

City Attorney

March 23, 2011

Honorable Eric Garcetti President, Los Angeles City Council Room 475, City Hall Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Partial Response of the City Attorney's Office to the Third Financial Status Report (FSR) for FY 2010/11

Honorable President Garcetti and Members of the Council:

The City Attorney's Office respectfully submits this partial response to the FSR that was issued on March 18, 2011. Representatives of this Office are prepared to provide additional relevant information and materials on these matters, as necessary, at the hearing scheduled today before the Council. Specifically, based on our review and analysis of the FSR, this Office has found that the FSR grossly overstates both the current deficit shortfall and projected year-end deficit shortfall.

As this Council is aware, in FY 2009/10, through a combination of ERIP, attrition, furloughs and other cost-saving and revenue-generation measures, this Office reduced its starting deficit of approximately \$18 million to a year-end revenue surplus of over \$200,000. In FY 2010/11, the budget of this Office was further reduced by nearly 10 percent, which was a percentage cut greater than that imposed on any other City public safety department. As a result, we have lost over 15% of our employees since July 2009. (See Attachment 1 regarding the disproportionate treatment of the City Attorney's Office compared to the City's other public safety departments).

March 23, 2011 Page 2

In December 2010, the CAO prepared, and the Budget and Finance Committee and full Council approved, a Budget Operational Plan that proposed cost-saving and revenue-generating offsets for this Office, including attrition estimates. As of this date, this Office is on track to meet or exceed those approved offset proposals, with the exception of the proposed Administrative Code Enforcement (ACE) Ordinance (which is the subject of the motion by Councilmember Paul Koretz) and our attrition goal. Interfund transfers of City Attorney personnel from General Fund positions to newly-emerging Special Fund and Proprietary staffed positions, however, will more than offset the previous estimates for the ACE start-up and lower than expected attrition factor. (See Attachment 2 regarding the City Attorney's Cost-Saving and Revenue-Generating Success in FY 2010/11).

The CAO's December 3, 2010 Budget Operational Plan, which included a two-page analysis concerning this Office, was heard in December 2010 by this Committee, and later before the full City Council. The total unfunded liabilities were initially identified as \$10,764,623, with Operational Plan solutions to be developed by the City Attorney's Office totaling \$7,646,101. At that time, the projected year-end deficit for this Office had been estimated to be \$3,118,522, and was acknowledged publically before the Budget and Finance Committee and the full Council.

This Office has already achieved the majority of our Operational Plan goals and is on schedule to meet at least 90% of our requirements. In addition, to the extent that we can erode the initial projected year-end deficit of \$3,118,522 through other solutions, we will provide those solutions.

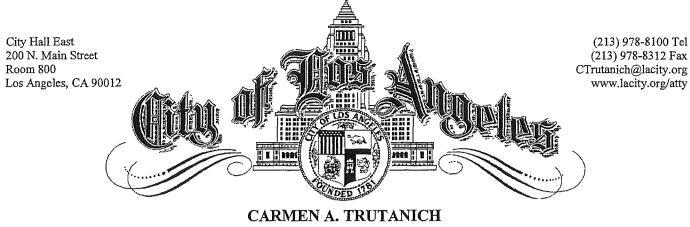
We fully expect the final year-end deficit to be less than the CAO's \$2.7 million estimate in the FSR. All of our employees and managers are fully committed and tirelessly working to meet the goals of the approved Operational Plan.

Unfortunately, the very promising ACE proposal discussed during last year's budget hearings, has not yet been approved by the Council. Once fully implemented, the ACE program will provide real-time and cost-effective enforcement of our City's Municipal Code, including "broken window" violations, March 23, 2011 Page 3

while simultaneously generating revenue for the City. Hopefully, the ACE program will soon be approved.

This Office looks forward to discussing any and all of these matters during today's hearing on the FSR. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and proposals.

WILLIAM W. CARTER Chief Deputy City Attorney



City Attorney

March 21, 2011

"[I]t makes no sense for the Police Department to apprehend [a criminal] and then find the prosecution cannot be completed."

LAPD Chief Daryl Gates (Los Angeles Times, 1/7/82)

The Office of the City Attorney provides essential public safety services to the City and its residents under the mandates of the City Charter. As a Chartermandated department, the City Attorney's Office and its functions have been identified as one of the core, non-discretionary missions of the City. Unfortunately, over the past two years, this Office has been subjected to seemingly arbitrary and disproportionate budget cuts, as compared to the City's two other Charter-mandated public safety offices, namely, the Police and Fire Departments.

Most notably, while the LAPD's adopted FY 2010/11 Budget was increased by 1% to \$1.177 billion, the City Attorney's budget was decreased by nearly 10% to \$85 million. Similarly, the LAFD's adopted FY 2010/11 Budget was reduced by only 2% to \$495 million. The figures listed below clearly demonstrate such an apparent arbitrary disparity in the funding between the City's three public safety departments, which has materially impaired this Office's ability to perform its duties under the Charter:

<b>Department</b>	2009/10 Adopted	<u>2010/11 Adopted</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Police	1,166,229,399	1,177,483,228	+0.96%
Fire	505,655,091	495,009,381	-2.11%
<b>City Attorney</b>	\$ 95,267,403	\$ 85,897,183	-9.84%

This fiscal year is not an isolated incident. A review of the past five years shows that the General Fund share allocated to the City Attorney's Office has continued to drop from 3.3% in FY 2006/07 to 2.7% in FY 2010/11. In comparison, the General Fund share of our primary public safety partner, the

### ATTACHMENT 1

LAPD, steadily increased from 47% in FY 2006/07 to 52.6% in FY 2010/11. Such an ongoing and growing disparity between the funding of this Office and the LAPD, whose officers arrest the criminals prosecuted and kept in jail by this Office, and whose officers are regularly defended in civil courts by this Office, makes absolutely no sense.<sup>1</sup>

Given the current staffing levels of this Office and the LAPD, there is only one City prosecutor for every 50 police officers in this City. Further reducing the number of City prosecutors assigned to prosecute criminals arrested by the LAPD, including "broken window" or quality of life crimes, will jeopardize the significant reductions in gang and other crimes achieved in this City.

