



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Vice Chairperson Jerome E. Horton

4th District – Los Angeles

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www.boe.ca.gov

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Board of Equalization Vice Chairperson Jerome E. Horton Congratulates West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Leadership Council on Progress in Public Infrastructure to Support Private Business Development

Board of Equalization Vice Chairperson Jerome E. Horton told the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce their city was to be commended for surviving the recent recession in better shape than many other cities in California. Horton was the featured speaker at the Chamber's monthly Leadership Council meeting.

West Hollywood, a city of about 35,000 residents has annual revenue \$90 million last year and received a "AAA" credit rating, the highest attainable rating possible. "Like other cities, West Hollywood had some decline in revenues, but not nearly the amount that other communities are experiencing. It has not had to cut services or lay off employees as many other cities are doing," said Horton.

West Hollywood sales tax revenue declined 5.7% in the last quarter reported, compared to 8% for Los Angeles County and 6.8% for all of California.

Horton attributed this success to West Hollywood's improvement in the public infrastructure of its main thoroughfares to create inviting restaurants, entertainment and shopping venues. He joined other public officials in congratulating West Hollywood Chamber leadership in the city's recently adopted 25th Anniversary Capital Project, a significant investment of tax, bond, and redevelopment financing which includes a new West Hollywood Library and 400 new parking spaces, the expansion of both West Hollywood Park and Plummer Park, and improved parking at City Hall.

"As a tax collector, I am always pleased to see good investments of public revenues in public improvements which enable the private economy to grow and prosper," said Horton.

Vice Chairperson Jerome E. Horton is the 4th District Member of the BOE, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the BOE Legislative Committee chairperson. Horton is the first African American to serve on the BOE since its inception in 1879, and the third African American constitutional officer in California's history. Horton was appointed by the Governor and confirmed by both the Assembly and the Senate in 2009. Horton previously served as an Assembly member from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$53 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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