



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Lee Wilcox

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITY BUDGET  
MEETINGS SUMMARY

**DATE:** May 31, 2019

Approved

Date 6/1/19

## BACKGROUND

As in previous years, the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and the City Manager's Office coordinated Community Budget meetings. This year, five meetings were held throughout the City from May 9 through 28. These meetings are an essential part of the City's budget process to inform the community regarding the City's 2019-2020 Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets and solicit input to the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and City Manager's Office about spending priorities.

## ANALYSIS

Though the topics of interest varied from council district to district, a number of common themes emerged during the process. These included concerns about: affordable housing and homelessness, traffic safety and parking, public safety, parks and beautification efforts, economic development and small businesses, and ways to support local youth. Participant feedback is summarized below:

**Affordable Housing and Homeless (5 out of 5 meetings)** - This was a reoccurring theme and the following questions were raised at every meeting: what are the City's plans in relation to housing residents who are currently homeless or who cannot afford to live in the area; what are the plans for providing affordable housing; how does the City plan to deal with homeless encampments and people living in RVs on neighborhood streets; how can the City continue to encourage "granny units" as a partial solution for affordable housing while also balancing the requirements for additional parking and other services for those units; and what options currently exist for those who are middle class and are still being pushed out of the area.

**Traffic Safety and Parking (5 out of 5 meetings)** – A close second issue of concern was requests to increase funding for a variety of road safety improvements from flashing cross walks to new delineators. Several residents asked for increases in staffing for parking enforcement. In addition, residents were happy to hear about the large scale repaving and road repair work that the City will

perform this coming year, and a few residents asked about when the work would happen on their street.

**Public Safety (4 out of 5 meetings)** - Public safety remains a top priority for the allocation of City funding. Residents continue to ask for additional officers to respond to home and car break-ins as well as park rangers to patrol a new park and several calls for additional staffing for the traffic enforcement unit to handle speeding, racing, and sideshows.

**Parks and Beautification Efforts (4 out of 5 meetings)** - Residents asked about funding for new park construction, increased maintenance of existing parks, and additional staff to manage litter problems throughout the City. Several residents were concerned about the response time or reporting requirements with the MySanJose app. A few people also brought up the lack of awareness of the City's Free Large Item Pick Up Program and the confusion of figuring out who their trash haulers are.

**Economic Development and Small Businesses (4 out of 5 meetings)** - In addition to requesting additional City staff attention to district-specific development projects, residents asked several questions regarding the proposed Google development around the Diridon Station area. Specifically, whether the City could negotiate a guarantee for local hires. Some residents were also concerned about the plight of small business owners in the current economy including: the risk of many "mom-and-pop" shops being replaced by national chains; questions about how the City facilitates, or not, the bid approval process for small business owners; and programs to help residents open child care facilities.

**Youth-focused City Services (3 out of 5 meetings)** - Residents asked about youth and how best to support them. Residents want to see successful programs like San José Learns expanded, as well as requested funding to help middle-income young people who want to go to college, but don't qualify for assistance despite their families struggling to make ends meet with the high cost of living. Several residents at the Bascom Community Center meetings brought up the dangers of marijuana use by young people and their increased usage of nicotine vaporizers.

## **COORDINATION**

This memorandum was coordinated with the Mayor's Budget Office and City Manager's Budget Office.

/s/  
LEE WILCOX  
Chief of Staff, Office of the City Manager