BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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HILDA L. SOLIS
CHAIR, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

April 9, 2021

Ms. Fesia Davenport
Chief Executive Officer
County of Los Angeles
713 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Davenport:

I submit the following proposals for your consideration to be funded by the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Last month, we marked the one-year anniversary of the declaration of the public health emergency. We, like the rest of the country and the world, have been reeling with the health and economic impacts of the global pandemic. Now, the vaccines are here, approximately five million doses have been administered, and we are thankfully seeing a reduction in COVID-19 cases and deaths. While the COVID-19 health impacts are being addressed, the resulting devastation remains for far too many residents in Los Angeles County.

We know that recovery will be long and difficult, but we must do all that we can to expedite relief to our residents and small businesses that have shouldered the burden of the pandemic. This is even more true in our most disadvantaged communities, as exemplified by the COVID-19 data. Approximately, 25% of COVID-19 cases countywide are in the First District, which I represent, far exceeding the number of cases in any other Supervisorial District.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP), championed by President Joseph R. Biden, is a significant investment in the recovery of the nation, not only for immediate relief, but also for long-term recovery as well. It is estimated that the County will receive $1.9 billion of the $1.9 trillion

stimulus package. Although this is a tremendous amount of funding, we know that our needs exceed this amount. As the County determines how to invest the ARP funding, the COVID-19 data must guide our decisions on which investments to pursue and where. This is the only way we can ensure that the residents who need the most help receive it.

I urge approval of the following proposals:

Sustaining our COVID-19 Response

- **$10 million for additional mobile clinics.** To help close vaccine disparity gaps, mobile clinics play an essential role in delivering vaccines directly into communities with low vaccination rates. Many residents of these communities lack the transportation to access larger vaccination sites, or are essential workers who are unable to continuously refresh a webpage to book an appointment. These mobile vaccination units help overcome transportation and technological barriers, increasing equity-related efforts in the County. Mobile clinics must be equipped with staff who speak the languages of the community.

- **$20 million to support outpatient care and My Health LA:** Throughout this pandemic, many patients have forgone essential healthcare due to fears of contracting COVID in hospitals and other medical centers. As such, chronic ailments like diabetes, heart conditions, and hypertension have gone untreated for over a year, resulting in worsening health conditions. Studies show that these effects are even more pronounced for minority groups, especially Black communities, and is worsening racial disparities in healthcare. Establish an outreach program for communities of color to re-connect patients with care and assist with reserving appointments and overcoming any fears of returning to medical centers.

- **$112 million for acquisition and renovation of sites and services for domestic violence survivors.** The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in domestic violence, a leading cause of homelessness for women and their children. To support women who have been affected by this pandemic-induced increase in violence, the County should increase permanent housing and services for women, targeting one per service planning area.

- **$20 million for testing, tracing, quarantine, and isolation.** Although vaccine supplies are slowly increasing and all adults in California will be eligible for the vaccine on April 15, initial estimates say that it may still require a few months before a significant amount of the population is fully vaccinated. As such, testing, tracing, and quarantine and isolation resources will remain important, especially in highly impacted areas.

- **$1.5 million to vaccination transportation.** Transportation services should be provided to residents of disproportionately impacted communities, especially seniors, who may have challenges getting to vaccination sites.
- **$6.5 million for sanitation services.** Sanitation is critical for preventing the spread of COVID-19. However, many of our homeless residents, both sheltered and unsheltered, do not have access to hygiene services including but not limited to laundry, showers, and hand washing stations. This puts them at higher risk for infections.

- **$2 million for "Care Day" or "Spa Day" for animal companions of people experiencing homelessness (PEH).** Partner with small businesses that provide pet care and/or grooming companies "spa day" (haircut, bath, nail trimming, etc.).

<u>Our Bridge to Recovery</u>

- **$15 million for a targeted hyperlocal and ethnic media plan.** COVID-19 has underscored the dire need to improve coordination and communication with hyperlocal and ethnic media. To that end, the County must develop a targeted outreach media plan to reach Latinx, African-American, and API communities including, but not limited to: comprehensive training for public information officers on how to reach communities of color, paid digital and print ads in hyperlocal and ethnic media publications, multilingual radio and podcast public service announcements with an emphasis on people of color audiences, translation services to assist County Departments, not just the Department on Public Health, on disseminating information including press releases, talking points, and social media assets, as well as briefings with ethnic media and community partners (organizations and faith-based leaders).