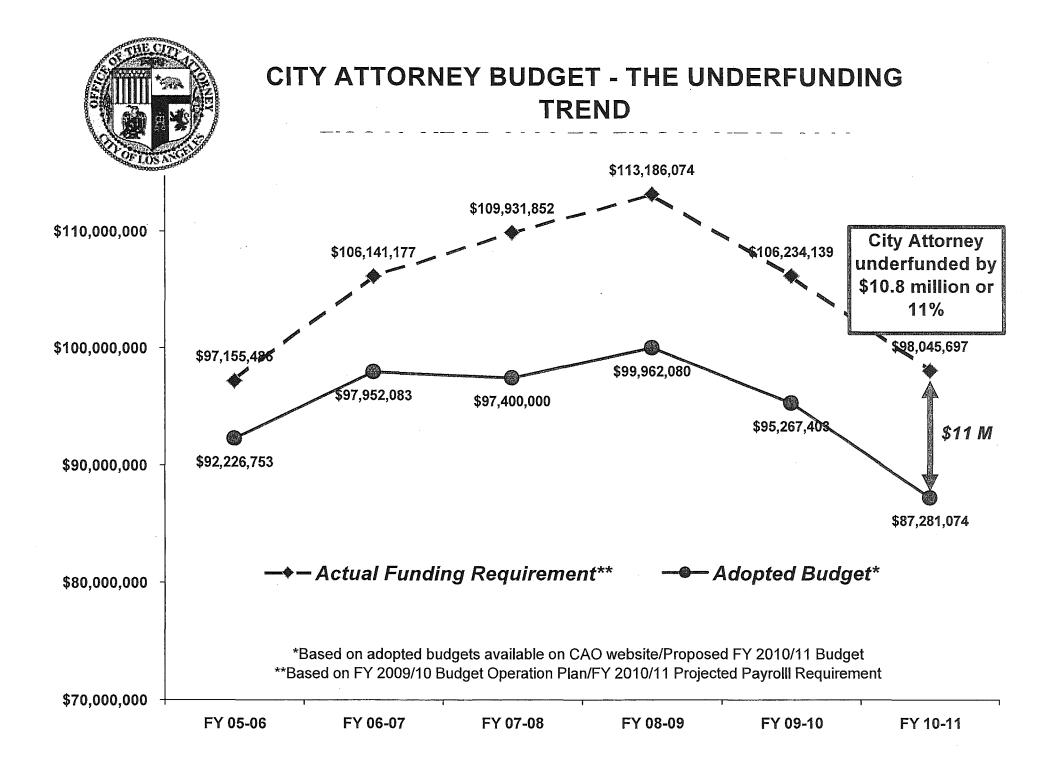
These historic reductions in crime are unprecedented and were accomplished through the hard work and efforts of many law enforcement agencies over the past several years, including the LAPD, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the City Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Without a doubt – as the number of criminal prosecutors decreases in the City, criminal prosecutions will also decrease – and with reduced prosecutions, crime rates and threats to public safety will eventually increase. It should therefore always be remembered that the police don't keep criminals in jail – prosecutors do.

Moreover, as our prosecutors protect and serve our communities from threats to public health and safety posed by criminals, our litigators serve and protect other City departments so those entities can continue delivering City services, including police and fire protection. Without the City Attorney's Office providing the public safety, legal and risk management services mandated under the provisions of the City Charter, no City services whatsoever could long be provided and public safety would soon be greatly diminished. For these reasons, the City Attorney's Office and its functions should be properly supported.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This downward budget trend for the City Attorney's Office is illustrated even more starkly in the attached chart.

*City Attorney Budget – The Underfunding Trend.* It is also important to note that although this Office started FY 2009/10 with an \$18 million deficit, through a combination of cost-saving and revenue-generating measures, we were able to eliminate that deficit and end the year with a \$200,000 revenue surplus.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It should also be noted that in the findings of the Mayor's recent Budget Survey (released on March 12, 2011) in which residents were asked to select the "Ten Most Important and Essential City Services," the City Attorney's Office was ranked Number 7, behind the Police and Fire Departments, emergency ambulance services, street resurfacing, trash and recycling Pick-Up and Sanitation Department. (See attached Survey ranking).



# TEN MOST ESSENTIAL CITY SERVICES

Knowing that the City has limited funding, and will not be able to provide all the services it has in the past, please select the tem(10) MOST IMPORTANT SERVICES that you feel the City should provide at a reasonable level.

Response	Percent	<b>Response Count</b>
Police Patrol and Field Operations	86.8%	884
Fire Suppression	72.5%	739
Emergency Ambulance Services	66.7%	680
Street Resurfacing, Reconstruction and Improvement	65.5%	667
Trash and Recycling Pick-up <sup>≠</sup>	65.2%	664
Sanitation Services <sup>*</sup>	56.0%	571
City Attorney Services	49.7%	506
Building and Safety Services	49.0%	499
Emergency Management Services	47.8%	487
Library Services	43.4%	442
Gang Reduction and Youth Services	40.7%	415
Specialized Crime Suppression and investigation	37.5%	382
Street Lighting Operation and Maintenance*	35.3%	360
Aging Services	34.8%	355
Animal Services	30.1%	3017
Parking Enforcement and Traffic Control	27.9%	28:4
Housing Services*	21.7%	221
Services for the Disabled	20.3%	207
Community Development	19.0%	194
Community Beautification	19.0%	194
City Clerk Services	16.4%	167
Cultural Affairs Services	15.0%	153
Construction Inspection and Contract Compliance*	14.5%	148
Tree and Parkway Maintenance	13.1%	133
Planning Services*	12.8%	130
Neighborhood Empowerment Support	12.2%	124
Ethic Commission Services (Governmental Ethics)	110).5%ri	107
Los Angeles Zoo Operators	<b>8.8%</b> .	90
El Pueblo Operationis	4.2%	43
Convention Center Operations and Management*	3.6%	37
Total Res	ponses:	1,019

### OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY THIRD FSR BUDGET BRIEFING 3/23/11 FY 2010/11 SUCCESSES TO DATE

The City Attorney's Office has sustained unprecedented budget cuts (including a 10% reduction in FY 2010/11), lost dozens of senior prosecutors, litigators, investigators and support staff to early retirement and attrition (for a loss of over 15% of our employees since July 2009), and been forced to impose 26 days of furloughs in order to meet budgetary goals. Despite this dramatic reduction in resources, all sections of the Office have met these challenges by working hard to do more with less. The results have been extraordinary.

