

| ID | Full Name (first and last): | Are you a paid representative receiving any type of compensation or thing of value in exchange for registering your comment into the record? | Who are you representing? | Which agenda item would you like to comment on? | Is your comment in support, in opposition, or for information only? | Public Comment: |
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| 1 | Lorraine Washington | No | | Regular 16. MOTION - NO. M-25-593 - BY: COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS | Support | It is imperative that the Council honors the voice of the people. In 2024 the voters overwhelmingly approved dedicating 2% of the city's annual budget to be dedicated to the Housing Trust Fund for each fiscal. |
| 2 | Ryan Mattingly (Executive Director, Louisiana Green Corps) | No | | Regular 02. CAL. NO. 35-254 - BY: COUNCILMEMBER GIARUSSO (BY REQUEST) | Info only | <p>I want to speak clearly and strongly in support of protecting the Louisiana Green Corps' Economic Mobility in Motion grant funding.</p> <p>Right now, this program is delivering exactly what New Orleans needs. Since receiving this three-year grant from the city in 2024, we've served 100 residents, all of whom experience significant barriers to employment, while simultaneously improving our city's infrastructure and environmental resilience. Our Corps Members receive training in construction and conservation, career coaching and exploration, work-readiness and soft-skills development, and ongoing case management support. It is a proven model with hands-on preparation and strong support for real, well-paying jobs in New Orleans' growing green and blue economies.</p> <p>If there is a concern that the program is underspending, I would like to clarify that misconception. The City-approved Green Corps budget clearly shows that most of our expenses were planned for Year 3 (2026), and our contract with the city requires a staged payment structure: with the final \$175,000 payment after our third-quarter 2025 report was recently submitted. We have followed the City's schedule exactly as written and our three-year budget for the grant initiative, and are relying on the funding to continue to grow our impact.</p> <p>Today, protecting this funding is even more urgent because Louisiana Green Corps has already lost \$2.7 million in multi-year federal grants this year due to national policy shifts and rescinded federal priorities for our city and state. These sudden losses threaten Green Corps' programs that have taken years to build—programs that prepare New Orleans residents for jobs in green infrastructure, green construction, energy efficiency, green stormwater infrastructure, water management, urban forestry, coastal restoration, and more.</p> <p>For 17 years, Louisiana Green Corps has provided a proven model that blends economic opportunity with climate resilience. Over 1,500 Corps members have been trained since 2008—95% of them Black, many facing severe barriers, with approximately 50% of participants justice involvement or homelessness. Yet our graduates consistently succeed despite this barriers thanks to the support and partnership with the City of New Orleans.</p> <p>We are working in deep partnership with the City of New Orleans departments, the Sewerage & Water Board, labor unions, and more than fifty employer partners who rely on us to prepare skilled workers for high-growth careers. Our community is counting on this program—and our participants are counting on this funding we understood as a secure three-year grant.</p> <p>New Orleans has an opportunity to safeguard and support a program that is delivering results, building resilience, and opening the doors to generational wealth for families who have long been left out of opportunity.</p> <p>We urge City leadership to protect the Economic Mobility in Motion funding for Louisiana Green Corps and continue to support Louisiana Green Corps to advance the work that is already transforming lives and strengthening our city's future.</p> |
| 4 | Solomon Matthews | Yes | Ashe Cultural Arts Center | Regular 16. MOTION - NO. M-25-593 - BY: COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS | Support | I am submitting this comment on behalf of Ashé Cultural Arts Center to urge the Council to honor the will of the voters by dedicating 2% of the City's operating budget to the HTF. Dedicated funding ensures that HTF programs—such as Small Multi-Family Development, fortified roofs, and weatherization—can launch efficiently and begin serving more families without delay. Our residents deserve this level of prioritization in our city budget and the housing crisis demands it. |
| 5 | Nicole Barnes | No | | Regular 16. MOTION - NO. M-25-593 - BY: COUNCILMEMBER HARRIS | Info only | <p>Good Morning Council Members. I implore each of you to vote to fully fund the Housing Trust Fund at 2% of the General Fund, in accordance with the charter amendment passed by 75% of New Orleans citizens in November, 2024. The capitalization of the Housing Trust Fund is a crucial component in providing affordable housing options for the citizens of our city. In my 31 years of work in the housing arena, on both the governmental and nonprofit sides, I have had a unique vantage point to see, up close, the numerous ways these funds can be utilized and the residents that will benefit from them. The flexibility of the Housing Trust Fund allows for: Innovative programming opportunities that best serves the needs of citizens, but don't fit into some of the very narrow parameters of traditional federal housing funding sources (e.g. painting programs for seniors, owner-occupied rehabs, rental assistance, etc.). Additionally, the Housing Trust Fund provides for the availability of funds needed to respond, in real time, to an emergency/disaster/crisis, while waiting on the deployment of FEMA funding that often lags far behind the date of the original impact. In a city/state vulnerable to disasters, annually, this safety net is crucial. Which leads to perhaps the most salient point, heretofore, the City of New Orleans has only dedicated the federal pass-through funds (outside of the now expired NHIF property assessment) toward housing. Given the chaos and uncertainty surrounding the availability of future federal funding, the Housing Trust Fund may be the only resource available to provide much needed assistance to our citizenry. Again, I urge the council to fulfill their obligation to the citizens of New Orleans by voting for and fully supporting the 2% allocation of general funds to the Housing Trust Fund. Thank you.</p> |

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Solomon Matthews

No

Regular 01. CAL. NO.
35-253 - BY:
COUNCILMEMBER
GIARRUSSO (BY
REQUEST)

Support

I am submitting a public comment on behalf of Ashé Cultural Arts Center, urging the Council to fully honor its responsibility by allocating the full 2% of the 2026 General Fund to the Housing Trust Fund (HTF). If the General Fund increases to \$801.5M, the HTF allocation must be increased to \$16M to maintain compliance with the 2% mandate. The Council has both the authority and the obligation to make this adjustment.