- **$20 million to expand the promotores program.** Throughout this pandemic, the promotores program has proven to be incredibly effective in reaching underserved communities, providing multilingual outreach to guide community members towards testing and other critical resources to respond to this pandemic. As the vaccine rollout increases, promotores will play an increasingly important role helping connect those with difficulty accessing the vaccine to appointments. Additionally, they are trusted messengers in communities that are experiencing significant vaccine hesitancy.

- **$25 million for the Community Equity Fund.** Despite being disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, Black and Latinx communities continue to have significantly lower vaccination rates than their White counterparts in the County. For those 65 and older, only 43.5% of Latinx and 38.7% of Black residents have been vaccinated, whereas over 56% of White residents have. LA County launched the COVID-19 Community Equity Fund to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in communities disproportionately impacted by the virus, partnering with over fifty-one community-based organizations to provide outreach,

education, case investigation, and contact tracing. With the increased supply of vaccines, CBOs will be increasingly essential in reaching hard-to-reach communities.

- **$15 million for vaccine hesitancy.** Issues around the vaccine will move from one of limited supply to limited demand. In order to reach necessary herd immunity, many health experts estimate that at least 75% of a jurisdiction needs to be vaccinated. However, national studies have shown that up to 30% of the population would refuse a vaccine if offered, including many in Latinx and Black communities. To fully recover from this pandemic, significant inroads must be made to overcome hesitancy in these key communities. outreach in ethnic media, including sponsored advertisements, development of Public Service Announcements, partnerships with multi-cultural communications agencies and media outlets, and targeted multilingual outreach, outreach to influential members of the community for targeted engagement.

- **$4 million for the Family Assistance Program (FAP).** The FAP was piloted in 2019 to support families following an in-custody death or a fatal use of force by the Sheriff's Department, including support for burial costs and mental health services, such as grief counselling and system navigation provided by the Department of Mental Health. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the uptick in gun and gang violence has increased and the number of deputy involved shootings have gone up as well. The families most impacted have been low income, communities of color, who have been hit hardest by COVID-19.

- **$5 million for County linkages.** As millions of residents visit vaccination sites across the County in the coming weeks, the County has a unique opportunity to connect with underserved residents to make them aware of available County resources, such as health, childcare, and housing supports. The County must utilize this opportunity and establish an interdepartmental task force to assemble resources, craft materials, and staff vaccination sites to provide outreach to those being vaccinated.

- **$20 million for mental health resources for students.** The mental health effects the pandemic has had on students has been devastating, as many have been cut off from the essential supports and resources they accessed on school campuses. And though students are beginning to transition back into the classroom, many will be returning to an unfamiliar environment, with strict distancing requirements, cohorting, and other mitigation elements such as barriers. As such, it is essential that schools have the mental health staff and resources on campus to address any student mental health needs. Funding is needed for schools to recruit and hire trained mental health professionals specializing in youth services.

- **$24 million to establish and or expand overdose prevention and treatment.** Increased substance use and subsequent overdoses have been tragic and unintended consequences of the pandemic and the resulting economic crisis. Substance abuse and addiction is both a cause and a result of homelessness among youth and adults, often arising after people lose their housing. Establish and/or expand overdose prevention and treatment in each service planning area, including mobile response units and sobering centers for unhoused, low income and other highly vulnerable populations countywide.

- **$50 million for food distributions.** Teaming with the nonprofit LA Food Bank, County workers have distributed 4,200 tons of food at nearly 90 drive-through distribution events since the pandemic started in March 2020. That's roughly 7.5 million meals provided to more than 140,000 households, representing 430,000 individuals countywide. As the County reopens its buildings and our employees return to work, there remains a need to continue food distributions including the workforce, such as the Conservation Corps to staff the food distributions.