Through focused and efficient management, as well as the professional and tireless efforts of all of our prosecutors, litigators, investigators and their support staffs, this Office has increased cost-savings and revenue for the City, reduced civil liability payouts and maintained criminal prosecutions, which has kept crime rates at historically low levels. These results, however, are simply not sustainable under such budgetary conditions. Additional staff and resource reductions will materially impair the Office's ability to meet its Charter-mandated obligations set forth in City Charter Section 271. Every reduction to this Office results in fewer criminal prosecutors and a reduced ability to defend the City's treasury against the thousands of civil lawsuits pending against the City.

The following are some of the successes to date that are reducing not only the particular 10% shortfall in this Office, but also the overall impact o the City's General Fund:

 Liability Payouts
 38 victories or favorable verdicts out of 41 trials = \$71.82 million savings to the General Fund (Attachment A)

The City Attorney's Office does not create liability: we extinguish liabilities created by other City Departments. The City departments regularly generating the highest liability are: LAPD, LAFD, Street Services, Transportation, Sanitation, and Recreation and Parks. Currently, because of the actions of the various City Departments, the City is facing nearly \$2 billion in potential civil liability damages. Under the City Charter, this Office must defend each and every one of these actions. Without the protection provided by the City Attorney's Office, the City would soon face bankruptcy.

For example, since July 1, 2010, this Office's Police Litigation Unit, Employment Litigation Unit and General Litigation Unit have won, obtained complete defense verdicts or otherwise favorable verdicts in 38 out of 41 trial matters. These cases represented over \$71 million in potential civil liability to the City's General Fund. Despite increasing caseloads and limited resources, our litigators' successes have provided substantial financial resources for use in supporting critical

services, including police and fire protection, rather than as damage payments and attorneys' fees in civil lawsuits.

### Collections \$2,575,523 in revenue collected for General Fund (Attachment B)

In its adopted FY 2010/11 Budget, this Office was given a \$3 million revenue target for collecting the vast sums currently owed to the City treasury, including business, parking and occupancy taxes. At the current pace of collections, we will surpass that goal.

Since July 1, 2010, the prosecutors, litigators and support staff in this Office have successfully recovered at least \$2,575,523 for the General Fund that was previously uncollectable. Additionally, civil judgments of \$2.4 million, \$4.4 million and \$3.5 million, for a total of \$10.3 million, were recently won by this Office against the California State Board of Equalization, a scofflaw parking lot company and a large, downtown hotel, respectively. At least \$1.1 million of the \$10.3 million ordered under these judgments will be paid to the General Fund on or before June 1, 2011.

### Outside Counsel Expenditures reduced by another 50 percent - \$2.25 million saved (Attachment C)

This Office has achieved substantial success in reversing the costly trend of using outside counsel. In FY 2009/10, expenditures dropped to \$13.49 million, a near 50 percent reduction from FY 2008/09. Efforts to further reduce the use of outside counsel have continued successfully this fiscal year. For example, in the first four months of FY 2010/11, expenditures again dropped by nearly 50 percent from \$4.8 million (July through October 2009) as compared to \$2.5 million (July through October 2010). In accomplishing these goals, this Office brings more work in-house, while developing the needed expertise and experience to continue providing successful and professional legal services to the City in a more cost-effective manner.

# Subrogation \$1.432 million recovered through subrogation efforts (Attachment D)

In its adopted FY 2010/11 Budget, this Office was given a \$2 million revenue target for recovering funds from insured parties who have been harmed by the City. At the current pace of recovery, we will surpass that goal.

Since July 1, 2010, the City Attorney's Subrogation Section has recovered a total of \$1.432 million, including judgments and credits, over \$966,785 of which represents a cash recovery for the City.

### Business and Complex Litigation

# \$34.3 million saved due to negotiated settlements and favorable judgments (Attachment E)

Throughout this fiscal year, the efforts of our Business and Complex Litigation Section have yielded significant returns and savings for both the General and Special Funds. Specifically, negotiated settlements and favorable judgments have yielded \$34.3 million in savings.

# Safe Neighborhoods Division \$205,285 in revenue received from settlements (Attachment F)

In addition to prosecuting gang-related crimes and enforcing gang injunctions, among other things, the prosecutors in our Safe Neighborhoods Division, including the Citywide Nuisance Abatement Program (CNAP) and Project Taking Out Urban Gang Headquarters (TOUGH), have collected over \$200,000 for the General Fund.

# Attrition \$1.1 million in salary savings

Since July 1, 2010, nearly 20 employees have resigned or announced their resignation from the Office this fiscal year. The estimated salary savings from such attrition are \$1.1 million.

# Furloughs \$7 million in salary savings generated from 26 days of furloughs

The employees of this Office have endured 26 days of furlough, which have generated at least \$7 million in salary savings. However, it is impossible to successfully sustain a prosecution and litigation department with part-time prosecutors, litigators and support staff, especially where the courts, juries, police, opposing counsel and criminals are not furloughed. Any additional furloughs for our employees will detrimentally affect both public safety and the ability of this Office to successfully represent the City and its departments in civil lawsuits.

### Transfers to Special-Funded Positions \$1 million in salary savings

Since July 1, 2010, nearly 20 employees have been transferred from the City's General Fund to special-funded positions, including those in the City's Proprietary Departments, and have generated over \$1 million in salary savings. This Office contemplates that an additional \$100,000 will be saved through such additional transfers before the end of this fiscal year.

### Consumer/Environmental (Unfair Business Practices) Penalties \$4.6 million

In its adopted FY 2010/11 Budget, this Office was given a \$1 million revenue target for collecting penalties for violations of consumer, environmental and unfair business practices violations. To date, this Office has already greatly surpassed that goal.

Specifically, since July 1, 2010, the Criminal Branch of this Office has obtained \$4.6 million in penalties through the enforcement or consumer and/or environmental violations. Pursuant to state statute, the collection of such penalties is to be used by the City Attorney's Office to support such enforcement efforts.

### Workers' Compensation \$1.4 million

At the invitation of the City Attorney, the Controller performed a performance audit of the Workers' Compensation Division of this Office. The Controller's audit was completed in late 2010. Many of the recommendations contained in that audit have already been, or will soon be, implemented by this Office.

Prior to the completion of the Controller's audit, this Office implemented a number of initial corrective actions that, in one year alone, have saved the City at least \$1.4 million. For example, during 2010, the Division resolved nearly twice as many cases, at approximately \$10,000 less per case, as compared to such settlements in 2009.

The Office is diligently working with all of the various City departments to generate even more cost-savings, including providing training to those that generate the highest number of claims, such as: LAPD, LAFD, Street Services, Transportation, Sanitation, General Services and Recreation and Parks.

# Jackson Memorial \$1 million donation to the General Fund

On June 18, 2010, the City Attorney's Office, in conjunction with Councilmember Dennis Zine, was able to negotiate a \$1 million donation to the General Fund by AEG and the Estate of Michael Jackson to reimburse costs incurred by the City during the Jackson Memorial Service in July 2009. In addition to that donation, AEG donated \$300,000 to the LAPD Foundation, with the majority of such funds used to purchase and install licensed plate scanners in Skid Row as part of an effort to identify drug dealers and other criminals with outstanding criminal warrants and/or subject to the Skid Row Injunction imposed in that area.

# Civil Litigation Trial Results for 2010-11

### Attachment A

	Case Name	Final Demand/exposure	Result	Total Savings
1	Gonzalez v. City	\$2,500,000	Hung Jury	na na nananak ta tana aka kelatan di na tanan kenangkan kena kunita kana kana kana kana kana kana kenan kenan k
2	Nazario v. City	\$100,000	Favorable Verdict: \$39,443	\$60,557
3	Ballaz v. City	\$3,980,000	Favorable Verdict: \$1,732,452	\$2,247,548
4	Snavely v. City	\$200,000	Defense Verdict	\$200,000
5	Malcolm v. City	\$3,000,000	Favorable Verdict: \$705,000	\$2,295,000
6	Curiel v. City	\$500,000	Defense Verdict	\$500,000
7	Mateescu v. City	\$16,000,000	Defense Verdict	\$16,000,000
8	Farias v. City	\$450,000	Defense Verdict	\$450,000
9	Guadalupe v. City	\$275,000	Directed Verdict	\$275,000
10	Johnson v. City	\$300,000	Defense Verdict	\$300,000
11	Boone v. City	\$100,000	Defense Verdict	\$100,000
12	Otero v. City	\$500,000	Defense Verdict	\$500,000
13	Barrows v. City	\$7,000,000	Defense Verdict	\$7,000,000
14	Morales v. City	\$2,500,000	Favorable Verdict: \$179,450	\$2,320,549
15	Mattson v. City	\$750,000	Defense Verdict	\$750,000
16	Blackstone v. City <b>Consolidated with</b> T. Gonzales v. City	\$3,000,000	Blackstone - Favorable Verdict: \$736,311 Gonzales - Defense Verdict	\$2,263,689
17	D. Cadle v. City	\$250,000	Defense Verdict	\$250,000
18	Romney v. Bratton	\$500,000	Plaintiff's Verdict: \$4,000,000	
19	Taylor-Ewing v. City	\$50,000	Plaintiff's Verdict: \$160,300	
20	San Jose v. City	\$750,000	Defense Verdict	\$750,000
21	Angelova v. City	\$175,000	Defense Verdict	\$175,000
22	De Armas v. City	\$25,000	Defense Verdict	\$25,000
23	Gantt v. City Consolidated with Smith v. City	\$15,000,000	Defense Verdict	\$15,000,000
24	Cox v. City	\$1,000,000	Defense Verdict	\$1,000,000
25	Adato v. City	\$8,000,000	Defense Verdict	\$8,000,000
26	Prince v. City	\$75,000	Defense Verdict	\$75,000
27	Gilbert v. City	\$1,500,000	Favorable Verdict: \$1,165,312	\$334,688
28	Velasco v. City	\$450,000	Defense Verdict	\$450,000

Morales v. City	\$95,000	Defense Verdict	\$95,000
Luco v. Perez	\$4,800,000	Defense Verdict	\$4,800,000
Chioda v. City	\$15,000	Defense Verdict	\$15,000
Chaudhry v. City	\$3,750,000	Favorable Verdict: \$1,700,000	\$2,050,000
Jee v. City	\$100,000	Favorable Outcome - Nonsuit	\$100,000
Martell v. City	\$17,500	Favorable Outcome - Nonsuit	\$17,500
Cutler v. City	\$99,000	Defense Verdict	\$99,000
Progressive v. City	\$3,500	Defense Judgment	\$3,500
Curzi v. City	\$850,000	Defense Verdict	\$850,000
3 Saafir v. City	\$250,000	Defense Verdict	\$250,000
Miller v. City	\$2,500,000	Favorable Verdict: \$993,491	\$1,506,509
) Pimmaleeja v. City	\$450,000	Defense Verdict	\$450,000
Cangress v. City	\$260,000	Defense Verdict	\$260,000
TOTAL	\$82,120,000		\$71,818,540

## Office of the City Attorney Collection Revenue - FY 2010-11 (Year To Date)

## Attachment B

ى ئۈچىنىدۇر مىلىكى ئىرىكى ئ ئىرىكى ئىرىكى			
Date Received	Fiscal Year	Туре	Amount
7/1/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,000
7/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,042
7/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$66,096
7/6/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,600
7/7/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,500
7/7/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,330
7/12/2010	2011	Collections	\$100
7/12/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,500
7/12/2010	2011	Collections	\$7,174
7/12/2010	2011	Collections	\$8,561
7/12/2010	2011	Collections	\$410
7/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,765
7/16/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,000
7/16/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,833
7/20/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$1,000
7/20/2010	2011	Collections	\$41,204
7/21/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,500
7/21/2010	2011	Collections	\$10,000
7/26/2010	2011	Collections	\$9,000
7/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,092
7/29/2010	2011	Collections	\$500
7/29/2010	2011	Collections	\$25,000
7/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,600
7/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,330
8/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$22,015
8/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,000
8/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$66,096
8/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,042
8/2/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$20,000
8/3/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$1,185
8/4/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,224
8/9/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,972
8/9/2010	2011	Collections	\$7,174
8/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,500
8/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$410
8/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$50
8/16/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,500
8/19/2010	2010	Collections	\$5,833
8/19/2010	2010	Collections	\$1,765
8/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,000
8/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$10,000
8/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$13,000
8/30/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$1,000
8/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$13,368
9/2/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$15,135
9/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,000
9/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$7,463

