



## **Budget Advocate Report to Neighborhood Councils #5**

Our committees are addressing various issues raised by Neighborhood Councils, Budget Advocates, Budget Representatives, and/or stakeholders. We expect to have initial drafts of several papers in the near future. New committees will be formed as new issues arise.

The Budget Advocates have several events scheduled for this fall. First we will be presenting at Congress of Neighborhoods on September 26<sup>th</sup>, both in the morning about the importance of advocating for services for all Angelenos in the face of economic pressures, and a participatory networking session in the afternoon.

Next, the Budget Advocates are developing an interactive seminar to bring to individual Neighborhood Councils to discuss what the Budget Advocates do, and have a dialogue on what board members and stakeholders can do to help us and help themselves.

Finally we will be holding a series of Town Halls over the next 8 or 9 months, hopefully starting in November with one addressing the challenges of allocating services and budget resources equitably across Los Angeles. More than calling out the problems, we want people across the City to focus on constructive recommendations and solutions.

### **Action**

On September 2, the City Council approved a Declaration of Fiscal Emergency. This will allow the City to furlough over 15,000 of its civilian employees for 18 days this year. The City Council also approved an amended Separation Incentive Program that will allow 1,277 civilian employees to retire early, saving a mere \$13 million.

This furlough program will allow the City to balance the Placeholder Budget that was adversely impacted by the budget busting labor agreements with the police, firefighters, and civilian employees that resulted in massive deficits over the next four three years.

But this Placeholder Budget does not include the full impact of Covid-19 on the City's seven economically sensitive taxes which will result in budget deficits in the range of \$200 to \$400 million. The Mayor and the City Council have not addressed how to finance this projected budget deficit, but it will most likely require additional furloughs and temporary or permanent layoffs. This will create considerable pushback from the City's public sector unions.

Before the Mayor and City Council cut any more backroom deals (and deal they must with the unions on this one), they will need to implement a policy of transparency through which they share with Angelenos the hard data, real costs, real losses, real projections in the form of an updated Placeholder Budget.

They also need to provide us with actuals on Covid-19 expenditures and all revenues received from the State and Federal governments relating to the pandemic, to date and projected.

We, along with the Neighborhood Councils and their stakeholders, have a right to this information on a timely basis

### **Coming soon**

Our new website <https://www.budgetadvocates.com/> should be up and running by the end of September. It will include what is on the current website (<http://ncbala.com/> - which will automatically forward to the new one once that is active) plus expanded information for Neighborhood Councils including how to find and contact your Budget Advocate, a list of the ad-hoc committees through which we are pursuing our work this year, and how board members and stakeholders can get involved.

### **Budget Advocate Ad-Hoc Committees currently underway**

Neighborhood Council and Stakeholder Issues; City Budget Cuts; Planning & Public Works; Emergency Management Resources; Homelessness and Affordable Housing; Housing; the LAPD; the impact of Covid-19 on the City's budget; Recreation and Parks; Undocumented Immigrants; Pensions; Budget Policies and Goals, Opportunity Zones and Redlining; Cannabis; the People's Budget Los Angeles; Animal Services; HHH Funds; DONE; Equity; and the City Council.

### **Urgent**

Get everyone in your community – including the unhoused and undocumented – to respond to the census at <https://2020census.gov/> or by phone in English at (844) 330-2020 or Spanish at 844-468-2020 (other languages on the census website).

This is ESSENTIAL if Los Angeles is to receive its share of the \$115 billion in federal funds spent every year on California schools, healthcare, housing, transportation, and other vital programs in our neighborhoods, and equitable representation in Washington for the next ten YEARS.

### **Neighborhood Council Budget Executive Committee**

Co-Chairs: Liz Amsden and Jack Humphreville

Vice-Chair, Development: Albert Farias

Vice-Chairs, Outreach: John DiGregorio and Julia Moser

Corresponding Secretary: Glenn Bailey

Administrative Secretary: Jennifer Goodie

Treasurer: Lanira Murphy

Parliamentarian: Carol Newman

*September 9, 2020*