



Coalition of LA City Unions

AFSCME LA City Local Unions	Laborers' Local 777	Service Employees International Union Local 721
International Union of Operating Engineers Local 501	LA/Orange Counties Building & Construction Trades Council	Teamsters Local 911

www.lacitycoalition.com

May 21, 2008

City Workers Continue the Fight for Quality City Services

- Civil Service Commission Threatens Rights
- City Council Adopts Budget



Library hours and Sundays at branch libraries will be restored under the new budget.

Good News on the Budget, but the Work Continues

The City Council announced Monday that it had approved a budget. The budget contains some good news and reasons to be optimistic going forward, but some of the biggest questions have yet to be worked out.

The Council found more money and used it to restore a number of services, including:

- Preserving library hours and Sundays at branch libraries;
- Keeping 17 park rangers;
- Restoring funding for street maintenance (the City will repair 235 miles of street next year—the most since World War II).

see "The Work Continues" on back

Commission Threatens Workers' Rights Civil Service Commission Votes on Layoff Rules: Action Needed!

The Coalition continues to maintain that the furlough plan is subject to the meet and confer requirement—management must meet with the unions to bargain on this plan before it could move forward. Budget & Finance Committee Chair Bernard Parks in his remarks to the Council acknowledged that the City can't implement these furloughs without talking to the unions first.

The next step in fighting mandatory furloughs is to stand up against rule changes proposed in the Civil Service Commission

HEARING
Thursday, May 22
SPEAK OUT!

that would take away worker protections. The proposal would clear the way for City leaders to declare a financial emergency and implement "short-term layoffs" with-

out regard to the rules of traditional layoffs that require fair processes, such as laying the least senior worker off first.

The Coalition of LA City Unions will be at the hearing on Thursday, May 22 at 10am, with lawyers and workers speaking out.

You can make the difference: members need to attend the hearing, show our strength, and let the commissioners know they can't take away our rights in a back-room deal.

For more information, call your union or email info@lacitycoalition.com.

Forward this to your co-workers! Join our email list by sending a message to info@lacitycoalition.com

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serve L.A.

Coalition Speaks Out At Budget Hearing — *excerpts from May 19 Statement*

Applauding Budget Work So Far

We would like to recognize the work done by CLA staff. In finding additional funding and savings, they have put the City in a much better position.

We also applaud the work of the Council Budget and Finance Committee. They took the time to consider many of the ideas we collected from hundreds of City workers. They also prioritized important services: restoring Sunday hours at branch libraries, Recreation programs, El Pueblo, and street maintenance crews.

Beyond the specific choices, we appreciate that the Committee report creates framework for the Council and Coalition of LA City Unions to continue working together – within existing budget constraints – on alternatives to specific layoffs and work furloughs.

The Committee has also proposed a mecha-

nism, in spirit of Mutual Gains, to consider our proposed retirement incentive program. This proposal is aimed at moving some of the City's more expensive workers off the payroll a few years earlier, and encouraging departments to streamline operations.

Layoffs and Mandatory Furloughs Threaten Service

The layoffs proposed in this budget are targeted almost entirely at the City's front-line, direct service providers. Managers are essentially untouched.

The furlough plan would take every civilian employee off the job for six days. The assumption seems to be that it's "just six days" and no one will notice the impact on services. This may be far from the case.

The current plan adds up to **156,000 days of service cuts**. It would impact public safety, cutting thousands of days work from Security



Mandatory furloughs would impact public safety by cutting thousands of days of work.

Officers, Detention Officers, and Police Service Reps who answer 9-1-1 calls. It would also include revenue-generating positions, like traffic officers, for whom every hour off the job costs the City more than their salary.

Clearly the "everybody chips in six days" plan isn't as simple as it first appears.

We continue to search for win-win solutions as we all address the budget challenges, and we look forward to continuing our constructive discussion with City leaders.

...the Work Continues (from page 1)

However, hundreds of positions are still on the chopping block, and the mandatory furlough plan remains.

Council President Eric Garcetti said the City Council would "give serious thought to the potential of early retirement for a number of city workers.... whether it's through a pension buyout or a cash buyout." He said the Council would get to work immediately with city unions on that proposal. If successful, it would take away the need for layoffs or mandatory furloughs.

The Council required the CAO to look at the Coalition's proposal for early retirements as an alternative to mandatory furloughs and

layoffs and report back within 30 days. The Coalition will continue to meet with the CAO to refine the plan.

The Council also required that before any specific layoffs occur they must come back to the Council for review and final approval. No layoffs are final. The coalition will continue to work with the Council to save dollars without putting people on the unemployment line. The City's work still needs to get done and it needs workers to do it.

The Council took workers' budget ideas seriously, and pursued a few of them already.

The Council also resolved that from the day this budget passes they'll begin work on the



Funding for street maintenance will be restored under the City's budget.

next budget—including continuing to look at the ideas submitted by city workers through the Coalition. Any savings realized right away can be applied to the current year. The coalition is pushing to begin the gains-sharing committee called for in the 2007 contract, as another place to implement members' ideas.