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ALEXANDRA VALDES
Executive Director

October 15, 2024

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

Dear Mayor Bass,

I am sending this budget request letter on behalf of the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC). We appreciate the opportunity to formalize our budget requests for LA City's FY25-26 budget.

On September 20, 2023 the LANAIC transmitted a letter to you, as well as to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, requesting a funding 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" County Board Motion (October 2019). The LANAIC also uplifted this request in our FY24-25 budget request letter submitted to you on October 17, 2023. Unfortunately, this critical work remains unfunded. We respectfully request that you support funding in the FY25-26 budget to fund, in partnership with the County, a dedicated position within the LA County CEO Homelessness Initiative to ensure that LA City prioritizes fighting American Indian and Alaska Native homelessness.

As shared at our meeting with you on September 19, 2023 and recommended in our FY23-24 budget request letter to you transmitted on October 17, 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. Currently the LANAIC has two FTE positions, both of which are County positions. We request that you support funding in the FY25-26 budget for an FTE placed within a City department. Additionally, the City's annual contribution to the LANAIC, \$47,000, has remained stagnant for many years. We respectfully ask for an increase in the annual contribution of the City to the LANAIC, as well as participation from your office in renegotiating the MOU between the City and County from the 80s.

Each year \$13,000 of funding is included in the City's budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs to support Native American Heritage Month. Historically, this funding was used to support a reception at City Hall this year however the funding was aligned with the way DCA supports four other heritage months. The annual City Hall NAHM reception has become a beloved community event. We

request ongoing funding to support a NAHM reception. Additionally, 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 dedicated funding for heritage months

Thank you for considering the LANAIC's FY25-26 budget requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a yellow sticky note. The signature reads "Shawn Imitates Dog" in a cursive script.

Shawn Imitates Dog, Chairperson
Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission