

From: <rik@rikhowardmusic.com>

Date: Fri, May 11, 2012 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Condition Compliance Unit

To: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, chris.koontz@lacity.org, erika.pulst@lacity.org, bill.rosendahl@lacity.org, Paul.Koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org

May 11th, 2012

Councilmember Paul Krekorian

Budget and Finance Committee, City of Los Angeles

200 N. Spring Street, Room 445

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Proposed 2012-2013 Budget for City Planning Department

Dear Chairman Krekorian and Budget Committee Members,

As a resident of Laurel Canyon, I am deeply concerned with the City of Los Angeles' ability to enforce its planning and zoning regulations to protect my neighborhood's quality of life. It is an incredible disappointment that the Mayor's proposed 2012-2013 Budget does not contain a request from the Department of City Planning for a Condition Compliance Unit.

Here in our community, we have organized neighbors to fund raise and hire attorneys to get the city and/or planning departments to enforce their own codes. This is unconscionable and the burden to oversee greedy developers should not be that of the neighbors. I am writing to ask that the Condition Compliance Unit be added back into the final budget by the City Council. This unit will generate fee revenue and is paid for out of a special fund, most critically this unit is absolutely necessary to protect quality of life within neighborhoods. Under the present system, conditions imposed by the Planning Department are oftentimes disregarded, no entity actively enforces those conditions, and it is not only neighborhoods that suffer but also businesses that do follow all the rules at considerable expense only to have their economic competitors operate in violation with impunity.

Sincerely,

Howard Feld

8649 Lookout Mountain Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90046C

May 11, 2012

Honorable Council Members
Los Angeles City Council
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Via E-Mail

Dear Honorable Council Members:

The City of Los Angeles remains on a dangerous fiscal course. In our judgment it is an unsustainable course.

As a collective set of individuals affiliated with for profit, non-profit and philanthropic organizations that represent millions of families across this city, and as individuals who have served in every level of government, we understand that the ongoing budget struggle requires listening carefully to your various constituencies as you face limited resources. However, it is time to make the hard decisions to close the \$238 million budget gap for fiscal year 2012-13 – decisions grounded in fiscal reality and aimed at the long-term health of our city. Until we come to terms with *structural* fiscal problems facing this city, we make it less livable every day and far less livable for our children and future Angelinos.

The City Administrative Officer presented this city's fiscal reality in the Four-Year Budget Outlook and Update to the Three-Year Plan to Fiscal Sustainability. In this report he discussed the fiscal crisis the city continues to endure, the enormous liabilities looming over the city, the progress that has been made to address the structural deficit, and the opportunities that exist to make LA sustainable. We urge you to focus on the CAO's report and recommendations.

The Mayor has presented a budget that begins to address long-term sustainability. Now it is the Council's turn to consider whether the Mayor's priorities are the right priorities and, more importantly, whether there are additional actions that simply *must* be taken to address the underlying structural deficit. We can no longer kick the can down the road.

While the government must listen to its constituent groups, it must act in the long-term interest of the city as a whole. We urge you to adopt a fiscally responsible budget that embodies the following principles; adopt a budget that:

- 1) Budgets for the future, not just to get by a single year: The budget must address the city's underlying structural deficit through a comprehensive, strategic approach that reduces expenditures while stabilizing and enhancing revenues. In considering the Mayor's proposed Budget, ask yourself if the actions you are taking are decreasing or increasing the structural deficit, that is, the deficit in the out years.

- 2) Strengthens your ability to deal with the unknown: The budget should build up the Reserve Fund, as close as possible to five percent of the City's general fund revenues, to deal with unanticipated emergencies.
- 3) Prioritizes: The budget is a statement of the city's values. Services need to be prioritized based on these values and funding must reflect these priorities. Simply cutting services across the board does not serve our residents. There must be priorities. And there are some services that may be better provided by others.
- 4) Is honest about trade offs: The budget needs to recognize the fact that the city is no longer a full service city. However, constituents need to know what services will no longer be provided.
- 5) Is based on realistic rather than unrealistic or mythical revenue projections.

It is our hope that working together, the city Council and Mayor will be able to enact a budget that upholds a commitment to responsible fiscal stewardship and financial stability, and reclaims LA's status as a center of progress and prosperity long into the future.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Avila

President, Alliance for A Better Community*

Elise Buik

President and CEO, United Way of Greater Los Angeles*

Geoffrey Cowan

University Professor, University of California*

James Cuno

President and Chief Executive Officer, The J. Paul Getty Trust*

John Emerson

Chairman Emeritus, Music Center*

David Fleming

Of Counsel, Latham & Watkins LLP
Founding Chair, Los Angeles County Business Federation*

Ronald Gastelum

Cordoba Corporation*

Russell Goldsmith

Chairman and CEO, City National Bank*
Chair, The Los Angeles Coalition*

Antonia Hernandez

President and CEO, California Community Foundation*

Mickey Kantor

Partner, Mayer Brown LLP*

George Kieffer

Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP*
Chair, Civic Alliance*

Andy Lipkis

President, Tree People*

Robert K. Ross, M.D.

President and CEO,
The California Endowment*

Robert Simonds

The Robert Simonds Company*

Blair Taylor

President and CEO,
Los Angeles Urban League*

Matthew A. Toledo

CEO and Publisher, Los Angeles
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President and Executive Director,
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Cindy Miscikowski

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Commissioners, Port of Los Angeles*

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Vice President, Majestic Realty Co.*

Steve Soboroff

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Gary Toebben

President and CEO,
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce*

**Organizations have been listed for identification purposes only.*