

Press Release

CITY BUDGET CLEARLY DETAILS SALARY AND BENEFIT COSTS

Administrative and Council Salaries Become Hot Topic as Abuses in Neighboring City Make Headlines

Downey, CA, July 27, 2010: Barely a month ago, the Downey City Council approved the fiscal year 2010-2011 budget. Unanimously approved, the budget clearly details salary and benefit costs for all 417 full-time and 380 part-time employees. In addition, the budget lists the anticipated monthly reimbursement received by city council members. As specified in Ordinance No. 858, the current amount received by city council members is \$697.35 with the appointed mayor receiving slightly more at \$821.67. The Ordinance also specifies the adjustment of this amount on August 1 of each year equivalent to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for the prior twelve month period ending on May 30. The council members receive no other benefits including retirement or medical benefits.

The fiscal year 2010-2011 budget allocates \$712 and \$838 respectively in anticipation of a possible CPI adjustment. Based on the CPI, the amount could actually decrease as it did last year when a negative CPI was realized for the region. In addition, the council sitting as the community development commission does receive \$30 per commission meeting, usually two meetings a month with a cap of four meetings per month.

As detailed in the budget, the city manager's annual salary is \$220,480 and the assistant city manager's annual salary is \$200,719. These salaries are based on surveys of comparable full service cities with similar populations to Downey's approximately 113,000 residents. Although there is no exact formula to determine the amount a city should pay for top managers, in general, cities are grouped as over or under 100,000 in population. In addition, experience and continuity are important factors which are often taken into consideration when negotiating salaries of top managers.

When asked about the salaries of administrative staff, Scott Pomrehn, Assistant Deputy City Manager, quickly pointed out, "Every salary of every position is available on-line in the city's annual budget." The budget includes a personnel detail page for each department and when necessary clearly indicates salaries that are divided between two different departments or funding sources. Mr. Pomrehn concluded by reemphasizing, "The open and transparent nature of Downey's budget has always been the highest priority of both the city council and city administration. Having said that, the unfortunate circumstances in our neighboring city have reminded all of us the importance of keeping the public trust at the forefront of everything we do as public servants."

For additional information please call 562-904-7286 or to view the fiscal year 2010-2011 Downey City Budget log on to www.downeyca.org/gov/finance/city_budgets.asp.