

The partial shutdown of the federal government, the longest in U.S. history, is now on day 35. In this time, federal employees from several key agencies have been working without pay. Today marks the second pay period that workers are missing a paycheck.

Among these federal agencies are the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Aviation Administration, including the air traffic controllers. These agencies and their highly trained employees provide mission critical functions for Los Angeles World Airports and the travelling public in Los Angeles.


The federal employees serving at Los Angeles airports, all of whom are members of our community, are enduring tremendous hardships as they are being forced to work without pay. Many are unable to pay their bills without their income, and some are facing the prospect of being evicted for failing to pay rent, defaulting on mortgages, missing tuition payments, and even failing to put food on the table for their families. Because of these devastating economic impacts, some federal employees, who should be focusing their full attention on protecting Los Angeles from terrorists and smugglers or preventing airplanes from hitting each other, are being forced to moonlight as food servers or Uber drivers. The Trump Administration's shutdown of the federal government is not only outrageously cruel to hard-working federal employees, it is also directly endangering public safety in Los Angeles.


Fortunately, there may be a way for the City of Los Angeles and LAWA to provide some temporary assistance for the federal employees currently required to work without pay.


This morning, the FAA is expected to produce new guidance that allows for local airport jurisdictions to use their airport funds to provide temporary financial assistance by guaranteeing zero-interest loans through a separate financial institution to federal workers critical to airport operations. Under such a program, the City of Los Angeles would need to effectively insure against any permanent losses to the airport's Special Fund using the General Fund, thereby making LAWA whole in the event that any of the loans were not repaid.


I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council REQUEST a report from Los Angeles World Airports on the potential General Fund exposure resulting from such a loan program or from any other efforts that LAWA may undertake to ensure that federal employees serving the airports of Los Angeles are paid and available to staff critical airport roles.

Presented by:


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District


HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Councilmember, 10th District



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District


GILBERT A. CEDILLO
Councilmember, 1st District

JAN 25 2019

Seconded by:





ORIGINAL