



Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

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Regular Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 1, 2018 6:30pm-7:00PM Meet and Greet 7:00PM – 9:30pm meeting (DRAFT)

Meeting Location:

[Gault Street Elementary School](#)
[17000 Gault Street](#)
[Lake Balboa CA 91406](#)
(MAIL NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS ADDRESS)

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Vote Eligible*	Category
Carla Bautista	Absent**	YES	At-Large
James Brown 1 st Vice President	Present	YES	Resident
Ruth Doxsee	Present	YES	Organization
Kristen Fujitaki 2 nd Vice President	Present	YES	At-Large
Linda Gravani President	Present	YES	Business
Byron Gutierrez	Present (8:37PM Left Meeting)	YES	At-Large
James Hart Treasurer	Absent initially but arrived at 8:15 pm	YES	Residential
Sandra Joseph	Present	YES	Residential
Cindy Kurland	Present	YES	Residential
Madeleine McKay	Present	NO	Youth
Allen Nelson Communications	Present	YES	Organization
Carol Newman Secretary	Present	YES	Business
Mary Pennomon	Absent**	YES	Senior
Linda Pruett	Absent**	YES	Organization
Thomas Riley	Present	YES	Residential
Karen Schatz	Present	YES	Residential
James "Jim" Stein	Present	YES	Business
TOTAL: 17	13 PRESENT, 04 ABSENT		

*Funding vote eligibility key: **A**=age less than 18 yrs.; **E**=Ethics training; **F**=Funding training; **N**=not taken; **X**=expired

** Advance notice given for absence

1. Call Meeting to order, Welcome
Ms. Linda Gravani called the meeting of the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council to order at 7:00pm. Ms. Gravani welcomed everyone to the meeting and notified the Stakeholders about the sign-in sheets, speaker cards, refreshments and using the microphone when speaking. There were seven stakeholders in attendance.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Brown.
3. Roll Call, Quorum is 9
Roll was called by Ms. Schatz and there were 13 Boardmembers in attendance, Quorum was met.

4. Adoption of the Agenda August 1, 2018

LBNC ITEM 4 Motion to adopt the agenda. Moved: Newman Second: Brown				
Yes – 13	No – 00	Abstain – 00	Not Eligible –00	Recused -- 00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

5. Approval of Minutes for: May 29, 2018 Special Meeting

LBNC ITEM 5 Motion to approve the minutes of May 29, 2018 Special Board Meeting. Moved: Doxsee Second: Newman				
Yes – 9	No – 00	Abstain – 04	Not Eligible –00	Recused -- 00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Stein	NONE	Gutierrez, Kurland, McKay, Schatz	NONE	NONE

6. Approval of Minutes for: June 6, 2018 General Board Meeting

LBNC ITEM 6 Motion to approve minutes for June 6, 2018 General Board Meeting. Moved: Doxsee Second: Brown				
Yes – 9	No – 00	Abstain – 04	Not Eligible –00	Recused -- 00
Brown, Doxsee, Gravani, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz,	NONE	Fujitaki, Gutierrez, McKay, Stein	NONE	NONE

