

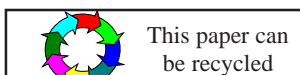


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RAPPIN'
Thomas Wyatt

Austin Exposed

WOW! Oracle didn't just trim its workforce — it **detonated** it. In a pre-dawn wave that blindsided employees across the U.S., India, Canada, and Mexico, the tech giant fired thousands with a single 6 a.m. email, part of what analysts say could be **20,000 to 30,000** job cuts, the largest in company history.

The justification? "Current business needs." The reality? **Oracle** is gutting human labor to bankroll an aggressive **\$50 billion plus** AI infrastructure buildout, a bet so massive it has investors cheering even as livelihoods evaporate. The company's stock jumped as much as **6%** on the news — a perverse celebration of economic violence.

For **Austin**, where Oracle's flashy campus has long been held up as proof of the city's tech ascendancy, the layoffs land like a warning shot. This isn't just a corporate restructuring — it's a referendum on the fragility of Austin's tech driven economy. Oracle employed **162,000** people globally as of 2025, and while the company refuses to disclose Austin specific numbers, the region's heavy dependence on tech jobs means the ripple effects will be felt across housing, consumer spending, and the city's already strained frugal fiscal mismanagement.

The layoffs also expose a deeper truth: Austin's **tech boom** has been built on a foundation far more volatile than city leaders admit. Oracle's cuts are driven by ambition, not failure. A pivot toward **AI** demands staggering capital, funded in part by eliminating the very workers who helped build Oracle's success. **TD Cowen** analysts estimate the cuts could free up **\$8-\$10 billion** in cash flow annually.

Austin officials love to tout innovation. But innovation without worker stability is just extraction dressed up in buzzwords. Oracle's move should force Austin city officials to confront a hard question: What happens when the companies **they've** bet **our** future on decide **we're** expendable?

Is The CIA for Sale?



Trump didn't privatize the CIA. He didn't have to. A buyout program did the quiet work for him.

By Thomas Wyatt | EIC, The Villager

(VILLAGER) - For weeks, social media has been buzzing with claims that **Donald Trump** plans to "buy out the entire CIA intelligence force," a phrase that sounds like a plotline ripped from a **John Grisham** novel. But like so many viral political claims, the truth is both less sensational and far more revealing about the country's political trajectory. There is no evidence that Trump ever sought to privatize the Central Intelligence Agency or **CIA**, purchase the agency, or replace its entire intelligence corps through any literal buyout. What did happen, however, is a sweeping voluntary buyout program initiated under his administration—one that offered financial incentives for employees to resign as part of a broader effort to shrink and reshape the federal workforce. The CIA became the first intelligence agency to extend buyout offers to its entire staff, a move that aligned with Trump's long standing hostility toward the intelligence community and his desire to install a workforce more aligned with his national security priorities.

The scale of the program was unprecedented. Offering roughly eight months of pay and benefits to any employee willing to walk away, the initiative aimed to reduce more than a thousand positions over several years. It was framed as a "holistic strategy," but the political context was impossible to ignore. Trump had spent years attacking the intelligence community as part of the so called "deep

state," accusing career analysts of undermining his presidency. When an administration with that posture suddenly opens the door for mass departures, it is not surprising that observers saw the move as a purge in all but name. Critics warned that the program risked hollowing out institutional memory and weakening national security. Supporters countered that the agency needed a reset after years of internal resistance. But even at its most aggressive, the program remained a standard federal workforce tool: voluntary, incentive based, and limited in scope. It did not dissolve the agency or privatize its functions. The viral language of "buying out the CIA" is a distortion, but the underlying political intent—reshaping the intelligence community to fit a president's worldview—was legit.

This is where the story becomes less about bureaucratic restructuring and more about the political moment we are living through. The fight over the CIA is not just a fight over staffing. It is a fight over truth, power, and who gets to define national security in an era when political loyalty is increasingly treated as a qualification. Trump's relationship with the intelligence community has always been adversarial, rooted in his belief that career officials are obstacles rather than guardians of continuity. The buyout program, even if voluntary, signaled a willingness to weaken the institutional guardrails that traditionally protect intelligence work from political interference. It also reflected a broader

See **DANGER**, page 3

INSIDE

Affordable Housing Efforts Expand
New funds approved for low-income units

City Council ends March with key votes in tow.
See **AUSTIN** Page 2



Did city give another tech startup a tax break?
See **SARONIC** Page 4



New SNAP restrictions in effect.
See **FAMILIES** Page 5

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