



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



February 22, 2010

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: LA City Budget

Dear Bill:

The Venice Neighborhood Council has adopted the following recommendations:

1. In reference to the funding of Neighborhood Councils, we endorse the following principles:

a. No budget cut for the 2010-2011 fiscal year should exceed 10% from the current year funding of \$45,000.

b. That programmatic funding allocated by Neighborhood Councils be allowed to roll-over into the next fiscal year to ensure the completion of the programs.

2. In reference to the overall budget, we endorse the following principles:

a. The City should undertake a full pension plan review taking into account the Budget/LA Committee's recommendations, and to implement specific steps to reduce future pension costs.

b. The City hire an independent legal counsel proficient in Chapter 9 filings to explore and advise on the contractual, fiscal, and short/long term effects of such a filing, and share that information with the neighborhood council system in a timely manner.

c. Review and analyze the amount of payroll reduction vs. layoffs to preserve essential services, not lower employee morale, and avoid unnecessary layoffs in these troubling economic times.

d. Do a full department by department review and consolidate where duplicate services exist.



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- e. Instruct the CAO to do a 5 year balanced budget plan.

3. In reference to the current City services provided to the Venice community, we endorse the principle that the following should not be cut or reduced from their current level of funding:
 - a. LAPD
 - b. LAFD
 - c. Street Maintenance
 - d. Sanitation services
 - e. Rec and Parks

4. In reference to the sale of surplus property, we endorse the proposal that all proceeds from such sales should be dedicated to one time funding of local projects and the funds not devolve to the General Fund.

5. In reference to the funding of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), we endorse the principle of no additional cuts over those previous implemented prior to February 1, 2010.

Sincerely,

Mike Newhouse
President
Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Los Angeles City Counsel
Los Angeles City Council Budget Committee
secretary@veniceNC.org