

**HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

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<http://www.highlandparknc.com>  
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

**DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT**

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**CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

CALIFORNIA



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Rules	S. Maynetto-Jackson
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## Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council

**DRAFT**

Date: 02 July 2020

Title: Council File 20-0692 Los Angeles Police Department Budget Cut / Disadvantaged and Communities of Color Reinvestment

Position: Support

We are in urgent and unprecedented times. As a result, we need urgent and unprecedented action. The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council hereby requests the LA City Council increase Neighborhood Councils' annual budget to \$100,000 for the upcoming fiscal year commencing 2020. It is feasible, fair, long overdue and in tune with recent reallocation of funds away from LAPD's and into the community.

The People of our communities have taken to the streets to demand systemic transformation of how law enforcement and institutions treat black people and other communities affected by a history of white supremacy in America. We have demanded that systemic brutality in the hands of the police be addressed by redirecting funds away from the LAPD and directed into community-based programs, jobs, youth enrichment activities, and other basic needs. As a response, Council Members Price, Martinez, Rodriguez and Wesson introduced a motion that explains, "Crime exists where neighborhoods are destabilized because of a system of institutions that produce economic inequity and underfunded schools. But policing is not responsible for, nor can it solve unemployment, poor housing and concentrated poverty." The motion calls for the City Council to "Instruct the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, with assistance from the Mayor, work to identify at least \$100-\$150 million of cuts from the Los Angeles Police Department's budget". The motion calls for "recommendations on reinvesting these funds back into disadvantaged communities and communities of color." Our Northeast LA area has been ground zero for disinvestment over the last decades.

Neighborhood Council annual budgets were reduced from \$42,000 to \$32,000. Neighborhood Councils are the most comprehensive systems of self- governance in the country. We have direct links, lived experiences, and connections to the communities we serve. No one is excluded from participating regardless of gender, citizenship, or social status. Funding Neighborhood Councils is funding food pantries, youth literacy, sports, recreational, and enrichment programs; it is funding the healing of our neighborhoods through mental health services, violence intervention and prevention, and other programs the councils have funded in recent and past history; it is funding local park activities, public schools, and after school programs through Neighborhood Purpose Grants and Community Improvement projects. Funding neighborhood councils reduce crime, trauma, and unrest.

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