

MOTION



The City of Los Angeles created the Economic and Workforce Development Department in 2013 in an attempt to centralize the City's economic development strategy and services. However, many other city departments and agencies continue to play a significant role in either promoting or inhibiting job creation and economic growth depending on how they administer and implement policy. Among the many departments that impact potential, new or existing businesses are the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Contract Administration, the Department of Building and Safety, the Bureau of Engineering, the Department of Planning, and the Department of Water and Power.


The City's job creation efforts would be improved with a business unit that provides information about city and state services, programs, and incentives, and that assists businesses in need of help with city departments throughout the process of opening a business, relocating, or building in Los Angeles. Without such a proactive business unit, the City's job creation strategy can be fragmented and ineffective.

The city's layoff aversion program and rapid response team targets at-risk businesses and offers one-on-one consultations, workshops and training to help avoid layoffs. In instances where layoffs are unavoidable, the program offers career counseling, benefits assistance, and job placement. Despite these programs, existing businesses seeking immediate assistance and/or relief from city departments may be forced into a bureaucratic maze often difficult to navigate. The city should explore the expansion of the rapid response unit to include essential departmental representatives to help shepherd businesses through the city's bureaucracy and provide immediate attention.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, the City Administrative Officer, Economic Workforce and Development Department, with the assistance of other relevant departments, be directed to report on which departments most impact economic development and job creation, and to explore the feasibility of creating a single business unit within the City to oversee business attraction, retention, and growth, and job creation, as well as exploring the expansion of the rapid response team.

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