- **$15 million for food delivery for people who test positive for COVID-19.** Last year, I authored a motion to create a food delivery program for those who test positive for or are exposed to COVID-19. Although COVID-19 cases are currently on the decline, the County still has a responsibility to provide food delivery services to residents who cannot safely go out to get food for themselves. It is also an opportunity to partner with restaurants that have been devastated by the pandemic. That way, the County can provide culturally competent meals to residents who need delivery assistance.

- **$20 million for baby supplies such as baby formula and diapers.** Children living in poverty are the most vulnerable in any crisis, and COVID-19 is no exception. To further this disparity, COVID-19 disproportionately impacts communities of color. Some parents have resorted to making homemade diapers out of newspapers. Some of them are watering down their baby formula to make it last longer and skipping meals to pay for these essential items.

- **$30 million for grocery vouchers.** The grocery voucher program which partnered with local community-based organizations, was incredibly successful in filling a gap where many undocumented residents and students do not qualify for CalFresh and other food relief. Unfortunately, there were more requests for the grocery vouchers than there was vouchers – which speaks to the continued need of this program.

- **$90 million for rapid re-employment.** Economic recovery should focus on industries identified by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation as primary investments

to catalyze recovery, such as advanced manufacturing, health, construction and information technology infrastructure, and offered to targeted populations who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, such as displaced workers, youth, women, people of color, disadvantaged communities, people experiencing homelessness, and people who are re-entry/justice-involved.

- **$50 million for on-the-job training and wraparound services to support rapid re-employment.** Successful rapid re-employment requires on-the-job training and wraparound services and may include training, stipends for individuals, childcare, mentoring, and other case management support.

- **$5 million for job training resource hub.** In collaboration with the Chief Information Officer and partners, develop a central hub to link High Road Training Programs and Apprenticeship opportunities with the wide County network of workforce resources.

- **$2 million for Fair Chance marketing.** Re-launch the Fair Chance marketing effort to inform businesses of State law, encourage them to take the pledge; provide incentives to hire individuals with justice involvement in collaboration with Probation, the Office of Diversion and Reentry and the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.

- **$1 million for work attire for job seekers.** Due to the pandemic, many people from disadvantaged and communities that have been hardest hit by COVID-19 are currently unemployed and some may need assistance in purchasing business clothes for job interviews.

- **$3 million for workforce training at our libraries.** Currently, our libraires are assisting people apply for jobs at our libraries, this includes: computer training, translation, step-by-step assistance in applying, resume writing and application drafting workshops, etc.

- **$5 million to expand green jobs and youth workforce development.** Expand an existing program to provide training and workforce development in the San Gabriel Valley that targets transition aged youth out of the foster system for jobs in clean energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation.

- **$15 million for employment services for people experiencing homelessness.** COVID-19 has resulted in record job losses for residents of LA County. This has exacerbated the homelessness crisis. The County has piloted several programs targeted at increasing employment resources for people experiencing homelessness. To support the COVID recovery and decrease rates of unemployment among the homeless population, the County should expand these pilots countywide.

- **$5 million for the Safer at Work campaign and PPE.** Continue the Safer at Work campaign to inform employers, employees and the community at large on COVID safety in the workplace. Continue the distribution of free personal protective equipment (PPE) to small businesses to impacted community.

- **$30 million to support non-profits and philanthropy.** Non-profit organizations and other philanthropy agencies that typically depend on fundraising have been impacted by the pandemic and may take longer than other industries to rebound. These organizations and agencies provide social services and morale to our residents and community. They also support the arts, including mariachi bands, which are particularly devastated by the pandemic.

- **$15 million for technical assistance to expand community-based organizations (CBO) capacity countywide.** To address the economic and health impacts of pandemic, CBOs were asked to rapidly expand essential services for county residents. This strain on county-contracted CBOs highlighted the need for expanded CBO capacity and/or additional CBOs countywide who can quickly and effectively execute county programs. The County should provide technical assistance to expand the pool of CBOs who can support the pandemic recovery efforts and ensure cultural and linguistically relevant services countywide.

