



Meeting Date: 12 / 06 / 11

| ACTION | TYPE OF ITEM |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation | <input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s). _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Council Business |

Prepared By: Martin R. Erickson *MRE* Agenda Item No. N-1

Reviewed By: City Manager *[Signature]* City Attorney *[Signature]* Finance *[Signature]* Other *J. Carroza*

DATE: November 23, 2011

TO: City Council

FROM: Martin R. Erickson
Special Assistant to the City Manager
City Manager's Office *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Proposed Cuts to Oxnard College Programs

RECOMMENDATION

Consider sending the attached letter to the Chancellor of the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD).

DISCUSSION

Like all public agencies across the State, VCCCD is facing serious financial challenges due to the negative economic climate. VCCCD has three campuses in Ventura County: Ventura College, Moorpark College, and Oxnard College. Over the past months, many Oxnard College students, teachers, and concerned residents have come before the City Council to express concern over proposed cuts to programs at Oxnard College. The attached letter for City Council's consideration seeks to accomplish two objectives: first, recognizing the difficult budget issues facing VCCCD; and second, emphasizing the importance of programs offered by Oxnard College to residents of Oxnard, Ventura County's largest City.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with this item.

Attachment #1 - Draft letter from the City Council to the Chancellor of the Ventura County Community College District

December 6, 2011

Dr. James Mezneck
Chancellor
Ventura County Community College District
255 West Stanley Avenue, Suite 150
Ventura, CA 93001

Dear Chancellor Mezneck:

The City Council of the City of Oxnard is concerned about the potential cuts to programs at Oxnard College. We understand that the Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD), along with all public agencies, faces budget challenges due to the ongoing dire economic environment.

At nearly 200,000 residents, the City of Oxnard is Ventura County's largest City, representing nearly a quarter of Ventura County's population. The VCCCD's proposed "proportional" cuts will deeply impact Oxnard College, forcing many students to commute to other campuses, or drop out of school altogether. The City of Oxnard's diverse and economically challenged population is reflected in Oxnard College's student body -- and the educational opportunities afforded through Oxnard College provide critical career and life enhancing opportunities. Moreover, the City of Oxnard has the highest unemployment rate in the County. The proposed cuts to vocational programs (such as auto repair) will further exacerbate an already tenuous local jobs environment.

While we know that the VCCCD is grappling with challenging budget issues, we ask that you carefully examine the proposed cuts to Oxnard College, to ensure that the cuts are equitable and Oxnard does not bear a disproportionate burden.

Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration. If you have any further questions, please call Martin R. Erickson, Special Assistant to the City Manager at 805/385-7870.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas E. Holden
Mayor

Dr. Irene G. Pinkard
Mayor Pro Tem

Bryan A. MacDonald
Councilman

Tim Flynn
Councilman

Carmen Ramírez
Councilmember

Cc: Dr. Richard Durán, President Oxnard College