Acevedo, Gloria

From: Yadi
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Acevedo, Gloria; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment - Pasadena Finance Committee Meeting 05/18/26
Attachments: Public Comment - Pasadena Finance Committee 05-18-26 City Manager Operating Budget .pdf

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Hi,

Please find attached my public comment for the May 18, 2026 Pasadena Finance Committee Meeting, agenda item 3.B. City Manager Operating Budget.

Thanks,

Yadi
(Attachments: 1)

3.B. City Manager Operating Budget

The public was told back in 2024, that the reason for consolidating the risk management function under the City Manager office was to reduce the spiraling liability costs.

I protested this unprecedented measure (see my original comment attached), stating that there was a lack of adequate rationale, it significantly increased the size and scope of the City Manager function which is out of line with cities of similar size (and larger) than Pasadena.

Yet here we are with a significant increase of almost 50% for the risk management division. Please, explain to the public what is going on, including but not limited to how much of this has to do with the Eaton Fire.

The public should have more transparency. We need more granular information on the excess GL. What departments and what line items are driving that?

For example, the city of Los Angeles has a transparency dashboard (https://liabilityclaims.lacontroller.app) that have information about the liability claim payouts. Are these coming out of their department budgets or the general fund? How is the city improving risk management audits to look for ways to understand whats driving these costs and what can be done to reduce them? Are these costs taking away funds from other city services? There are discussions in LA for an officer liability insurance for example. This would be more productive than looking for ways to further nickel and dime residents through problematic “public safety” programs like speed and red light cameras.

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Yadi
Pasadena Finance Committee Meeting
May 18, 2026
3.B. City Manager Operating Budget

1. Draft Ordinance amending Pasadena Municipal Code (Chapters 2.40, 2.265, and 2.275) relating to Risk Management Functions under City Attorney Office

I oppose an ordinance to amend the Pasadena Municipal Code to move risk management functions under the City Manager's Office.

1. There is a lack of rationale for siphoning risk management functions away from other City departments.

The City Manager Office needs to provide the public and City Council with justification for absorbing functions that are already part of other departments. Bringing in risk management directly under the City Manager Office is not in line with most other cities in the state. More clarification as to the mission and goals is needed, why other departments cannot effectively undertake risk management responsibilities, and if - for instance - this office would handle most of the General Liability (507) Fund moving forward.

2. The City Manager is currently undertaking risk management responsibilities without proper authority to do so under the Pasadena Municipal Code.

Although risk management activities fall under other departments such as the department of Finance, the City Manager states:

"*These four sections [Safety Division, ADA Compliance, Workers' Compensation, Fire & Police Retirement System (FPRS)] are now functionally reporting to the Risk Management Division; however, the budget will remain in their respective departments for FY 2024 and will be moved to the City Manager's Office beginning FY 2025.*"[1]; "*As the newly appointed deputy city manager, Souto will be responsible for overseeing the City's enterprise risk management program...*"[2]

It's putting the cart before the horse, moreover, what's the point of having municipal code and process if it's going to be blatantly dismissed?

3. Most other cities in California house risk management functions within departments such as Finance, Human Resources/Personnel, or City Attorney Office.

City	2022 Population (*Thousands*)	Risk Management Function
Fresno*[3]	545.5	Human Resources/Personnel
Sacramento*[4]	528	Human Resources
Long Beach*[5]	451.3	Human Resources
Oakland*[6]	430.5	Human Resources

[1] https://www.cityofpasadena.net/finance/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2024-Adopted-Operating-Budget.pdf?v=1715586963799
[2] https://www.cityofpasadena.net/city-manager/news/city-of-pasadena-announces-two-new-department-directors-and-deputy-city-manager/
[3] https://www.fresno.gov/personnel/risk-management/
[4] https://www.cityofsacramento.org/City-Hall/Departments
[5] https://www.longbeach.gov/hr/about-us/risk-management/
[6] https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/risk-management

Bakersfield*[7]	410.6	Risk Management
Anaheim*[8]	344.4	Human Resources
Stockton*[9]	321.8	Human Resources
Santa Ana*[10]	308.1	Human Resources
Chula Vista*[11]	279.1	Human Resources
Glendale*[12]	189.2	Human Resources
Lancaster*[13]	169.1	Administrative Services
Salinas*[14]	161	City Attorney
Corona[15]	159.5	Legal
Visalia*[16]	143.9	General Services
Torrance*[17]	141.1	Finance
Pasadena*	**134.2**	City Manager
Burbank*[18]	103.9	Management Services

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3. The City Manager Office leadership is bloated and out of line with other cities of similar size or larger than Pasadena.