- **$25 million for Local Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) to assist with Federal grants and loans for small businesses.** CFDIs provide funding to small and low- and moderate-income businesses who have not received the needed relief of a forgivable loan under the Payment Protection Program. CFDIs in turn require funding to fund eligible small businesses, which will be reimbursed by the federal Small Business Administration.

- **$36 million for Eviction Defense.** Continue and increase funding for the Eviction Defense Program.

- **$500,000 for eviction hotline workers.** Onboard hotline workers in the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs to answer 35,000 calls particularly upon the lift of the Eviction Moratorium.

- **$1 million for anti-harassment protections.** Launch anti-harassment protections in the Eviction Moratorium and Rent Stabilization Ordinance / Mobilehome Stabilization Ordinance.

- **$100 million to prevent displacement.** Seed funding for a land bank to acquire properties in communities at high risk of displacement in anticipation of increased housing insecurity after the pandemic.

- **$12 million for the Stay Housed LA program.** To continue and expand the eviction defense program administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, which is key to scale up especially with the eventual lift of the eviction moratorium.

- **$55 million to expand the County's Mortgage Relief Program.** To fund the Neighborhood Housing Services of Los Angeles County and eight counseling agencies approved by US Housing and Urban Development that provide mortgage relief and foreclosure prevention services while targeting owner-occupied properties between one and four units. This program prevents foreclosures, neighborhood blight, homelessness, and supports family stability and opportunity to build generational wealth and financial wellbeing of vulnerable populations.

- **$6 million to continue the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP).** The NFP empowers first-time moms with a comprehensive array of services beginning in pregnancy and continuing until a baby is two years old. It is a well-established, evidence-based program that has served mothers and their babies for over 40 years with positive outcomes including: fewer behavioral and intellectual problems in children at age 6, fewer convictions of mothers, more consistent employment, and 35 percent fewer hypertensive disorders during pregnancy. For young parents in foster care, NFP is associated with a 48 percent reduction in reports for child abuse and neglect among nurse-visited families compared to families who did not receive nurse home visits.

- **$1 million to expand the Anti-Hate Program.** COVID-related hate acts and scapegoating against the Asian Pacific Islander community have increased over 1,900 percent nationwide since the pandemic began. More funding is needed to expand counseling and support services to survivors of hate through the County's Anti-Hate Program, including the 211 reporting hotline, Rapid Response Network, and educational campaign.

- **$36.5 million for recreational vehicles (RV) Safe Parking Countywide.** The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated LA County's coronavirus pandemic, driving more individuals and families to use RVs as a primary residence. More Safe Parking sites must be established to provide sanitation and support services as needed. Additionally, the parking lots of Project Homekey sites should be used for Safe Parking sites to leverage the onsite service provider.

- **$3.5 million to continue the Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC) Outreach Helpline.** In response to COVID-19 and to assure the public of DACC's ongoing support through the pandemic, the Outreach Helpline was created. The Helpline is currently staffed by employees teleworking and they provide much needed counseling, guidance, and connecting members to public resources. The Helpline saves lives by mitigating animals from being surrendered to the County, and medical professionals also provide telemedicine.

- **$5.5 million to establish the Community Cat Program and Cat Deterrents program.** Sadly, due to overpopulation, many cats that are brought to the County's animal care centers are not adopted; this includes cats that are feral that cannot be domesticated. In many cases, it is better for the cat to remain feral, but caught to be spayed or neutered. Funding is needed to provide free spay and neuter services, as well as cat deterrent kits, such as sprinkler or trash protectors and kitty litter.

- **$3.5 million for veterinarian visit for animal companions**: To assist residents who are struggling with the economic impacts of COVID-19 and are no longer able to afford care for their animal companions.

- **$2 million for mobile care for animals.** Mobile clinic for animals to chip, vaccinate, spay or neuter and ideally perform surgery to keep animals out the shelters.

- **$4 million to establish a standing animal food pantry.** To be set up at each of the County's seven care centers, where residents who have been struggling with feed costs can get food for their animal companions.

