Summary of Public Survey
for Program Year 46 (2020-21) Annual Action Plan Proposed Budget

PUBLIC SURVEY
Mayor Garcetti released his proposed budget for the City’s Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) for 2020-2021 on March 17, 2020. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Mayor had imposed social distancing safety measures by cancelling public meetings on March 12, 2020. For this reason, an online survey was used to solicit input from the public on the Mayor’s proposed Con Plan budget. The survey was administered between April 6 and May 5, 2020, corresponding with the required 30-day public comment period. A total of 598 individuals participated in the public survey, consisting of 90% city residents, and 10% non-residents. The survey was in both English and Spanish, allowing for greater participation by non- and limited-English speaking persons.

Outreach
HCID used a variety of outreach methods to promote the survey, including mass email notification to about 25,000 subscribers, posting on the City’s main website, the department’s website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, and the City’s Channel 35 television station. Moreover, HCID also sent invitations to the Mayor’s Office of Public Engagement, the City Council, Commissioners on six commissions, other city departments, the network of 99 Neighborhood Councils, at least 100 community-based organizations, as well as arranging for publication of an official notice in a daily periodical per HUD regulations. Outreach flyers were provided in English and Spanish.

Survey Respondents Demographics
Survey participants represented every category of area of residence, age, employment status (prior to COVID-19), household size, and income.
As mentioned above, the vast majority of responses of the zip codes provided were from every area of the city, with a small percentage residing outside of the city’s jurisdiction.

The majority of the participants were between the ages of 25 and 54, with the largest age group at 35 to 44 at a 24.8% representation share.
Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the employment of hundreds of thousands, pre-COVID employment status was requested. Most participants were employed full-time, representing a 61.4% share at the time the survey was available.

The average, overall household size was 3.1 persons, however the most common household size was two persons at 32% of the total.
The most common, single household income category was over $125,000 at 23.8%, while over half of respondents earned less than $80,000. Per HUD, the median two-person family income of a household in Los Angeles County is $90,125.

**What is Needed & How to Spend the Funding**

The survey highlighted a total of 35 housing and community concerns that are proposed to be funded or that have been funded in recent years, organized into the categories of housing, social services, economic development, community facilities, and infrastructure improvements. Below are the weighted averages for each item based on how much it is needed and how much respondents would spend on the category, on a scale of 1 to 4.
### Housing

**How much do(es) you or your neighborhood need housing opportunities?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Provided</th>
<th>Number of Needed Housing Opportunities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with buying a home using low interest loans</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of new affordable rental housing, including housing for persons who are homeless</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education on tenants’ and property owners’ rights and responsibilities</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs to correct unsafe conditions in rental housing</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enforcement of building code to address unsafe conditions in housing, single-family &amp; rental</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs to correct unsafe conditions in single-family homes</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing assistance for persons living with HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5 scale represents the level of need for housing opportunities.
Social Services

How much do(es) you or your neighborhood need social services?

- Services for people who are homeless
- Services to help families increase or stabilize their income
- Services for residents of age 60+
- Services to help keep Skid Row area streets clean
- Services to help families save for a college education
- Services to help with eviction prevention
- Services for victims of domestic violence or human trafficking
Economic Development

How much do(es) you or your neighborhood need economic development opportunities?

- Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19
- More neighborhood markets with healthy food choices
- Financial assistance to start a new business
- Financial assistance to expand a business and add employees
- Training to start a new business or help a small business grow
- Storefront improvements
- Business district revitalization

1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 4
Community Facilities

How much do(es) you or your neighborhood need community facilities?

- Parks, playgrounds, pools & other recreational facilities
- Community centers
- Accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities
- Health clinics
- Shelters for victims of domestic violence
- Senior centers
- Childcare centers
**Infrastructure Improvements**

How much do(es) you or your neighborhood need infrastructure improvements?

- Sidewalk reconstruction
- Energy efficiency improvements (gray water irrigation, upgraded street lighting, etc.)
- Streetscape improvements
- Pedestrian & bicyclist street safety improvements
- Accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities
- Installing new street lights in areas with no street lights
- Converting alleys to recreational spaces

![Bar Chart]

1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5
In response to the question, “How would you spend the money among the categories?,” the highest amount overall went to housing at 30%, with infrastructure improvements next in line at 21%.

**Overall Trends**

The overall trend indicates the high need for affordable housing, including assistance in buying a home using low interest loans. Among services, assistance for people experiencing homelessness ranked the highest. These trends have continued, as they were also emphasized in the public responses at recent prior public meetings, and may support a relationship between lack of affordable housing and rising homelessness. Moreover, infrastructure such as sidewalk reconstruction has also previously ranked as second. Respondents’ priorities for spending the grant funds on the categories closely mirror the priorities of the Mayor’s proposed budget.
The Mayor’s proposed budget prioritizes affordable housing with 44% and neighborhood and infrastructure improvements at 22%.

**Trends by Area of the City**

**East Los Angeles:** From 61 respondents, the following are the top concerns of each category:

- **Housing:** Construction of new, affordable rental housing, including housing for persons who are homeless
- **Social Services:** Services to help families save for a college education
- **Economic Development:** Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19
- **Community Facilities:** Parks, playgrounds, pools & other recreational facilities for community facilities
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Sidewalk reconstruction

**South Los Angeles:** From 80 respondents, the following are the top concerns of each category:

- **Housing:** Construction of new, affordable rental housing, including housing for persons who are homeless
- **Social Services:** Services to help families increase or stabilize their income
**Economic Development**: Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19

**Community Facilities**: Parks, playgrounds, pools & other recreational facilities for community facilities

**Infrastructure Improvements**: Sidewalk reconstruction

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**West Los Angeles**: From 48 respondents, the following are the top concerns of each category:

- **Housing**: Construction of new, affordable rental housing, including housing for persons who are homeless
- **Social Services**: Services for people who are homeless
- **Economic Development**: Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19
- **Community Facilities**: Senior centers
- **Infrastructure Improvements**: Sidewalk reconstruction

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**Central Los Angeles/Hollywood**: From 158 respondents, the following are the top concerns of each category:

- **Housing**: Construction of new, affordable rental housing, including housing for persons who are homeless
- **Social Services**: Services for people who are homeless
- **Economic Development**: Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19
- **Community Facilities**: Community centers
- **Infrastructure Improvements**: Sidewalk reconstruction

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**Harbor/Gateway**: From 42 respondents, the following are the top concerns of each category:

- **Housing**: Construction of new, affordable rental housing, including housing for persons who are homeless
- **Social Services**: Services for people who are homeless
- **Economic Development**: Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19
- **Community Facilities**: Community centers
- **Infrastructure Improvements**: Sidewalk reconstruction

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**East Valley**: From 76 respondents, the following are the top concerns of each category:

- **Housing**: Assistance with buying a home using low interest loans
- **Social Services**: Services for people who are homeless
**Economic Development:** Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19

**Community Facilities:** Accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities

**Infrastructure Improvements:** Sidewalk reconstruction

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**Housing:** Assistance with buying a home using low interest loans

**Social Services:** Services for residents of age 60+

**Economic Development:** Financial assistance for small businesses affected by COVID-19

**Community Facilities:** Accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities

**Infrastructure Improvements:** Sidewalk reconstruction

**Other Comments**

In addition to the survey, five comments were received by email as indicated in Attachment 1. These comments also aligned with the trends of the survey, focusing on either housing or infrastructure needs.

**Conclusion**

More people participated in the online survey than have attended public meetings in the past to provide input on the Mayor’s proposed budget for the Con Plan for 2020-21. Although face-to-face contact is preferred to engage the public, the valuable feedback provided indicates the continuing of recent trends.

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Mayor’s proposed budget as well as a revised budget was presented at a special City Council Housing Committee Meeting on June 4, 2020. The public was able to participate by telephone. One verbal comment from the public asked the committee to approve the Mayor’s proposed budget, and three written public comments were submitted in support of a particular public facility improvement project in the Mayor’s proposed budget. The written comments are included as Attachment 4.

