



## **Community Coalition's Statement Regarding Raises for LAPD**

Community Coalition believes that allocating more funds towards raises for the LAPD is a misguided approach that harms communities of color, especially considering our pressing needs in the context of decades of disinvestment. We know that people deliver people, and in a moment when social services, education, mental health resources, and affordable housing would be a more effective way to address the root causes of crime and promote community well-being, increasing the salaries of law enforcement agents is a direct affront to the people's needs.

The LAPD budget has experienced a steady increase over the past few years. In the fiscal year 2020-2021, the approved budget for the LAPD was approximately \$1.86 billion, representing an increase of around \$122 million from the previous year. This marked a growth rate of roughly 7% compared to the previous fiscal year. Several factors contribute to the increase in the LAPD budget. Two significant factors are salary increases and pension contributions for officers. Other factors include militarized equipment, technology, and training programs.

Increasing the LAPD budget perpetuates systemic issues and exacerbates tensions between law enforcement and marginalized communities. We implore the City to shift its priorities, urging our officials to redirect funds towards initiatives that directly benefit youth, seniors, and those experiencing unemployment, underemployment, housing insecurity, and houselessness. After 30 years of organizing, we know that investing in the social safety net, youth development, job training, and mental health services creates safer and more equitable neighborhoods.

Community Coalition continues to ask our City to lead with alternatives that do not harm our community. We emphatically stand in opposition to the budget increases for LA law enforcement. By addressing the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to crime, Community Coalition believes our communities can thrive. A more effective approach to public safety can be achieved by prioritizing transparency, accountability, and community engagement to address neighborhood concerns and develop comprehensive strategies that reflect the needs and aspirations of all residents.