


Date: September 5, 2023

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Kevin Riper, Director of Financial Management 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Response to Questions from the Budget Oversight Committee on August 29, 2023**

During the Budget Oversight Committee meeting held on August 29, 2023, City of Long Beach (City) staff provided responses to questions from the City Council Budget Hearing on August 22, 2023; a presentation on Mayor Rex Richardson's Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 24) Budget recommendations; and the Budget Oversight Committee forwarded their FY 24 Budget recommendations for City Council consideration. This memorandum provides responses to questions raised by members during that time that were not fully addressed on the floor or need further clarification.

**1. Please provide the difference between Housing Authority and Stay Housed LA.**

The Long Beach Housing Authority is authorized and funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to administer housing vouchers (colloquially known as "Section 8"). The assistance provided by the Long Beach Housing Authority is for outreach and legal assistance for disputes between tenants and landlords who participate in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance program. The Housing Authority assures that landlords and tenants participating in the HCV program follow federal and local rules, resolves disputes, and assists tenants holding a voucher with finding and leasing-up an appropriate unit. The assistance provided to the Stay Housed LA program is managed through an agreement with Los Angeles County. Through this agreement, Long Beach is one of several providers who fund the county-wide effort to assist residents of Los Angeles County with eviction assistance in the form of outreach, workshops, tenant navigation, and legal assistance, regardless of whether they are enrolled in the HCV program. This provides a centralized resource that leverages funding from multiple strategic partners and uses the work of several community partners, like Basta and the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. The number of HCVs is severely limited by federal funding and most Long Beach tenants do not hold a HCV.

**2. Is there a potential to expand the relationship with the Conservation Corps outside of their regular scope of work on an emergency basis to support Public Works with their critical vacancies in Maintenance Assistants?**

The City has a contract with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) in an amount not to exceed \$4 million annually for the dual benefit of training and on-the-job

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work experience through conservation and improvement projects. The Public Works Department recruits Conservation Corps staff for such efforts and year to date, has partnered with CCLB on \$2.25 million in projects. The Department intends to continue this partnership and continue to explore options for on-the-job experience.

Though the Department has a strong partnership with Conservation Corps, both the Public Works and the Human Resources Departments do not recommend expanding the scope of CCLB services to address the vacancies in Maintenance Assistant positions. The scope of those job responsibilities belongs to IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), and a proposal to contract out that work would require the City to engage in a meet and confer process, which could result in a lengthy, contentious process potentially impacting the effective labor relations the City has built with its labor partners. Additionally, there are currently Maintenance Assistant eligible lists with 291 candidates that include 21 of the non-career employees in Public Works, and Public Works is currently in the process of interviewing and making appointments to the vacant positions through Fall of 2023. With the new list that was recently certified by Civil Service, the ability to now make temporary non-career Maintenance Assistant positions permanent, the ability to fill the new positions listed in the budget that are not yet filled, and the recently streamlined onboarding process, the Department expects to be able to fill positions and eliminate vacancies. Conservation Corps will continue to be used to supplement work done by City employees where they can be appropriately utilized.

If you have any questions, please contact Budget Manager Grace H. Yoon at (562) 570-6408.

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