**Attachments:**

Attachment 1 – E-Mail Comments Received
Attachment 2 – Survey Flyers
Attachment 3– City Clerk Published Notice
Attachment 4 – Written Comments to City Council
Proposal of 120 SF homes for homeless with shops/medical/community center.

Gerry Pass  
To: hcidla.planning@lacity.org  

Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 11:04 AM

Dear HCIDLA

I have a proposal to provide emergency housing / low income housing. The first phase will have 120 single family homes in a new community. There is also to build a community center with medical/mental care, educational center and shops. This is at a fraction if the costs currently being spent per unit, and can be completed within 3-6 months.

Please contact me and or direct me to State and or City offices.

Gerry Pass  
Producer
How about you start helping the mom & pop landlords who house in Los Angeles rent control and go by all the rules? What's the budget for that? I wish you would put out information to tenants who are trying to scam in this coronavirus who are still getting paid but refuse to pay landlords because they feel they don't have to from all the TVs and media telling them not to. When we can't pay our mortgage and big corporations take over, they won't be paying their 1,600 rent anymore. Why are there not rules in place for tenants to provide documentation if they are under hardship? The same way landlords do. I'm a small landlord. I house a homeless mentally ill son. I fix every repair quick! I'm under market between 5/600 dollars per unit. I have tenants they're 10 years. Pass all inspections with flying colors, not fair to us. I'm not federally funded mortgage. I'm private which means I had to work very hard to qualify and get approved to keep running my Bldg. I'm older with health conditions. Believe me I do this because it's all I have. I clean my own toilets because no one wants to work in this. They would rather get free rent and government help. Are you going to see both sides? You keep mandating trash companies with no competition and triple the bill! Do you want the historic neighborhoods and small mom n pop landlords to go away and big corporations from other countries come in? Well, that's what you're doing. I will be voting and contacting the news. Sad state of affairs. Scammers are having a ball. I have relationships with my tenants. I've reached out to all. But there's always a scammer in the bunch. The small blue collar workers pay their rent. The union tenants feel they don't have to because that's what LA housing tells them. I pay all the water they abuse. Only LA DWP who rips us off no competition. What are my rights? Thank you for your time.
Sent from my iPhone
This email object to the Action Plan submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Your office will be investigated for fraud. You are all a disgrace and disgusting.
Hello-
I submitted my answers to the above survey.
If there are any upcoming community meetings - via phone call, zoom, or in person if/when this pandemic is over - I would like to provide further, additional feedback and participate in the conversations.

Thank you.
Victoria Kraus
Los Feliz resident

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Victoria Kraus
Quiero que tomen en cuenta en reacondicionar los callejones ya que están muy deteriorados

Translation: I want them to take into account in reconditioning the alleys since they are very deteriorated
Mayor Eric Garcetti’s proposed budget for $140 million in housing and community development federal grant funds addresses social and economic concerns facing lower income residents, and assistance to respond to the impact of COVID-19. Included is support for:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact
- Affordable Housing
- Small Businesses
- Parks
- Street Lights

During this public health crisis due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), assistance is even more critical. We need your valuable input, so please let us know what matters to you and your neighborhood by completing the survey below between April 6, 2020 – May 15, 2020.

Los Angeles Housing and Community Development Survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring2020ConPlanSurvey

CONNECT WITH US:
For questions about the survey, please contact: Latrice Carter (213) 808-8485
Website: hcidla.lacity.org/latest-action-plan  
E-mail comments to: hcidla.planning@lacity.org
Visit us on: Facebook.com/HCIDLA/  twitter.com/HCIDLA  https://www.instagram.com/hcidla/
¿Cómo ayudarán los fondos federales de subvenciones a su vecindario?

¡Por favor, tome nuestra encuesta!

El presupuesto propuesto por el alcalde Eric Garcetti para $140 millones en fondos federales de becas de vivienda y desarrollo comunitario aborda las preocupaciones sociales y económicas que enfrentan los residentes de menores ingresos, y la asistencia para responder al impacto de COVID-19. Incluye soporte para:

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impacto
- Viviendas Asequibles
- Pequeñas Empresas
- Parques y Jardines
- Luces de la Calle

Durante esta crisis de salud pública debida al Coronavirus (COVID-19), la asistencia es aún más crítica. Necesitamos su valioso aporte, así que por favor háganos saber lo que le importa a usted y a su vecindario completando la encuesta a continuación entre el 6 de abril y el 15 de mayo de 2020.

Encuesta de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario de Los Angeles:
https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Spring2020ConPlanSurvey-esp

CONÉCTESE CON NOSOTROS:
Para más información, comuníquese con Latrice Carter al número 213-808-8485

Sitio de Internet: hcidla.lacity.org/latest-action-plan    Correo Electrónico: hcidla.planning@lacity.org

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)

State of California )
County of Los Angeles )

Notice Type: GPN - GOVERNMENT PUBLIC NOTICE

Ad Description:
Notice of Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 Consolidated Plan 3rd Year Action Plan

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of the LOS ANGELES DAILY JOURNAL, a newspaper published in the English language in the city of LOS ANGELES, county of LOS ANGELES, and adjudged a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California by the Superior Court of the County of LOS ANGELES, State of California, under date 04/26/1954, Case No. 599,382. That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

03/30/2020

Executed on: 03/30/2020
At Los Angeles, California

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature

Email *A000005392635*
Communication from Public

Name: Rosa Guzman
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 06:55 PM
Council File No: 19-1204
Comments for Public Posting: SUBJECT: LETTER FROM ROSA GUZMAN RE ZIEGLER ESTATE FOR THE JUNE 4, 2020 HOUSING COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM No. 19-1204 My name is Rosa Guzman and I am the Center Director at La Casita Verde Childcare Center in the historic Ziegler Estate. I have had the fortune of working for Mount Washington Preschool and Child Care Center at Ziegler Estate\La Casita Verde for 14 years. MWPCCC started with the idea of creating a space for quality child care that was attainable for all families, and I feel fortunate to have spent my time in an organization that has stood this idea throughout these years. Our organization values families, community and most importantly a child’s right to just play. Our organizations’ philosophy is to give each child the opportunity to develop at their own pace. At all our centers you will find a curriculum that is emergent, which grows and changes with the children. We provide opportunities for children’s imaginations to grow. It’s impossible to imagine a better place for children to explore than the beautiful grounds of the Ziegler Estate which we know as “La Casita Verde” (the Little Green House). The natural setting outdoors provides constant sparks of the imagination, the children spend hours exploring their natural environment learning about bugs, plants and nurturing their garden. The grounds are natural and spacious which allow the children ample space to explore. Indoors, the children get to see their school as a home which allows them to transition into care naturally. The setting of the Ziegler Estate is welcoming, nurturing and safe for the children who spend a great deal of their early childhood growing up in the home that is La Casita Verde. The Ziegler Estate has also become a second home to the teachers of La Casita Verde and myself. Some of our teachers have been working in this home for over 10 years. All of our teachers love the center, love the community but most of all love the philosophy of supporting children as they “Learn through Play”. They are invested in the Mount Washington\Highland Park community because most of our teachers live minutes away from La Casita Verde. They are able to take a short commute to work and feel peace of mind having the proximity to home and the schools of their own children. Our teachers are able to make time and attend their own children’s events and meet the needs of their family, which is a shared goal for all the families or MWPCCC. On a personal note, MWPCCC has been a home for my family as well.
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daughter Emilia who is now 11 years old had the opportunity
to create her own memories at La Casita Verde. My daughter
enjoyed swinging on the swings in the toddler playground and still
when she visits me, she desperately wishes she could still go
swing. Emilia says that eventually, she would want to be a
teacher here too. The setting of the Ziegler Estate is a setting that
is desired for many families who tour our center, they envision
their children growing up with us, running around in the gardens
and making this their home away from home. Fortunately La
Casita Verde remains true to this idea that high quality child care
should be attainable for all families. Our center offers priority
enrollment to underprivileged families. We offer tuition assistance
through a Pat Griffith Scholarship and we are partners with
Pathways LA. Our families have expressed relief at knowing that
La Casita Verde is an option for their child, and they are not
limited to the state preschool options. The Ziegler Estate has been
a home for many families throughout the years. Children have
attended, grown up, and their memories of La Casita Verde has
brought them back to enroll their own children. MWPCCC has
been a positive impact for the people who work here, and the
families we serve. The beautiful setting of the Ziegler Estate
creates a peaceful, natural and safe place for children to do what
they do best; Play. I hope that the Ziegler Estate will be a home
for MWPCCC families for many more years to come and we can
continue the mission of serving the community. Thank you, Rosa
Guzman Director La Casita Verde Child Development Center at
Ziegler Estate 4601 N. Figueroa St. Los Angeles, CA 90065
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM ROSA GUZMAN RE ZIEGLER ESTATE FOR THE JUNE 4, 2020 HOUSING COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM No. 19-1204

My name is Rosa Guzman and I am the Center Director at La Casita Verde Childcare Center in the historic Ziegler Estate. I have had the fortune of working for Mount Washington Preschool and Child Care Center at Ziegler Estate\La Casita Verde for 14 years. MWPCCC started with the idea of creating a space for quality child care that was attainable for all families, and I feel fortunate to have spent my time in an organization that has stood this idea throughout these years.

Our organization values families, community and most importantly a child’s right to just play. Our organizations’ philosophy is to give each child the opportunity to develop at their own pace. At all our centers you will find a curriculum that is emergent, which grows and changes with the children. We provide opportunities for children’s imaginations to grow. It’s impossible to imagine a better place for children to explore than the beautiful grounds of the Ziegler Estate which we know as “La Casita Verde” (the Little Green House). The natural setting outdoors provides constant sparks of the imagination, the children spend hours exploring their natural environment learning about bugs, plants and nurturing their garden. The grounds are natural and spacious which allow the children ample space to explore. Indoors, the children get to see their school as a home which allows them to transition into care naturally. The setting of the Ziegler Estate is welcoming, nurturing and safe for the children who spend a great deal of their early childhood growing up in the home that is La Casita Verde.

The Ziegler Estate has also become a second home to the teachers of La Casita Verde and myself. Some of our teachers have been working in this home for over 10 years. All of our teachers love the center, love the community but most of all love the philosophy of supporting children as they “Learn through Play”. They are invested in the Mount Washington\Highland Park community because most of our teachers live minutes away from La Casita Verde. They are able to take a short commute to work and feel peace of mind having the proximity to home and the schools of their own children. Our teachers are able to make time and attend their own children’s events and meet the needs of their family, which is a shared goal for all the families or MWPCCC.

On a personal note, MWPCCC has been a home for my family as well. My daughter Emilia who is now 11 years old had the opportunity to create her own memories at La Casita Verde. My daughter enjoyed swinging on the swings in the toddler playground and still when she visits me, she desperately wishes she could still go swing. Emilia says that eventually, she would want to be a teacher here too.

The setting of the Ziegler Estate is a setting that is desired for many families who tour our center, they envision their children growing up with us, running around in the gardens and making this their home away from home. Fortunately La Casita Verde remains true to this idea that high quality child care should be attainable for all families. Our center offers priority enrollment to underprivileged families. We offer tuition assistance through a Pat Griffith Scholarship and we are partners with Pathways LA. Our families have expressed relief at knowing that La Casita Verde is an option for their child, and they are not limited to the state preschool options.

