

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 9, 2012

Agenda Item #7

The Westwood Neighborhood Council endorses the 21 recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates regarding the finances of the City of Los Angeles.

PROMOTING A NEW CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR OUR ENTIRE CITY FAMILY

FY2012-2013 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES' SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

March 27, 2012

1. Declare a Fiscal Emergency for the City of Los Angeles thereby allowing the Mayor to invoke a one-year salary reduction in order to close the deficit.
2. Require the City to develop a Five-Year Strategic Operational and Financial Plan mandating multi-year Balanced Budgets based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles that provides full funding for our infrastructure and pensions.
3. The City's prime priority is to Control Employee Costs focusing on current and future employee compensation, benefits packages, pension contributions and Worker's Compensation.
4. Engage in real Pension Plan Reform starting with raising the retirement age from 55 to 65 or 67 years of age.
5. Investigate the replacement of the Gross Receipts Tax with well-defined offsetting income.
6. Reach more specific definition of the City's "Core Services." Search for Cost-Effective Departmental Consolidations. Reduce all expenditures for all "non-Core Services."

7. Implement Performance-based Budgeting which will quantitate the Workloads necessary for each Department to fulfill its mission ... with parameters which are compatible across all departments and, once subjected to Cost-Benefit Analysis, these data can be used to allocate the City's personnel, equipment, supplies and funds.
8. Define, describe and fund a 21st Century, comprehensive Information Technology System (data collection, data storage & data processing) which will consistently document and improve the services of all City Departments and enhance City Government-Public interaction. All Systems Analyses must integrate the Programs involved with the expertise, staffing, hardware & software necessary to operate them.
9. Implement a Public-Private-Partnership for the Zoo and negotiate either Public-Private Partnerships or more efficient Management Contracts for the Convention Center, the Parking Facilities, the Golf Courses, the Animal Shelters and other City facilities while expanding the definition of "partnerships" to include municipal sponsorships to bringing in corporate money and offering support to local non-profits working in the field on quality of life issues.
10. Recover the costs of Judgments, Settlements and Contingent Liabilities from the responsible department.
11. Promptly review and implement the unfulfilled recommendations in the Controller's Audits; including a Central Billing/Collections Program. (see item #13)
12. Implement the Commission on Revenue Enhancement (CORE) recommendations including (but not limited to) the newly established office of Inspector General.
13. Implement a comprehensive, efficient and effective Central Billing/Collections Program which serves all City Departments.
14. Partner with International Government Non-profits as incubators of new small businesses.
15. Revert all (100%) of currently "split" funds from the sale of City-owned property, the Oil Franchise income, the Street Furniture Funds, etc. to the General Fund.
16. Return DOT Parking Enforcement & Traffic Control activities to LAPD, if cost-effective.
17. Review the City's hiring policies ... currently under a "Managed Hiring" plan ... to assure that the City secures qualified personnel in all positions.
18. Fund new civilian hires with savings derived from a one-year (only) closure of the Police Training Academy in order to redeploy jailers and administrative staff LAPD officers.
19. Authorize Private sector Veterinarians to issue and collect Dog License Fees.

20. Reestablish and fund the 50-50% Sidewalk Repair Program and consider funding similar programs for Tree Trimming, Pot Holes, etc.
21. Bolster the Neighborhood Council System by bringing in a foundation as a partner, providing additional financial and training support and Reinstate NCs to full \$50,000/year funding.