



LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

Chairperson
CHERI THOMAS
Quinault/Yurok

October 17, 2023

Vice Chairperson
CHRISSIE CASTRO
Navajo

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 W Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Secretary
RENE WILLIAMS
Colville Tribes

Treasurer
SHAWN IMITATES-DOG
Lakota

Dear Supervisor Hilda L. Solis,

DENISE ESCOTO
Northern Cheyenne

I am sending this letter on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). LANAIC's budget requests for FY24-25 focus on building and sustaining the County's capacity and knowledge to meet the needs of the American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) community in the delivery of vital services and implementation of policy.

ANDREA N. GARCIA, M.D.
Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara

DAWN JACKSON
Saginaw Chippewa

MONA MORALES RECALDE
Gabrieleno Tongva

On September 20, 2023 the LANAIC transmitted a letter to your office respectfully requesting a sustainability plan to build on the great work of the "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness" Board Motion (October 2019). The work of the Board Motion has continued for several years and garnered many wins, thanks in part, due to the hiring of a consultant in partnership with CEO HI and the LANAIC and made possible by Measure H funds. The consultant contract will expire this Fall, and a report back to the Board of Supervisors will be released. There is still ample work and recommendations to be implemented across County departments. A dedicated full-time position to lead this work is the best possible next step, as well as an interim stop-gap to ensure continuity beyond the expiration of the consultant contract. This request is aligned with the Board Directed priority, Homelessness Initiative.

JOHN ONLY A CHIEF
Pawnee Nation

RUDY ORTEGA JR.
Fernandeño Tataviam

TED TENORIO
Tiguan Nation

RICH TOYON
Acjachemen

MARK VILLASEÑOR
Fernandeño Tataviam

AUDRA WISE
Zia Pueblo & Laguna Pueblo

ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

The LANAIC also thanks the Board for funding the Commission's request for a consultant to develop a Countywide tribal consent and consultation policy, a much needed investment that will continue to formalize and centralize the County's relationship to local tribal governments. As the County continues to make investments that support the AIAN community and strengthen relationships it is also vital that tribal Indian law expertise is available to County staff. To our knowledge the Department of County Counsel does not have any attorneys with tribal Indian law expertise. We request that the Board funds the Department of County Counsel to retain a firm or an attorney with tribal Indian law expertise. This request is aligned

with the County's priority to advance anti-racism, diversity and inclusion and would ensure that critical knowledge and expertise is accessible to County employees working with and in support of the AIAN community.

We are grateful for the support and momentum that has transpired to date under the leadership of your Board. We are confident that funding a full-time position to address AIAN homelessness and to retain tribal Indian law expertise would help and sustain these efforts.

Sincerely,

Cheri L Thomas

Cheri L Thomas
LANAIC Chairperson

Cc: Board of Supervisors
Fesia Davenport, CEO
Kristin Sakoda, Department of Arts and Culture Director