ACCESS L.A. City Hall

JOBS • BUSINESS • ECONOMY • NOW

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7, 2015

ACCESS L.A. City Hall is the L.A. Area Chamber’s annual advocacy event aimed at building stronger partnerships between L.A. City Hall and local businesses. Here are eight things the L.A. City Council can do to improve our economy.

1. Make business growth and job creation the No. 1 priority at City Hall

The business community is optimistic that the City Council’s new Jobs Committee and other efforts focused on job creation will result in proactive strategies and policies to attract and assist businesses in investing in L.A. and creating new jobs. We strongly request that the City Council start this process by listening to how key industry leaders answer two questions: 1) How can the City assist businesses in expanding and creating more jobs? 2) How can government avoid being an obstacle to growth?

2. Stay the course on LAX modernization and ensure rail connection

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) impacts, directly and indirectly, 294,000 jobs in L.A. County and generates more than $39 billion in our economy. The City Council took a big step toward modernization with its vote to support the Specific Plan Amendments and the realignment of the north airfield to ensure that LAX can safely and efficiently handle the new generation of airliners. The City Council must continue to support this modernization plan, the building of new gates, invigoration of terminals and a comprehensive transportation system that includes an automated people mover from Metro to LAX.

3. Provide continued commitment to economic growth by expanding the reduction of the Gross Receipts Tax

Starting with the current year’s budget, the City has taken a modest approach to reducing the Gross Receipts Tax by $45 million over the next three years. We urge the Council to send a strong message to the business community by approving another three-year reduction at a minimum of $15 million per year for years four through six. This commitment to job creators and our local economy will be a sign of true partnership, and serve as a strong tool to retain and add new jobs to L.A.

4. Ensure the Port of Los Angeles can compete and recoup market share in the competitive domestic and international goods movement economy

The Port of L.A. is responsible for hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions in tax revenue throughout the region. By aggressively supporting projects designed to increase competitiveness, the City Council can ensure the seaport is ready to meet the challenges of an expanded Panama Canal and greater competition from other ports. We must modernize and green the Port by updating terminals, developing near-dock rail facilities and relieving congestion on our goods movement corridors. The City must stand strong behind its support of the Southern California International Gateway Project and show the same support to the Union Pacific Railroad when their proposal comes forward.

Port of L.A. Container Count from 2000 to 2014

Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
While the City of L.A. is working diligently to reduce its reliance on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through conservation, groundwater cleanup and recycling, local supplies alone will not be sufficient to meet the City's water needs. The City must stand with the Governor and support his comprehensive effort to address the chronic water challenges facing both the State Water Project and Central Valley Project in a manner that also protects the Delta environment.

Support the goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration

The City of L.A. needs to:

• Strengthen the region’s cradle-to-career focus by supporting early learning, Linked Learning and college and career pathway models that not only support job growth but also help low-income Angelenos achieve greater economic prosperity.

• Prioritize investments in HIRE LA’s Youth and subsidized employment opportunities, Cash for College, career pathways, college and career awareness and completion initiatives, sector strategies and school safety and gang reduction efforts.

• Deepen relationships and shared resources with key stakeholders, such as LAUSD, LACCD and LA City WIB, to leverage collaborative approaches that strengthen the region’s labor force.

• Support programs for creative internships in high demand industry sectors, such as L.A. Hi-Tech, to ensure our students have real-world experiences in industries of the present and future.

End chronic and veteran homelessness in L.A. by supporting Home For Good

In late 2010, the L.A. Area Chamber and United Way of Greater Los Angeles released Home For Good, an action plan to end chronic and veteran homelessness in L.A. by 2016. Since its launch, Home for Good has inspired a cooperative alliance between federal and local officials, a landmark shift of County resources and policies, and the establishment of a Funders Collaborative to leverage public and private funds for permanent supportive housing. Home for Good has housed 9,305 chronically homeless so far and 14,094 homeless veterans, but the number of new homeless individuals is growing faster than our solutions. The City Councils’ committee on homeless issues must add a strong new focus to these shared goals.

Commit to an incentive-based strategy to build more affordable and market-based housing in L.A.

We strongly recommend that the City Council and Mayor work with the business community to streamline the development process and develop a new strategy to increase our housing stock. This approach must be incentive-based and practical, so as not to make building in L.A. more difficult and unattractive for investors. As was the case when the Community Redevelopment Agency was in place, L.A. must commit real financial resources to this effort and back up those resources with collaboration and flexibility.

40% less expensive to place someone in permanent supportive housing than to leave that person on the streets

$280 million in savings for public systems could be created by providing permanent supportive housing for all chronically homeless individuals

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List as of 9.30.15