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1 Out of 6 Jobs in City of LA Vacant - LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia Releases City of LA Staffing Vacancy Data Tool and Analysis

LA City Controller Kenneth Mejia today released a data tool and analysis of staffing vacancies for the City of LA. The Controller determined that the citywide vacancy rate is 17% as of June 2023. The tool provides an interactive chart that shows vacancy counts by department or bureau, as well as the raw dataset.

Visit the data tool:
deptvacancies.lacontroller.io

City of LA services virtually across the board are suffering from chronic and rampant staffing vacancies.

The Controller's Office compiled data from all City Departments and Offices from the final pay period of Fiscal Year 22-23 budget this June. **Citywide, 17% of positions were vacant, meaning one out of every six jobs was unfilled.**

Major departments that provide vital services to city residents and businesses had **even higher vacancies**. These departments include: **Airports; Building and Safety; Housing; Planning; Public Works; Recreation and Parks; and Water & Power.**

One department, **Economic and Workforce Development had nearly a 60% vacancy tally.**

Crucial support functions like **Finance, General Services and Information Technology are all running above the city average in unfilled jobs.** Even the Personnel Department, the one under the most stress in trying to address this crisis, had a 14.7% vacancy rate.

What can be done? Attracting new talent to public service is a national challenge, but there are things Los Angeles can – and must – do to avoid a steady degradation in the quality of life in our community:

- Undertake the long-term (and overdue) reform of the Civil Service system which will require constructive dialogue with the City's labor partners and an eventual vote of the people to amend the City Charter
- Convene a shorter-term task force of city leaders and unions to seek additional creative ways to work within the existing Charter constraints to treat the challenge for what it is: a growing crisis that affects every Angeleno's safety and well-being
- Build on the success of the Targeted Local Hire and Bridge to Jobs programs to expand the effort to provide a pipeline for local residents to seek and attain rewarding careers in public service
- Invest in the Personnel Department's staffing, training and technology to augment their capacity to not just fill jobs, but attract and retain the talent needed to serve a 21st Century metropolis
- Streamline City bureaucracy, reform outmoded service models and embrace innovation to raise productivity and improve services to the community
- Partner with the community, civic institutions, the private sector, non—profits and others to more closely collaborate on creative approaches to problem-solving while the City works to rebuild our workforce
- Pursue long-term strategic budget and capital planning that goes beyond a year-to-year time horizon and balances the City's changing and growing needs with the public staffing, funding and capital investment available to address those needs.

The issues that frustrate Angelenos can't be wished away. The aspirations for a safer, cleaner, greener and more equitably prosperous city can't be supported by a chronically understaffed City workforce. There is much work to be done. It is vital that we work on ensuring there are enough committed public service workers to do it.