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OCT 2012

MOTION

JOBS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The Community Development Department (CDD), on behalf of the Workforce Investment Board, City Council and Mayor, operates one of the largest public Workforce Development Systems in the country. The workforce system is comprised of 17 WorkSource Centers and several satellite facilities, and is partnered with the State Economic Development Department, Los Angeles Community College District, Los Angeles Unified School District, labor organizations, and employers among others, to deliver services to the Los Angeles employment market.

The City's Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and CDD have developed workforce development strategies to ensure that businesses have access to a trained workforce and that workers have access to quality jobs. Although the strategies place an emphasis on worker training programs, the City Controller has found that the City's Workforce Investment Board program has focused on job placement rather than on job training. While job placement is an important component of the workforce development process, preparing workers to be competitive and self-sustaining should be a priority. Therefore, the City should make every effort to develop a workforce delivery system that is effective, transparent and responsive to its clients, contractors and local, state and federal regulators.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds have been drastically reduced over the last few years. Additionally, the political changes in the U.S. Congress, which affects the funding levels for WIA, and the potential restructuring of the current WIA funds distribution system, may further reduce funding for the City in the next funding cycle. These are issues for which the City must plan in order to mitigate any impact to City residents.

On June 15, 2012, the City Council approved the Year 13 (Fiscal Year 2012-13) WIB Annual Plan which included authority for CDD and the WIB to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new operators of its WorkSource Centers which had not been issued in approximately 14 years. The City must make every effort to improve accountability and transparency to ensure that WIA funds are effectively and efficiently spent in areas of the City with the greatest rates of unemployment. CDD should therefore be instructed to report with detailed information describing the scope of the proposed RFP, contractor selection process, partner selection process (One-Stop Centers), rates of unemployment by Council District, specific strategies to provide job training and long-term job placement for City residents, status of federal legislation impacting WIA funds, and reporting methods relative to training and long-term job placement.

I THEREFORE move that the City Council instruct the Community Development Department, in consultation with the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer, report in writing, prior to releasing the Request for Proposals for new operators of the WorkSource Centers on the following: 1) a strategic plan to address potential changes in the U.S. Congress and potential restructuring of WIA funding distribution system which could further reduce WIA funds for City residents; 2) scope of the proposed RFP; 3) contractor selection process; 4) partner selection process; 5) rates of unemployment by Council District and corresponding percentage of WIA funds; 6) specific strategies to provide job training and long-term job placement for City residents in the areas with the greatest unemployment rates; 7) status of federal legislation impacting WIA funds; 8) reporting and evaluation methods relative to training and long-term job placement; and, 9) recommendations to improve accountability and transparency in identifying areas of the City with the greatest need for employment services, contractor procurement process, and evaluation and reporting methods.

PRESENTED BY

JAN C. PERRY  
Councilwoman, 9th District

SECONDED BY

Tony Cardes

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OCT 10 2012

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