

Press Releases

08/29/2007 | Efficiencies Before Taxes

The City of Long Beach has come a long way in the last few years. It has dug itself out of a \$102 million General Fund Deficit by eliminating 400 City positions without layoffs, removing 250 vehicles from fleet operations, and conducting and implementing optimization studies such as the Workers' Compensation Study. All without raising taxes.

I am in full support of these types of initiatives to balance our budget. These are good initial steps and I encourage more efforts in this direction.

We must focus on making sure that the citizens of Long Beach are receiving the biggest return on their taxpayer dollars. We need to identify ways to maximize all revenue due to the City, including greater efficiencies in City spending.

Our City has tremendous revenue demands to support important city services, most notably public safety and infrastructure.

Our audit of the Police Department (the department with the greatest financial impact on the City's budget) identified several efficiencies and cost savings. It also made several recommendations to use more civilians, contain overtime, and best use resources available to ensure the continued success of the Police Department. This will ultimately save the City millions of dollars. My office is working with City Management and the Police Department to determine a plan to implement these recommendations.

Our office is also analyzing street infrastructure needs and funding to identify better ways to get the results citizens deserve.

It is essential that we remain fiscally prudent and continue to work aggressively to find ways to create efficiencies and collect all revenue due to the City. Raising taxes is an option, but should be a last resort.