



**NEWS – OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
**COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PADILLA APPLAUDS COUNCIL'S PASSAGE OF BUDGET PLAN**

***11-3 vote calls on City to adopt six-month plan***

**LOS ANGELES** – City Council President Alex Padilla today applauded the Council's approval of a six-month fiscal plan for Los Angeles beginning July 1, with a revised budget to be submitted by the Mayor's office once a clearer financial picture emerges for the City.

"I am proud of my colleagues and the Council as a whole for showing the courage, the conviction, and the strength to ensure the fiscal integrity of the City of Los Angeles," said Padilla. "This budget allows us to hire 400 new LAPD officers with the possibility of hiring even more in six months if the City has the resources to do so."

Members of the Council had repeatedly expressed strong concerns that the Mayor's proposed budget created a structural deficit, not taking into account possible funding cutbacks to cities in the State budget, in addition to uncertainty with respect to the City's future revenues.

The adoption of the Council's budget proposal, first outlined in a letter from Padilla to his Council colleagues on May 13, 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 budget will now go to the Mayor's desk for signature.

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

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