Better Than Before

- **$208 million for the Delete the Digital Divide Initiative.** To fund the County's Empowerment Program, WiFi at libraries and parks, expand the Library's Laptop and Hotspot Loan program and WorkReady programming, infrastructure buildout including leveraging the County's Flood Control District and road rights of way, and hardware and training for seniors. Data from the last US Census shows that in Los Angeles County more 182,000 households do not have a computer, nearly 356,000 lack internet service, and 1.1 million households annually earn $50,000 or less. Internet access is no longer a luxury but a necessity for everyday life. Without access, children in our most disadvantaged communities cannot participate in distance learning, and their families cannot apply for public assistance benefits that they would likely be eligible for such as housing, food aid and welfare.

- **15% subsidies to incentivize supermarkets in food deserts.** Low-income communities of color are two to three times more likely than affluent or white neighborhoods to lack access to nearby grocery stores with affordable and nutritious food. The scarcity of supermarkets enables many stores to sell rotting and expired food in unsanitary conditions without competition or consequence. Limited access to healthy, affordable food in low-income neighborhoods contributes to major disparities in health outcomes, life expectancy, academic performance, and job productivity. Subsidies should be provided to supermarkets as incentive to open in food deserts, and could be cash or in-kind, such as County land, tax exempt bonds, exemptions on certain land use requirements etc.

- **$5 million for digital resources for students.** Although campuses are beginning to open their doors and re-introduce in-person learning, many are adopting hybrid models that will necessitate continued online interaction. Furthermore, many students from hard-hit communities, especially Black and Latinx families, have expressed safety concerns regarding returning to campus and exposing their loved ones. Unfortunately, many of these same communities have been hurt most due to a lack of access to digital resources. Additional resources are needed for LACOE to continue providing digital resources, including computers, tablets, internet connectivity, hotspots, and other necessary school supplies, to students who have to stay home during this pandemic.

- **$50 million for Community Land Trusts (CLT).** Partner with CLTs to acquire and rehabilitate properties in areas of high risk of displacement and disadvantaged areas to preserve long-term affordability.

- **$5 million for street vending carts businesses.** Manufacture approximately 300 street vending carts and provide technical assistance support, as well as the public health permits and business registration.

- **$10 million for Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFD).** Establishment of and seed funding for EIFD along major Metro transit corridors to generate additional revenue for local jurisdictions and to facilitate economic recovery.

- **$6 million to support the purchase, rehabilitation, and development of a labor campus.** The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and its nonprofit program partners, Labor Community Services and the Miguel Contreras Foundation (collectively LA Union) propose to purchase a facility in Downtown for $24 million. The facility is intended for worker education, community building, policy development, mutual aid and training, and is envisioned to co-locate a number of affiliate unions, worker centers and community-based organization in effort to build a true labor campus. The center will

provide underserved workers an accessible pathway to high road careers through a centralized partnership of case management, career services, education, skill enhancement and wrap-around support services.

- **$40 million to expand the Youth@Work program.** Youth work programs are desperately needed, particularly in disadvantaged communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

- **$250 million to support anti-violence, gang prevention and gang intervention plan.** The plan should include fiscal support to community and faith-based organizations, County and community stakeholders who will provide services and programs to youth and families as a means to reduce gun and gang violence in hot spot regions. Additionally, it would support staffing, hospital violence intervention work, street outreach, and community engagement. Due to COVID-19, youth have been forced to stay home and have not been able to participate in prevention programming. The County has been experiencing an increase in gun and gang violence, especially in areas that have largely had no support in this arena.

- **$237 million to invest in building a holistic, community-based system of care.** Capital costs and initial seed money to stand up more than 3,000 needed community care beds. Due to COVID-19, the percentage of people with severe mental illness in the jails have increased as they were not able to qualify for early release due to the specialized needs they require in the community. The population that has been most impacted have been Black women.

- **$95 million to expand programs within the Alternatives to Incarceration Initiative (ATI).** Funding should be focused on preventing further incarceration that could potentially derail the County's efforts for a "care first" plan during COVID-19 pandemic. These programs include Rapid Diversion and Pre-Filing Diversion Projects which would allow ATI to expand into 16 courts and 48 jails; and allow the Incubation Academy to provide more than 1,300 individuals with housing as part of building the network of community partners as they build out their internal capacity.

