

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Committee Report

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa
8726 S. Sepulveda Blvd.,
P.M.B A191
Westchester, CA 90045
T: (213) 473-7023
F: (310) 306-1974
www.ncwpdr.org

Committee Name: LA City Budget Representative
Chairperson: Denny Schneider
Co-Chair: Cyndi Hench

Date: on-going Time: various
Location: LA City called meetings

Agenda Item: NONE

Discussion:

The city budget passed in June remains unbalanced, but recent actions by the City Council are bringing it closer into line (still a couple hundred million dollars short). New agreements reached this week with the LA Police Protective League and Coalition of City Unions are part of the short term solution. They agreed to two years with no cost of living increases, reductions in overtime costs, and no raises rather than have extensive layoffs. The on-going negotiations between the City and the United Firefighters of Los Angeles are unresolved with the issue escalated to the Employee Relations Board. The City and Unions have also agreed to 2400 early retirement slots that is supposed to be revenue neutral via increased pension contributions by the city employees. The early retirements is projected to result in a general fund payroll cost savings as these retirements occur. The net result of all of the Council actions is a lesser budget shortage this year and improved prospects for next, but still not good prospects.

To address the longer term issue the Mayor has asked departments about the functions that they perform and is looking at the combination of departments and positions to streamline government costs. All departments will take bigger hits next year to help balance the budget. It's not clear how this will be accomplished yet. Additionally, MAJOR pension issues remain as a cost drain to the City.

Public stakeholder budget surveys will be conducted again this year to act as guidance for the budget preparation. These surveys should be released within a month or two. Results reported to the February budget delegation meeting.

At the LA Congress and Budget Day last month (see last month's report) many issues were raised. At a debriefing this month it was determined that separate times need to be set for these two events even if done on the same day. The next Congress date will be October 9, 2010. Each NC is being asked to provide five workshop topics by November 5 that they would like to see offered at the event next year.

The Congress workshops will be supplemented throughout the year with regional conferences that will address topics of both Citywide and regional significance.