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UPDATED PRESS RELEASE

Sumner Furlough Days to Start July 6

Sumner, WA—On June 10, the City of Sumner and its employee labor unions agreed to take four furlough days without pay throughout the remainder of 2009 to help save money in response to lower revenue coming in 2009. The first day will be Monday, July 6. City Hall will be closed as will the Sumner Senior Center, City Shops, and the Sumner City Cemetery. The estimated budget savings will be \$20,000 per day closed.

Sumner's leadership submitted the idea on April 2, 2009, to the City's four unions. Three of the unions—IBEW, Operating Engineers and Teamsters—agreed. Members of the Police Guild who are in records are participating in the furlough days while communications, animal control and commissioned officers are participating on an individual basis. The furloughs also affect all non-represented city employees in every department, and a majority of City Councilmembers also agreed to participate.

“We've already had to lay off one person earlier this year and we are holding a number of positions vacant,” said Mayor Dave Enslow. “It's tough asking our employees and their families to take this cut, and it's hard asking our citizens to go four days without us here to serve them. However, the alternatives are much worse. I am so proud of our employees for making these sacrifices.”

The additional three furlough days will be September 4, October 12 and December 31. The Council furlough will mean no City Council meetings on July 6 and October 12.

On the furlough days, police protection will continue as normal. Citizens needing police can ring the bell at City Hall, similar to evening hours or weekends, and as always, citizens should call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Sales tax, which accounts for about half of the City's general fund budget, is 20 percent below budget. In an effort to avoid further layoffs, the furlough days are one cost-cutting measure the city has taken. Others include several employees who took part or all of their Cost of Living Adjustment in vacation time instead of salary; several members of the leadership staff who also took a voluntary pay cut of 2% for 2009; and various efficiencies or cuts such as the hiatus of the hanging basket program for this year.

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Additional details are available online.

2009-2010 budget: http://www.ci.sumner.wa.us/Government/Current_Budget.htm
2009 First Quarter Financial Report: <http://www.ci.sumner.wa.us/Government/Finance.htm>.