



NEWS – OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA

7TH DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PADILLA APPLAUDS BUDGET COMMITTEE'S PASSAGE OF COMPROMISE PLAN ***4-1 Vote Calls on Council to adopt stopgap plan for six months, then revisit budget with new financial data***

LOS ANGELES – City Council President Alex Padilla today applauded the Budget and Finance Committee's approval of a compromise budget plan that allows for a stopgap six month budget to be adopted, with a revised budget to be submitted by the Mayor's office in six months.

"I am proud to see my colleagues showing strong leadership and taking extraordinary measures to protect the fiscal integrity of this City," said Padilla. "This budget will move us forward in a way that will give the City the opportunity to reassess its financial situation, hiring additional police officers – in addition to the 400 new officers in this new proposal – if there are the resources to do so in six months."

The compromise plan, proposed to his Council colleagues in a letter on May 13 and further detailed in testimony before the budget and finance committee today, includes the following elements related to funding for public safety programs throughout the City:

- Allows for the hiring of 400 LAPD officers for the first six months of fiscal year 2003-04 – a rate of 66 officers per month, which is higher than the Mayor's proposed rate of 60 officers per month.
- Provides funding for the LAPD Valley Dispatch Center. This was not funded in the Mayor's proposed budget.
- Provides additional funding for the City Attorney's office to prosecute misdemeanor crimes.
- Provides funding for additional staff at the LAPD's DNA lab.
- Provides funding for the Los Angeles Fire Department to implement year three of the five year Emergency Medical Services Deployment Plan, providing additional firefighters and paramedics.

The full Council is expected to take up debate on the budget proposal approved by the Budget and Finance Committee in a special meeting on Monday, May 19.

The 7th Council District serves the communities of Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, Pacoima, Panorama City, and Sylmar.

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