

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Budget Woes: Will You Be Taking 6 Mandatory Days Off?

Mayor proposes budget that will eliminate 767 jobs; require six mandatory days off without pay; and hike fees for additional income. What are your thoughts?



In addressing a stark \$406 million budget shortfall, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proposed an austere budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 that would include the elimination 767 jobs, possible layoffs, mandatory days off without pay, and fee hikes on several City services. The proposal came in an announcement April 21. The proposal must be approved by the City Council. At *Alive!* press time, no action had been taken.

The furloughs as proposed would not extend to Police Officers, Firefighters, or Sanitation workers.

"There are some [employees] who would rather lay off more people and not share the pain across the workforce," the L.A. Times quotes Villaraigosa as saying. "We think it's better that everybody participates, that everybody shares the burden."

The Mayor had already announced plans to continue hiring 1,000 new police officers and raise the City's monthly trash fees from \$26 to \$36 for homeowners. The proposed budget calls for \$90 million in increases to trash, golf, parking, recreation and animal adoption fees.

A few departments would see budget increases, including Planning (7 percent), Transportation (7 percent); and Public Works/Street Services (3 percent).

What are your thoughts on the plans to solve the large budget shortfall? Tell us! talkback@cityemployeesclub.com.

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