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

The business community is encouraged by the progress made in the last year by the ad hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Job Creation Plan. The recently released Plan lays out a series of strategies to attract and assist businesses looking to invest in L.A. and create new jobs. We strongly request that the City Council move quickly to implement the recommendations, particularly the ones that streamline processes, increase capacity for business assistance and develop partnerships and financing tools.

Provide continued commitment to economic growth by continuing to reduce of the Gross Receipts Tax

The City has thus far taken a modest approach to reducing the Gross Receipts Tax by $45 million over three years. A year into this plan, we urge the City Council to send a strong message to the business community by planning for the implementation of the next phase at a minimum of $15 million per year for years four through six. With increasing wages, a reduction in business taxes is an investment in our local economy and a partnership between City Hall and the business community that will add new jobs.

Continue LAX modernization and Metro connection progress

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the number one origin and destination airport in the world, serving more than 74.9 million passengers in 2015. LAX is currently undergoing $14 billion in capital improvements, including the $5.5 billion Land Access Modernization Program (LAMP), which will transform the way passengers access the terminals and connect LAX to Metro’s Crenshaw Line. These projects are generating nearly 40,000 local jobs. We thank the City Council for the recent approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Westchester community that works to resolve long-standing safety issues and paves the way for the LAMP projects. City Council must continue support for these projects through the procurement and construction phases to ensure completion in time for possible 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

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

The first half of 2016 saw overall cargo volumes increase nearly 6 percent over the same period last year, but the City must remain committed to efforts to grow our share of the cargo market in the face of increased global competition. We applaud the City’s decision to appeal a recent court decision on the BNSF Southern California International Gateway project. We support near dock rail facilities to relieve congestion on our goods movement corridors and improve air quality. Updated railyards and terminals with green technology are exactly the kind of projects we need to modernize our Port.
5. **Support the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration**

Last year, Californians came very close to reaching the Governor’s mandatory water conservation goal of 25 percent. Under Mayor Garcetti’s leadership, L.A. approved a water conservation ordinance, audit program and rate structure that have propelled us even further ahead of reduction targets. However, conservation alone will not eliminate the City’s need for water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The City must stand with the Governor’s co-equal plans – CA Water Fix and Eco Restore – to address chronic water challenges in a way that secures this vital resource and protects the environment.

6. **Maintain momentum on addressing our homelessness crisis**

Six years ago 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. Cooperation between local and federal officials and a landmark shift in County resources and policies have helped to house 14,543 chronically homeless people and 16,939 homeless veterans, but the number of new homeless is growing faster than our solutions. This year has seen an unprecedented collaboration between the City and County to design complementary plans to address the crisis, culminating with a $1.2 bond on the November ballot to fund the construction of permanent supportive housing. Council members must continue their leadership to pass Measure HHH, and work with the County to fund the necessary wrap-around services.

7. **Ensure a skilled workforce by supporting a cradle-to-career approach**

Through its Education & Workforce Development Division, the Chamber is proud to partner with the City of L.A. on a number of initiatives to improve outcomes for youth, particularly the most vulnerable. To further achieve youth success, the City should:

- Support the implementation of the L.A. College Promise, which seeks to increase the number of community college graduates, university transfer, and workforce-ready students by providing one year of free community college tuition for LAUSD and charter school graduates.
- Continue its commitment to the LA Compact, which brings together L.A. leaders from the education, business, government, labor and nonprofit sectors to improve education outcomes.
- Strengthen education, from cradle to career, by supporting early learning, Linked Learning, work-based learning and internships, and college and career pathways and LA HIGH-TECH.
- Prioritize investments in HIRE LA’s Youth and subsidized youth employment.
- Collaborate on a college-ready L.A. by supporting the L.A. Cash for College financial aid awareness and completion campaign.
- Deepen relationships and shared resources with key stakeholders, including LAUSD, LACCD, the LA City WIB, such as the Performance Partnership Pilot, to leverage collaborative approaches that strengthen the region’s workforce.

8. **Secure our energy future**

While the City is working diligently to mitigate electric reliability concerns because of limited natural gas storage supplies, accelerating existing energy conservation, efficiency and renewable goals alone will not be sufficient to meet the City’s diverse energy needs. Many large industrial businesses and critical facilities such as hospitals, refineries, manufacturers, transit agencies and airports rely on natural gas and other related fuels for their core operations. The City’s short and long-term energy plans should ensure a reliable and affordable baseline supply of energy today and in the future.

60% of electricity generated in Southern CA comes from natural gas. (75% during summer)

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List as of 10.4.16