

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



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MAYOR

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CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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April 20, 2016

Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Erika Pulst
City Clerk, Room 395
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on the 2016-17 Proposed Budget for the Office of the City Administrative Officer (CAO).

As you are aware, we continuously strive to support the goals of responsible financial management and continued fiscal discipline. This budget recognizes the critical role played by this Office in ensuring that the City provides the highest level of service possible to its residents while living within its financial means, by developing greater efficiencies and effective management techniques so that high priority public services are provided in the most effective and economic manner. Further, this budget highlights the importance of innovation in governmental operations.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the success we have had with FUSE Corps Fellowship, a particularly innovative and effective program that seeks to drive and impact change by enlisting talented mid-career professionals and pairing them with civic organizations. This Office established a partnership with FUSE Corps in 2014 and brought in a fellow who helped develop the first comprehensive approach to tracking, coordinating and reporting on the liability of our neighborhoods. This work was adopted by the Council and culminated in an Executive Directive. In 2015, we entered into a master contract with FUSE, which can be utilized by City departments that identify an appropriate Fuse Corps project and funding to partner on strategies and initiatives to solve challenges facing the City. My office engaged three Fellows this year to address homelessness, infrastructure financing, and securing the 2024 Olympics. The budget for 2016-17 includes funding to continue this successful program.


We are pleased with the budget as presented by the Mayor. For 2016-17, the CAO will focus on the following high priority initiatives, several of which are continuing

from this fiscal year, and all of which contribute to making Los Angeles the safest, livable and sustainable, prosperous and economically vibrant, best run city in America:

- Further the City's homelessness goals by supporting and expediting efforts to implement and monitor the Comprehensive Strategic Plan to address and manage homelessness issues, as adopted by the Mayor and Council in the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy (C.F. 15-1138-S1). As part of the Mayor's Proposed Budget, the CAO would receive funding and resolution authority for one Senior Administrative Analyst II to serve as the Citywide Homelessness Coordinator. I would like to request that Council exchange this position authority for a Principal Project Coordinator, which we would then ask be exempted from Civil Service. The task ahead of the Homelessness Coordinator is daunting and we want to move quickly toward filling this position as soon as possible. We recognize that in order to fill this position with the ideal candidate we may need to look outside of the civil service environment to ensure that we can recruit from a broad pool of qualified candidates who possess the knowledge, skills, and experience in homelessness issues. The Proposed Budget also adds funding and resolution authority for one Administrative Analyst II position to assist in this effort;
- Assess strategically, in conjunction with the Personnel Department, the size and scope of the City workforce and implement a plan for targeted local hiring to maintain a sustainable workforce; and,
- Continue to invest in economic development and asset management through development proposals of City-owned and former Community Redevelopment Agency-owned properties.

The CAO recognizes the challenges facing the City, and we look forward to facing those challenges with the Mayor and City Council as we explore opportunities to provide cost effective and innovative services.

Sincerely,



Miguel A. Santana
City Administrative Officer