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## **COUNCILWOMAN WENDY GREUEL CALLS FOR CREATION OF CITYWIDE DELINQUENT BUSINESS TAXPAYER LIST**

*List would help encourage tax cheats to pay overdue taxes*

(Los Angeles) - Continuing her efforts to balance the City's budget, Councilwoman Wendy Greuel proposed today, to crack down on tax cheats by creating and publicly distributing a list of the most egregious delinquent business taxpayers in the City of Los Angeles.

"We are facing a multi-million dollar budget deficit and before we have to cut any additional city services, I want to ensure we crack down on the most egregious tax cheats," said Councilwoman Greuel, who serves as Vice-Chair of the City's Budget Committee. "Cheating on your business taxes may seem appealing in the short-term, but costing the city such sorely needed revenues puts an unfair burden on the millions of law-abiding Angelenos."

The list also serves to create a fairer business climate, by preventing scofflaw businesses from gaining an advantage over their competitors.

"The delinquent taxpayers list has been an effective program in getting delinquent taxpayers to pay their fare share," said Brendan Huffman, President and CEO of VICA. "At the same time it levels the playing field for those that pay their taxes on time."

Other jurisdictions have successfully implemented delinquent taxpayer lists and have collected millions of dollars in overdue taxes. Connecticut was the first state to create a public list, and has collected \$108 million in the first four years of the program.

California is the biggest state to create a delinquent taxpayer list. Since the state's list was published in December 2007, California has collected \$4.2 million in delinquent taxes. The State first sends a letter to its top 400 offenders, explaining that if they do not pay their taxes within 30 days their names will appear on a public list. Most of the \$4.2 million in payments has been collected due to the pre-notification letters. At least 10 other states have created similar lists.

The City of Los Angeles is currently facing a budget deficit between \$300-400 million.

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