

**Commissioner Ames:**

Here are the collected budget suggestions from D6.

Please distribute to the Commissioners and also post on the NC website so that we can discuss these and the suggestions from the other districts at our Feb. meeting. The goal is to write a letter to Mayor & Council with suggestions while the budget is being crafted, rather than simply responding to the finished product.

Thanks!

~Larry, D6

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There are many interests and concerns in a city of a million residents, and many demands on the annual budget. Public Safety (Police & Fire) and Streets & Traffic are of course the main concerns of the city, and they place large and high-priority demands on the budget. But there is more to a city than the bare necessities.

Based on conversations I've recently had with residents across D6, here are some suggestions for inclusion in the 2016-17 budget:

- Continue the Mayor's Gang Task Force: it has proven to be a cost-effective way of keeping our youth from becoming involved in gangs: better to keep them out rather than pay more to incarcerate them afterwards.
- Continue to keep the libraries open 6 days/week and to keep the Community Centers open: they provide our youth alternatives to the gangs. Increase funding for youth summer programs, focusing on areas of greatest need.
- Continue and expand the Community Service Officer program to cost-effectively augment the sworn police officer contingent. Explore whether they can help dissuade use of illegal fireworks.
- Add Park Rangers: helps reduce crime, reduces vandalism and wear-and-tear on parks, thereby reducing maintenance costs.
- Help for the homeless. Continue the joint effort with the County to find and implement viable solutions. The range of solutions could include housing for vets, safe place for car-parking, sanctioned encampments with sanitary and security services.
- Tree maintenance. The city's "urban forest" has been impacted by the drought and past budget cutbacks. There's a need to remove dead trees from city parks and public lands: they are a fire-danger and falling-limb hazard. Also, develop a program to help property-owners with dead or hazardous street trees, perhaps by helping organize cost-saving measures such as group-buys of maintenance services.
- Historic preservation. San José has a number of neighborhoods of historic interest. The City was working on program of "Neighborhoods of Distinction" which could help preserve such districts with alternatives (with incentives?) to "scrape and replace".
- Increase funding for Code enforcement, including dealing with Illegal Dumping, to maintaining a safe, healthy, livable city.
- Fund the development of a Landlord Certification Program. Landlords have huge impact on families and on entire neighborhoods, and while many landlords are conscious, some profit by neglecting their buildings and ignoring bad tenant behavior. Landlording is a business and should be licensed; landlording is a profession that should be certified to show knowledge of the

law and best practices. This could help reduce police and code enforcement costs and also help reduce homelessness.

- Continue the effort to codify the riparian setback ordinance.
- Purchase the remaining eastern half of the railroad right-of-way for a future Three Creeks Trail connection between Tamien Station and Kelley Park, to serve San José's oft-neglected south-central district.
- Street maintenance: continue and expand program to do routine maintenance in a timely manner rather than delaying and having to pay in the future for much more expensive roadway reconstruction. Prioritize not only the arterial street network, but also streets on the bikeway network. (Bicyclists are more impacted by poor pavement quality, even while they cause less wear-and-tear on the pavement.)
- Maintain a "Rainy Day Reserve", and commit funds for the inevitable future economic downturns. Work to develop broad public and staff support for contingency plans to balance City Services in the event of reduced funding and grant resources.
- And keep a little bit of funding for "fun events", especially where city money can be leveraged with other funding for the benefit of many. The 4th of July fireworks and the VivaCalle events last year were great!

~Larry Ames  
D6 Commissioner

### **Commissioner Kolstad:**

Not sure where this fits on Wednesday's agenda, but:

For the budget letter, I think we should argue for funding of the items we put on our workplan -- i.e. what we think the neighborhood priorities are.

▶ **Illegal Dumping and Blight Prevention: 15 votes**

My asks are spelled out in detail elsewhere. For now, a "placeholder letter" to the Mayor is all that's critical.

▶ **Illegal Fireworks: 13 votes**

Not my passion, so I'm not sure what we need. Money for dissuading ads? Money for OT on certain nights? A City-wide database of past offenders and a pre-emptive visit by Fire? A series of drone-like meetings to educate neighborhoods?

▶ **Develop Community Input: 11 votes**

Internal only. Not sure yet if we need funding.

▶ **Homelessness: 10 votes**

Don't know.

▶ **Work Plan Product: 8 votes;**

What has happened to this effort? It was supposed to be back to us in "4 to 5 months" which ends with the Feb meeting.

