

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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## **Judge issues order stopping Costa Mesa layoffs**

**SANTA ANA, CA** – A Superior Court judge has issued an order prohibiting the City of Costa Mesa from laying off City employees pursuant to outsourcing their jobs to the private sector.

Orange County Superior Court Judge Tam Nomoto Schumann issued the preliminary injunction late Friday following a verbal ruling July 5. After the Court's July 5 ruling, the City issued a press release erroneously claiming that Judge Schumann's ruling would expressly allow layoffs so long as the City followed "proper procedures."

Judge Schumann rejected a request by the city to allow it to lay off City employees if it followed "proper procedures." Instead, the order very clearly prohibits the city from contracting out services currently performed by City employees to any non-local public entity under the Government Code, and further prohibits the City from laying off City employees pursuant to any such contracting out.

"We respect the judge's ruling, and we hope the City Council and CEO Tom Hatch will do the same," OCEA spokeswoman Jennifer Muir said. "The ruling has been clear from the beginning, and we're hopeful that now that it has been issued, the written order will clear up any confusion caused by the City's press release."

Nearly half the City's workforce received six-month layoff notices on March 17 after the Costa Mesa City Council majority voted to outsource their jobs. At the time, the City Council had not studied the cost of outsourcing or the negative impacts to community services, and they still have failed to do so.

The Orange County Employees Association, on behalf of the Costa Mesa City Employees Association, filed a lawsuit in May to stop the layoffs.

Attached, please find the order for a preliminary injunction, the judge's minute order, the City's July 5 press release, and a copy of the City's proposed injunction language, which was rejected by the Court.