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Mayor Liccardo Releases his March Budget Message

With the City projecting a stable, yet constrained, fiscal outlook, Mayor proposes a prudent spending approach that focuses new investments in a few key areas, including homelessness and beautification

San Jose, Calif. – Mayor Sam Liccardo has released his March Budget Message for the upcoming fiscal year, charting a prudent path that keeps the City on the path to restoring services and long-term fiscal sustainability.

“With this Budget Message, we focus on our residents’ highest priorities: improving public safety, expanding affordable housing, confronting homelessness, and restoring essential City services,” said Mayor Liccardo. “With a looming deficit and a fragile financial future, however, we must consider new investments cautiously, with a predisposition to the long view.”

The General Fund Forecast earlier this week projects a relatively stable fiscal outlook, with small projected deficits within roughly 1% of the overall budget in the coming years ([read the City’s budget forecast](#)). Thanks to the ongoing pursuit of various cost-saving strategies, the City Council will be able to close the relatively small deficit in the upcoming year and make some modest, strategic investments that address some of residents most pressing concerns.

Among the targeted, one-time investments proposed by the Mayor:

- **Homelessness:** An additional \$3 million in one-time funding for homeless initiatives already prioritized by the City Council, including bridge housing, hotel/motel acquisition, and safe parking.
- **#BeautifySJ:** A continuation of funding for the successful beautification initiatives launched last year that has enlisted more than 13,000 volunteers, doubled the amount of trash and litter collected, and enhanced the City’s response to illegal dumping and free junk pickup requests. The Budget Message recommends renewing previous funding for: #BeautifySJ grants for local neighborhood groups; City-funded neighborhood clean-ups; and additional staffing for the City’s anti-litter program.
- **Smart City Investments:** the mayor recommends investing in data integration projects, a My San Jose 2.0 app and other related smart city initiatives that can help improve service delivery, efficiency, and the user experience of our residents, as well as yield many years of ongoing savings.
- **Domestic Violence:** \$150,000 to implement a pilot program that will offer emergency housing and/or assistance to victims of domestic and family violence (potentially serving an additional 100 families in need), while the City Administration explores more permanent strategies for increasing housing options for domestic and family violence victims.

- **SJ Learns Programs:** An additional \$250,000 in one-time funding to expand the successful SJ Learns program (which currently offers after-school education at 16 underserved neighborhoods) into the summer. These programs would help prevent the “summer slide” that can lead youth to experience academic regression and/or becoming involved in dangerous or criminal activity.

[Read the entire March Budget Message](#)

The City Council will discuss and vote on the Mayor’s March Budget Message at its March 20 meeting. Following this action, the City Manager will use the direction included in the approved budget message to develop a proposed budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, which will be released on May 1. The City Council will adopt a final budget in June.

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