



May 5, 2020

Interim City Manager, Mayor McKeown and City Council Members,

NOMA supports the Plan for the Future. We are especially thankful to the other neighborhood organizations and their efforts in analyzing what the Council and the staff should consider. WILMONT and FOSP have shared similar considerations.

**I. Current Restructure Plan as of May 4th, 2020 – Maintain the Following Budget Items**

Staff proposals would cause residents to take a significant blow with respect to services and the ability to provide input into the City's decision-making process. We recommend the restoration of the following services.

- Funding of a twice a year newsletter for the City-sanctioned neighborhood groups. This newsletter is critical, one of the only ways neighborhood groups can reach our residents and, gain new members. Neighborhood groups empower residents to focus on advocacy and involvement in local government and activities. More than ever, we need to continue to build and maintain these groups. Eliminating our ability to reach a broad section of our community would undermine these organizations at a critical time.
- When schools begin again, we believe the crossing guard program across the City should be restored. There is nothing more important than public safety, especially the safety of our children.
- From the one minute rule of City Council to now working to eliminate the Architectural Review Board (ARB) the City continues to move toward the eradication of resident input. This ignores the history and culture of resident input and activism in our City. The ARB is made of volunteers and provides the only point of community input left for many development projects. Please retain the ARB and not develop another staff process that does not have resident input.
- Do not repeal the IZO governing demotion application review. Continue to have review of historic resources be made by Landmarks Commission
- Return Code Enforcement staffing to original FY 2021 level to keep residents safe and healthy. Our codes are written to protect us; how can that occur if we do not enforce them? Multiple neighborhood groups have brought code enforcement issues to the City during the last year to limited results. We agree

with moving code enforcement to the SMPD, which will enlarge that department's ability to deal with code enforcement issues at night and during the weekends.

- Retain Development Agreement (DAs) monitoring report. The City negotiates DAs to obtain ongoing community and economic benefits. Without this monitoring, sites will be even less likely to comply with DA negotiated requirements.
- Provide parks' and fields' maintenance is at a level that ensures the health and safety of residents and visitors.
- Identify monies to support the POD program and continue to support our rental seniors to stay in place.

## **II. Current Restructure Plan as of May 4th, 2020 – Defund the Following Budget Items**

Everyone in the City will be affected by the Restructure Plan. We recommend defunding the following budget elements

- Free parking for City staff and City Council. Given the focus of the City to get cars off the street, the defunding of incentives to help staff take public transportation and the need to reduce City costs, City staff should pay for their parking along with City Council. A back of the envelope calculation (1,800 staff (estimate) with 60% driving and monthly parking cost of \$150 would yield about \$2M/year ( $1,800 \times .6 \times \$150 \times 12 = \$1.9 \text{ M}$ )
- Do not allocate fund to the \$1 M Economic Recovery Fund in FY 20-21. The City has significant business interests who have funds to address issues: Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Santa Monica, Travel and Tourism and other Business Improvement Districts. If this fund is approved, IT SHOULD ONLY BE USED TO HELP EXISTING LOCAL BUSINESSES REOPEN AND THRIVE.
- City Council should lead by example and not fund their \$100,000 discretionary fund.
- In the CIP budget, under Alternative Resources (pg. 62)
  - **CO460 – Annual Paving and Sidewalk Repair (\$1,200,000)** – Do not reallocate this capital project to existing budgeted resources. Paving and sidewalk repair have been eliminated in the past years and this work needs to be done to ensure neighborhoods are safe.
  - **CO786 – Demolition of Parking Structure 3 (\$3,459,000)**– Do not proceed with the demolition of Parking Structure 3 into an empty lot. There has been no discussion with any entity about money and resources required to build on the property. While this will now be funded through the Housing Trust Fund why not keep the Parking Garage and associated revenue

- **CO786 (Demo of Parking Structure 3 - \$3,495,000), CO546 (Early Childhood Lab School - \$686,808) and CO715 (Vision Zero Projects - \$440,000)** were all to be General Funded capital projects until the COVID pandemic. How was that specific, alternative funding found for these projects vs. from the General Fund? We recommend that specific policies be put in place to verify that specific funding cannot be available before General funding is used. Why were General Fund monies being used if specific revenue dollars were available?

### **III. Current Restructure Plan as of May 4th, 2020 – Cost Avoidance for the Future**

A crisis will always be used by some to push through projects that have nothing to do with solving the problem at hand. We strongly oppose the following:

The push for fast approval of development agreements and entitlement of four projects (Miramar, Gehry, 4th/5th and Arizona (public land) and St. John's.) This is a step in the wrong direction. The idea of getting an entitlement now and build on your own schedule have been used by developers before i.e., Trailer Park. What analysis has been done or will be done of the cost of these developments to the City's infrastructure including police, fire, water, sewer, power and more vs. the revenue they generate? Housing and commercial space costs the City money and the continued building of hotels exacerbates the issues of tourism and what it does to our City and the environment.

### **IV. Current Restructure Plan as of May 4th, 2020 – Prioritize Reinstatement of Residents' Essential Services**

Listed below are the essential residential services that were identified and agreed upon by Friends of Sunset Park, Santa Monica Mid City Neighbors, NEN, NOMA, PNA and Wilmont.

- Fire Department (SMFD)
- Police Department (SMPD)
- Sanitation Services including sewer, storm drains and public refuse receptacles
- City Supported Before/After School Youth Programs -- Consolidate all youth serving programs (such as CREST, which serves 3,600 K-8 students) under one agency, and ensure that they continue to be geographically disbursed throughout the City.
- Street and Alley Maintenance
- Water -- No resident water/wastewater fees beyond scheduled rate increases for the next five years (water avg. 16%/year; wastewater avg. 8.6%/year)
- Public transportation should be maintained (Big Blue Bus and MODE).
- Public Libraries
- Housing Authority -- Continue to fund senior housing including Preserving Our Diversity (POD)

- City Parks
- Maintain commitments to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) including the Joint Facilities Use Agreement and tax revenues from voter-approved ballot measures Y & YY and GS & GSH.
- The Reduce Homelessness Framework, including the Homeless Multidisciplinary Street Team (HMST), the C3 (City + County + Community) homeless engagement team, the Library Services Officer, the as-needed social worker, and the Homeless Court