

What do you think about possible layoffs?

Send us your comments for next month's *Alive!*:
talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Enriching the Lives of the Retired Is a Goal for New Head of Dept. of Aging

■ **Laura Trejo wants your input as she works to improve and expand upon current programs.**



Laura Trejo, General Manager, Dept. of Aging

It's a truism, according to new Department of Aging General Manager Laura Trejo, that "the older you become, the more unique you are." With that in mind, Trejo plans to build on the Department's

strengths in creating an even more unique network of resources and services to support the diverse needs of the City's older generation, society's fastest-growing population segment.

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Will the State Budget Crunch Mean Layoffs of City Workers

■ **It could, according to an address in which Mayor Hahn said that the cuts will affect his ability to improve City services. A hiring freeze is already in effect.**

Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn outlined just how affected the City will be if state budget cuts proposed by Governor Gray Davis last month are implemented.

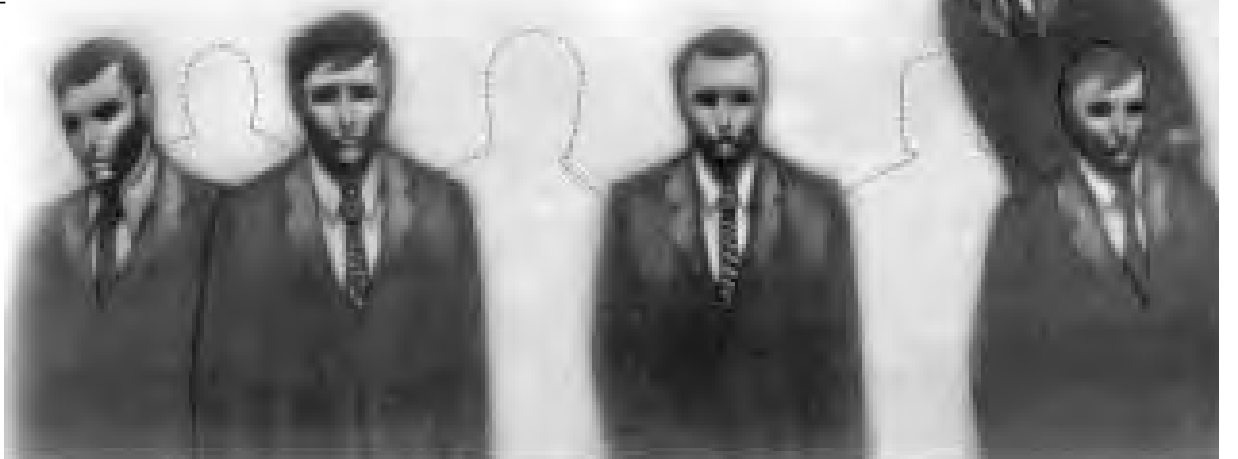
Those funding cuts could mean a loss of City jobs, confirmed City Administrative Officer Bill Fujioka in press reports after the Mayor's assessment. "And not minor

service cuts... very significant service cuts," Fujioka was quoted as saying.

Hahn has placed a hiring and budget freeze on City managers. *(See related sidebar.)*

The ominous signs were outlined in a speech given by Hahn to the Central City Association Jan. 15 in downtown Los Angeles. The State funding cuts to Los Angeles are expected to total \$70 million by June and \$175 million in the next fiscal year.

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Retelling the Moment When Cupid Pulled Back His Bow

■ **In honor of Valentine's Day, *Alive!* asked some City employees and retirees how Cupid changed their life.**

With Valentine's Day upon us, it's time for Cupid to work his magic. So here's a look at how some City employees and retirees met their soulmate and fell in love—with or without the help of the mischievous cherub and his famous arrow!

Pat Freudenburg
Senior Clerk Typist, Van Nuys Airport

Pat and her husband, Ed (who is retired from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power), will spend this Valentine's Day on Cloud Nine—well, in the air—flying to Hawaii for a trip that marks the 40th anniversary of their first date. The couple, married 35 years with a grown daughter, Lisa, met in a journalism class at John H. Francis Polytechnic High School in Sun Valley.

The Freudenburgs' journalism teacher, with whom they still keep in touch, likes to take credit for their romance, as he gave Ed the movie tickets that led to the couple's first date. Ed and Pat saw *Forty Pounds of Trouble* at a screen guild, with a surprise in-person visit from star Tony Curtis, and then had a late

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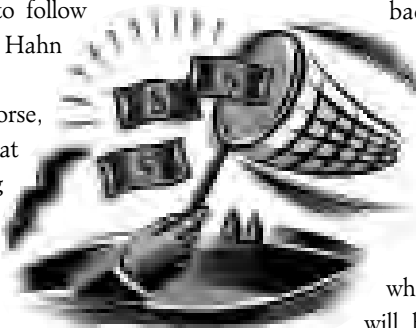
Budget Crisis: Hard Times Coming?

Layoffs

Continued from page 1

"It makes it impossible to follow through on the promises," Hahn told the crowd.

"I think nothing can be worse, after convincing everyone that we're better off staying together and how we're going to work to improve services, when the first thing we have to do is cut back on everything because the state pulled the rug out from under us," the Los Angeles



Daily News quoted him as saying.