7. Announcements and Reports: Representatives of LAPD, Local, City, County, State and Federal Government Offices.

- a. West Valley LAPD Captain Ernest Eskridge - Senior Lead Officers (SLOs) - 1-877-ASK-LAPD Officer Smith - <mailto:34488@lapd.online> Officer Olivares- <mailto:34728@lapd.online> SLO Oscar Bocanegra, West Valley Division -The Department has had many changes to command staff at West Valley. The two new captains are CIII Ernest Eskridge and CI Steven Emerick while Captain Beverly Lewis was promoted to Commander. It is unknown how long it will take to replace SLO Olivares. There was an officer involved shooting that was determined to be a suicide by cop. No officers were hurt in the encounter that happened at Gaviota and Victory. There was an additional officer involved shooting in Van Nuys where a knife wielding suspect was shot and killed while stabbing a woman to death. Lastly the Trader Joe's incident was very difficult and a chaotic situation for the LAPD and the hostages involved.
- b. Councilmember Nury Martinez's Office (CD 6) 818-778-4999, Field Deputy, Lauren.Padick@lacity.org The Councilmember will be sponsoring a Movie in the Park on Friday, August 3, 2018 at Louise Park. The featured movie will be Paddington 2. All those in attendance will receive a free Costco hot dog and drink. There will be booths for local businesses to advertise their services and the Los Angeles Public Library will be offering free library cards and explaining the services they offer to the community.
- c. Mayor Garcetti's Valley Office, East Valley Area Representative, Jaqueline.Serrano@lacity.org 213-910-9104. The Mayor is proud to announce the extension of the Light Rail that will be coming to the East Valley. The new 9.1 mile line will be built between the Van Nuys Orange Line Station and the Sylmar Metrolink Station. Ground breaking for the new line and stations will occur in mid-2021 with the expected completion and opening of the new line by 2027. Ms. Serrano will be leading the Mayor's Youth Council for this year. Contact her if you know any youth in the Valley area that may be interested. There is a new county website paid for by Measure H, where you can report the location of homeless people and a team will go out to offer services to the homeless persons reported. The Website is LA-HOP.org
- d. City Attorney's Office 213-978-8100-Neighborhood Prosecutor, Raffy Astvasadoorian raffy.a@lacity.org 818-374-6842-Absent
- e. LAUSD Scott Schmerelson's Office (District 3) 818-654-3785 Dir of Parent & Community Engagement Jeannie.Kamm@lausd.net -Absent

- f. LAUSD Director of Communication & Community Affairs Ambrosia.Solis@lausd.net - Absent
 - g. LAUSD Kelly Gonez office (District 6) 818-389-9216 - Dir of Community Engagement & Advocacy Cara.Onofre@lausd.net – Absent
 - h. LAUSD Northwest District Administrator Parent/Community Engagement-Gonsalo Garay ggg9445@lausd.net 818-654-360 - Absent
 - i. Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office (District 3) 213-974-3333 Dist. Dir. Benita Trujillo btrujillo@bos.lacounty.gov -Absent
 - j. California Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian's Office (District 46) 818-376-4246_ Emma.Taylor@asm.ca.gov - Ms. Taylor thanked the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council for the chess tables at Lake Balboa Park near the boat docks. Assemblymember Nazarian will be hosting two events this month and the community is invited to attend. The Water Briefing Breakfast will be held at the Japanese Garden on August 17, 2018. The 37th Annual Government Day will be held on August 18, 2018 at the Panorama City Mall from 10:00am to 1:00pm. There will be up to 40 different Government Agencies represented to share resources with the community.
 - k. California State Senator Robert Hertzberg's Office (District 18) - 818-901-5588 Samatha.Stafford@sen.ca.gov-Absent
 - l. California State Senator Henry Stern's Office (District 27) 818-876-3352 - Kevin.Taylor@sen.ca.gov - Absent
 - m. US Representative Tony Cardenas (District 29) 818-782-7407 Nigel.Sanchez@mail.house.gov - Absent
 - n. US Representative Brad Sherman (District 30) 818-501-9200 Mary.Chakerian@mail.house.gov -Absent
 - o. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) 818-374-9898 Betty Wong Oyama NC Advocate betty.wong@lacity.org - Ms. Oyama thanked the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council for being compliant on ethics trainings. A Resilience gathering will take place at Deaton Auditorium on Tuesday, August 14, 2018. Although Ms. Linda Pruett is the Resilience Representative for Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council, everyone is welcome. Contact Ms. Oyama if you are interested in going. The new boundary maps for Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council are being worked on with the City Clerk. If you have any questions about them, please contact Ms. Oyama before August 15, 2018. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners will be hosting meetings across the city for input on Stakeholder definition and the NC Reforms (CF 18-046). Their meeting schedules are located on the EmpowerLA website. www.empowerla.org Please note that funding training must be renewed every 2 years.
 - p. LAUSD Enrollment, Program and Policy Development Specialist 818-654-3694 Cynthia Pineda cynthia.pineda1@lausd.net- Three new exciting programs are being featured at LAUSD. They are Common Application, Common Timeline, and Search Tool, and Ms. Pineda will provide handouts at the next meeting. There will also be a Fun Fair in October and Ms. Pineda will bring more information to the September meeting.
 - q. Van Nuys World Airports, Public and Community Relations Director, 818-442-6526 Diana Sanchez dsanchez@lawa.org -Van Nuys Airport has graduated two classes of youth in ACE program sessions where students learned about pilots, aircraft, and mechanics. Youth living in the Lake Balboa area have first priority on this program.
8. Guest Speaker- Jack Humphreville writes LA Watchdog for City Watch (citywatchla.com) President of the DWP Advocacy Committee and Ratepayer Advocate for the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council. ljack@gmail.com to discuss THE STATE OF THE CITY – Mr. Humphreville gave a very in-depth presentation about the City's budget, focusing on three themes: Bankruptcy of Services, Structural Deficit, and Intergenerational Theft. **Mr. Humphreville's report will be attached to the minutes.** Ms. Newman thanked Jack for his report and mentioned to the stakeholders that the hard work of putting together all of the information that Mr. Humphreville shared is the work of the Budget Advocates. Ms. Gravani reminded everyone to read the White Paper when it comes out.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Gisela Traifa, Community Organizer for Food and Water Watch, asked the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council to consider adding setbacks if they submit a Community Impact Statement on Neighborhood Oil Drilling Council File #17-0447.
- b. John Stevens: Stakeholder traffic has become terrible in the Valley. He has concerns about the amount of new construction and would like a moratorium on multifamily development.

