



# MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBER

— DISTRICT 10 —

## **\*\*STATEMENT\*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Councilmember Ridley-Thomas' Statement on the City of Los Angeles FY 2021-22 Budget**

"Thanks to the Biden Administration and Congress, which passed the American Relief Act, we have been able to turn municipal despair into civic opportunity.

After a year that has left no family or sector unscathed, I am proud that the City's FY21-22 budget sets us on a just path to recovery - allowing us to invest in unprecedented ways, and in the areas where help is most needed. We will scale up our response to the homelessness and housing crises, we will implement approaches that reimagine public safety, and we will provide financial relief to families and businesses designed to restore the dignity and economic stability of our communities.

This budget allows us to double down on our response to homelessness, with a proposed investment of \$800 million. As a next step, I have asked the City team to develop a plan to scale up the number of outreach teams and streamline our oversight of the teams working on the ground. But at the end of the day, our outreach efforts to those living on the streets is only effective if there are long-term, affordable housing options available. The budget also establishes a new Los Angeles Housing Department with a clear mission to expand our efforts to develop more affordable housing.

Thanks to the vision of Mayor Garcetti and the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee, this budget is grounded in strategies to allocate poverty. I am proud to support the launch of what will be the nation's largest Guaranteed Basic Income Program, expanded eviction defense services and utility debt relief programs, as well as local hiring programs. The budget also sets aside funding to invest in the infrastructure needed to rebuild our most cherished public assets like parks and libraries, the places we are

anxious to get back to, but in far too many low-income communities, need significant improvements.

We still have much work ahead to ensure these investments have the intended transformative effect - but this budget propels us in the right direction.”

***Mark Ridley-Thomas chairs the Homelessness and Poverty Committee of the Los Angeles City Council.***

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