

## Culver City Comments on the Situation in the City of Bell

In response to recent news accounts of excessively high salaries paid to certain public officials in the Southern California city of Bell, the Governor has asked all California cities and counties to post their salary information on their websites.

In the city of Bell, there appears to have been a lack of transparency with regard to decisions made about the salaries for elected officials and employees. In stark contrast to the city of Bell, the City of Culver City embraces, complies with, and exceeds the minimum requirements of the state's open meetings law (known as the Brown Act). City employee salaries are set after engaging in good faith negotiations with the City's employee bargaining groups. The final step in setting salaries is the adoption of a resolution by the City Council which is considered by the City Council in an open and public meeting. When these issues are considered by the City Council, often members of the public will offer their comments prior to the City Council taking action on the item. The City Council agenda and related documents are posted to the City's website for additional access to these documents by the public.

The salary of the City Council members is set by state law. In addition to the \$485.11 per month currently received as City Council members, they are also provided \$30.00 per meeting of the Redevelopment Agency (which generally meets three times per month, and the stipend is paid for a maximum of four meetings per month). By virtue of their membership on certain outside boards and committees, some City Council members may be eligible for a stipend paid by those outside boards and committees (current stipends differ from board to board and do not exceed \$200.00 per meeting of that board/committee).

Salaries of the City Council may be increased based upon the increase of the consumer price index. However, such an increase can only take effect if the City Council adopts a resolution at an open and public meeting authorizing such an increase. Further, such an increase can only take effect after the next regular election during which Council Members are elected to office. The City Council members have not received an increase in salary in several years.

While all of the items related to City employee salaries and benefits can be found somewhere on the City's website, in the continued spirit of remaining transparent and accessible to our residents, the City has consolidated salary and benefit information on one page. Culver City's employee salary schedule, memoranda of understanding with our various employee groups, and other information on City employees' salaries and benefits may be found by [clicking here](#).