Ms. Gravani called for a 2 minute break from 7:54PM-7:56PM

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS and REPORTS: Committee Chairs and Board Members

- a. **President -Update:** No report
- b. **Ad Hoc Education – Gutierrez:** Our goal was aligning community resources to help public schools. We targeted 5 schools with varying results. Our focus has been robotics. We also targeted chess. We obtained the chess tables. Three schools now have chess. Go is another program. We hope to get more programs in more schools.
- c. **Emergency Preparedness – Pruett:** The emergency preparedness report was given by Ms. Joseph in the absence of Ms. Pruett. Emergency Preparedness meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at the Van Nuys Flyaway starting at 9:00AM. The speaker at the Aug. 11 meeting will be Erin Huey. The 11th Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair will be on Saturday, September 29, 2018 (9:00am to 1:30pm) at the Northridge Fashion Center-Pacific Theaters parking lot. 7,000 people attended the event last year. Free emergency preparedness kits will be given away with registration at www.valleydisasterfair.com or www.socalprep.us.
- d. **Health & Public Safety- Brown:** More than 800 people have been trained in CPR. AB 1719 is kicking in, and all high school students will have to learn CPR. We held the first CPR bilingual training class for 35 people with the Panorama City NC. National Night Out will be on August 7, 2018. Come out and meet the Senior Lead Officers. There will be a bouncy house and the movie Coco will be shown. The area is getting two new police Captains. There will be a CPAB meeting on August 8, 2018 where Councilperson Bob Blumenfield will be the guest speaker. The third Saturday of the month there will be a fireworks forum with Councilmember Nury Martinez. Mr. Brown has asked the City Council to put teeth in the fireworks law and to add additional fines. The LAPD issued tickets this past 4th of July.
- e. **Land Use – Riley:** A Community Planning, Design and Construction Report was issued in July 2018 for Lake Balboa, providing metrics comparing the year 2015 with 1960 for Lake Balboa, the City of Los Angeles, and Metro Los Angeles. This study was done for every Neighborhood Council. More people are living in Lake Balboa, but only 1200 people both live and work here – most people commute out. Income for our area has gone down substantially since 1960.
- f. **Newsletter – Fujitaki:** The newsletter is not out yet, but if you have anything to add contact: <mailto:Kristen@lakebalboa.org> . Please submit articles for the newsletter.
- g. **Outreach – Nelson:** Mr. Nelson had sent an email to the Board asking for volunteers for the LBNC Table at Movie in the Park on Friday, August 3, 2018. Also, we need each committee chair to do a video for the Neighborhood Council website.
- h. **Ad Hoc Recreation & Park –Stein:** The Valley Relics Museum is presenting annual Summer Drive In Moving Nights Aug. 3, 4, 10, and 11, 2018 next to the Recreation and Parks facility at 6335 Woodley Avenue. Tickets are available online and at the gate. Our committee has not met recently. Mr. Stein spoke at the Rec and Park Commissioners Meeting about Measure A.

