



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 publishes one of the most detailed municipal employee compensation reports in the U.S.

COSTA MESA, CALIF.—In keeping with its pledge of transparency, the City of Costa Mesa today published one of the most extensive municipal employee compensation reports in the United States.

[The 27-page report](#) details the total compensation of 752 full- and part-time City employees—including Costa Mesa’s five council members. The employees’ pay and benefits are broken down into 14 categories, including base pay, overtime pay, specialty pay, certification pay, leave payouts, health benefits, and City pension contributions.

The document also provides definitions for each category of pay and pension contributions, bringing additional transparency to the report.

The City undertook the revisions after receiving input from residents and staff on how to improve the original report, which was published on the city’s website in 2010.

“I’m pleased that Costa Mesa has become a leader in providing detailed, easy-to-understand public information to the community,” said City Chief Executive Officer Tom Hatch. “This employee compensation report can serve as a model for other cities to follow. It’s not the easiest trail to blaze given the sensitivity over individual salaries and benefits, but it was the right thing to do for the public.”