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Summary of Public Meetings & Surveys for Proposed Budget for Program Year 47 (2021-22) Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan

Virtual Meetings Overview

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and to continue with the Mayor of Los Angeles imposed social distancing safety measures, HCIDLA in conjunction with the Mayor's office invited the public to participate in two virtual Spring meetings, which included the Program Year 47 (2021-22) Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) and a review of the Mayor's proposed Annual Action Plan.

Utilizing Zoom, the Federal Grants for L.A. Housing & Community Development 2021-22 virtual public meetings were held on April 6, 2021 in the Spanish language to allow for greater participation by non- and limited-English speaking persons, and on April 7, 2021 in the English language. Live interpretation was available at both meetings to facilitate participation by both English- and Spanish-speaking persons in either meeting. Both meetings were held in the evening from 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm. There was a total of 101 registrants, 25 for the Spanish language meeting and 76 for the English language meeting. There were approximately 25 participants at both virtual meetings, with six participants at the Spanish meeting and 19 participants at the English meeting.

Virtual Meetings Outreach

HCIDLA used a number of outreach methods to promote the virtual meetings, including: flyers, mass email notification to about 25,000 subscribers, posting on the HCIDLA website and social media outlets, newspaper publication, the City's Channel 35 television station, as well as invitations to the Mayor's office, Council Districts, Commissioners on several commissions, Neighborhood Councils, community-based organizations, and other City departments.

Virtual Public Meetings (Webinars)

The Spring virtual public meetings included a presentation on: what the Con Plan is, the Con Plan goals, examples of the programs and projects funded, the actual grant funds allocated to the City; and the one-time CARES Act funding and its proposed uses to assist Angelenos during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mayor's Office presentation highlighted the proposed budget with 45% of federal grant funds invested towards combatting homelessness and increasing access to affordable housing, a primary concern. The proposed budget also included 20% towards neighborhood improvements to public facilities and infrastructure, 12% towards social services, 9% towards economic development, and 14% towards planning and administration. Also, investing in public safety in the upcoming program year, through domestic violence survivor programs and street lighting, was an important concern.

Additional resources were presented with website information for: how to access and apply for affordable housing; free tax preparation service; small business resources via the Economic & Workforce Development Department; low-cost internet services and free access to computers and digital literacy services; and the 311 Request for City Services hotline and app.

Virtual Meetings Public Participation

Throughout the presentation the audience participated through answering interactive poll questions and by submitting comments and questions. Questions and comments were addressed during the meeting, and opportunities for continued comments and questions were made available via email to HCIDLA.

The interactive poll questions were: 1) Is this your first time attending a Consolidated Plan public meeting; 2) Of the four federal grants mentioned, which one does the City of Los Angeles receive the most money for; 3) Now that you have heard our goals and seen examples, what is most important to you; 4) If given the opportunity today, how or where would you spend the money; 5) How are, or were you most impacted by COVID-19; 6) Did your business close during COVID-19; 7) How did you hear about the meeting; 8) How well did the Mayor's proposed plan address the needs you see in your community; and, 9) Would you come to future Consolidated Plan meetings, and tell others?

Poll Questions Trends & Highlights

The trend from poll Q1 indicated that this was the first-time both meetings' participants had attended a Con Plan meeting, and both meetings' participants answered poll Q2 correctly. For Q7, both meetings' participants heard of the meeting through a community organizer, or a friend or colleague. Poll Q9 highlighted from both meetings participants that they would come to future meetings again and tell others.

There were some key contrasts in the responses from the Spanish meeting as compared to the English meeting. When asked Q3, of the Con Plan goals presented what was most important, among the top three choices, all participants in both meetings choose to develop affordable housing, and to prevent and reduce homelessness/domestic violence. For the Spanish participants the third choice was to improve the local economy for low-income residents, and the English participants had only two top choices. When asked Q4, how or where would you spend the money, the top choice for the Spanish participants to spend the money towards social services/help people recover from COVID-19. Whereas the top choice for the English participants to spend the money was on housing developments. When asked Q5, how were or are you most impacted by COVID-19, the Spanish meeting attendees responded that the top choice was having experienced loss of employment was their greatest impact. The English meeting participants' response differed by responding with the top choice of having experienced health concerns as the greatest impact. From the Spanish meeting, for Q6, the majority of respondents expressed that their business had closed during COVID-19. To the contrary, the majority of English participants indicated their business did not close or this question was not applicable. And for Q8, most of the Spanish participants indicated the Mayor's proposed plan somewhat addressed the needs of their community, while most of the English participants indicated that the proposed plan mostly addressed the needs of their community.

Of the questions asked by the public during the meetings, most of them were regarding affordable housing and homelessness. Similar to the Fall public meeting responses, the Spring meeting responses expressed the need for affordable housing is still great and of high priority. This also aligns with the Mayor's plan. At the same time, the current COVID-19 pandemic and resulting recession has led to including other concerns and priorities.

Challenges

Holding public meetings through virtual technology has resulted in the challenge of maintaining high participation. The Spring meetings combined registrations totaled 101 persons, however approximately

25% participated in the meetings. This challenge prompted a follow up survey to receive further community participation within the given 30-day public comment period.

Survey Overview

A public survey on the Mayor's proposed budget for the 47th PY Con Plan was provided between April 16th – 25th, 2021. To allow for greater participation by non- and limited-English speaking persons, the survey was available in both English and Spanish languages.

Survey Outreach

HCIDLA continued with similar outreach methods to promote the surveys, which included: mass email notification to about 25,000 subscribers, posting on the HCIDLA website and social media outlets, as well as email notifications to the Mayor's office, Council Districts, Commissioners on several commissions, Neighborhood Councils, community-based organizations, and other City departments.

Survey Participation

There was a total of 264 responses to the survey, 251 from the English language and 13 from the Spanish language. However, of the English language surveyed 60 respondents did not provide answers to Q4-Q9. Therefore, these non-responses were not calculated in the analysis, and the number of English survey responses analyzed was 191, for a combined total of 204.

Survey Questions

The survey began with a few demographic questions, which were:

1. What is your zip code?;
2. What is your annual income?; and,
3. Did your income decrease due to the COVID-19 recession?

Additionally, with information provided from a pie chart pertaining to the Mayor's proposed budget, questions 4 – 7 asked if the Mayor's proposed budget addresses the specified needs seen in their community towards: housing and homelessness; neighborhood and public facilities improvements; social services; and, economic developments.

Question 8 asked respondents to prioritize how they saw the needs of residents with lower to moderate incomes in the City of Los Angeles.

Question 9 asked for the top three most important efforts that the City of L.A. had used, or plans to use, to affirm and promote access to fair housing.

Survey Highlights

The respondents' demographics represented many areas from Los Angeles. For Q1 from the English language respondents, the top zip codes were 90026 (Echo Park/Silverlake) at 4.2% of respondents, 90731 (San Pedro) at 3.7%, 90044 (Athens-South LA) at 3.7%, and 90008 (Leimert Park-South LA) at 3.7%. From the Spanish language respondents, the top zip codes were 90017 (Downtown/Westlake) at 23.1% and 90057 (Westlake) at 15.4%. The English language respondents were from the areas of South L.A. at 25%, Central L.A. at 23%, and the Valley at 15%. The Spanish language survey indicated the respondents were from the areas of Central L.A. at 62%, and South L.A. at 15%. There was a contrast

in the income levels from the survey respondents for Q2. From the English language respondents, the most common income bracket was over \$120,000 at 18%. However, the next two most common income brackets were, "Less than \$15,000" and "\$15,000 - \$29,000" at 15% each. In contrast and on the opposite side of the spectrum, the Spanish language respondents' income reflected their income was "Less than \$15,000" at 46%. For Q3, while the majority of respondents from both survey languages indicated that their income had decreased due to COVID-19, the English language respondents were at 60%, and the Spanish language respondents were at 92%.

When asked Q4, if the Mayor's proposed plan for investments in housing and homelessness addresses the needs as they saw them in their community, 130 English language respondents either strongly or somewhat agreed at 68%. The strongest sentiment was "Somewhat Agree". Twelve Spanish language respondents selected either strongly or somewhat agreed that the Mayor's proposed plan for investments in housing and homelessness addresses the needs in their community at 92%, with a tied number of responses for both choices, six for strongly agree and six for somewhat agree. Overall, of the 204 total respondents, 70% either strongly or somewhat agreed with Question 4, with the top answer being "Somewhat Agree".

When asked Q5, if the Mayor's proposed plan for investments in neighborhood and public facilities improvements addresses the needs as they saw them in their community, 156 English language respondents either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed at 82%. The strongest sentiment was "Strongly Agree." Twelve Spanish-language respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed that the Mayor's proposed plan for investments in neighborhood and public facilities improvements addresses the needs in their community at 92%. Their strongest sentiment was "Somewhat Agree". Overall, of the 204 total respondents, 82% either strongly or somewhat agreed with Question 5, with the strongest sentiment being "Strongly Agree".

When asked Q6, if the Mayor's proposed plan for investments in social services addresses the needs as they saw them in their community, 143 English language respondents strongly agreed or somewhat agreed at 75%. The most common sentiment was "Somewhat Agree". Ten Spanish language respondents strongly or somewhat agreed that the Mayor's proposed plan for social services addresses the needs in their community at 77%. The most common sentiment was "Somewhat Agree". Overall, 153 respondents strongly or somewhat agree with Question 6, at 75% approval. The strongest sentiment was "Somewhat Agree".

When asked Q7, if the Mayor's proposed plan for investments in economic development addresses the needs as they saw them in their community, 151 English language respondents strongly or somewhat agreed at 79%. The top sentiment was "Somewhat Agree". Eleven Spanish-language respondents strongly or somewhat agreed that the Mayor's proposed plan for investments in economic development addresses the needs in their community at 85%. The top sentiment was "Somewhat Agree". Overall, 79% of respondents either strongly agreed or somewhat agreed with Question 7, with the top sentiment being "Somewhat Agree."

When asked Q8 - Prioritize how you see the needs of residents with lower to moderate incomes in the City of Los Angeles; the majority of respondents indicated that their highest priority was housing and homelessness, which is 53% of the English respondents, and 69% of the Spanish respondents.

In response to Q9 about the top three most important efforts that the City of L.A. had used, or plans to use, to affirm and promote access to fair housing, a top choice of all respondents was to expand source of income protections to include Housing Choice Vouchers to prevent housing discrimination. The English language respondents other top two choices were: to increase developer incentives to promote increased

local hiring preferences on all housing; and, accessibility and fair housing training for housing developers and architects. The Spanish language respondents other top two most important were: to establish Eviction Defense Program that provides legal support for low-income tenants; and to expand tenant outreach and education on tenants' rights.

Public Comments

There were three comments received from the public in response to the Council File, and a total of 11 public comments/question received by email. The majority of the comments concerned affordable housing and the homelessness faced in Los Angeles.

Conclusion

The new technology of meeting virtually has resulted in some limitations in connecting with the public. Overall, there was meaningful feedback from the participating public, and many participants appreciated the information and gave positive remarks on the information provided.