



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable Members of the City Council
c/o City Clerk

From: Karen Bass, Mayor 

Subject: EXEMPTION REQUEST – LOS ANGELES WORLD AIRPORTS (LAWA),
(1) DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER AIRPORTS I (0162)

Date: August 21, 2026

The Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) requested the approval of one (1) position of Deputy General Manager Airports I, Class Code 0162 be exempted in accordance with Charter Section 1001(b), from civil service as management, professional, scientific, or expert services exemptions. Charter Section 1001(b) allows up to 150 positions to be exempted from Civil Service rules to provide management, professional, scientific, or expert services of an exceptional character across City departments (including Proprietary Departments). There are an additional 50 exempt positions added by the City Council pursuant to Charter Section 1001(b)(4), of which 37 have been filled and 13 are available. Approval of this request will increase the count. As of the date of this letter, this request will be the 38th filled position of the additional 50 exemptions.

This *Deputy General Manager Airports of Public Safety and Security* position will oversee the following LAWA divisions: Airport Police, Public Safety & Security, Emergency Management, and Airport Response Control Center (ARCC); and will report to the Chief Operations and Maintenance Officer. Key responsibilities include leading LAWA's law enforcement and security operations, coordinating counterterrorism and security efforts with local, state, and federal agencies, directing emergency preparedness and response across all airports, and serving as the primary executive liaison to external governmental, non-profit, and private partners.

The minimum requirements for this position are as follows: 1) a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; and 2) five (5) years of full-time executive- or senior command-level leadership experience in the aviation security sector or law enforcement and security experience at a local, state, or federal law enforcement or security agency.

The exemption of this position will allow LAWA the flexibility to recruit and select the best-qualified candidate who possesses the necessary specialized experience, talent, and expertise for the position. The duties and requirements as described are appropriate to the class of Deputy General Manager Airports I.

Based on my review of LAWA's request, as well as the review of the Personnel Department, I hereby approve the request for the exemption of one (1) Deputy General Manager Airports I and transmit my action to the City Council, pursuant to City Charter Section 1001(b)(4). If the exempt position is not filled within six months, my approval for the department to fill the position may expire.

cc: Mitch Kamin, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Rachel Freeman, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Justin Yoshimaru, Office of the Mayor
Thomas Arechiga, Office of the Mayor
John Ackerman, CEO LAWA
Robert Lowe, LAWA
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