	0011	Collections	\$5,000
9/2/2010	2011 2011	Collections	\$3,600
9/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$7,174
9/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,500
· 9/9/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,330
9/9/2010	2011	Collections	\$113
9/9/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,972
9/10/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,076
9/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$6,403
9/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$8,561
9/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$8,561
9/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$23,748
9/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,000
9/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,042
9/15/2010		Collections	\$410
9/15/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,765
9/22/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$1,000
9/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$18,176
9/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,000
9/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,000
9/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$333
9/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$27,000
9/28/2010	2011	Collections	¢27,000 \$50
9/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$538
10/4/2010	2011	Collections	\$30,000
10/6/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,000
10/6/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,000 \$7,174
10/6/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,600
10/6/2010	2011	Collections	\$4,500
10/7/2010	2011	Collections	\$4,000 \$1,041
10/7/2010	2011 2011	Collections	\$23,428
10/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$14,043
10/12/2010	2011	Collections	\$4,000
10/12/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,972
10/18/2010	2011	Collections	\$8,561
10/18/2010	2011	Collections	\$770
10/21/2010	2011	Collections	\$410
10/21/2010	2011	Collections	\$50
10/21/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,765
10/21/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$1,000
10/21/2010 10/21/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,092
	2011	Collections	\$5,466
10/21/2010	2011	Collections	, \$537
10/29/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,500
10/29/2010 10/29/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,000
	2011	Collections	\$13,489
10/29/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,620
11/1/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,116
11/3/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,116
11/3/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,116
11/3/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,833
11/3/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,327
11/8/2010	2011	Concetions	$\psi_1, \psi_2$

44/0/0040	2011	Collections	\$2,000
11/8/2010 11/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$8,561
11/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$6,375
11/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$66,096
11/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$36,096
11/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$66,096
11/9/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,600
11/9/2010	2011	Collections	\$7,174
11/15/2010	2011	Collections	\$250
11/15/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,000
11/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$50
11/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$78
11/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,833
11/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$410
11/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$15,000
11/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,765
12/1/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,115
12/1/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,117
12/1/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,116
12/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$7,174
12/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,600
12/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$4,500
12/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,000
12/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$137,123
12/2/2010	2011	Collections	\$215,301
12/6/2010	2011	Collections	\$21,057
12/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$250
12/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$11,436
12/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,000
12/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$4,000
12/8/2010	2011	Collections	\$66,096
12/13/2010	2011	Collections	\$14,689
12/20/2010	2011	Collections	\$50
12/20/2010	2011	Collections	\$500
12/20/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,833
12/20/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$1,000
12/20/2010	2011	Settlement Bureau	\$1,272
12/20/2010	2011	Collections	\$45,000
12/20/2010	2011	Collections	\$1,765
12/20/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,500
12/21/2010	2011	Collections	\$460
12/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$410
12/22/2010	2011	Collections	\$2,122
12/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$5,000
12/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$3,600
12/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$7,174
12/28/2010	2011	Collections	\$10,000
12/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$15,000
12/30/2010	2011	Collections	\$8,561
1/5/2011	2011	Collections	\$6,375
1/6/2011	2011	Collections	\$3,842
1/10/2011	2011	Collections	\$1,577

1/10/2011	2011	Collections	\$6,230
1/10/2011	2011	Collections	\$3,116
1/11/2011	2011	Collections	\$51,271
1/12/2011	2011	Collections	\$66,096
1/13/2011	2011	Collections	\$500
1/13/2011	2011	Collections	\$1,833
1/14/2011	2011	Collections	\$8,561
1/14/2011	2011	Collections	\$27,000
1/21/2011	2011	Collections	\$600
1/21/2011	2011	Collections	\$1,765
1/24/2011	2011	Collections	\$410
1/27/2011	2011	Collections	\$360
1/27/2011	2011	Collections	\$2,122
1/27/2011	2011	Collections	\$500
2/2/2011	2011	Collections	\$4,000
2/2/2011	2011	Collections	\$250
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	\$500
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	\$500
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	\$7,174
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	<sup>′</sup> \$3,116
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	\$3,116
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	\$3,116
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	\$5,000
2/4/2011	2011	Collections	\$22,803
2/10/2011	2011	Collections	\$118
2/10/2011	2011	Collections	\$6,375
2/10/2011	2011	Collections	\$66,096
2/14/2011	2011	Collections	\$41,724
2/14/2011	2011	Collections	\$250
2/14/2011	2011	Collections	\$8,561
2/14/2011	2011	Collections	\$1,041
2/16/2011	2011	Collections	\$14,000
2/22/2011	2011	Collections	\$1,765
2/22/2011	2011	Collections	\$15,000
2/22/2011	2011	Collections	\$1,833
2/22/2011	2011	Collections	\$500
2/23/2011	2011	Collections	\$410
2/23/2011	2011	Collections	\$2,122
2/24/2011	2011	Collections	\$10,000
2/24/2011	2011	Collections	\$10,000
2/24/2011	2011	Collections	\$10,000
2/28/2011	2011	Collections	\$200
2/28/2011	2011	Collections	\$78
3/2/2011	2011	Collections	\$5,000
3/2/2011	2011	Collections	\$220,000
3/3/2011	2011	Collections	\$7,714
3/11/2011	2011	Collections	\$412,169
3/11/2011	2011	Collections	\$800
3/11/2011	2011	Collections	\$1,041

Total YTD

\$2,575,523

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Frank Mateljan - PIO (213) 978-8340 (office) (213) 479-5675 (mobile) From the Office of the City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich



Suite 800, City Hall East Los Angeles, CA 90012 Phone: 213-978-8340 Fax: 213-978-2093 http://www.atty.lacity.org

# \*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011

## CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE SECURES CIVIL JUDGMENTS TOTALING \$7.8 MILLION AGAINST PARKING LOT OPERATOR AND HOTEL FOR UNPAID TAXES

LOS ANGELES – The City Attorney's Office Public Finance Section successfully secured two separate civil judgments against a parking lot company operating approximately 47 lots across Los Angeles, as well as a large hotel located in Koreatown. The judgments order each of the companies to pay back millions of dollars in unpaid taxes owed to the City of Los Angeles.