- **$100 million to support capital projects per Measure J language.** Due to COVID-19, Black and Latinx business owners, community based organizations (CBOs) and faith based organizations (FBOs) that serve low-income and communities of color, have been hit hard due to their inability to pay rent, having to let go of staff, leading to providing less services

to their clients. More than ever, their services are needed as the County moves towards a more health-oriented, "care first" approach to public safety and health.

- **$150 million for the old General Hospital.** Update the old General Hospital including seismic safety, HVAC, fire, utilities, elevators and other structural upgrades to repurpose three floors for units that are prioritized for immigrant children, families, and people experiencing homelessness (PEH) with wraparound services, similar to Project Homekey sites.

- **$100 million for LAC-USC Western Campus.** Build additional interim housing at LAC-USC Western Campus similar to the modular construction at the Vignes site.

- **$15 million for McLaren Hall.** Demolish existing building structures, provide temporary pallet shelters to the vulnerable populations to COVID-19 or to provide temporary housing to immigrant children and families until long-term Park and Housing funds proceed forward.

- **$60 million for the Southwest Museum.** Retrofit and provide upgrades to the Southwest Museum for urgent space prioritized immigrant children, families and PEH with wraparound services, similar to Project Homekey sites.

- **$75 million for the CA Drop Forge property.** Acquire and develop the CA Drop Forge property adjacent to 1060 Vignes Site for rapid interim housing.

- **$60 million for the Chevron site.** Similar to the Vignes site, develop rapid interim housing with wraparound services at the Chevron Site in Montebello.

- **$30 million for Parks After Dark (PAD).** PAD at all 39 County parks to encourage physical and mental health given the uptick in crime during the pandemic.

- **$2.6 million for WiFi at parks.** Fund equipment and service costs for WiFi at 50 parks that currently do not have any WiFi service.

- **$30 million to develop a pilot for Universal Basic Income.** In Los Angeles County, one in every five County residents (18.4%) lives below the poverty line, which is about $24,600 a year for a family of four. The County ranks 7th in income inequality out of the largest 150 metro regions. Universal Basic Income would be a cash payment that residents receive every month from the government with no strings attached. A guaranteed income is meant to supplement rather than replace existing safety net and can be used as a tool for racial

and gender equity. Guaranteed income is a direct way to combat poverty while also addressing related issues of health, education, housing stability, and crime.

- **$15 million for organic diversion composting.** COVID-19 has significantly affected people's food purchasing and consumption habits and raised the public's awareness and concern over how much food goes to waste in the landfills. However, options for keeping food waste out of the landfill are limited for residents. A Countywide organics diversion composting program prioritized for disadvantaged communities will allow food waste to turn into compost on public lands to be used as a buffer against drought, restore soil health in parks, build new community green spaces, create public awareness of healthy soil/regenerative land management in the County, and create 'green' employment opportunities.

- **$50 million for permanent outdoor dining/parklet improvements.** Support local businesses by developing a grant program for permanent outdoor dining/parklet improvements.

- **$1.2 million for continued Slow Streets Program operations.** To ensure additional space on roadways for residents in the unincorporated areas to walk and exercise while adhering to public health distancing guidelines.

- **$10 million for quick-build pedestrian and bicycle projects.** To ensure additional space on roadways for residents in the unincorporated areas to walk and exercise while adhering to public health distancing guidelines, and facilitate bicycle use which has increased during the pandemic.

- **$10 million for bus stop improvements**. To support disadvantaged transit riders in the unincorporated areas, hundreds of thousands of whom are essential workers that have relied on public transit throughout the pandemic.

- **$50 million towards East Los Angeles Parking Benefit District.** Seed funding to implement the East Los Angeles Parking Study's recommendations. Implementation will support the regulation of parking supply/demand for commercial areas and foster economic recovery by generating more business in this particular community that has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic.
    - Parking Benefit District Improvements can include installation of parking meters, construction of parking structures, sidewalk cleaning, free WiFi, etc.

- **$5 million for internet connectivity and hardware in the County's public housing sites.** Internet access and hardware such as tablets and laptops are essential for distance

learning, job training, job seeking and accessing other public benefits, but are often most challenging to access by the County's 56 public housing sites.

