



Wilmington Neighborhood Council

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May 28, 2019

Joe Buscaino
200 Spring Street
Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 900120

Ernie Aguilar – Chair
Valerie Contretas – Co-Chair
Christian Guzman – Secretary
Kim Luke – Treasurer
Steve Salas – Parliamentarian

Dear Councilman Buscaino:

On May 22, 2019, the Wilmington Neighborhood Council adopted a resolution on our priorities for the city budget. The resolution is attached to this letter. These priorities are based on stakeholder needs throughout our community that were brought to our attention by public comments at our council meetings on April 24th and May 9th, by phone, email and in-person.

Wilmington community members and those that live in the neighborhood, continue to feel overburdened by industry without enough services in return from the Los Angeles city government and the Port of Los Angeles.

Industrial commerce, in the name of economic development for the city and beyond, directly leads to our crumbling roads and streets, noise, light, air, land and water pollution. These issues intersect with our daily lives and cause unfair burdens that our community members must pay for out of pocket. It all makes for a more dangerous and unsafe community. For example, damage to tires while driving a car or riding a bicycle in pot-holed and lifted roads. Or, picture a poor-working class family living paycheck to paycheck, only to find out that their child has asthma and needs an inhaler - but it's not just one inhaler it's multiple, an inhaler at home and the child's schools for the nurse's office. Small businesses can also suffer and lose revenue when employees have to take days off of work to treat pollution-related diseases.

We thank the Mayor for his initial proposed budget, and the City Council, the departments and agencies, and the public that finalize the city budget.

In Community,

Ernie Aguilar, Chairman
Wilmington Neighborhood Council

**WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
RESOLUTION RE: PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY BUDGET**

Be it resolved, that the Wilmington Neighborhood Council urges the City of Los Angeles to adopt and incorporate our recommendations for the city budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20:

Well-run City government

- Increase funding for security staff at Municipal buildings where Neighborhood Councils conduct business after normal business hours.
- Increase funding for security cameras and motion sensors at the Wilmington Municipal Building.

Livable and Sustainable City

- Increased funding for the Department of Aging and Recreation and Parks to improve the services at the Senior Center in Wilmington.
- Prioritize and increase funding for outreach and community education workshops on the Safe Sidewalks Los Angeles program, specifically for disadvantaged communities like Wilmington.
- Prioritize and increase funding for departments and agencies to address construction of new wheelchair accessible sidewalks and curbs, and local hire for the jobs in Wilmington.
- Facilitate the operation of a worksorce center in Wilmington.
- Increased funding for staffing and zero-emission equipment, for tree trimming and tree removal where sidewalks are affected by large trees.
- Add funding for street resurfacing due to heavy port truck traffic along Alameda from Anaheim to Lomita Blvd. Especially for important junction roads.
- Simplify the process for blue curb painting and signposting for disabled residents; add this to the 311 service.
- Increase funding for street and sidewalk cleaning in Wilmington, especially around business corridors.
- Increase funding for clean-ups of over-sized illegal dumping and community education.
- Increase funding to provide for resources and staffing to water city trees and replace non native trees with native trees.
- Increase funding for addition of light poles and new LED lighting.
- Add funding to conduct workshops in Wilmington on potential for Center Medians in our community that can support creative community beautification and native-plant-greening efforts.
- Increase funding to add shelter with lighting over all current and future bus benches and areas with no bus benches, so that commuters, many families with young children, are protected from extreme weather events.
- Fund purchases of ecologically beneficial native plants and trees, rather than ecologically compromising non native plants, for city landscaping areas, parks and other open spaces.
- Ensure that all dirt roads in Wilmington are paved, and coordinate with the Harbor Department and the State of California's Department of Transportation to accomplish this.
- Maintain or improve sidewalk and street cleaning, four-way stop signs and speed humps around a three block radius of schools.

Homelessness

- Ensure funding is spent on implementation projects that will directly benefit and support the homeless population in the respective districts, as the solutions for one community may not be the same in our community.
- Secure funding for homeless youth that are aging out of the foster care system and provide them with support and access to information for continuing education and higher education, and skills training for workforce development.
- Facilitate the operation and efficacy of mental health centers in Wilmington.

Sustainable City pLAN

- Increase funding and develop incentives for neighborhoods, like Wilmington, that suffer from pollution burdens to transform vacant lots and vacant buildings into thriving sustainable places that can be used for local living economies or alternative-clean and renewable energy generation or storage.
- Prioritize funding and implementation of zero-emission buses in Wilmington sooner rather than later.
- Partner with and or develop an agency within a department to acquire vacant buildings and transform them into quick-stop stations that can be multi-beneficial and co-op oriented; restroom, showers, garden space, and staffed with support services.

Safe City

- Rearrange and prioritize existing funding for the Harbor Division Los Angeles Police Department to open the Harbor Jail, increase foot-beat and response time due to high crime statistics in our area for homicides, assaults, theft and burglary.
- Add bicycle police patrols to business corridors.
- Increase funding for prosecution and removal of illegal cannabis dispensaries.

Whereas the Wilmington Neighborhood Council understands that implementing the above priorities requires funding increases to the relevant departments, **be it further**

Resolved that in order to maintain a balanced and realistic budget, the Wilmington Neighborhood Council recommends that funds be redirected away from the following city departments and funds: the Unappropriated Balance, General Services, General City Purposes, the Improvement Fund, the Other Special Purpose Fund. All of these have funds for unspecified uses; specify them and use them for departments that will serve Wilmington from the beginning of the fiscal year.

Be it further resolved that the Wilmington Neighborhood Council recommends that the Police Department budget should not be increased from what is currently proposed (about \$1.7 billion). Instead, the existing Police Department budget should be rearranged and prioritized to be more efficient and achieve a safer city.