

## ***Facts About The City of Hayward's Fiscal Crisis***

**HAYWARD IS ON THE RIGHT TRACK.** The City of Hayward is making considerable progress to protect Hayward's quality of life. **New Police Department Leadership** is bringing back community policing which will put more police officers on the streets on dedicated beats. **Neighborhood Partnership Program**: The City is implementing programs to connect with residents and problem solve with neighborhoods to improve their quality of life. **Graffiti Abatement** is a top priority for the City. Aggressive laws have been enacted to toughen the consequences for violators. **Improved Service Delivery**: Leaders in several key departments are working to improve service delivery and openness at City Hall. **City Council Priorities**: The Council established two top priorities and has focused on them—Crime/Public Safety and Cleanliness. A new City leadership team is making these a reality.

**DESPITE THE PROGRESS, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IN HAYWARD IS BECOMING THREATENED—AND THE THREAT IS GROWING.** Our city is facing an ongoing General Fund deficit that will not be fixed by ignoring it or holding out for better economic times. This deficit is now becoming a serious threat to the quality of life in Hayward. The General Fund is the City's largest operating fund and provides police, fire, paramedic, street maintenance, and other services. Previous cuts have spared public safety, but now nothing is left to cut except BASIC city services *including public safety*. Taking steps to deal with the deficit is critical to protecting our quality of life.

**WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? HOW DID WE GET HERE?** It comes down to 3 things:

- **State money grabs**: The City has endured money grabs from the State for the past several years.
- **Revenue declines**: The City has endured two consecutive years of General Fund revenue declines. Sales tax revenue has declined due to a deteriorating local economy, and real property transfer tax revenue has declined due to depressed real estate prices. It will likely take several years for revenues to recover to FY2007 levels.
- **Increasing expenses**: The City is also facing significantly increasing general expenses—including rising costs of fuel, electricity, healthcare benefits, and worker compensation costs. This is particularly true for public safety services.

**THE CITY HAS PURSUED ALL AVAILABLE SOLUTIONS.** (See “Steps Already Taken” at [www.hayward-ca.gov](http://www.hayward-ca.gov)) **NOW WE MUST ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY.** The City is considering placing a proposal on the local ballot this summer to protect Hayward from further cuts in essential city services. The most likely proposal would be to authorize a modest **Utility Users Tax**.

**ALL MONEY WILL STAY LOCAL.** All of the money from the proposed city measure would stay local to maintain essential city services **in Hayward**. No funds could be taken away by the State or used for other purposes. If we don't deal with the problem now, it will be more expensive in the future.

**AT STAKE: FURTHER (MUCH DEEPER) CUTS—LIKE PUBLIC SAFETY.** Without this ballot measure, the City will be forced to make drastic cuts to important programs **including** police, fire protection, street maintenance, community cleanliness and more. Specifically, this measure is needed to avoid the need to close fire stations and reduce police officers on the street.

**AT STAKE: PROPERTY VALUES & QUALITY OF LIFE.** By taking this step to help keep the city safe, clean and well maintained, this ballot measure will help protect property values and the quality of life that makes the City of Hayward a quality community.

Please provide your input by emailing [citymanager@hayward-ca.gov](mailto:citymanager@hayward-ca.gov)