- i. **Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee (LVNOC)-Prop K-Doxsee/Stein/Gravani:** No report
 - j. **Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee (SBWASC) -Doxsee/Kurland:** The Committee met on July 24, 2018.
 - If you find distressed wildlife, if you can safely capture the animal, contact the California Wildlife Center, 310-458-9453, cawildlife.org. If you cannot safely capture the animal, contact the City of LA Department of Animal Services, West Valley Center, 818-756-9325 or 888-4LAPET1 (888-452-7381).
 - Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)'s Ranger James Lathan, 310-456-7049, said that kayak season in the LA River is from Memorial Day to Sept. 30. Underserved citizens have been taken on 17 kayak tours. The 2.5 miles of this recreation zone are open for individuals to launch boats on the east side of the river on Burbank Boulevard and paddle up to the Balboa Boulevard bridge and back.
 - Sarah Rascon of the MCRA invited all to the Open Space and Homelessness Forum on August 2, 2018, 10 am to 3 pm in the Chinatown area. Lunch is included. Sarah.rascon@mcra.ca.gov, 323-221-9944 x 109.
 - The anti-coagulant rat poison bait stations have been removed. The Forestry Division of the Department of Rec. & Parks put them there.
 - International Coastal Clean-Up Day is September 15, 2018, from 9 am to noon. There will be a clean-up location in the Wildlife Area and probably also in Lake Balboa Park. Volunteers can register soon at www.healthebay.org.
 - k. **Youth Affairs – McKay:** Daniel Pearl High School's online magazine on the Talk Project is available, written by the students. Ms. McKay developed a youth volunteer plan with the option to volunteer with organizations once a month. She wants to have a youth clean-up event in Lake Balboa. She also wants to have an outreach day on each campus but at least a letter or announcement.
 - l. **Ad Hoc - Election – Schatz:** The election will take place in 2019. We need to vote on the date. There's a plan for the election. A meeting of the committee will be announced to develop strategy to engage the community. There will also be an action item later on in this meeting.
 - m. **Liaisons**
 - a. **Homeless - Kurland/Schatz:** Ms. Kurland attended the City meeting on July 30, 2018. The Mayor has a new program obtaining pilot funding from Bloomberg Philanthropy to build small houses, "granny flats." The City will provide architectural services and permits and will match up a homeless person to live there as a tenant. This is an opportunity for home owners to earn extra income. The website is mayorchallenge.bloomberg.org.
 - b. **Resilient Los Angeles – Pruett:** No report
 - n. **Boardmembers:** no comments
11. **Budget Advocate - Updates** (<http://ncbala.com/>) Newman 5 min (Budget Reps/Advocates, Carol Newman/Dan Burt) Ms. Newman mentioned that the Budget Advocates will be meeting with the Mayor in the next month or two. The meetings with the City departments will start in the fall. Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council has 2 of the 36 Budget Advocates.

Stakeholder question- How much does the city listen to Budget Advocates and Stakeholders?

Answer-City does respond but does not always follow the recommendations. Ms. Newman reiterated the need for a City Manager as we have a fractured Government. Nobody is watching the store when it comes to spending and the City is poor at communication with the public. Your money is at stake.

12. Update on **Valley Relics Museum** coming to Lake Balboa, Tommy Gelinas - Riley 5 min
The Valley Relics Museum is currently moving to its new location at Airport Propeller Park in Van Nuys (Lake Balboa NC district) and it will be open four days a week to the public starting October 1, 2018. Mr. Stein made this happen. The Business District will want to get involved with the Museum once it opens. People will come from all over the Valley to go there. It will have much more parking than its previous location in Chatsworth and the building will be almost 10,000 sq. feet.

Byron Gutierrez left the meeting at 8:37 pm.