- **$3 million for additional laptop and hotspots.** During COVID-19, the County purchased 700 laptops and "some" hotspots" and distributed those amongst the 86 libraires across the County. These laptops were then loaned out for up-to three weeks, along with a hotspot if a household did not have Internet.

- **$10 million for Community Impact Hubs.** To match the $10 million investment of Best Buy, in partnership with the Greater LA Education Foundation and the Annenberg Foundation, to create Teen Tech Center models countywide, which are after school spaces equipped with cutting-edge technology and staffed by youth development professionals who provide a safe, supportive learning environment.

- **$500,000 to increase volunteer opportunities.** Investment and expansion of the County's website, a centralized resource for County residents to access volunteer opportunities available through County departments.

- **$15 million for Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) Program Countywide including the "2021 Back Home Initiative".** The economic impacts of COVID-19 have driven many LA County residents into homelessness or housing instability for the first time. This outcome may become worse when rent freeze and eviction moratorium policies end. First-time homeless residents need cheap, affordable rehousing options. However, LA County does not have enough affordable housing capacity to house its homeless residents. Traditional affordable housing can cost $531,000 per unit and take 3-6 years to build. ADUs are a more efficient way to quickly and more affordably expand the stock of affordable housing in Los Angeles. The County should expand initiatives to quickly and cheaply build accessory dwelling units countywide.

- **$8.8 million to expand the LA Sheriff's Department's Mental Evaluation Team (MET).** The MET program has been successful in ensuring positive outcomes when law enforcement is dispatched with a mental health profession to respond mental health crisis. Due to COVID-19 and the resulting isolation has been challenging for those with mental health needs and their families. The pandemic has exacerbated symptoms due to the inability to engage in self-care activities that typically occur outside of the home.

- **$75 million to further support the Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR).** Due to COVID-19, the County, in its embrace of "care first, jails last" is pushing to use diversion tools to safely shift people out of the justice and carceral systems into community care that will provide services, resources, and treatment. ODR has been engaged in this work over

the last six years and the funding will allow them to continue to do so as the push for decarceration and "care first" continues to be a public safety priority. The funding would go towards: Reentry Interim Housing, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, Court-Based Diversion, Jail Booking Diversion, and ODR Housing.

- **$36 million for after school prevention programs.** According to the US Department of Justice, 63% of crime and violent crimes by juveniles happens between 3PM-7PM on school days – when youth are unsupervised. After school programs provide youth with positive and safe programming to reduce gang activity and offer alternative support mechanisms for youth.

- **$69 million for parks in the First District.** To fund various capital projects and deferred maintenance including, but not limited to: the San Gabriel Valley Aquatic Center; Whittier Narrows Recreation Area Lakes Walking, Biking and Wildlife Paths/Trail Loop; Santa Fe Dam Splashpad Replacement; Ruben F. Salazar Vision Plan; Saybrook Park Extension; and Emerald Necklace Project.

- **$84 million to support programs provided by the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs.** The pandemic has caused deeper financial insecurity for individuals and families that were already struggling to stay afloat. Post pandemic, the County will need services to help residents recovery from financial shocks, rebuild, and thrive; such as: expansion of the East Los Angeles Entrepreneur Center; Financial Empowerment Center; guaranteed income for populations impacted by COVID-19; financial coaching; small dollar personal loans; Recovery Fund for low to moderate income entrepreneurs women of color; capacity building for immigrant-centered community based organizations (CBOs); commercial lease rent program; small business legal aid; child care incubator training and grants; Small Business Equity Fund; Loan Loss Reserve Fund; hardship grants for immigrant centered CBOs; ethnic media campaign; Public Charge Community Navigator program; small claims court litigation related to COVID-19 back rent; and Office of Labor Equity.

Equity does not happen by chance, it must be intentional. We can say that we want and believe in equity, but historically marginalized communities deserve real investments now and a chance to create a better future. On behalf of our communities, I strongly urge the allocation of funding to programs and places within communities that need it most.

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate your leadership and the hard work you and your staff have put in on these efforts. Please contact my Budget Deputy Tami Omoto-Frias at 213/974-4111 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Hilda L Solis

HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District