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City Council Rescinds 15 Layoff Notices *Council Commits to Preserving Jobs; Future Layoffs Uncertain*

Layoff notices sent last week to 15 full-time City employees were rescinded last night following a unanimous vote by the San Fernando City Council.

As part of the vote, Councilmember Maribel de la Torre motioned that the notices would be rescinded with the understanding that “the City Council and staff continue to work towards averting and finding resolutions to the layoffs but the motion is no guarantee that layoffs will not be implemented.”

The Council’s directive to initially eliminate the 15 positions was to help close a projected \$645,000 General Fund deficit from declining property and sales taxes, and the recent State revenue take-aways. The City is also anticipating an additional loss in sales tax revenue from the potential closing of a regional auto dealership. The layoffs could have saved the City \$600,000 this fiscal year and almost \$800,000 in the next. Nearly 60% of the General Fund budget is personnel costs.

“The Council has demonstrated a willingness to listen and explore every alternative to ensure the service needs of its constituents are maintained while honestly and carefully dealing with the costs of its workforce,” said Mayor Steven Veres.

Union labor negotiations and budget meetings are scheduled for the next few weeks in hopes of collaboratively working to find solutions that will maintain a balanced budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Mario Hernandez, the Council’s Budget Standing Committee Chair, expressed that “the decision to move toward layoffs was extremely difficult because not only would they impact service but they would also be devastating to the families of employees impacted. This Council is cleaning up a budget mess caused by reckless spending on lawsuits by the past council and is attempting to deal with significant fund take-aways from the State.”

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