

May 6, 2025

Councilwoman Traci Park
7166 W. Manchester Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90045

RE: **CIS WITH RESPECT TO CF 25-0600**

Dear Councilwoman Park,

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa understands the criticality of the City's nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall as announced at Mayor Bass's State of the City address in April, but we urge you to support the NCs and oppose the Mayors proposed reduction to the NC budgets from \$32,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

Please be reminded that:

1. Neighborhood Councils have to pay for meeting spaces, storage units, elections and election materials, operational and training expenses (for new board members), outreach materials, etc. A budget cut would be devastating to our Neighborhood Councils who currently have little more than the funds to cover their basic expenses.
2. For Neighborhood Councils who do not spend their money, these funds are not lost. They revert to the General Fund.
3. The original Neighborhood Council budget was \$50,000. Over time, the NC budget has been reduced as inflation continues to rise. When the Covid-19 lockdown took effect, Neighborhood Council budgets were reduced to \$32,000. When the City recovered its footing and the department cuts were reversed, the Neighborhood Council budget was not restored.

The Neighborhood Councils provide a service to the city, and to the people of the city. We engage stakeholders in a way the City Council cannot because we are part of our communities. Many of us work with our Council Offices, each helping the other to achieve common goals. It would be a shame to frustrate the efforts of NCs by further reducing their very lean budget. Therefore we again urge you to oppose this proposed budget reduction and vote no.

Regards,

Paula Gerez
President, NCWP

cc: Mayor Karen Bass