



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Budget, Finance and Innovation Committee
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Members:

It is my honor to serve as your Los Angeles City Attorney. Your willingness to partner with my office to address urgent staffing and operational needs has been both welcome and greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing that partnership through the current budget process. I understand the importance of the work you will do over the next few weeks and the challenges you will be required to address as you consider the Mayor's proposed budget.

As you know, more than 95 percent of our office budget is fixed funding for salaries payable to approximately 1,000 dedicated employees. Notwithstanding the limited flexibility we have in expenses, our budget achieves reasonable savings, while maintaining the core resources needed to continue to serve the City and its residents.

While our request for 33 positions needed by the office and our request for critical technology to replace our outdated civil CityLaw system were denied, I recognize the fiscal constraints this year and do not seek to alter the outcome of this budget process. I do request correction of one item of revenue and a reduction in the recommended salary savings rate. The revenue correction is on page 93 and identified as the City Attorney Consumer Protection Fund (Sch 29) in the amount of \$2,524,021. Those monies are not available as our Consumer Protection lawyers are fully occupied and engaged on the urgent needs of the City so they have not generated additional revenue this year. Their focus this year has included short term rental violations, price gouging, and GLAZA. Therefore, I respectfully request that the funds be recognized as unavailable and removed from the budget revenue sources of funds.

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The budget proposal to keep the salary savings rate at four percent coupled with the vacancies lost last year and the inability to hire for the new positions we critically need poses an unacceptable hardship on the ability of my office to fulfill our charter responsibilities including most notably the obligation to defend the City in litigation, resulting in exponentially higher costs to the City in outside counsel, settlements or judgments. We have not been able to hire a sufficient number of civil litigators, paralegals, legal secretaries and claims investigators over the last year to keep pace with the rising number of lawsuits against the City and the explosion of claims during that time frame. The ability to hire into existing vacancies in litigation is necessary as our attorneys and legal professionals are increasingly overwhelmed. Therefore, we strongly urge the City Council to reduce our salary savings rate from four percent to our historical three percent level.

My office greatly values your ongoing support. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact me or Kristina Gerber, Budget and Finance, at kristina.gerber@lacity.org.

Sincerely,



HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO
Los Angeles City Attorney

cc: Mayor Karen Bass
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer