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WISE CHOICES FOR A SAFER CITY

City Council Completes 06-07 Budget, Adds Funds For Housing, Traffic, and Public Safety

In a marathon session that concluded with a late-afternoon unanimous “aye” vote, the Los Angeles City Council completed and approved the 06-07 Budget today. The \$6.7 billion budget, proposed by the Mayor and adopted with amendments by the City Council, addresses the city’s critical issues of housing, traffic and public safety and shores up its finances for the year ahead.

“Working together, my colleagues have produced a budget that gives us safer streets and safer finances,” said Council President Eric Garcetti. “I’m proud of the work done by this council.”

“After 50 hours of deliberations, the Budget and Finance committee voted largely with one voice to make few but necessary changes to the proposed budget,” said Budget Committee chair Councilmember Bernard Parks. “Among the most important were increasing the reserve fund to 4.3 % of the General Fund ((\$185.8 Million), getting us very close to the Financial Policy goal of 5%, and including an increase in the Emergency Reserve Account from 2 to 2.5%. Our budget will ensure, most importantly, that the safety of our city is ensured. I am very proud to stand together with the City Council members to launch the next fiscal year in Los Angeles.”

“By approving this budget today, we have set in motion the most significant expansion of the LAPD in more than a decade,” said Councilmember Wendy Greuel. “The Mayor and the Council - for the first time in years - are making the tough choices necessary to back up our talk with action and put more cops on the street. And our neighborhoods will be safer because of it.”

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"I am pleased that as a City we have made a genuine commitment to our homeless population by supporting an increase in our year-round emergency shelter beds," said Councilmember Jan Perry. "It has demonstrated that we are indeed working together as a City family to support this vulnerable population and to address homelessness by supporting these basic services."

"I am proud to say that the City Council and Mayor presented and approved a balanced budget. This budget will serve the City's needs in public safety, community development and transportation. I look forward to continuing to work with the Council, the Mayor's office and all City departments to ensure that this budget continuously reflects the needs of our constituents even after its implemented," said Councilmember Huizar.

Below are several of the key decisions and changes approved by the City Council via its committee and full-council review of the budget before its passage today.

- **Public safety:** In order to fund the expansion of the force by up to 1,000 additional police officers in the next five years, the council approved the proposal in the mayor's budget to decrease the trash collection fee subsidy. This should bring in over \$20 million in FY 06-07. Also regarding public safety:
 - \$251,000 set aside for Neighborhood Prosecutor program around schools
 - Additional funds for gang prevention, intervention and reduction programs
- **Fiscal safety:** Council raised the city's reserve fund to 4.3% (\$185.8 million), in an effort to reach the policy goal of 5%; that includes a 25% increase in the Emergency Reserve Fun from 2% to 2.5%
- **Housing:** Council set aside \$1.05 million to maintain the current number of emergency shelter beds, with matching funds to be sought from L.A. County. Also:
 - With an infusion of \$12 million in general funds, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund will reach an all-time high of \$112 million (including the \$50-million permanent supportive housing project)
 - A \$957,000 study of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance to guide policy around preserving housing opportunities
- **Traffic:** Council increased by \$2.2 million funding for traffic signal installation and left-turn arrow signals

Other significant changes to the budget include: MICLA funding for small capital equipment in Rec & Parks; 27 positions to restore and expand the 50-50 sidewalk Program; allocation funds to support the two-way public testimony program for Van Nuys City Hall; and setting aside \$300,000 for a strategic plan for aging services.

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