CITY COUNCIL DEPARTMENT
SUMMARY

DEPARTMENTAL FUNCTION

As the City's legislative and policy entity, the City Council is responsible to the residents of Lancaster for all municipal programs and services as well as any legislative matters concerning the City. The Council approves contracts and adopts ordinances, resolutions, regulations and policies. It appoints the City Manager and City Attorney as well as members of commissions and citizen advisory committees that provide broad perspective in the decision-making process. City Council meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, with special or adjourned meetings scheduled as needed. Members of the Council also serve as Directors of the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency, the Financing Authority, and the Housing Authority.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2004-2005

1. Committees

Participated in the Antelope Valley Emergency Preparedness Council.

Continued liaison with the Youth Commission, Teen Court and Youth in Government.

Actively supported the Lancaster Veteran's Home Citizens Committee.


2. **Capital Projects - Completed**

   Completed work on Avenue G from 50th West to A.V. Freeway (Hwy 14), including new overpass.

   Completed Lancaster University Center in former Challenger Memorial Hall, enabling local residents the opportunity to obtain 4-year degrees from CSU Fresno and CSU Bakersfield.

   Completed work on baseball complex at former fairground site.

   Boys & Girls Club moved into remodeled Watch ‘N Wager facility at former fairground site.

   Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD) completed a new community day school on north portion of former fairground site in partnership with City.

3. **Public Safety**

   Continued aggressive efforts to reduce crime by adding three new deputies in the fall and two additional deputies at mid-year budget that resulted in reduced response times for non-emergency crime calls.

   Assisted the local Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement L. A. Impact methamphetamine lab elimination unit.

   Continued the Target Oriented Policing program, including the Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) program to accommodate over 80 volunteers, and implemented numerous new safety programs.

   Coordinated the Public Safety Committee and Community Watch Programs.

   Continued the 24-hour hotline for improved communication and access for the public, including Graffiti Hotline, Hate Crime Hotline, 948-COPS tip line, Barking Dog Hotline.

   Continued funding and support for innovative programs such as Career Criminal Apprehension Program (CCAP), Gang Violence Suppression (GVS), Rape Awareness Defense (RAD), and Safety Team for addressing specific crime problems.

   Continued LAN-CAP (Lancaster Community Appreciation Program) with Community District Attorney, Sheriff Department, L.A. Probation, Section 8 Housing, Code Enforcement and other community partners.
Public Safety (Cont.)

Added one additional Section 8 Housing Enforcement Officer with 50% funding from Los Angeles County.

Promoted public safety through continued Driving Under the Influence (DUI) campaigns.

Promoted public safety through continued Safety Belt Enforcement campaigns.

4. Special Projects/Activities

Continued to sponsor Fourth of July celebration at A.V. Fairgrounds.

Held 17th Annual Youth-In-Government Day Program with local public and private high schools.

Conducted 15th Annual Aerospace Walk of Honor Program including Aviation Street Faire at the Aerospace Boeing Plaza.

Held 14th Annual Poppy Festival at Lancaster City Park with attendance of over 50,000 people (this event won five national awards from International Festival & Events Association as well as three Awards of Excellence from CPRS).

Held 16th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration in the Performing Arts Center.

Conducted 6th Annual Lookin’ Good Lancaster environmental clean-up program.

Assisted with promoting the 8th National Fire Service Day celebration at Fire Station 129.

Updated the City’s Emergency Operation Plan to address efficient and effective response to any type of emergency situation.

In partnership with California Youth Soccer Association (Cal South), provided lighting to the west side fields at Lancaster National Soccer Center; this agreement designates the LNSC as an official Cal South venue for the next five years, hosting the largest soccer tournament in the U.S. with 1,775 teams participating.

Continued relationship with the Amateur Softball Association and United States Specialty Sports Association, bringing high quality tournaments to the Big 8 fields at Lancaster City Park.
Special Projects/Activities (Cont.)

Continued partnership with Lancaster School District which operates the highly successful CARES after-school program at local elementary campuses (involves approximately 10,000 students).

5. Awards/Publications

The Finance Department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for the 19th consecutive year.

Published four editions of the award-winning “Outlook” City magazine. The City distributed the magazine to all Lancaster households and businesses (this publication received five awards from CAPIO, CPRS, and 3CMA as an outstanding communication vehicle).

The Lancaster Performing Arts Center published a brochure that received four awards, one from CAPIO and three from CPRS, for its excellent marketing of LPAC performances.

The Lancaster Redevelopment Agency published an UPDATE that received a SAVVY award from 3CMA.

6. Housing

Completed study on the multi-family (apartments) issue and established appropriate new zoning requirements.

Continued North Downtown Transit Village Project acquisitions and redevelopment.

Nearly double the number of housing permits were issued during FY 04-05.

7. Financial

Adopted a Fiscal Year and a Mid-Year Budget document that reflected a General Fund Reserve of ten percent.

Continued a prudent cash investment program resulting in an approximate 1.6 percent yield on City funds while maintaining market risk at a minimum.
8. **Capital Projects - Ongoing**

Six new “Smart Crosswalks” were added to the City in proximity to elementary schools to increase driver awareness and safety for pedestrians.

Supported increases in passenger rail services via Metrolink.

Continued the Park-&-Ride Security Program at all public Park-&-Ride lots and the Metrolink parking lot.

Informed citizens on water conservation efforts and entered into agreement with L.A. County Sanitation District #14 for re-use of water for landscaping.

Received federal grant of $2.5 million to expand water system on City’s east side and in Fox Field area.

