

CITY COUNCIL

Tough Budget Approved

Council approves \$7 billion budget that is expected to cut hundreds of City jobs, hike fees while restoring some threatened programs. Furloughs still undecided.



On Monday, May 19, the City Council approved the City budget for the next fiscal year. Of particular interest to City Employees are the following:

- The budget does not close the case on City Employees taking required days off without pay (furloughs). The matter of furloughs is being discussed with union representation. If the furloughs are not put in place, the City will have to find an additional \$23 million in added revenue or further cuts.
- The budget assumes that approximately 767 jobs will be cut either permanently or through layoffs; these job actions have not been announced by press time.

- The LAPD expansion by more than 750 officers remains on track.
 - The council abandoned the mayor's plans for closing regional libraries on Sundays, eliminating 17 park rangers and closing city-owned television Channel 36, among others. These were made possible at least partly due to the City's Chief Legislative Analyst's Office, which found an estimated \$97 million in extra funds the week before the vote.
- The budget was made difficult due to an expected and record \$400 million shortfall because of significantly reduced income due to the economic downturn, and increasing expenses. This budget closes that gap mostly by cutting jobs, relying on one-time revenue and raising fees on trash pickups by \$8, to \$36 per month.
- Next year's budget, however, looks to be prone to at least as severe a funding gap as this year's, which could prompt another round of job reductions.
- Rec and Parks General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri said the council restored some of the funding his department was expected to lose -- about \$1.5 million more -- but his budget was still cut about \$13 million. Those cuts will be reflected in Park Ranger and programming budgets, largely after the summer season is over.
- The council also agreed to create a budget stabilization fund and a policy that requires the City to better prepare for economic downturns.

Tell Us What You Think

What do you think? Write a letter to the editor: talkback@cityemployeesclub.com

CONVENTION CENTER

A Successful Grad

Loc Pham, Convention Center, returned to his school to inspire the students to success.

On April 16, Loc Pham, a Communication Electrician, ITA, returned to his technical college, IIT Technical Institute, to inspire the students so they can be successful, too.

He graduated from IIT Tech with a Bachelor of science in telecommunication technology and engineering in June 1999. As one of the many successful graduates from IIT Tech, he has spoken to thousands of young men and women and soon to be graduates from high school this summer. Loc and many others like him provided positive notes and guidance to many young men and women who wish to get into the science and technology fields.

Loc has worked for the Convention Center since December 2001. His duties involve many levels of technicality and multi-levels jobs including networking, Motorola radios, fiber-optic cables, audio and visuals, telephones, electronic signs, Nextel, CATV, CCTV, and much more.



Loc Pham speaks to the students at IIT Technical Institute.

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