The Ziegler Estate has been a home for many families throughout the years. Children have attended, grown up, and their memories of La Casita Verde has brought them back to enroll their own children. MWPCCC has been a positive impact for the people who work here, and the families we serve. The beautiful setting of the Ziegler Estate creates a peaceful, natural and safe place for children to do what they do best; Play. I hope that the Ziegler Estate will be a home for MWPCCC families for many more years to come and we can continue the mission of serving the community.
Thank you,

Rosa Guzman
Director
La Casita Verde Child Development Center at Ziegler Estate
4601 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90065
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM GENEVA BURLEIGH RE ZIEGLER ESTATE FOR THE JUNE 4, 2020 HOUSING COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM No. 19-1204

My name is Geneva Burleigh and I am a parent of a toddler at La Casita Verde\Ziegler Estate, a Board member and also the daughter of Patricia Griffith who was an activist for childcare, working parents and a founder of Mt. Washington Preschool and Childcare Center, Inc that has operated the Center for 20 years. I don’t remember a time when Ziegler Estate\La Casita Verde wasn’t the headquarters of the MWPCCC. Not really. Sure, I have a foggy memory of “helping” with playground construction in the back of the Holy Virgin Mary and St. Pishoy Coptic Church, but I must have been five or six years old. A hip-high ball of energy and enthusiasm who’d somehow conned an adult into letting her run around a construction site with a screwdriver. I’d say it was a different time – and, let’s be honest, it was - but the truth is that I was there because we all were there. Small as I was, I was still a witness to the power of community. Everyone on Mt. Washington, everyone who’d heard the good news about quality childcare being the key to a bright and equitable future, they’d all turned out that day to pour cement and hoist pine girders into position and rake gallons and gallons of sand. And because they’d all turned out, because we had the community behind us, the news that came a year later, that the church was yanking our lease, was news we could survive. And survive we did. In the scramble to find another site (of which I also have only the vaguest of memories – endless stops on the way home from something or other so my mom, Patricia Griffith, could chat to a building owner or just size up an address for prima face issues), we came to La Casita Verde. It was like a miracle had been granted to us. The building was undeniably beautiful. There was plenty of room on the grounds for a new community-built playground. It was close to the families we were trying to serve. And, in a decision that still rings in memory, MWPCCC struck a rental agreement with the City. It was unbelievably good fortune. For our organization, and for my mother in particular, it was a tremendous relief. In the many years that followed, my mother’s life (and, consequently, my life) were deeply tied up in the goings-on at La Casita. Monthly board meetings, biweekly visits to sign pay checks, stopping in to check up on how everything was going … we were
stopping in to check up on how everything was going … we were there all the time. And even when we weren’t there, The Preschool held a constant presence in our dinnertime conversations, and figured hugely in my mother’s lesson-like illustrations of conflict-resolution, civic involvement, and how to be decent to people. I grew up valuing kindness and honesty and community because the preschool played such an outsized role in my mother’s life. Since her death in 2016, I’ve joined the MWPCCC Board. Primarily in a supporting role, as I know I can never fill my mom’s shoes. My mother poured her life into this organization, trying to give the families of North-East LA quality options when it came to childcare. I whole-heartedly believe in that mission. I know the value that quality childcare can bring to the life of a child, that child’s mother, and the surrounding community. Everyone benefits. A community that invests in and maintains childcare organizations like ours sees benefits in crime reduction, greater financial stability, and higher rates of upper education completion. Kids who attend even one day a week of preschool or childcare see significant growth in social skills and intellectual curiosity, and just as important, they have a safe place to grow and explore. This is the good news about childcare, and it’s why my mother and my community all rallied together to get MWPCCC off the ground and running. It’s why I’ve enrolled my own son at La Casita Verde and am eagerly looking forward to the day the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, so we can all return. La Casita Verde is a beautiful building. For twenty-odd years, it has housed an organization that built on that beauty and reflected it out into the world. Please help us continue. Many thanks,
Geneva Burleigh
My name is Geneva Burleigh and I am a parent of a toddler at La Casita verde\Ziegler Estate, a Board member and also the daughter of Patricia Griffith who was an activist for childcare, working parents and a founder of Mt. Washington Preschool and Childcare Center, Inc that has operated the Center for 20 years.

