

LETTERS To the Editor

Tell us what you think! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

Shoutout!

Mom Gives Props to 2 Sons for Achievements

On March 10, Ronnel Norman took the pilot's seat as airline captain of Air Cargo, based in Santa Barbara. This 25-year-old man has loved even the mention of flying as long as I can remember. He started at Compton Airport, where he is still a flight instructor.

After graduating from high school, Ronnel went into the Air Force and did his tour in South Korea, when he started his formal flying education. My son was encouraged to follow his dream and never give up and this is just the beginning. God bless him.

March 8, a debate was held at Paramount High School. The debate covered a number of topics, and a number of schools participated. My son, Aaron Norman, a senior at Paramount, won first place in the Most Inspirational category. My son is very active at this school, and in addition to school activities, he volunteers at the Long Beach Aquarium and is very active in a number of choirs at Central Baptist Church, Inglewood. Aaron will be attending Long Beach City then onto University of Cape Town, South Africa, and working at the Aquarium after high school. He aspires to become a marine biologist. Aaron is encouraged to keep up the good work. God bless him!

— Cathy Norman

Story on City Budget Brought Lots of Ideas

I am proud to be part of an important organization that provides services to keep LA moving forward. Without us, the City Employees, LA would come to a stop.

During the last couple of months, I have read our Mayor, Antonio Villaraigosa, asking for some City Employees to take unpaid furloughs. The mayor should understand that we, the City Employees, also have bills and a family to feed, so his comment and idea is somewhat stupid.

He ought to look out of the box. First, he should say, what department heads do we not need that cost our city about \$120,000 and more a year for each head, not including overtime.

Why not ask some of the dealers to donate vehicles? The City can add an additional sign, kindly donated by Galpin Ford.

Another effective way to save money is the amount of printed material. I have noticed that half, if not more, of the communication paper matter is wasted. We have computers and e-mails. Employees can log onto a site and look at the information. Vendors who do business with the City — contracts and agreements — should be charged a nonrefundable fee to even be considered, which would generate funds for the City.

Stop management from taking City vehicles home.

If all the departments could make a list of what they think we can cut cost-effectively, I think this would help the City's budget.

— A City Employee

One suggestion is, offer a golden early retirement. Next month I will have 28 years in service, and if the City would offer an early retirement to those who are in the same boat that I am getting into, that would save the city dollars. Just like they did around 10 years ago.

— Barry Logan

The bumping rights that employees have can create chaos having employees going back to a position in the City were they started from. This is not productive; having everyone move will leave their workload unfinished.

I believe that if the thought of the mandatory furloughs was presented properly, most will agree. The alternative to this will be that people will lose jobs.

Is mandatory furlough a possibility, rather than having hundreds of people without job. There is a lot services that can be adjusted to prevent layoffs! Also, this is only going to be temporary; this will become the past.

— Gustavo Vindell, Housing

I found this article to be very disturbing! Having retired from the City of Los Angeles, but still in touch with former co-workers, I had heard about their request asking "civilian workers" to take five furlough days to assist the City in their budget shortfall.

How dare the mayor and City Council only target "civilian employees"! What about a one-day furlough for "all" city employees, from the mayor on down! This would include all elected officials within the City, also. Since a majority of these individuals are making a six-figure income, a one-day furlough from each and every one of them would greatly help the City budget.

For the mayor and City Council to only target the ranks of the "civilian employees" is definitely a punch in the gut. The mayor should remember that the "civilian employees" are the backbone, and without them the City would fall into disrepair!

— Barbara Lawrence

Just curious — doesn't the mayor read Alive? If he did, he would realize that there are tons of hard-working employees doing extremely important things. It seems as though he looks at us as a disposable commodity, something he can just "get rid of" when times get tough. If the mayor's not reading *Alive!*, maybe you should make sure his staff is.

Keep up the good work.

— Thomas Shetland, LAPD

Why is the mayor freaking out over the budget right now? Shouldn't he have been working on getting costs down for the last year or so? If he were the president of a company, the board would have fired him by now.

— Samantha, Public Works

QUESTION



of the Month

Our Club Counselors are all over the City, every day, serving our Club Members. While we're out, we'll be asking City employees a fun question. Keep your eyes open... you never know when we'll be asking you what you think!

Which actor or actress do you want to portray you in the movie of your life?

"Loretta Devine."

— Loretta Brazil, Emergency Services Coordinator, DWP



"Jennifer Hudson."

— Cynthia Taylor, Senior Clerk Typist, Club Member



"Edward Norton."

— Glenn Smith, Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic, Club Member



"Halle Berry."

— Brenda Wade, Sr. Clerk Typist, Club Member



"Denzel Washington."

— Lester Baron, Materials Testing Tech



"Danny DeVito."

— Jesus Martinez, Treatment Plant Operator



"Drew Barrymore."

— Christina Kusch, Training Specialist, Management Analyst



"Sasha Baron Cohen."

— Michael Sestich, son of Mike Sestich, Harbor, Club Member



"Samuel L. Jackson."

— John Hawkins, Club CEO



"Charles Bronson."

— John Devine, Senior Building Inspector, Club Member

[Good choice, although Mr. Bronson has passed away. — Ed.]