► Involvement of City Auditor: 8 votes  
Don't know.

► Police Deployment & Strategies; Gang & Crime Prevention: 7 votes;  
Don't know. I don't think the two presentations we received were what Juan wanted.

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Vision-Zero -- 5  
Budget / Rezoning & Incentives -- 3  
Graffiti -- 3  
Permit Parking -- 3  
6-30 Outreach Policy -- 2  
Traffic Calming -- 1  
Data-driven Results -- 1.  
Outside Agency Policies -- 0

**Commissioner Dearborn:**

NC Staff, Chair,

The NC Chair has suggested a number of budget items that speak to the heart of the Commissions values and concerns.

Add to this list add:

— Increase and protect a “Rainy Day Reserve”; uncommitted funds for an economic downturn. Weak global economic conditions, slowing domestic growth and uncertainties that lie ahead must be taken into considerations as San Jose prepares it’s 2016-2017 budget and longer range plan. We can not repeat the pain of the past.

— Develop broad public and staff support for a contingency plan that provides balanced City Services in the event of reduced funding and grant resources.

— Increase funding for youth summer programs focusing on areas of greatest need.

— Increase funding of Code enforcement to maintaining a safe, healthy, livable city.

David Dearborn, D6

----- From the NC Chair -----  
>DRAFT<

Budget item suggestions:

Public Safety (Police & Fire) and Streets & Traffic are of course the main concerns of the city and its budget, but there is more to a city than the merely adequate. Some suggestions:

- Continue the Mayor's Gang Task Force: it has proven to be a cost-effective way of keeping our youth from becoming involved in gangs: better to keep them out rather than pay more to incarcerate them afterwards.
  - Keep the libraries open 6 days/week; keep the Community Centers open: provide alternatives to the gangs
  - Continue / expand the Community Service Officer program to cost-effectively augment the sworn police officer contingent.
  - Add Park Rangers: helps reduce crime, reduces vandalism and wear-and-tear on parks, thereby reducing maintenance costs.
  - Help for the homeless. Continue the effort with the County to find and implement viable solutions. Range of solutions could include housing for vets, safe place for car-parking, sanctioned encampments w/ sanitary and security services.
  - Tree maintenance. The city's "urban forest" has been impacted by the drought and past budget cutbacks. Need to remove dead trees from city parks and public lands: they are a fire-danger and falling-limb hazard. Also, develop a program to help property-owners with dead or hazardous street trees, perhaps through cost-saving measures such as group-buys of maintenance services.
  - Historic preservation. San José has a number of neighborhoods of historic interest. City was working on program of "Neighborhoods of Distinction" which could help preserve such districts with alternatives (with incentives?) to "scrape and replace".
  - Continue the effort to codify the riparian setback ordinance.
  - Street maintenance: continue and expand program to do routine maintenance rather than delaying and having to pay for much more expensive roadway reconstruction. Prioritize not only the arterial street network, but also streets on the bikeway network. (Bicyclists are more impacted by poor pavement quality, and also bicyclists cause less wear-and-tear on the pavement than other vehicles.)
  - And allow for some funding for "fun events", especially where city money can be leveraged with other funding for the benefit of many. The 4th of July fireworks and the VivaCalle events last year were great!
- >DRAFT<

### **Commissioner Parrish:**

Hi Staff:

I propose funding for these items:

A: For Guadalupe River Trail Chynoweth Pedestrian Bridge in Reach 12 in the Trails Master Plan:

- Seek resources to prepare construction documents and secure environment clearances. Funds needed as early as FY 2017/18. (This work should take between 18 and 24 months).
- Seek resources for permits and construction of the pedestrian bridge in FY 2019/20.

B. For the existing Guadalupe River Trail:

- Seek funding for opening the fence at the Blossom River Drive cul-de-sac and adding a wheel chair ramp, some pavement and perhaps a ramp to lead to the existing Guadalupe river Trail.

(This will greatly improve access for the surrounding neighborhood including residents at the Atrium Retirement community.)

There is huge benefit to all area neighborhoods in this area to promote trail access across the river in this area. One side of the Guadalupe River has the light rail and the other side has shopping. As it is neither has easy bike or pedestrian access to the resources on the other side of the river. Thousands of people will use the bridge. he city talks about “place making” and getting folks out of cars to walk and bike.

Let me know if I need to provide further detail to justify these proposals.

Thanks,  
Pamela