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GREUEL, GARCETTI AND WEISS SEEK ASSURANCES THAT TRASH FEE REVENUES EXCLUSIVELY FUND PUBLIC SAFETY AGENDA

Los Angeles - A day after Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa proposed citywide trash fee increases in order to hire 1,000 police officers and enhance crime prevention programs, City Council President Eric Garcetti, President Pro Tem Wendy Greuel, and Councilmember Jack Weiss are seeking mechanisms to ensure that, should the council approve the proposed trash fees, the General Fund savings would be earmarked exclusively to promote the city's public safety agenda.

"Far too often funds and savings intended for one purpose are squandered away on programs they were not meant for," said Greuel. "I want to assure every Los Angeles taxpayer that if we move forward with the Mayor's plan to increase trash fees, that their money will be used for the sole purpose of enhancing the safety of our children and families in every neighborhood throughout Los Angeles."

Mayor Villaraigosa said yesterday that a household trash fee increase is necessary to eliminate the city's structural deficit and allow the City to recover some of the costs associated with subsidizing high quality trash service, while at the same time investing in critical services such as police and crime prevention.

"Reducing our trash pickup subsidy will help us make our city safer only if we demonstrate appropriate fiscal prudence," said Garcetti. "Let's have no ambiguity about our purpose: it's an investment in the public safety of Angelenos."

"Public safety must be the city's top budget priority," said Weiss. "If we reduce the subsidy for trash pickup, we must guarantee that the fee pays for LAPD cops to pick up criminals instead."

With only 25 police officers for every 10,000 residents, the Los Angeles Police Department remains significantly understaffed compared to other large cities across the country.

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