



THE CITY OF
WESTMINSTER, CALIFORNIA

Community Update

Financial Priorities and Service Needs

Summer 2016

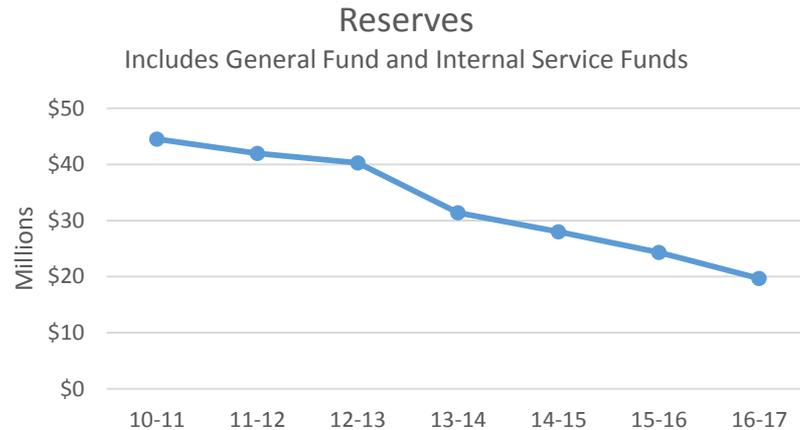
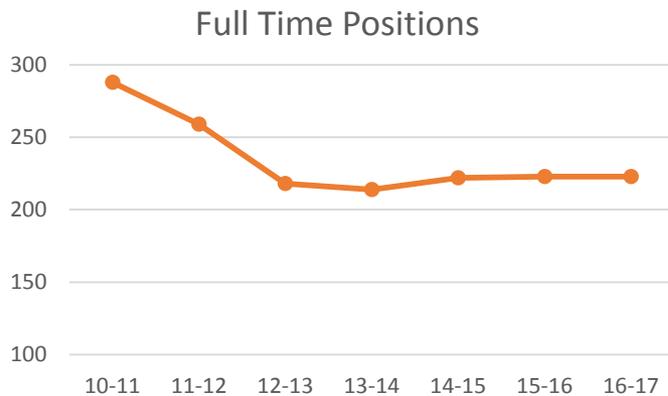
Westminster's Fiscal Challenges

- Over the last several years, the State of California has removed over \$111 million dollars from Westminster. In addition, the City has made reductions of 71 positions and \$4.3 in overall budget reductions, some of which were enacted as recently as this fiscal year.
- Because of the years of takeaways of millions of local tax dollars by the State, even with these significant cuts, the City of Westminster is in a critical financial position.
- Westminster currently has a \$3.7 million dollar budget deficit this year that will double by fiscal year 2017-18, including a \$12 million dollar total structural budget overall.



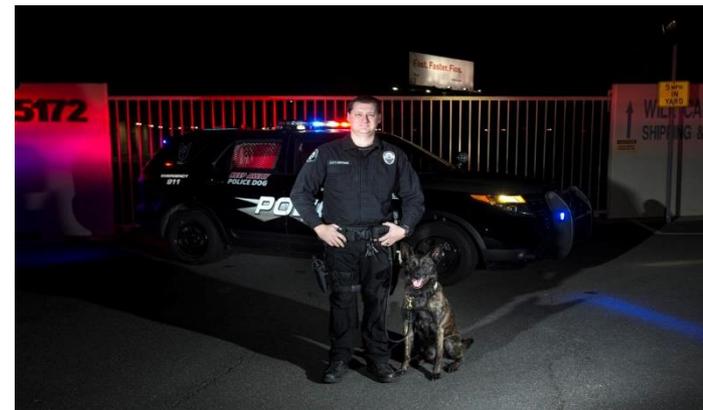
Tightening our Belts Has Not Done Enough

- The City has tightened its belt - eliminated positions, slashed department operating budgets, and utilized its emergency reserve funds.
- City financial reserves are nearly depleted.



Further Public Safety Cuts Would Be Devastating

- In just the last year, there have been more than 37,000 9-1-1 calls in Westminster that have required emergency medical attention.
- There are over 100 active gang members in Westminster.
- It's important to maintain current 911 response times and police protection levels keep our communities safe.
- Even with recent reductions, without additional funding, the City will be forced to consider further drastic cuts to all departments, including those tasked with keeping our communities safe.



Investing in our Local Community

To stimulate economic growth, create more good-paying local jobs and protect our local property values by remaining attractive to businesses, visitors and homebuyers, the City is looking to promote:

- Maintenance of current public safety levels
- Fixing blight
- Graffiti removal
- Improving programs to fill vacant storefronts with new businesses



The City of Westminster has a proud history of helping people fleeing repression and supporting and protecting human rights for all of its residents; including welcoming thousands who fled from the violence in Vietnam to make a new home here.

Continuing to support local cultural institutions in our diverse community remains a priority for the City.



Community Service Priorities

Priorities identified by the community to date include:

- Protecting local drinking water supplies
- Providing fast emergency response times
- Fighting gangs and drugs
- Preventing the elimination of Police Narcotics, Domestic Violence, Sex Crimes, and Human Trafficking units
- Preventing cuts to 911 response, and the number of Paramedics and Firefighters
- Preserving Westminster's local Police Department
- Recruiting and retaining Vietnamese and Spanish speaking Police Officers and improving communications and outreach to diverse communities
- Preventing City bankruptcy
- Repairing streets and potholes
- Promoting programs that attract businesses and create jobs



What's Next?

- The City has enacted \$4.3 million in cuts, including reductions this fiscal year.
- Even with these significant cost saving measures, Westminster still has a \$12 million structural budget deficit.
- The city council has recently placed a 6 year, 1 cent transaction and use sales tax on the November 2016 ballot for consideration by voters. If approved, this measure would provide funds to protect vital services residents have told us are important, without additional budget cuts.
- The city council has directed staff to engage in community outreach regarding Westminster's fiscal situation – as recommended by the Westminster Citizens Financial Task Force.



Joining the Conversation

- Please let us know of any other groups that might be interested in a community presentation.
- For more information, or to request a presentation be scheduled at your next community meeting, please contact the City via email at feedback@Westminster-ca.gov.





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Questions?