13. Update on **Lake Balboa Community Art Projects** funded by development funds, Thank you Ayndrea Wilson - Riley 5 min

Mr. Riley turned the meeting over to Ms. Ayndrea Wilson. All commercial developers must pay a 1% art development fee. It can be used for art projects on the development site or outside the site. It can be donated to Neighborhood Councils to have art created in their community. Our City is the epicenter of art. We can put major art everywhere. Two projects are currently being considered for Lake Balboa: the street median on Woodley Ave. and the outside of the tunnel on Sherman Way. The Outreach Committee will be in charge of the planning of these projects. Additional art projects in the area being considered include a wind sculpture on top of the new Valley Relics Building. In addition, a mural is in the planning stages for the Sherman Way Tunnel if additional funding is received. Councilmember Nury Martinez wants to use local artists for these projects and the committee has been meeting with local artists.

14. Discussion and possible action regarding **2019 Neighborhood Council Election Information Worksheet** - Schatz – 5 min.

- a. The Election Date will be May 19, 2019
- b. The Polling location will be open from 10:00am to 4:00pm
- c. The Location will be Gault Street School

A. Motion to approve the above recommendations 14 a, b, and c on the election worksheet.

LBNC ITEM 14A Motion to approve recommendations for date, time, and location. Moved: Newman Second: Joseph				
Yes – 12	No – 00	Abstain – 00	Not Eligible –00	Recused –00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

James Hart joined the meeting at 8:50 PM.

B.Motion that LBNC have poll location voting only.

LBNC ITEM 14B Motion that LBNC have poll location voting only. Moved: Schatz Second: Brown				
Yes – 12	No – 01	Abstain– 00	Not Eligible –00	Recused –00
Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	Doxsee	NONE	NONE	NONE

Online voting and mail-in ballots were discussed, but due to the cost of \$5,000 to the LBNC, they were not considered in the motion.

15. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding **Apr MER** – Hart 3 min.

LBNC ITEM 15 Motion to approve the April 2018 MER Moved: Hart Second: Brown				
Yes – 12	No – 00	Abstain – 00	Not Eligible –01	Recused -00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	McKay	NONE

16. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding **May MER** – Hart 3 min.

LBNC ITEM 16 Motion to approve the May 2018 MER. Moved: Hart Second: Doxsee				
Yes – 12	No – 00	Abstain – 00	Not Eligible –01	Recused -- 00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	McKay	NONE

17. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding **Jun MER** - Hart 3 min.

LBNC ITEM 17 Motion to approve the June 2018 MER. Moved: Hart Second: Doxsee				
Yes – 12	No – 00	Abstain– 00	Not Eligible –01	Recused --00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	McKay	NONE

18. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding the expenditure of up to \$2600 for a 10x10 pop up with LBNC and website identified – Fujitaki – 3 min.

LBNC ITEM 18 Motion to approve expenditure of up to \$2600 for 10x10 pop up with LBNC and website identified. Moved: Fujitaki Second: Schatz				
Yes –11	No – 01	Abstain – 00	Not Eligible –01	Recused -- 00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	Kurland	NONE	McKay	NONE

There was a discussion to look for other options to keep costs down, but the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council will be getting the pop up at a significant discount.

Items 19-23 Consensus vote - no discussion required.

19. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding the refreshment budget be up to \$100 per meeting (10 x 100=1,000) for the purchase of food from local LB businesses. – Fujitaki

20. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding the expenditure of up to \$300 for new LBNC Polo Shirts – Nelson

21. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding the expenditure of up to \$200 for popcorn for LBNC booth at Councilwoman Nury Martinez’s Movie in the Park at Louise Park on 8/3/18 –

22. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding the expenditure of up to \$250 each for 4 paper shredding events: (250x4=1,000) Stein

23. FUNDING-Discussion and possible action regarding the expenditure of up to \$6250 for outreach give away items - Nelson

Item 23 was pulled from the consensus calendar and voted on separately at the request of Ms. Doxsee.

