residents experiencing food and housing insecurity. In addition to these significant cuts, we see an increase in the proposed police budget, which we adamantly oppose. These cuts will undermine the powerful efforts underway to build an inclusive and equitable LA.

We ask that the Mayor and City Council not turn back now. Our communities have grown tired of seeing equity stalled, diminished, and eliminated during the budget season. The coalition demands the City ensure that all funds provided to these essential programs last year remain in place until fully spent. We also demand that community-based funded programs be placed on an equal footing with all other City programs and not be subjected to the vagaries of one-time funding to maintain and expand all community-based program funding for LA's highest-need communities beyond the 2021-2022 level. We deserve a permanent solution to these ongoing challenges.

As Dr. King reminded us years ago, "The time is always right to do what's right." As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of the civil unrest, we must heed our communities' call to protect, grow and sustain equitable investments. The COVID-19 pandemic, like the uprisings, shed light on a long-standing reality: that Los Angeles is a land of abundance and possibilities—but only for some. But if we allocate permanent resources where they are needed most, the City will not only succeed in rebuilding from a devastating pandemic but lay a vital foundation that ultimately Make(s) LA Whole for all of its residents. Let's do so with a fierce sense of urgency.

Signed,

Alberto Retana, President & CEO, Community Coalition

April Verrett, President, SEIU 2015

Charisse Bremond Weaver, President & CEO, Brotherhood Crusade

Maria Brenes, Executive Director, InnerCity Struggle