

Comments for Pasadena Budget Survey

[as submitted at the Pasadena Budget Survey web site on 6/14/15]

In what ways do you think that the City of Pasadena could increase revenues?

1. Revamp the permit process, and ONLY once that is done (including one-stop shopping and professional courtesy from the staff), raise permit fees by 20%.
2. Revisit plans 20 years ago to significantly increase new and used automobile sales (and the related sales tax revenues), including one or more auto rows; display areas on sidewalks and other areas in high-traffic locations such as Old Pasadena; possibly a single garage for automobile inventory of all participating dealerships; and other measures suggested by dealers.
3. Create an independent task force of business and other leaders with the sole goal: how do we make Pasadena more attractive for businesses including service providers, restaurants, merchants, manufacturers, car dealerships, etc. Impose a two-month deadline for a list of workable suggestions from the task force, and then a two-month deadline for City responses as to how the City will implement a specific proposal or, with reasons, why a given proposal is rejected.

In what areas do you think that the City of Pasadena could reduce expenses?

1. Eliminate all expenses not related to the actual operation of Pasadena Center from their budget and transfer all surplus revenue to the City's general fund.
2. Reduce Pasadena Media's budget (currently over \$1 million) by at least half and have them focus remaining resources on items of high audited viewership.
3. Eliminate meals at all meetings of the City Council, City commissions, City operating companies and City staff. The savings are important, but setting the right tone City-wide is even more important.
4. Require the Finance Committee to prepare, within two months, a list of expense reductions that would cut expenses by 20%. Also allow them and City staff to propose new initiatives that would total 5% of the budget.
5. Create a task force solely of junior City workers with the goal: develop proposals to reduce inefficiencies City-wide and that also save at least \$2 million a year, combined with improved citizen and City worker satisfaction.
6. Create an Audit Committee of the City Council that functions wholly independently of the Finance Committee and is charged with performing all the compliance and audit functions of an audit committee.
7. Improve interactions with merchant districts, encourage creation of additional merchant districts, and then create incentives in the form of City support (but not expenditures) for things the merchant districts take over from the City. As has been done in Chicago and elsewhere.

Other Comments

We citizens are fed up. The embezzlement was only an indication of systemic problems. The solutions aren't difficult as long as elected leaders and appointed officials stop serving as a cheering squad and function instead as tough minded managers asking difficult questions and forcing difficult decisions. Same for the directors and officers of the operating companies.

06/22/2015
Item 21

Novelo, Lilia

Subject: FW: Dept. of Public Health -- Escajeda Clinic
Attachments: image001.jpg

From: Paula Adams <paula.lucia@sbcglobal.net>
Date: June 20, 2015 at 2:50:18 PM PDT
To: "mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net" <mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net>
Subject: Dept. of Public Health -- Escajeda Clinic

(For Counsel Member Margaret McAustin's eyes only; I live in District 2)

Dear Ms. McAustin: I want to take this opportunity to thank you and each of the Council Members and Mayor Tornek for your interest and profound concern in maintaining the Escajeda clinic, the Antonovich Dental Clinic and food pantry. I know that in today's climate there are many challenging issues but it is imperative that good health is at the top for every citizen to live their daily lives. We who have HIV fight each day this horrible disease and will do so for the rest of our lives taking medications that at times makes us more sick being susceptible to organ failures, cancers, etc.; therefore, we have the extra challenge to maintain our health, though sick, by depending on the Escajeda clinic for benefits, the Antonovich Dental Clinic and the food pantry for dietary needs to balance our low immune systems. The struggles with living with HIV are beyond your imagination. Our attendance at the council meetings is important, but several could not because of transportation issues or the fact some are too painfully sick to attend. I know that CHAP is interested in acquiring the clinics, but their experience is nil with dealing with HIV and makes us nervous that it could fail as Council Member Gordo voiced last Monday. Whatever the City decides will tremendously impact our lives, the lives of the devoted employees at the Escajeda clinic, the Michael Antonovich Dental Clinic and food pantry, and it would be naive to think otherwise. Again, thank you. With gratitude and sincerity, Paula Adams, Pasadena, CA

Sent from my iPad

The Consumer Advisory Board of the Andrew Escajeda Clinic at the Pasadena Health Department unanimously adopted the following RESOLUTION at it's meetings on May 22 & June 3, 2015:

When we were unable to get services anywhere else, the City of Pasadena was there for US.

We are grateful to the City of Pasadena for the provision of HIV services with an experienced, dedicated and culturally sensitive staff for the last 25 years.

We want to receive our services in the same location at the Pasadena Health Department at 1845 N. Fair Oaks Avenue.

When we are able to receive all our services in one place it improves our physical, mental health and oral healthcare outcomes.

We are still in need of culturally, linguistically sensitive service delivery here in the City of Pasadena for people living with HIV.

We are in need of ongoing Outpatient Ambulatory HIV Medical Services, HIV Medical Care Coordination, Benefits, ADAP Enrollment and Housing Assistance Services.

We still are in need of a Food Program here in the City of Pasadena that serves people living with HIV in a safe non-judgmental environment.

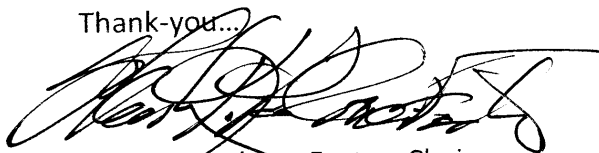
We will always need HIV sensitive knowledgeable Dental Services as people living with HIV have faced STIGMA and SHAME everywhere else in the Community.

We are in need of a provider that has a historically experienced provision of a COMPLETE HIV Continuum of CARE, such as those we receive from the Andrew Escajeda Clinic.

We are in need of a provider that has a historically experienced provision of HIV In Home Support Services and are FEARFUL for those that may not be able to advocate for themselves experiencing a service change.

We would like to receive services from the same staff if possible, in whatever HIV experienced Federally Qualified Health Center that is identified by the City of Pasadena.

Thank-you...



Shasta K. Palmer-Foster, Chair