



CITY OF COSTA MESA

P.O. BOX 1200, COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT

Bill Lobdell, (949) 887-2541

wlobdell@ci.costa-mesa.ca.us

www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us

www.facebook.com/CostaMesaCityHall

Twitter @CityofCostaMesa

Costa Mesa Fact Check: Repair Costa Mesa ad #2

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COSTA MESA, CALIF.—In its continued effort to increase openness and clarity on city budget matters, the City of Costa Mesa has initiated Fact Check to correct factual errors that have been published in various media.

In the latest 33-second [Repair Costa Mesa video ad](#), two false assertions are made. To insure the public receives accurate information on the budget debate, the city asks Repair Costa Mesa to promptly correct the mistakes.

Repair Costa Mesa Statement: Costa Mesa City Council has laid off half its workers, including firefighters and paramedics.

Fact Check: No workers have been laid off, including firefighters and paramedics. Two hundred thirteen employees (about 42% of the workforce, not half) were given six-month

notices that their jobs would be outsourced, a half-year warning dictated by employee association contracts. The council currently is studying the viability of outsourcing those city services, and decisions aren't expected until summer.

The city's 90-plus firefighters, who asked the city to consider outsourcing the Costa Mesa Fire Department to the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), have already been promised a job with the OCFA if the deal goes through. If other jobs are outsourced, the city will have provisions in the contracts with the companies it uses for interview and hiring preferences for city employees.

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Repair Costa Mesa Statement: The city manager earns a \$10,000 per year car allowance.

Fact Check: City Chief Executive Officer Tom Hatch receives a \$477 per month (\$5,724 per year) car allowance. This is the same rate as other Costa Mesa department heads.