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## **COUNCIL APPROVES \$7.1 BILLION BUDGET PRIORITIZING PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORE SERVICES**

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles City Council approved a \$7.1 billion budget for the coming fiscal year today. This budget maintains the Council and Mayor's commitment to public safety and core services while protecting the city's long-term financial future. The budget allows for the hiring of 286 more police officers and increases street repaving while maintaining a healthy reserve fund despite facing one of the toughest years in the city's history.

"Today's vote maintains the city's commitment to public safety and core services while strengthening our overall fiscal health," said Council President Eric Garcetti. "Even in this tough budget year, we worked to increase funding to the issues that residents care about most."

"We've had to make some tough decisions and some tough cuts, but some necessary cuts as well. However, there are still some structural changes that we need to address to maintain the City's fiscal health," said Councilwoman Wendy Greuel, Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee. "While I'm happy we are through this budget, we have no time to rest on our laurels. We need to remain vigilant in saving taxpayer money, because next year's budget projections don't look very good."

"We faced a truly challenging budget and I am proud of the work that the City Council did to address those challenges," said Assistant President Pro Tem Jan Perry. "Thanks to this collaborative effort we were able to maintain basic City services, fund our police department, and fund our homeless shelters."

"This is the biggest budget in the history of the city," said Councilmember Bernard Parks, who chairs the Council's Budget and Finance Committee. "We were able to preserve the issues of public safety and brought back the issues that are important to the quality of life to Angelenos. We did this during one of the city's most challenging economic circumstances."

The budget allows the city to continue on its path to hire 1,000 new police officers while increasing overtime and recruitment efforts funding. It also increases street resurfacing to 235 miles a year and maintains the city's 50/50 sidewalk repair program.

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