

Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Committee Report

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Committee Name: LA City Budget Representative

Chairperson: Denny Schneider

Co-Chair:

Date: on-gong **Time:** various

Location: LA City called meetings

Agenda Item: NONE

Discussion:

We are starting the budget process for next year. Meetings to establish another budget survey are in process. **On OCTOBER 10, 2009 there will be a combined BUDGET DAY and NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL CONGRESS where the current budget and next year's budget will be addressed.**

Mayor Villaraigosa and the City Council approved the FY 2009-2010 (current year) budget which can be found at <http://mayor.lacity.org/budget/> or <http://www.lacity.org/cao/>. They invoked a combination of increased fees, new taxes, employee furloughs twice a month and cuts in services to balance the \$7B+ budget which was projected to be about \$530M short of revenues. Also assumed was a budget deal that needed union approval to have additional sharing of pension and health care costs plus an early retirement incentive program.

The current budget is again projected to be short for this year failure of invocation of the early retirement incentive program and increased sharing of pension costs, lack of approval of the upcoming pay/incentive contracts with LAPD and LAFD, and cuts in funds to the City from CA revenues.

Next year could result in a bigger shortfall where we have heard estimates as optimistic as \$200 million or as bad as \$1.5 B due to operating budget issues and severe depression of the pension funds.

The Mayor has indicated that he continues to look for salary cuts and other concessions from the employee unions in this very bad financial time.

Action or Recommendation Taken:

- Meetings with the Mayor and staff prior to release of the budget recommendations.
 - We've asked for, but not received a cut of the budget which segregates available money by area rather than department.
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