

Iraheta, Alba

From: Allison Henry
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 2:54 PM
To: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Lyon, Jason; Madison, Steve; Gordo, Victor; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Allison Henry
Subject: RE: 6-10-24 City Council Agenda item 21–2024-25 Budget

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District 1 Tyron Hampton <thampton@cityofpasadena.net>
District 2 Felicia Williams <fwilliams@cityofpasadena.net>
District 3 Justin Jones <justinjones@cityofpasadena.net>
District 4 Gene Masuda <gmasuda@cityofpasadena.net>
District 5 Jess Rivas <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>
District 6 Jason Lyons <jlyons@cityofpasadena.net>
District 7 Steve Madison <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>
Mayor Victor Gordo <vgordo@cityofpasadena.net>
General public comment : <publiccomment@cityofpasadena.net>

RE: 6-10-24 City Council Agenda item 21–2024-25 Budget

June 10, 2024

Dear City Council and Mayor,

Thank you for your service to the city and for staff's work on the very large budget project. You are going to receive a few letters from Pasadena residents who recently convened to review and discuss the city budget which is why there is the use of the collective pronoun. We write to submit comments regarding the 2024-25 operating budget. We know this is the end of the city budgeting process, but we have several asks we think are reasonable, achievable and have high likelihood to make Pasadena a safer, more equitable place to live.

Some of these asks were brought up two weeks ago at the Economic Development and Technology Committee meeting during the budget item– we've expanded upon them here and hope funding can be found to support these worthy efforts in the coming year. Even if some of these go unfulfilled, we hope the council will take them seriously as ideas that should be built into next year's city budget.

Why We Need This

Because of the rising cost of living and rent, more and more Pasadenans are falling into housing insecurity, making our emergency housing solutions more important than ever. The ways our city prioritizes its funds must reflect this worsening crisis. The systems that we have in place to address the housing crisis are almost entirely reliant on anemic or austere-controlled county and state funding streams.

Requests

From the general fund, increase support for additional rent support for low income tenants.

- Reduce impact fees for affordable housing developments
- Allocate more of general fund to housing staff
- Working with CLTs and other non-profits
- Voucher 8 gap funding to further subsidize the difference between market-rate housing rents

Raise revenue by:

- - Raising the Tax on AirBnbs
 - The current Pasadena Transient Occupancy Tax sits at 12.1%. Raising it will help make up for the shortfall of revenue from the slowing housing market.
- Make more use of the SGV Trust Fund and other regional funding sources
- Measure A

As we look to 2025-2026 and the October planning calendar we also ask that the city consider a budget task force to examine the overall priorities of the city budget and examine how better to align our finances with community identified needs and goals. While uncomfortable it is worth stating that there is a gap between what the city prioritizes and what the community prioritizes.

2025-26 will be the first budget developed with a working city rent stabilization program and we expect that we will discover gaps in funding around affordable, stabilized rental units that might need support from the city's general fund and not the budget for the rent stabilization department. This is an example of where community input, in addition to the input of the commissions and boards, could productively help refine and inform the city's budget process.

We appreciate the accessibility of the city's budget documents online because it allows residents to review and reflect on how everyone's money is being spent. Thank you for considering these ideas.

Sincerely,

Allison Henry, D3 resident, at-large member of the Pasadena Rental Housing Board; SGV Organizer for LA Forward Institute

Iraheta, Alba

From: Maggie Bell ·
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 2:46 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: 6-10-24 Budget Meeting

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Dear City Council and Mayor Gordo,

Thank you for your service to the city and for staff's work on the very large budget project. I am writing in support of the below concerns put forward by housing organizers in our community, which include small but significant changes that can help alleviate pressure for our housing-insecure neighbors. I am grateful for this opportunity to offer input.

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06/10/2024

Item 21

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Sincerely,

Maggie Bell

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Jenna Cobb
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 4:06 PM
To: Hampton, Tyron; Williams, Felicia; Jones, Justin; Lyon, Jason; Masuda, Gene; Rivas, Jessica; Madison, Steve; Gordo, Victor; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: RE: 6-10-24 City Council Agenda item 21–2024-25 Budget

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Sincerely,
Jenna Cobb, D2 resident

McMillan, Acquanette (Netta)

From: Jon Mabuni
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 4:37 PM
To: Gordo, Victor; Rivas, Jessica; PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: RE: 6-10-24 City Council Agenda item 21–2024-25 Budget

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Sincerely,
Jon Mabuni, District 5 Resident