



Office of the City Manager

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Economic Expert to Speak at Mid-Year Budget Update Meeting

Dr. John Husing, leading research economist specializing in the study of Southern CA economy is set to present on the economy of the State, the Inland Empire and San Bernardino at the City's mid-year budget update meeting tonight, March 11 at 4 p.m. in the Economic Development Agency Board Room located at 201 N. E. St, Suite 301, San Bernardino, CA 92401.

Husing's analysis is one component of a comprehensive presentation that will be given to the Mayor and Common Council, along with recommendations from staff on ways to balance the current fiscal year budget as well as the presentation of the City's five-year financial projections and budget strategy.

"Dr. Husing's expertise and unique economic perspective is welcome as the City struggles along with the entire State to keep our budget balanced," said Mayor Patrick Morris. "We look forward to his professional point of view regarding our budget strategies for the future."

In 2007, the City of San Bernardino began feeling the effects of a major economic recession, which impacted the 08/09 budget cycle through steep layoffs, 173 deleted positions, a 10 percent cut in employee compensation and mandatory furloughs of many departments.

As the City continues through the current 09/10 budget cycle, a staff report indicates an additional \$5 Million shortfall on top of the \$5 Million shortfall in reported in Nov 2009, which has been balanced.

"Sharp declines in sales and property tax revenues, coupled with adjusted valuations by the State have put the City's current budget in a grim position," said City Manager Charles McNeely. "As the market continues to decline, so does our budget forecast for the next five years."

McNeely and the City's Finance Director will present compelling historical data, the proposal and recommendation to balance the current budget, as well as a detailed five-year outlook at Thursday's meeting.

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