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And survive we did. In the scramble to find another site (of which I also have only the vaguest of memories – endless stops on the way home from something or other so my mom, Patricia Griffith, could chat to a building owner or just size up an address for prima face issues), we came to La Casita Verde. It was like a miracle had been granted to us. The building was undeniably beautiful. There was plenty of room on the grounds for a new community-built playground. It was close to the families we were trying to serve. And, in a decision that still rings in memory, MWPCCC struck a rental agreement with the City . It was unbelievably good fortune. For our organization, and for my mother in particular, it was a tremendous relief.

In the many years that followed, my mother’s life (and, consequently, my life) were deeply tied up in the goings-on at La Casita. Monthly board meetings, biweekly visits to sign pay checks, stopping in to check up on how everything was going ... we were there all the time. And even when we weren’t there, The Preschool held a constant presence in our dinnertime conversations, and figured hugely in my mother’s lesson-like illustrations of conflict-resolution, civic involvement, and how to be decent to people. I grew up valuing kindness and honesty and community because the preschool played such an outsized role in my mother’s life.

Since her death in 2016, I've joined the MWPCCC Board. Primarily in a supporting role, as I know I can never fill my mom’s shoes. My mother poured her life into this organization, trying to give the families of North-East LA quality options when it came to childcare. I whole-heartedly believe in that mission. I know the value that quality childcare can bring to the life of a child, that child’s mother, and the surrounding community. Everyone benefits. A community that invests in and maintains childcare organizations like ours sees benefits in crime reduction, greater financial stability, and higher rates of upper education completion. Kids who attend even one day a week of preschool or childcare see significant growth in social skills and intellectual curiosity, and just as important, they have a safe place to grow and explore. This is the good news about childcare, and it’s why my mother and my community all rallied together to get MWPCCC off the ground and running. It’s why I’ve enrolled my own son at La Casita Verde and am eagerly looking forward to the day the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, so we can all return.
La Casita Verde is a beautiful building. For twenty-odd years, it has housed an organization that built on that beauty and reflected it out into the world. Please help us continue.

Many thanks,

Geneva Burleigh
Name: Susan P Phifer
Date Submitted: 06/03/2020 05:51 PM
Council File No: 19-1204

