

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Melissa Crowder](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: E-comment for CITY COUNCIL FINANCE & BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA May 19, 2022
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 8:11:51 AM

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Hello Melissa,

Due to a scheduling conflict, I am unable to participate in the CITY COUNCIL FINANCE & BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA on Thursday, May 19, 2022. I submit this comment for the record.

Dear Mayor Meister and Mayor Pro Tem Shyne,

I humbly request additional funding in the City of West Hollywood's social services budget for your upcoming budget consideration. We know that the need is there. We know that we still don't have accurate data on how our most vulnerable community members will fare coming out of this pandemic, and it looks like it will be still longer before we are fully out of it. Housing/Rental Assistance, Food/Nutrition, Mental Health, Addiction, Isolation, are just a few of the key items that come to mind in assessing the needs.

Additionally, we are asking our social services providers to do even more, and often with less or the same. Our needs assessment for community members of color – a fantastic report – includes additional ways our providers can reach and serve more people, especially those who work here, but can't afford to live here. Food was a clear item of need. We are also asking them to do more outreach and awareness. All of this takes resources. Further, staff compensation is going up. That needs to be taken into consideration. Finally, there is already a bit of fatigue among services providers. We must make sure we are also taking care of them with support.

Social Services/Human Services are the Heart & Soul of our City. Always has been. The City proved during the past two years that having all of these amazing services in place was key to keeping people housed, as healthy as possible, and connected for support.

I request that you consider, at minimum, and additional \$1,000,000.00 in funding for services.

For the record: While I am a member of the West Hollywood Human Services Commission, I am not speaking on its behalf.

Most sincerely,

Sam Borelli