



Office of the Mayor
City of Los Angeles

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA

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MAYOR VILLARAIGOSA INSTRUCTS GENERAL MANAGERS TO PREPARE FOR LAYOFFS

Personnel Department begins layoff exercise to prepare for budget year ahead

LOS ANGELES – Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced today that the City is preparing for layoffs to close a projected budget gap of between \$300 and \$500 million in the next fiscal year.

“In order to maintain our commitment to expanding public safety and providing essential city services, it is only prudent to prepare ourselves for the tough actions which may be necessary in the budget ahead,” Mayor Villaraigosa said.

At his monthly meeting with the City department general managers, Mayor Villaraigosa confirmed that the City is undertaking a layoff exercise to deal with the budget shortfall. The Mayor reiterated his commitment to police hiring.

“Fundamentally, a budget is a statement of values, and in tough times we need to focus on our core mission as a City. LA is the most under-policed big city in America, and I am committed to putting cops on the street.”

The Personnel Department is in the process of updating all relevant employee work history information within the City’s payroll system.

Last month, Mayor Villaraigosa asked City leaders to undertake a series of cost-cutting measures, including a hiring freeze, reducing the City Hall executive motor pool, instituting voluntary employee furloughs and selling surplus City property, in addition to other savings and efficiency measures.

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The City's financial condition has worsened significantly in recent months due to the softening housing market, the mortgage lending crisis, stagnant job and wage growth, and slowing City revenues.

In preparing for next year's budget, the Mayor committed himself to zero-based budgeting and asked the CAO to develop a pilot, zero-based budget to re-examine all functions and programs within the City.

Mayor Villaraigosa also committed to outlining major changes in the budget including the consolidation of City functions; centralization of common services; elimination of redundant programs; and development of service level benchmarks and performance measurements.

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