



employee relations **BULLETIN**

July 8, 2009

To: All Department Heads (excluding Proprietary Departments)

Subject: VOLUNTARY FURLOUGH PROGRAM FOR CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

This Bulletin extends the Voluntary Furlough Program for Civilian Employees into Fiscal Year 2009-10.

Note: This program is separate from any Council-mandated furloughs which may be required for civilian employees in Council-controlled departments during FY 2009-10. Voluntary furlough days will not be credited against any Council-mandated furloughs.

The following guidelines and instructions are in effect for the Voluntary Furlough Program:

- The program is available to **full-time (72 hours or more per pay period) civilian employees** in all City departments (excluding the Department of Water & Power, the Airport and Harbor Departments, the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System, and the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pension System).
- Eligible employees may request **up to twenty (20) voluntary furlough days** between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010. However, no more than 40 hours of "WF" time may be taken in any one payroll period.
- In order to ensure that employees receive sufficient compensation to cover their retirement contribution, it is imperative that they have at least 40 hours of compensated time in the pay period in which any unpaid time is taken. (Compensated time includes BL, FH, FI, HO, LP, PM, SK, TO and VC).
- Employees should be instructed to request voluntary furlough days as they would request vacation or other compensated time off. Supervisors and managers are strongly encouraged to approve these requests unless operational needs preclude them from doing so. In addition, voluntary furlough days should not be

granted if it will result in the need for another employee to work overtime to perform the duties that would otherwise be completed by the employee taking the voluntary furlough day.

- In order to avoid unintended overtime liability, it is absolutely imperative that employees not perform work while on a voluntary furlough day. They should also not work additional hours during the workweek to make up for the lost productive time since this defeats the cost savings gained from the voluntary furlough hours.
- Payroll code “WF” shall be used for the coding of voluntary furlough hours. All days/hours taken under this program must be recorded using this code.
- While employees on probation are eligible to participate in the voluntary furlough program, they should be informed that their probationary period may be extended in accordance with Civil Service Rule 5.26.
- To ensure that unforeseen circumstances do not result in a pay period with less than 40 hours of paid time, employees who have little or no compensated time available should not be scheduled for voluntary furlough days until they have actually worked 40 hours in a pay period.

Adherence to the above guidelines will ensure that the utilization of voluntary furlough days will have no adverse impact on employees’ medical or retirement benefits, salary step advancement, or sick leave and vacation accruals.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to the Employee Relations Division at (213) 978-7676.

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c: Recognized Employee Organizations