Historically in Pasadena, the City Manager had 2 Assistant City Managers.[19] Now, Pasadena has 3 Assistant City Managers and is adding an additional (1) Deputy City Manager, doubling the City Manager Office leadership. Other **cities** with a City Manager Office of 4 or more are more than double the population of Pasadena. The office is too large - Pasadena is a city, not a county.

City	2022 Population (*Thousands*)	Assistant City Manager	Deputy City Manager	Total
Fresno*[20]	**545.5**	**4**	**2**	**6**

[7] https://www.bakersfieldcity.us/373/Risk-Management
[8] https://www.anaheim.net/414/Risk-Management
[9] https://www.stocktonca.gov/government/employment/index.php
[10] https://www.santa-ana.org/rmd/
[11] https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/human-resources/about-us
[12] https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/human-resources/about-human-resources
[13] https://www.cityoflancasterca.org/our-city/departments-services/administrative-services
[14] https://www.cityofsalinas.org/Your-Government/Find-a-Department/City-Attorney/Risk-Management
[15] https://www.coronaca.gov/government/departments-divisions/legal-risk-management/risk-management-division
[16] https://www.visalia.city/depts/transportation_services/risk_management/default.asp
[17] https://www.torranceca.gov/government/finance
[18] https://www.burbankca.gov/web/management-services
[19] https://www.cityofpasadena.net/finance/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2022-Section-10-City-Manager.pdf
[20] https://www.fresno.gov/citymanager/key-staff/

1. Draft Ordinance amending Pasadena Municipal Code (Chapters 2.40, 2.265, and 2.275) relating to Risk Management Functions under City Attorney Office

City	2022 Population (*Thousands*)	Assistant City Manager	Deputy City Manager	Total
Sacramento*[21]	**528**	**4**	**0**	**4**
Long Beach*[22]	**451.3**	**1**	**4**	**5**
Oakland*[23]	**430.5**	**2**	**2**	**4**
Bakersfield*[24]	410.6	2	0	2
Anaheim*[25]	344.4	1	1	2
Stockton*[26]	321.8	0	3	3
Santa Ana*[27]	308.1	0	0	0
Chula Vista*[28]	279.1	1	1	2
Glendale*[29]	189.2	1	0	1
Lancaster*[30]	169.1	1	0	1
Palmdale*[31]	163.4	1	2	3
Salinas*[32]	161	0	0	0
Pomona*[33]	146	1	0	1
Visalia*[34]	143.9	1	0	1
Torrance*[35]	141.1	1	2	3
Pasadena*[36]	**134.2**	**3**	**1**	**4**
Burbank*[37]	103.9	1	0	1

**Charter City*

Yadi
Pasadena City Council Meeting
May 13, 2024
1. Draft Ordinance amending Pasadena Municipal Code (Chapters 2.40, 2.265, and 2.275) relating to Risk Management Functions under City Attorney Office

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[21] https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/city-manager/Assistant-City-Managers
[22] https://www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/
[23] https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn%3Aaaid%3Ascds%3AUS%3Ae3bbb0d0-4579-39b5-ad6d-12eef7db7945
[24] https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/b337b6a3-c6e1-46bd-a915-e64f4a7f3397
[25] https://www.anaheim.net/149/City-Administration
[26] https://www.stocktonca.gov/government/city_manager/staff_directory.php
[27] https://www.santa-ana.org/departments/city-managers-office/
[28] https://www.chulavistaca.gov/departments/city-manager
[29] https://www.glendaleca.gov/government/departments/management-services/glendale-city-managers
[30] https://www.cityoflancasterca.org/our-city/departments-services/administrative-services/city-manager
[31] https://www.cityofpalmdaleca.gov/185/City-Manager
[32] https://www.cityofsalinas.org/Your-Government/About-City-Government/City-Manager
[33] https://www.pomonaca.gov/government/city-manager
[34] https://www.visalia.city/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=54818
[35] https://www.torranceca.gov/government/city-manager/city-manager-staff
[36] https://www.cityofpasadena.net/city-manager/
[37] https://www.burbankca.gov/documents/d/management-services/pages-from-org-charts-master-visio-document-fy-2023-24-3-1-24-general-city-pdf