Completed numerous street widening and overlay projects.

Widened Avenue K at 10th Street West intersection and upgraded traffic signals; also, added new signals at K-4 at 10th Street West.

Completed improvements on Avenue G to assist job-producing businesses, including SYSCO, in the Fox Field Industrial Corridor.

Refurbished residential streets throughout the City with 950,000 sq. ft. of new asphalt including 93,000 lbs. of recycled rubber from discarded tires.

Poured over 17 ½ miles of new sidewalks throughout the City to increase pedestrian safety.

Monitored status of State approval of Lancaster site for the Southern California Veteran's Home.

Continued beautification efforts on freeway off ramps, median areas and perimeter trees throughout the City.

Managed the Lancaster Business Park’s assets and marketed property to potential employers.
9. **Business Incentive/Attraction Programs**

Funded the Antelope Valley marketing program in conjunction with Los Angeles County and the Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance to promote the Antelope Valley as a great business location and relocation site.

Promoted the Enterprise Zone.

Worked with the Lancaster Old Town Site in promoting economic viability of the Boulevard including Lancaster Boulevard signage, lighting and mural program.

Continued the staff assistance program “ombudsman” to assist existing and potential new business owners/development groups in understanding the City and development process in obtaining required permits from the City.

Supported the Antelope Valley Film Office in the attraction of film operations to the Antelope Valley.

Assisted Lowe’s in opening a new store at the former abandoned Sears site.

Added two new Starbucks (40th West/Avenue L and 20th West/Avenue K).

Construction began on new Holiday Inn Express on 17th Street West.

Assisted with additional auto dealerships in Lancaster Auto Mall (Suzuki & Mitsubishi).

Countrywide Home Loans added to employment base with completion of second office complex of over 100K sq. ft.

Buxton Study completed to assist prospective businesses with marketing data to make informed business decisions on potential success by locating in Lancaster.

10. **Miscellaneous**

Robert S. LaSala selected by City Council as new City Manager to replace retiring City Manager.

Continued exhibits at City Museum/Art Gallery, garnering respect and recognition in the arts community.

Actively lobbied for appropriate legislation addressing various community concerns.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2004-2005
(Continued)

Miscellaneous (Cont.)

Worked cooperatively with local school districts to help with site acquisition to alleviate overcrowding problem.

Supported the One Stop Career Center.

BUDGET GOALS FY 2005-2006

Continue to deal with emerging public issues through City Council initiated task forces, ad hoc committees and general public.

Assist promoting and marketing major City events such as 4th of July, Aerospace Walk of Honor, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lancaster Performing Arts Center season, events at the Lancaster Municipal Stadium, the California Poppy Festival, local parades and celebrations, Big 8 softball tournaments, Lancaster National Soccer Center tournaments, Film Commission, International Heritage Day Picnic and Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza, and Lookin’ Good Lancaster clean-up.

Communicate with the public by publishing the quarterly “Outlook” City magazine, the Redevelopment Agency Newsletter Update and projects postcards.

Approve a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 and a Mid-Year Budget.

Oversee the prudent investment and security of City resources and cash assets.

Provide effective public forums for public input into the City Council decision-making process.

Provide specific policy direction to the City Manager relative to public safety, economic development, education and government efficiency.

Actively support legislation that benefits economic development in the Antelope Valley.

Hold the Lancaster Cup World Soccer Tournament, in addition to numerous American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA) and local club soccer events.

Continue relationship with The Galaxy Professional Soccer Team at Lancaster National Soccer Center.

Promote film work in Antelope Valley through Antelope Valley Film Office liaison.
Actively work with water agencies to protect citizens’ interest in future water considerations.

Monitor Sanitation District #14 progress on discharge elimination onto Edwards Air Force Base property.

Work with Sanitation District #14 on re-use of water for City landscaping needs.

### FISCAL SUMMARY

#### PERSONNEL

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#### EXPENDITURES

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Mayor and four Council Members comprise the governing body of the City of Lancaster; they also serve as the Lancaster Redevelopment Agency Board of Directors. All legislative powers of the City as set forth in the State Constitution, California Government Code, and Lancaster Municipal Code are vested in the City Council. The Council’s major responsibilities include: City government administration through the City Manager; enactment, amendment and repeal of laws, ordinances and policies which govern the City government operation and services as related to the health, safety and general welfare of residents of, business interests in, and visitors to the City, and as affects the environmental interests, physical growth and economic development of the community; public leadership through promotion of community-wide programs and mobilization of local resources; positive promotion of City government and its services; identification of community needs and desires; evenhanded representation of diverse community interests; adoption of the annual budget; and oversight of the financial affairs of the municipal corporation.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

1. Hold at least one joint meeting with school districts representing Lancaster, governmental representatives and quasi-governmental bodies that serve Lancaster citizens.

2. Represent the City of Lancaster at 80% of the meetings of organizations such as California League of Cities, Contract Cities Association, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA), etc., where such participation serves the public's interest.

3. Attend 90% of the local organizational and civic events where the City's political representation is required or desirable.

4. Adopt a balanced municipal budget before July 1, 2005.

ANALYSIS

The City Council's budget includes several items in addition to salaries and supplies for Council members. Additionally, there are funds for membership in important State organizations such as the League of California Cities, California Contract Cities Association and Southern California Association of Governments.

Council members' duties include serving on appointed commissions and committees. These include the Desert Mountain Division of the League of California Cities, California Contract Cities Association, Metropolitan Transportation Authority/North Corridor Cities and the like.