

## **Response to Questions on the FY 2012 Budget**

**Request By:** Supervisor Foust

**Question:** Are there any positions funded in the FY 2012 budget that have been vacant for more than six months? If so, what are they and how much FY 2012 budgeted cost would be saved by eliminating those positions? If staff recommends against eliminating those positions, explain the reason for staff's position.

**Response:** As of March 30, 2010 there are approximately 230 positions in the General Fund that have been vacant for six months or more. As part of the across the board budget reductions included in the FY 2010 and FY 2011 budgets and maintained in the FY 2012 budget, significant reductions in salary budgets have already eliminated the funding for many positions. At the same time specific program or service reductions were avoided so that expectations from the community for the provision of service, while perhaps slower with longer waiting lists, is still in place.

The elimination of funding translates into the requirement that agencies manage position vacancies very closely. As a result there are numerous cases of positions being held vacant for extended periods. However, agencies have the responsibility to ensure that service requirements are met and therefore positions need to be maintained so that agencies can fill a specific position in a specific program as it becomes apparent that the need merits it. In such cases agencies then must balance their reduced salary budget by keeping other positions vacant, in some cases again for long periods. Since the expectations for programs have not correspondingly been reduced, permanently eliminating these positions would severely hinder the ability of agencies to meet ever changing trends.