



ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

June 22, 2006

Mr. Neil Reichenberg
Executive Director
International Public Management
Association for Human Resources
1617 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mr. Reichenberg:

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, I write to thank you and the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR) for your efforts to secure a Department of Labor (DOL) opinion letter clarifying the application of the 7(k) partial overtime exemption to dual function firefighter/paramedics. This issue has critical implications for the City's ability to deploy fire personnel resources to provide fire and medical emergency services to the public.

The Los Angeles Fire Department's 3,562 uniformed personnel provide fire prevention, firefighting, and emergency medical care to approximately 4 million people who live in America's second largest city. Last year alone, Fire Department personnel responded 713,762 times to come to the aid of people in need. The ability to apply the 7(k) exemption to dual-function firefighters allows the City to effectively allocate emergency response resources.

IPMA-HR's significant role in getting the DOL to respond to this pressing issue is consistent with your organization's many accomplishments and professional reputation in the human resource management field. The IPMA-HR letter to the DOL clearly articulated how losing the flexibility to utilize the 7(k) exemption for dual-function firefighters would adversely affect government and the public at many levels, as well as having a lasting economic and operational impact on public employers. I appreciate IPMA-HR taking a leadership role in representing the public interest on such a critical issue.

Thank you again for your support.

Very truly yours,


ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor