



## LOS ANGELES CITY/COUNTY NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION

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*Executive Director*

October 17, 2023

Los Angeles City Mayor Karen Bass  
200 N Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission  
FY24-25 Budget Requests

Dear Mayor Bass,

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

On September 20, 2023 the LANAIC transmitted a letter to your office respectfully requesting support and City/County partnership in a sustainability plan to build on the great work of the LA County Board Motion co-authored by Supervisors Janice Hahn and Hilda L. Solis, "Identifying, Supporting, and Serving American Indians and Alaska Natives Who Are at Risk of or Experiencing Homelessness" (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 Homeless Initiative (CEO HI) and the LANAIC and made possible by Measure H funds. This consultant contract will expire at the end of 2023 and a report back to the board of Supervisors will soon be released. LANAIC requests funding from the city to make possible a dedicated full-time staff position to lead this work and to implement a stop-gap in the interim to ensure continuity beyond the expiration of the consultant contract. This request is also aligned with the September 2020 Los Angeles City Council approved motion that instructed the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to identify funding to help hire the above-mentioned consultant. While funding was unfortunately never applied, we hope that there is still will and possible resources to support creation of a more permanent solution that can work in partnership with the County.

As shared at our meeting with you on September 19, 2023 the work of the LANAIC and its ability to support and advise the City would be greatly improved by the creation of a full-time dedicated City staff position that

works with the existing LANAIC team housed within the County. Additionally, historically the City of LA has contributed funding to the LA City Department of Cultural Affairs to support Native American Heritage Month activities. We are grateful for this ongoing funding. Given LA City's role in the establishment of Indigenous People's Day (IPD), and former Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's role in producing large scale IPD events, we think it is important for the Mayor's Office to support an ongoing IPD budgetary line item in the City's budget akin to the Heritage Month funding that is administered by DCA.

We are grateful for your support to date. We are confident that funding a full-time position to address AIAN homelessness and as well as a full-time City employee to support the work of the LANAIC within LA City would result in effective and powerful collaboration between City and County to support the needs and better the lives of the AIAN community.

Sincerely,

*Cheri L Thomas*

Cheri L Thomas  
LANAIC Chairperson

Cc: LA City Council Neighborhood and Enrichment Committee