Following a Court trial and post-trial motions, Prestige Parking, Inc. was ordered by the Los Angeles Superior Court to pay \$4,416,504 for unpaid Business and Parking Occupancy Taxes. The judgment is in addition to the \$663,752 in restitution owed by the company following its conviction for multiple criminal charges of misappropriation of City taxes in October 2009. Deputy City Attorneys Pejmon Shemtoob, Peter Langsfield, and Suzanne Spillane, represented the City.

Prestige Parking has operated more than 47 parking lots across the City and is listed by the City's Office of Finance as one of the top debtors in the City, owing more than \$5 million for delinquent parking occupancy and business taxes, penalties and interest, based primarily on an audit for tax years 2002 through 2005.

The City Attorney's Office also secured a \$3,489,614 judgment against Majestic Towers, Inc., dba "the Wilshire Hotel," located at 3515 Wilshire Boulevard, for unpaid Transient Occupancy Taxes owed to the City. The City's Office of Finance audited the Wilshire Hote's financial records for the period from December 2005 through April 2009. The audit revealed that the company had underreported the Transient Occupancy Taxes collected in trust for the City. Deputy City Attorney Pejmon Shemtoob represented the City in the case against Majestic Towers, Inc., to recover the unpaid taxes.

In addition to these court victories, Since July 1, 2010, the City Attorney's Office has collected over \$5 Million in taxes and fees owed to the City of Los Angeles that will be deposited in the City's General Fund.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Frank Mateljan - PIO (213) 978-8340 (office) (213) 479-5675 (mobile) From the Office of the City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich



Suite 800, City Hall East Los Angeles, CA 90012 Phone: 213-978-8340 Fax: 213-978-2093 http://www.atty.lacity.org

# \*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011

# CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RECOVERS \$2.4 MILLION IN SALES TAXES FOR THE CITY

Total Annual Collections Increase to Nearly \$5 Million

LOS ANGELES – Today, the City Attorney's Office learned that its Public Finance Section successfully secured the reallocation of \$2.4 million to the City of Los Angeles in a dispute with the City of Pomona and the California State Board of Equalization over the distribution of collected sales taxes. Deputy City Attorney Pejmon Shemtoob represented the City in the case.

The dispute centers on \$7.1 million in sales taxes collected from a telecommunications retailer with a warehouse located in Pomona between October 1993 and December 2007. Under the applicable law at the time, the City of Los Angeles was allocated a \$2.4 million share of those taxes collected. After a 2006 change in the law, the City of Pomona argued for a retroactive reallocation of those funds. In December 2009, the State Board of Equalization ruled to retroactively reallocate the \$2.4 million of sales taxes originally allocated to the City.

In March 2010, the City Attorney's Office requested a stay of the reallocation, but the California State Board of Equalization had already reallocated 20% of the funds several days earlier than noticed in its decision and continued to reallocate another 20% of the funds before the Court's granting of the City's motion to stay the decision on April 8, 2010. On February 16, 2011, the court granted the City's petition and vacated the Board's decision. A subsequent ruling on Friday, March 11, 2011 ordered the State Board of Equalization to restore the monies to the City that were wrongfully reallocated to Pomona prior to the Court's stay of the decision.

The City's approximately \$1.1 million share of the \$2.4 million in county-wide funds is expected to be reallocated by June 1, 2011.

Since July 1, 2010, with the recent victory, the City Attorney's Office has now recovered nearly \$5 Million in monies owed to the City.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Frank Mateljan - PIO (213) 978-8340 (office) (213) 479-5675 (mobile) From the Office of the City Attorney Carmen A. Trutanich



Suite 800, City Hall East Los Angeles, CA 90012 Phone: 213-978-8340 Fax: 213-978-2093 http://www.atty.lacity.org

# \*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2011

# CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE COLLECTS MORE THAN \$2.5 MILLION IN DELINQUENT BUSINESS TAXES

**LOS ANGELES -** Today, the City Attorney's Public Finance and Collections Section announced that it has collected more than \$2.575 million in delinquent business taxes since July 1, 2010. The Section estimates that they will collect a minimum of \$3 million before June 30, 2011. These enhanced collection programs are part of the City Attorney's effort to reduce the City's budget deficit. All monies collected are deposited into the City's General Fund.

In addition to prosecuting criminals and defending the City's Treasury, a top priority of the City Attorney's Office is to aggressively pursue monies owed to the City. Litigators assigned to the Public Finance and Collections Section have been extremely successful in collecting business and other transit and occupancy taxes owed to the City through their litigation efforts. Since July 2009, these litigators have collected a total of nearly \$6 million. Specifically, in the Fiscal Year 2009/10, litigators collected \$3.4 million.

These current collection rates greatly exceed those amounts collected prior to July 2009. For example, in Fiscal Years 2007/08 and 2008/09, the total amounts collected were \$983,000 and \$2.6 million, respectively.

Delinquent business tax accounts are referred by the City's Office of Finance to the City Attorney's Public Finance and Collections Section following assessments for business taxes, parking occupancy taxes, telephone users' taxes, and transient occupancy taxes due to the City. The City Attorney's Office is using all tools available under the law to collect monies owed to the City, including filing pre-judgment writs of attachment in civil cases involving delinquent accounts in order to protect and preserve assets for future collection.

The City Attorney's Subrogation Unit also recovers monies owed the City from civil plaintiffs who have also collected on insurance policies. Since July 1, 2010, the Unit has recovered nearly \$1.3 million.

Assistant City Attorney Beverly A. Cook heads the Public Finance and Collections Section and Assistant City Attorney Marsha Berkowitz supervises the Subrogation Unit.

