

State Budget to Have Serious Impact on City, Mayor Warns



■ **Could there be layoffs? Mayor offers other suggestions to try to avoid them.**

Mayor Jim Hahn Dec. 12 addressed a special session of the Los Angeles City Council to discuss ways in which the City of Los Angeles can prepare for massive state budget shortfalls. Mayor Hahn told the City Council that if Sacramento does not act immediately to address the backfill from the lowering of the vehicle license fee—a revenue stream that under the State constitution belongs to local government—it will result in a loss of an additional \$105 million to the City of Los Angeles between now and June 2004.

“This loss of revenue is devastating to the City and will force us to make tough decisions to reduce our expenditures in order to end the year with a balanced budget,” said Mayor Hahn, who pledged to work with the City Council to develop a list of priority services and programs that the city must continue to fund and identify programs and projects that the city can afford to cut.

In his address to the council, Mayor Hahn

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Rec Parks, Gen. Services Team To Earn City Millions in Profit

■ **Project that keeps operation of Pershing Square garage in City hands means millions of dollars for the City. Monies are used for parks programming.**

When Rec and Parks asked General Services to take a look at the contract that had the management of Pershing Square’s underground parking garage in private hands, Rec and Parks might not have known just how fortuitous that request was. When General

Services took a look at the operation, it thought it could do a better job managing the garage for Rec and Parks, which owns it.

That was in 2000. Today, under General Services management, the garage is now earning more than \$2 million a year for the City. Under private management, the garage was returning just more than \$300,000 per year for the City.

The turnaround has garnered for General Services and Rec and Parks a Competitive Government Award.

See Profit, Page 13

Fallen Firefighters to Be Memorialized at Planned Fire Museum



■ **Fundraising in full swing to support plans for memorial plaza at LAFD Historical Society site. General Services, Cultural Affairs, City Council also involved.**

Before 1998, Liz Bamattre, the chairperson of the Memorial Committee at the LAFD Historical Society, was already working on plans to memorialize those 80-plus firefighters who had paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to their City.

But then came 1998, when the department lost five firefighters in a single year.

Deeply affected, she returned, galvanized to create a proper memorial. Now, at the dawn of 2004, that memorial is under a full head of steam.

“It was a really rotten year,” she says about 1998, with her British-bred understatement. “We [her husband is LAFD Chief Bill Bamattre] became really entwined with the surviving families. ‘What can we do?’ we kept asking.

“The Memorial Plaza took on a new

meaning after that.”

She and Frank Borden, himself a retired LAFD firefighter and the director of the LAFD Historical Society, got busy and started making plans. First, they restored old Fire Station 27, the largest fire station west of the Mississippi River when the facility was built in 1930, but in serious disrepair after the new Station 27 was built right next to it. The restored Fire Station 27, at 1355 N. Cahuenga Blvd. in Hollywood, became the home of the LAFD Fire Museum and the headquarters. That was done with quite a bit of help from General Services and the office of Councilman Tom LaBonge.

“Getting that building restored was catalyst number one,” she says. “It was the Glory Days of Hollywood revisited.”

The completion of that amazing

See Fire Memorial, Page 4



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Public Works' Hannah Choi Wins Minority Business Award

Hannah Choi, contract compliance program manager for the Dept. of Public Works, has won the Ron Brown Award of Excellence from the Los Angeles Minority Business Opportunity Committee.

She was awarded as part of the mayor's Minority Enterprise Development Week, at a supporters breakfast held Nov. 18 at the L.A. Mart.

According to program materials, she won the award of excellence for these reasons:

"Hannah P. Choi is the City of Los Angeles Public Works Office of Contract Compliance manager, responsible for planning, organizing, directing and integrating the various wide-ranging programs that assure equality and opportunity for minorities and women whether they are business owners or employees taking part in City contracts.

"Under her leadership, the City has implemented aggressive programs that have resulted in national recognition. The outreach and the labor compliance programs have been declared as 'model' programs for public, private and nonprofit organizations. As a result, minority, women and small local businesses have successfully participated in City contracts, and many residents have secured employment within the framework of the prevailing wages and solid benefits that her organization enforces.

