



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact:** Jerry Jimenez  
(831) 229-2879

Khanh T. Weinberg  
(408) 921-0098

## **Palo Alto Workers Self-Impose Furlough Today to Volunteer**

*Saving the city money and encouraging civic participation*

**PALO ALTO, CA** – Helping to close a city budget gap, Palo Alto workers on Thursday are taking a self-imposed furlough day to engage in volunteer work.

Palo Alto is known for its innovation. The self-imposed furlough day is a creative way employees are taking the initiative to help close the budget deficit. By volunteering to work one day without pay, workers will save the city \$281,000.

FACT: Palo Alto has said it needs \$3 million from all employees to help close the gap. SEIU-represented employees alone have identified up to \$7 million in cost savings. Employees have also declined wage increases and any improvements to benefits as a way to help the city during the recession.

FACT: Although the city has up to \$22 million in Internal Service Funds that were budgeted in better times, it so far has avoided discussion on whether these funds should be re-examined in light of the recession.

### **Palo Alto Volunteer locations and times:**

#### **Clean up location 1:**

Workers will gather at City Hall, 250 Hamilton Ave. at 10 a.m.

With brooms, dust pans and garbage cans in hand, they will walk down University Avenue toward El Camino Real cleaning up downtown along the way. They will circle back around and clean up parks.

#### **Clean up location 2:**

Workers will gather at the Main library and Arts Center, 1213 Newell Rd., at 10 a.m.

They will clean up Rinconada Park across the street at 777 Embarcadero Rd. Workers will also clean around the Children's Theater and local middle school.

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*The Service Employees International Union is an organization of 2.1 million members united by the belief in the dignity and worth of workers and the services they provide. SEIU is dedicated to improving the lives of workers and their families and creating a more just and humane society. For more information, visit [www.seiu521.org](http://www.seiu521.org)*