

Nury Martinez
President
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear President Martinez,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (“Board”), which held a regular meeting and approved this letter on May 5, 2020 supporting Council File 20-0416.

Neighborhood Councils are on-the-ground every day creating a bridge between the City of Los Angeles and local communities, playing an integral role in communicating and implement the city’s coronavirus response. Neighborhood Councils are working to ensure that funds and resources are being distributed equitably amongst the City’s most vulnerable population, despite being unable to conduct business for eight weeks due to the social distancing guidelines set by the City and State. Activities include:

- Delivering supplies such as groceries, household essentials, diapers, and more to vulnerable residents;
- Providing translation services so that residents can access benefits;
- Helping individuals apply for local, state, and federal benefits such as the Angeleno Card, CALFRESH, and unemployment benefits, especially those who are not computer literate or connected to the internet;
- Providing micro-grants to local nonprofits on the front line of feeding, housing, and responding to the crisis;
- Creating or working with mutual aid networks that match volunteers with people in need for services like grocery delivery, prescription pick-up and dog-walking;
- Creating a system of block captains, individuals who are responsible for contacting entire block of individuals to connect, build community, and connect with services;
- And much, much more.

Some specific examples include:

- Los Feliz Neighborhood Council (LFNC) launched LosFelizHelps.org, a website to find information, paths to resources, and help for neighbors experiencing hardship.
- Del Rey Neighborhood Council (DRNC) has distributed 15,000 meals to seniors, people with disabilities, and families living in Mar Vista Gardens, a local low-income housing project. They have also distributed over 6,000 masks to health care workers, neighbors in need, and volunteers.
- Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council (CHNC) delivers groceries to 300 seniors every week and signed up 620 seniors for a USDA ration box delivered by Amazon Fresh.

Therefore, allowing Neighborhood Council funds to roll over their entire remaining balance to the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget would not only be a wise investment by the City in a time of fiscal austerity but helps leverage funding from the local, state, and federal level at a time when City staff are overwhelmed by emergency response to ensure that necessary aid is reaching those most in need.

We look forward to working with you on this together as we work to strengthen the Neighborhood Council System.

Sincerely,