




NB-32

Date: January 22, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Council Member Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District 

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Effects of Education Budget Reductions on City Services**

The City of Long Beach has gained national recognition for our efforts towards integrating our educational institutions, from K-12 through post-graduate studies. The foundation of this seamless system is built on a partnership between the city and the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD). The city's collaboration with the LBUSD includes joint-use agreements and shared security responsibilities that have stretched educational dollars and improved public safety.

While the benefits of realizing our goal of creating a world-class educational system are many, the city's investment in this partnership should be identified as education is being directed to absorb a 10% cut in the Governor's proposed budget. This will force many schools to cut staff as early as March, but a final decision on the budget may not be finalized until summer.

The classified staff cuts will certainly be a major problem for the school district and possible teacher layoffs would result in increased class size. Additionally, while impacts on school districts can be catastrophic to education, we must brace the city for the spill over effects to municipal services as a result of the Governor's proposed budget cuts. For example, reductions in the LBUSD's contributions to custodial services and facilities management at shared schools and parks facilities may affect our Department of Parks, Recreation and Marines funding and operations. There may also be a risk to grant programs because of the loss of matching funds.

I am requesting City Council support for directing the City Manager to explore the effects of the school district's budget reductions and how it may affect the City's ability to deliver services jointly provided by the City and LBUSD.

Recommended Action: **Direct the City Manager to prepare a report on the effects of reductions in education funds and how the cuts may impact the city's budget and services.**

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