## RECAP OF EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT COMPARATIVE CHART

## FISCAL YEAR 2009/10 VS. FY 2010/11 (as of October)

Council-Controlled Departments		FY2010/11	ncrease/(Decro	ease)
<ul> <li>Citywide/Other*</li> </ul>	119,490	158,238	38,748	in a na mangana ang ang ang ang ang ang ang ang a
Finance	_	45,962	45,962	
■ Fire*	74,210	312,418	238,208	
Information Technology Agency	42,278	92,308	50,030	
■ Police*	135,891	870,302	734,411	
Public Works**	315,300	191,993	(123,307)	
Sub-total	687,169	1,671,221	984,052	143%
Pension Funds				
Fire & Police Pensions	40,997	18,925	(22,072)	
<ul> <li>Los Angeles City Employees Retirement System</li> </ul>	20,126	61,026	40,900	
<ul> <li>Water &amp; Power Retirement Plan</li> </ul>	16,209	8,864	(7,344)	
Sub-total	77,332	88,815	11,484	15%
Proprietary Departments				
<ul> <li>Los Angeles World Airports</li> </ul>	642,741	73,799	(568,942)	
Port of Los Angeles	1,379,845	224,649	(1,155,197)	
Water & Power	1,057,230	95,362	(961,868)	
Sub-total	3,079,816	393,810	(2,686,006)	-87%
Quasi-Government Agencies				
<ul> <li>Community Redevelopment Agency</li> </ul>	371,217	39,231	(331,986)	
Sub-total	371,217	39,231	(331,986)	-89%
Workers Compensation				
<ul> <li>Office of the City Attorney</li> </ul>	70,478	26,083	(44,395)	
Personnel	88,570	27,187	(61,383)	
Sub-total	159,048	53,271	(105,778)	-67%
Conflict Panel				
<ul> <li>Office of the City Administrator</li> </ul>	416,945	197,544	(219,401)	
<ul> <li>Water &amp; Power</li> </ul>	8,210	110,079	101,869	
	425,155	307,623	(117,532)	-28%
GRAND TOTAL CITYWIDE EXPENDITURES	4,799,737	2,553,972	(2,245,765)	-47%
*Paid by the Office of the City Attorney: EV09/10 - \$333.044.25; EV10/11 -	£1 310 058 07			

\*Paid by the Office of the City Attorney: FY09/10 - \$333,044.25; FY10/11 - \$1,340,958.97

\*\*Include \$3,452 paid by the Office of the City Attorney in FY09/10

### SUBROGATION REVENUE JULY 2010 TO MARCH 16, 2011

Case Name	Case Number	Amount of Cash Recovery
<u>JULY 2010</u> Fatool Grady MacCommons Lizarraga Lantz Serafin Cabrera Case	9002-2007-0130 9001-2007-0863 08E12471 9002-2005-1370 9002-2006-2240 9001-2009-0115 Property damage 9002-2009-0280	\$ 26,000.00 29,922.84 100.00 22,250.00 5,000.00 2,055.43 11,450.00 2,000.00
AUGUST 2010 McDermott Lara Curtis Gills Gomez McDermott Chang Cha Gutierrez Fuqua Fabian Diaz	BC429794 10K00259 9001-2008-1562 Property damage 9002-2007-1972 9001-2008-0668 Property damage 9002-2008-0327 9002-2008-0411 9002-2007-0781 9002-2007-1151 9002-2007-1557	
SEPTEMBER 2010 Ibarra Holland DeLeon MacCommons Johnson Good Skaggs Skaggs Skaggs Briggs Goodroe Dymally Winters Tuccillo Jordan Dudley	9001-2007-0394 9002-205-1053 Property damage 08E12471 9002-2006-0644 9002-2007-0230 Property damage 9002-2007-1548 9002-2008-0430 9002-2009-0984 Property damage 9002-2008-2578 9002-2009-1446 Property damage	
OCTOBER 2010 Lewis MacCommons Cruz Kelly Kelly Davenport Kim Poland	9002-2007-00036 08E12471 9002-2008-0338 9002-2009-1121 9002-2009-1121 9001-2008-0883 9002-2008-2652 9001-2009-1779	\$ 30,000.00 100.00 1,250.00 419.66 475.50 2,500.00 5,000.00 2,474.75

NOVEMBER 2010		
DeLeon	9001-2008-0358	\$ 6,000.00
Lantz	Property damage	214.93
MacCommons	08E12471	100.00
Smith	Property damage	15,748.00
Laule	9002-2009-0752	7,500.00
Morris	9002-2009-0218	6,500.00
Soto	Property damage	1,133.88
	9001-2007-1475	
Casian		15,000.00
Dorsey	9002-2003-2687	5,000.00
DECEMBER 2010		
Carrillo	9001-2007-2492	\$ 100,000.00
	9002-2007-2610	4,000.00
Thomas		
Lantz	9002-2009-1374	1,500.00
Lantz	9002-2009-1374	1,500.00
MacCommons	08E12471	100.00
Stephens	9001-2006-3079	10,000.00
Losoya	9001-2007-1750	18,500.00
Cohen	9002-2008-1022	7,500.00
Olivos	9002-2009-1421	7,500.00
Nunez	9001-2008-1455	508.93
Tourtellotte	Property damage	13,150.00
Rodriguez	9002-2008-0614	109.00
Rodriguez	Property damage	10,000.00
<u>JANUARY 2011</u>		
Hill	9002-2006-1907	\$ 130,000.00
Capone	9001-2005-0038	10,000.00
Tourtellotte	9002-2008-0795	15,000.00
Lee	Property damage	5,330.06
Lark	9002-2008-1323	7,500.00
FEBRUARY 2011		
Lainez	Property damage	\$ 50.00
Marsh	Property damage	5,387.50
Moreno	9002-2005-1506 (Partial)	2,500.00
Moreno	9002-2005-1506 (Partial)	2,500.00
Russell	9002-2009-1561	3,500.00
Jin	Property damage	5,074.23
MARCH 2011 UP TO		<b>* - - - - - - - -</b>
Margolis	9002-2008-0783	\$ 7,500.00
Fashina	9003-2008-0282	50.00
Chung	Property damage	12,000.00
Marsh	9001-2009-2448	1,500.00
Rayford	9001-2009-0510	7,500.00
Lizarraga	9002-2005-1370	22,250.00
Topanga LAPD	Property damage	1,370.20
Bivens	Property damage	6,500.00
Total Cash Recovery	/ for Fiscal Year to Date:	\$ 966,733.60
Total Overall Recove	ery to Date for Fiscal Year	\$    1 432 785 78

(includes judgments and credit):

\$ 1,432,785.78

### Business and Complex Litigation Successes in FY 2010-11 (Year To Date)

### Favorable Judgments

### Brendan Collins, et al. v. City

This class action lawsuit against the City sought refunds of overbilled and collected Driving Under the Influence emergency response costs for plaintiffs. The total judgment against the City for damages, attorneys' fees and costs was \$816,829. In this case, the City saved approximately \$800,000 in damages and attorneys fees as result of successful motions and appeals filed by our attorneys.

### Salazar, et al. v. Schwarzenegger, State of California, City

In this putative class action lawsuit, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the City and State's summary judgment and found that a temporary forfeiture of vehicles being driven by unlicensed drivers under Cal. Vehicle Code 14602.6 is warranted to protect Californians from the harm caused by unlicensed drivers. Potential exposure to the City was as much as \$20 million.

### Gharagozian v. Duncan, City, et al.

As a result of an audit by the Office of Contract Compliance, the City withheld payment to Gharagozian, a contractor on a public works project for prevailing wage violations. Gharagozian sued the City and the case was tried and appealed. The court validated imposition of \$140,272 in restitution, penalties, and damages for the workers. Per Calif. Labor Code, the City retained \$53,080 in penalties.

### Spajic v. City

This class action lawsuit sought refund of the City's \$23 flat fee for crime reports and alleged the fee violated the California Public Records Act ("CPRA"). The court dismissed the case on the City's motion. Our office estimates that thousands of crime reports had been issues by LAPD during the class time period, representing roughly \$200,000 in fees plus \$300,000 in damages. Total estimated savings are at least \$500,000.

### Los Angeles Police Protective League v. City

The administrative staff of the Police Commission twice accidentally posted on the Police Commission web site confidential information about approximately 250 police officers in connection with internal investigations. The court granted the City's motion to dismiss the damages allegation saving the City as much as \$5 million.

#### Culp and Leider

The court denied the Plaintiffs' application for preliminary injunction to enjoin the use of the Zoo's new elephant exhibit. They rejected any claim based upon the size and ground (dirt) quality of the elephant enclosure.

#### SMR Services v. City

The court granted the City's motion for summary judgment and ruled that the City can issue citations to fictitious entities for running a red light identified by red light cameras under Cal. Vehicle Code section 21453(a). This victory preserved over \$1 million in revenue for the City.

#### First Amendment Coalition v. City

The Court denied the plaintiffs motion for summary judgment on a Brown Act challenge on the grounds that the agenda accurately reflected the actions that Council took. The plaintiff announced it would dismiss the case.

#### Waters v. Hollywood Tow v. City

The City's motion to dismiss was granted for failure to state a claim where Pro per Waters' vehicle was impounded per Vehicle Code 22651. Hollywood Tow would not release it because plaintiff did not have the money. Plaintiff alleged that City defendant Beckum tried to dissuade him from exercising his right to gain access to public records.

### People v. Richardson

The Court granted the City's motion to quash the subpoenas of all 15 Council Members on the grounds that the subpoenas were meant to harass.

### Full Circle Recycling v. City

The court denied the writ petition challenging the Board of Public Works' termination of Full Circle Recycling's hauling contract, which implemented the City's multi-family residential recycling program.

### **Negotiated Settlements**

### Browning Ferris Industries v. City and Los Angeles County v. City

In two cases re: Sunshine Canyon Landfill, the City Attorney's Office assisted in negotiating an approximate \$6.5 million annual financial benefit to the City for 10 years. As part of this, every year through June 30, 2016, BFI will contribute \$2 million per year to the City's Alternative to Landfilling project. From 2016 through 2021, the contribution will be \$2.5 million.

### Carter, et al. v. City, Fahmie, et al. v. City

This class action settlement will resolve all class members' existing claims for statutory damages and injunctive relief to construct curb ramps within the City. It will also bar such future claims for 21 years. It is anticipated that the curb ramp construction will be funded by a small percentage the City receives from the Gas Tax and Measure R.

#### Cambridge Integrated Services

In this case, the City was sued for breach of contract for non-payment on a third party administrator contract for worker's compensation. The Business and Complex Litigation Unit achieved a \$557,000 savings for the City by negotiating payment on an invoice from \$757,000 to \$200,000.

## Settlement Revenue Received FY 2010--11 Safe Neighborhoods and Gang Division

Location	Amount
4528 Avalon	\$500
11908 Mississippi	\$4,500
4528 Avalon	\$500
1111 W. MLK Jr. Blvd.	\$4,100
4528 Avalon	\$834
4701 W. Adams Blvd.	\$9,680
11908 Mississippi	\$4,500
3046 W. Avenue 35	\$29,700
13456 Washington	\$177
1111 W. MLK Jr. Blvd.	\$4,100
4528 Avalon	\$500
4528 Avalon	\$834
4528 Avalon	\$500
2912 Colorado Blvd.	\$9,645
3425 West 27th St.	\$12,525
2021 West 94th Place	\$10,346
638 E. 87th Place	\$12,151
13456 Washington	\$833
4701 W. Adams Blvd.	\$5,320
11908 Mississippi	\$4,500
4528 Avalon	\$834
4528 Avalon	\$500
13456 Washington	\$833
11908 Mississippi	\$4,500
13456 Washington	\$833
4528 Avalon	\$500
11908 Mississippi	\$4,500
4528 Avalon Blvd.	\$500
4701 W. Adams Blvd.	\$5,000
11908 Mississippi	\$4,500
4528 Avalon Blvd.	\$500
2833 S. Olive	\$3,000
11909 Mississippi	\$4,500
966 W. 45th Street	\$1,000
4528 Avalon Blvd.	\$500
7574 West Owens St.	\$4,325
14102 S. Vermont Ave	\$15,000 \$4,500
11908 Mississippi	\$4,500 \$33,713
1415 E. Colon St.	\$33,713

Total

\$205,285