"Although Hannah has helped many MBE firms successfully compete in a difficult environment, she considers her greatest accomplishment to be her wonderful family, which includes her husband Johann, and their children Jeremy, Elliot, Johannah and Danielle."

The Club congratulates Hannah on her much-deserved award. Good going, Hannah! 🏆



Hannah Choi (second from right) receives her Award of Excellence from Mayor Jim Hahn (left) at the Minority Enterprise Development Week breakfast Nov. 18.

Remembering Those Who Died Fighting Fires

Fire Memorial

Continued from Page 1

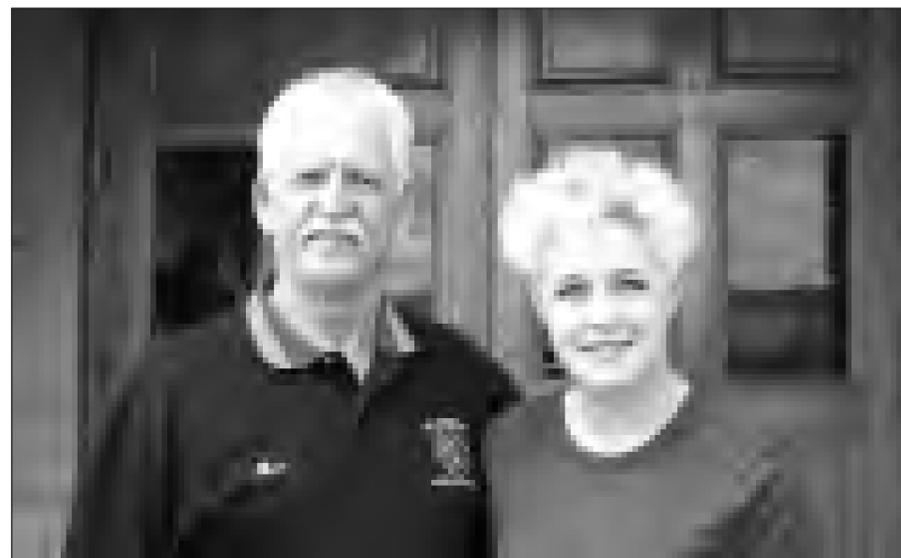
project—a visit to the Fire Museum is worth it all on its own—would have been enough for most activists. But not for these two. They now had their location for their memorial.

"We noticed that Los Angeles is one of the few major cities without a firefighters memorial," she said. "There is a war veterans memorial, that contains those firefighters who died

Rotondi of Roto Architects to create the plaza. The Memorial Wall itself, which will hold the names of those fallen in the line of duty, was designed by Los Angeles artist Yoshikawa. The wall will contain an archway of limestone, water that streams down the surface, and etched glass.

The overall design is in its final stages, and will be submitted to Cultural Affairs at the end of this month.

There is funding to consider, not only to



From left: Historical Society Board of Directors member Ben Holder, and Memorial Committee Chairperson Liz Bamattre.

serving their country. But no memorial for those who died serving their city.

"Boston has several, for example," she explains.

The first thing they needed was a design. The Historical Society organized a design contest. Five entries were received, and the winning design came from LAFD (active) Captain Dwayne Golden.

"He has a background in graphic arts," Liz Bamattre explains. "It's five bronze statues, of firefighters doing what they do, fighting fires and saving lives. It's not contemporary. It's very realistic and practical, which we thought was appropriate. It's poignant.

"I've seen many memorials. But our statues really bring into the memorial the department's everyday emergency abilities, an emergency medicine element. Emergency medicine is so much of what the department does.

"The design really reflects what the department does every day."

The design selected, the Historical Society took the plans to Honors for Excellence, a Minnesota company that specializes in creating such memorials. "Building our statues was a labor of love for them as much as it is for us," she says.

The statues were delivered in early 2003. Where to put them?

"There's an outdoor plaza outside old Fire Station 27 that we thought would be beautiful," she says. And thus it was chosen. The society selected Los Angeles architect Michael

build the memorial, but also to maintain it, and to provide revenue to continue and expand the Museum's William Rolland Educational Institute. Some of the project is being funded by Prop. F, since the design involves the beautification of an existing fire station.

