

09-1387

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BUDGET & FINANCE

MOTION

The low-income neighborhoods of Los Angeles stand to be particularly hard hit by cuts in City and State services that are being discussed currently in City Hall and the Capitol. Examples include reductions in book purchases at local libraries, closure of State parks and "clustering" of staff for local Recreation & Parks facilities, and the end of City programs to install speed humps or replace damaged sidewalks on residential streets.

As General Managers begin to contemplate further budgetary reductions in the case that sufficient "Shared Sacrifice" funds are identified and agreed upon to make up the entire budget gap, the Council needs to ensure that before any further cuts are enacted we take into consideration the cumulative impact of service reductions, which tend to place a greater and unfair burden on poorer neighborhoods, which have fewer alternatives.

Although across the board cuts may sound fair, they often result in a disparate impact on those with the least amount of resources. We must take this into account when we are making cuts to services. For example, some children and families in Los Angeles cannot afford to purchase books, and libraries provide their sole access to reading materials outside the school system. An across the board cut in library hours would do far more harm to those families and neighborhoods than cuts in the wealthier areas of the City.

Each General Manager should take into consideration the resources in the surrounding neighborhoods. Demographic information is available on such factors as family income, proximity to parks, and educational level achieved. This and the availability of private organizations in the area that offer services similar to those being reduced by the City should be analyzed in order to ensure that as holistic a view as possible is taken.

No City employee or City resident wants to see cuts made to public services. We should have an appreciation of the big picture to help us determine which areas can least afford a service reduction. This is a value that should be part of our thinking as we move into the 2009-10 Fiscal Year and the many fiscal challenges we expect in the next few years.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Administrative Officer and General Managers of all non-proprietary Departments be requested to take into consideration the resources in the surrounding neighborhoods when they consider how to implement any cuts in public services and that they not implement across the board cuts where lower income neighborhoods would be negatively impacted to a greater extent than other areas.

PRESENTED BY: *Jose Huizar*
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: *Bernard C. Parks*

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