SUBJECT: JUNE 4, 2020 HOUSING COMMITTEE AGENDA
ITEM 15 COUNCIL FILE NO. 19-1204 Dear Housing Committee Chair Cedillo, Vice Chair Krekorian and Member Harris-Dawson, My name is Susan Phifer and I am the President of the Mt. Washington Preschool & Child Care Center, Inc. founded in 1991 by the late Patricia Griffith, a local champion for working mothers and their children. Our nonprofit provides early learning and care programs year-round and full day for working families of all incomes in Northeast Los Angeles as well as to City and federal employees in downtown. On behalf of our Board of Directors and past, present and future families, teachers, staff, and volunteers, we urge the Housing Committee to approve Item 15 on the June 4 agenda related to the Mayor’s 46th Program Year Consolidated Plan. We operate La Casita Verde Child Development Center at the City-owned Ziegler Estate adjacent to the Southwest Museum Station on Metro’s L (Gold) Line. Designated City Historic-Cultural Monument No. 416, the property is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Since 2001, La Casita Verde has served as an anchor for the Arroyo Seco’s hub for local and regional recreation, culture and education. Our services give families of low wealth access to economic mobility and opportunity and provide their children with quality programs to grow and learn. The Consolidated Plan includes $1,349,333 in CDBG funds for upgrades to stabilize this unique property. City staff have determined that its rehab is a multi-phase project and an additional $1,349,333 is included in the Future Year Projects priority-funding list. The Ziegler Estate’s deteriorating physical conditions pose not only a potential health and safety risk for young children and their families, our employees and the public but it also threatens its landmark status. Steady asset management and historic stewardship by the City is required to ensure that it can continue to be intensively used as a child-serving institution. Built in 1904 by Charles Hornbeck and Alfred P. Wilson, the 5,000 square foot two and one-half story wood structure was designed as a stately home with elements of both Queen Anne and American Craftsman architecture. It was purchased by the former Community Redevelopment Agency from the Southwest Museum in 1992. The project consisted of rehabilitating the property and adapting it for use as a child care center to address the need for additional licensed child care for
center to address the need for additional licensed child care for families including those with limited incomes. In 2002, the project won the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Housing and Urban Development Secretary’s Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation. The award cited “an energetic coalition of city departments, the Community Redevelopment Agency, the Community Development Department, and citizens groups for rescuing a gem from decrepitude while bringing a high-quality child-care center to the underserved Highland Park area.” The quality of a child development center is not only related to the qualifications and experience of the teachers and the type of curriculum offered. In a dense urban neighborhood, other factors determine success including a desirable location, the quality of facility design, and access to public transit. Another key factor for us is integrating families from a variety of incomes and backgrounds to create an enriched and positive experience for everyone. La Casita Verde is one of the few mixed-income centers in Los Angeles and the only one in Northeast. Since mixed-income centers are more costly to operate and State child care subsidies are scarce, we have to rely on grants and donations to offer tuition assistance. Our Board has pledged $50,000 to commission the Historic Resources Group, Inc. to prepare a Historic Structures Report and Maintenance Plan for the Ziegler Estate in support of this grant. We are committed to working with the City throughout the implementation of upgrades to minimize disruption of La Casita Verde operations. Prior to the pandemic, many families with young children were forced to make a choice between spending a significant portion of their income on child care, or finding a cheaper, but potentially lower-quality care option, or leaving the workforce altogether to become a full-time caregiver. We know that in the near future parents and guardians, and especially women, will incur greater child care challenges. This is due to increased operating costs to meet more stringent regulations and the reduction in the number of centers in operation due because of the COVID-19 health crisis. Please act in the best interest of working families now and in the future by recommending approval of the requested CDBG funds for the Ziegler Estate/La Casita Verde to City Council so that this public resource may continue to be a beacon of hope and prosperity for Northeast Los Angeles. Susan Phifer, Board President
June 3, 2020

The Honorable Gilbert A. Cedillo
Chair, Housing Committee
200 N. Spring St., Room 460
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Gilbert.Cedillo@lacity.org
gerald.gubatan@lacity.org

The Honorable Paul Krekorian
Vice Chair, Housing Committee
200 N. Spring St., Room 435
Los Angeles, CA 90012
councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org
adrienne.asadoorian@lacity.org

The Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember, District 8
200 N. Spring St., Room 450
Los Angeles, CA 90012
councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org
kristen.gordon@lacity.org

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COUNCIL FILE NO. 19-1204

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Please act in the best interest of working families now and in the future by recommending approval of the requested CDBG funds for the Ziegler Estate/La Casita Verde to City Council so that this public resource may continue to be a beacon of hope and prosperity for Northeast Los Angeles.

In closing, I’d like to acknowledge our deep appreciation to Councilmember Cedillo and the assistance of City staff who worked on this grant application representing the departments of Building & Safety, General Services, Public Works Bureau of Engineering, Los Angeles Housing + Community Investment, and Economic & Workforce Development.

Sincerely yours,

Susan Phifer, President
Board of Directors

cc: Martha Benedict, Geneva Burleigh, Tracey Chavira, Sylvia Robledo, Ashley Sipchen, Brad Weyers, Tamara Brown, MWPCCC Executive Director, Rosa Guzman, La Casita Verde Director
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.R.)

State of California
County of Los Angeles

Notice Type: HRG - NOTICE OF HEARING

Ad Description:
46th Program Year 2020-2021 Housing & Community Development Annual Action Plan Budget

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the State of California. I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer and publisher of the LOS ANGELES DAILY JOURNAL, a newspaper published in the English language in the city of LOS ANGELES, county of LOS ANGELES, and adjudged a newspaper of general circulation as defined by the laws of the State of California by the Superior Court of the County of LOS ANGELES, State of California, under date 04/26/1954, Case No. 595,382. That the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

06/02/2020

Executed on: 06/02/2020
At Los Angeles, California

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

[Signature]

Email: *A000005434874*