But the Historical Society has also launched a brick memorial program, where anyone can contribute to the project and have their name etched permanently on the patio's brick pavers. There are many price levels for the brick program; details can be found inside this issue of *Alive!*

The brick paver program is more than about money.

"Those who contribute will be a part of this project forever," she says. "They can feel they are a part of it. That's important."

The society has already sold 500 bricks, having just barely begun. More than 10,000 are available for etching over the decades to come.

She knows she is important to the project. But she also knows that it's not about her.

"This has nothing to do with my husband's administration," she says. "I really prefer to remain behind the scenes. What keeps me focused is that, 50 years from now, the names that will be remembered are on the memorial, not mine." 🏆



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State Budget Could Affect City Jobs

Budget

Continued from Page 1

said his number one priority was to ensure that, while the city is unable to afford to expand the Los Angeles Police Department, he is committed to maintaining the Department at its current strength. Mayor Hahn also recommended that the City Council explore cutting or reducing programs in the current fiscal budget, including funding for:

- Golden Monkeys Exhibit;
- Griffith Observatory renovations;
- New Neighborhood City Halls;
- Bulky-item drop-off centers;
- Expansion of the 10th member of 10 fire task forces.

Mayor Hahn said, "Although it is painful to cut valuable programs that are worthwhile to

the communities they serve, the city must focus on its obligation to provide adequate public safety services."

To do so, Mayor Hahn said that he would like to work closely with the City Council and suggested the following measures to close the \$105 million hole created in the City's budget by the loss of State funding:

- End all hiring of new city employees, with the exception of sworn Fire Department personnel subject to constant staff requirements and the hiring of replacement police officers;

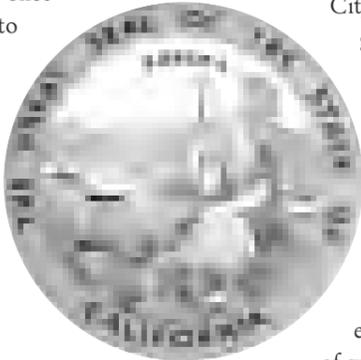
- Cut all programs currently in the Unappropriated Balance;
- Use the savings from the Unappropriated

Balance and part of the Reserve Fund to pay for priority programs and legally obligated services;

- Implement a citywide freeze on equipment purchases and expense accounts.

Mayor Hahn also said that because 85 percent of the city's budget is personnel costs, the city should look at cost reductions in personnel and asked the City Council to begin working closely with the employee unions to discuss the potential of implementing voluntary furloughs and contract savings to avoid layoffs.

"I fully recognize that what I am saying today, and what I am recommending will be tough," the mayor said. "What we do to close the budget gap will take its toll on each of us, and most notably on the people of Los Angeles. And, so it is that much more important that we work together in partnership to address the challenges we are facing because when we work together, the people of Los Angeles are better off." ■



Newsbrief

BUDGET WOES

During the Dec. 12 special City Council meeting to discuss the budget crisis caused by the elimination of Vehicle License Fee (VLF) funds from the State of California, Councilmember Jack Weiss suggested the City consider suing the State of California to protect public safety. Cities and counties including Los Angeles rely on funds from the VLF to pay for critical emergency services including police officers, paramedics, and firefighters.

"The governor has broken his promise not to endanger police and fire services," Weiss said. "We need to review our legal options immediately and fulfill our promise to our constituents to make Los Angeles safer. If a lawsuit is viable, it might be a breach of trust to our constituents not to pursue it."

The City Attorney planned to meet with the City Council in closed session Dec. 16 to discuss Weiss' request. ■

MAIL SERVICES EFFICIENCY

To get an idea of the kind of efficiency that Mail Services is bringing to the City, in November, the division of General Services processed almost 160,000 mass mailing pieces, and saved \$20,326 in postage and \$11,096 in related processing fees for the City.

That brought Mailing Services up to 96 percent of its annual productivity goal for 2003, with December still to be compiled. Its total goal of savings to the City for 2003 was \$300,852.

Good going, Mail Services! ■



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