LBNC ITEM 19-22 Motion to approve consent calendar Items 19-22 Moved: Gravani Second: Brown				
Yes – 12	No – 00	Abstain– 00	Not Eligible –01	Recused -- 00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	McKay	NONE

LBNC ITEM 23 Motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$6250 for outreach giveaway items Moved: Gravani Second: Brown				
Yes – 12	No – 00	Abstain– 00	Not Eligible –01	Recused – 00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	McKay	NONE

24. Discussion and possible action regarding CF18-0467 - Neighborhood Council System Reforms - Gravani -30 min

After discussion, it was decided that this item would be tabled and that a special meeting would be held before August 25, 2018. Although a tentative vote was taken on items 1 and 2, it was decided that the vote would be reconsidered at the special meeting.

25. Discussion and possible action regarding more time allocated for committee reports during LBNC meeting - Brown

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

26. Motion to Adjourn

LBNC ITEM 26 Motion to adjourn. Moved : Gravani Second : Joseph 9:40PM				
Yes – 13	No – 00	Abstain – 00	Not Eligible –00	Recused -- 00
Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Schatz, Stein	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

JACK HUMPHREVILLE'S PRESENTATION

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

August 1, 2018

There are three terms that will help you get a better understanding of the City's budget. They are "Service Bankruptcy," "Structural Deficit," and "Intergenerational Theft."

Service Bankruptcy is when the City can fund its payroll, annual required pension contributions, healthcare plans, debt service, legal settlements, and other fixed costs, but does not have enough money left over to provide adequate services to its citizens.

The Structural Deficit is when expenditures, primarily personnel costs such as salaries, pension contributions, healthcare, and workers' compensation, increase faster than revenues, resulting in future budget deficits.

This results in "Intergenerational Theft," where the City defers paying for today's expenses and dumps them on the next generation or two of Angelenos.

Ever since Garcetti became mayor, General Fund revenues have increased 36%, or \$1.6 billion, because of the booming economy. You would think the City would have a balanced budget.

Baloney.

The so called balanced budget does not consider any raises for the civilian workers whose contract expired on June 30. The estimated increase is \$40 million.

The City also diverted over \$100 million from its Rainy-Day funds.

The City is counting on new revenue of \$75 million from the Street Damage Restoration Fee and from billboards. These initiatives have not been approved by the City Council.

The City is also counting on unidentified savings of \$45 million.

That results in a deficit of \$260 million. This does not include sufficient funds to reconstruct our D and F streets and adequately fund the City's two pension plans.

Mayor Garcetti claims that the City has eliminated the Structural Deficit because the City is projecting a surplus of \$100 million in 2023.

Baloney.

The City's projections do not include any raises for City employees. If you consider raises for the police, firefighters, and civilian workers, the four-year deficit increases to almost \$1 billion, or about \$250 million a year.

The City is also not funding the repair of its failed streets and the rest of its deteriorating infrastructure. That is another \$250 million a year.

Now we are at \$500 million a year.

The City is short changing the City's two pension plans that are underfunded by \$15 billion, not \$9 billion as advertised by the City. That's another \$500 million a year.

Now we are at \$1 billion a year, a present for the next generation or two of Angelenos.

And this does not include \$500 million for the Convention Center, \$2 billion for the improvement of the Civic Center, \$1.2 billion for the LA River, \$500 million for the Reserve Fund, the updating of the City's management information systems and information technology infrastructure, or billions to comply with the Clean Water Act.

Or the possibility that the \$240 million transfer from DWP to the City may be an illegal tax.

There are some simple solutions.

Do not enter into any new labor contracts that will increase the budget deficit.

Outsource a portion of its street and sidewalk repair program as well as other infrastructure related projects and services.

Benchmark the efficiency of the City's services such as street repair and park maintenance.

Prepare three year balanced budgets, a recommendation of the LA 2020 Commission.

Create a seven year financial plan, including a plan to repair and maintain the City's streets and the rest of its infrastructure.

Create a Commission on Retirement Security to review and analyze the City's two underfunded pension plans and to develop concrete recommendations to stabilize the pension plans. These would include allowing employees to participate in defined contribution plans or increasing the retirement age to 65.

Establish an independent Office of Transparency and Accountability to oversee the City's finances, another recommendation of the LA 2020 Commission.

Hire a City Manager or Chief Operating Officer to oversee the City's operations and its 20,000 civilian employees.

It is time for the City to "Live Within Its Financial Means," part of Mayor Eric Garcetti's Back to Basics Plan.