The measures are being implemented as a response to Governor Davis's budget, released Jan. 10, that eliminated the vehicle license backfill. That elimination, according to Hahn's memo, could cost the city \$40 million by June and \$175 million in the next fiscal year. Davis's budget was an attempt to address what some experts are saying will be a state budget deficit estimated between \$26.1 billion and \$34.6 billion over the next fiscal year. ■

The following memo was issued by Mayor James Hahn Jan. 14 in response to the state funding cuts. The memo was publicly posted on the City's Website.

TO: The Heads of All City Departments (except Airport, Harbor, Water and Power, City Employees Retirement System and Pensions)

FROM: James K. Hahn

DATE: January 14, 2003

SUBJECT: 2002-03 Budget Status and Hard Hiring Freeze

On January 10, 2003, the Governor released his budget for 2003-04. The Governor's budget proposes drastic reductions that will have a significant impact on the City of Los Angeles. The largest reduction is the elimination of the Vehicle License Fee backfill. This equates to approximately \$70 million in 2002-03 and \$175 million in 2003-04. This reduction will force the City to take following course of action:

- Effective immediately, I am implementing a hard hiring freeze. All previous blanket exemptions for positions are now rescinded and no longer in effect. This freeze will include all positions with the exception of sworn police patrol, fire platoon duty positions and refuse collection staff.

Special funded positions, employees on 90-day contracts, and civilian positions providing direct services to the public will also be frozen.

Position requests must be forwarded to the City Administrative Officer (CAO) for review and processing. The CAO will issue a memo in the next few days outlining the technical instructions, appeal process and blanket exemptions for the structured hiring freeze. I will request that the City Council concur in a hiring freeze on all Departments of the City including the Mayor's Office.

I am requesting the Personnel Department and the Controller to immediately halt processing all Payroll/Personnel Change Documents (Form 41) and other personnel documents related to filling positions unless accompanied by an unfreeze request dated January 14, 2003 or later.

- Effective immediately, all equipment purchases will be frozen. Critical equipment purchases must be reviewed by the CAO and forwarded to the Mayor for consideration.
- In addition, I have instructed the CAO to prepare budgetary reductions in all departments to address the elimination of the Vehicle License Fee backfill.

I need your full cooperation and support in working with the CAO to identify these reductions that are not desirable but necessary.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Crista Binder at (213) 978-0723 or your CAO liaison budget analyst.

Wanna be heard?
How do you feel about how the state budget crunch might affect your job? *Alive!* will publish a forum next month of your thoughts, opinions and ideas. So send them in! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Members Speak Out

Club Member Remembers His Late Mother, Rita Lavelle-Miller

At 9:30 p.m. Friday November 15, Amy mother Rita Adelle Lavelle-Miller died from a massive heart attack. She was 87 and a registered nurse when she died.

Earlier in her life, she was elected Student Athlete of the Year and such a good swimmer she had to compete against the men's swimming team during training.

Rita was accepted to medical school, but opted instead to marry Dr. Patrick James Lavelle. After having 8 children (3 girls and 5 boys, all a year apart), she divorced, leaving her to raise all 8 children by herself.

On February 2, 1968 her first son, Cpl. Patrick James Lavelle Jr. in the United States Marine Corps, was killed in action in Quang Tri province in Viet Nam. He was 19.

Over his grave is a national monument, and he was awarded posthumously the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other medals of honor.

Rita was a devoted Catholic, attending St. Andrews Church in Pasadena. Her faith sustained her as she continued on working 3 jobs as a visiting nurse, dispensary at Huntington Hospital, and Verdugo Hills Hospital for 12 years while raising the remaining children.

The first born, Rita Marie Lavelle, served as a private secretary to then Governor Ronald Reagan. Later, she was sworn in by Edwin Meese to a presidential appointment position in Washington, D.C., as adminis-

trative director of the Environmental Protection Agency.

After selling her home in Pasadena, Rita relocated to San Diego, where she returned to work as a recovery room nurse, working solely on the graveyard shift for 12 more years. Many evenings she had up to 7 patients to care for alone by herself with no assistance. One night I observed her working and could not even keep track of her with one patient, let alone 7.

As an ensign in the United States Navy, her Navy Training on the East Coast treating injured Marines and sailors who had returned from battle from World War II prepared her for her nightly heavy

work schedule.

While I studied at the University of San Diego, I would see her off to work and pray for her safe return as it was difficult for her to remain awake at the wheel after working all night without a break or lunch.

She is survived by her husband, retired City of San Diego fireman and former Naval hero Earl Miller; her daughters Rita Marie, Madeleine and Mary Ann; and her sons William, Robert, Pete and Thomas.

Rita had 10 grandchildren, 2 boys and 8 girls. She was memorialized at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in San Diego and buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. The family requests that you keep her, her late son Cpl. Patrick James Lavelle Jr., and the entire family and friends in your prayers and kind thoughts.

Robert James Lavelle
Vanpool Coordinator and Primary Driver
- Emergency Preparedness Coordinator/Manager, FEMA
- Hyperion Treatment Plant
- City of Los Angeles



Wanna be heard?
Write to us! It's *your* page. *Have something to say? Overjoyed about something? Angered? Just have a question?* Here's your chance to get it off your chest... and get it into print. (We'll print what we can.) Share your ideas with your City family. Don't wait! Send them to talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

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