



FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET PRIORITY SURVEY

City Council

September 1, 2020

Introduction

- The Budget Survey is one of our many efforts to receive community input
- Other outreach and resources included:
 - Budget Hearings – Department Presentations
 - Budget and budget presentations available online
 - BOC Meetings
 - Community Budget Meetings - online
 - Budget Simulator
 - Budget 101 Video
 - Budget Overview Video Clips
 - Social Media

Introduction

- The Budget Survey has been conducted for many years
- Survey was available online in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog
- The FY 21 Budget Priority Survey went “live” on June 16th
- **4,710** survey responses had been received as of August 28th. Last year, we had 371 responses
- Results summarized based on the responses received as of August 28th

Introduction

- Participants were asked to rate 36 City services as being:
 - Very important
 - Somewhat important
 - Not very important
 - Not at all important
- Not a statistically valid survey. For example, it does not preclude multiple responses from a single individual nor does it provide for balanced responses across the City.
- It does provides considerable feedback and many comments on community interests.

Respondent Demographics

Council District

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non-Resident	Skipped Question
227	465	1,062	301	637	165	241	243	100	726	68	475
5%	11%	25%	7%	15%	4%	6%	6%	2%	17%	1%	--

Age

0-18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Skipped Question
200	894	973	705	716	575	432	21
4%	20%	22%	16%	16%	13%	10%	--

Household Size

1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Skipped Question
566	1,653	781	882	383	125	94	226
13%	37%	17%	20%	9%	3%	2%	--

Data Analysis

- To provide a means for the comparison of the results, each response to each service was assigned a “weight”
 - Very important 3 points
 - Somewhat important 2 points
 - Not very important 1 points
 - Not at all important 0 points
- The total points for each service was divided by the number of responses received for each service to obtain a “weighted average”

Results – Top Ranked Services

Service	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not at All Important	Weighted Average
Providing emergency medical services (paramedics, EMS)	3,580	905	109	44	2.73
Providing fire protection services	3,078	1,253	239	55	2.59
Preparing the community for emergencies or disasters	2,704	1,566	290	78	2.49
Maintaining a low crime rate	2,998	877	401	243	2.47
Maintaining and repairing streets (fixing potholes, etc.)	2,475	1,778	317	60	2.44
Providing services and identifying solutions that address homelessness	2,818	1,152	382	259	2.42
Maintaining parks	2,131	2,067	349	75	2.35
Reducing ocean pollution by improving storm drains	2,332	1,560	534	191	2.31
Maintaining and repairing public buildings (community centers, fire stations, libraries, etc.)	2,036	1,997	472	114	2.29
Providing free or low-cost recreation programs for youth and teens	2,253	1,569	493	266	2.27
Planning for the future of the city	1,700	1,936	680	195	2.14
Maintaining and repairing sidewalks	1,674	1,967	799	167	2.12
Collecting illegally dumped items	1,568	2,029	771	168	2.10
Providing library books, media, access to technology, programs and services (reading, homework help, etc.)	1,930	1,493	770	425	2.07
Enforcing traffic laws to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers	1,858	1,518	831	379	2.06
Keeping the City attractive and eliminating blight	1,618	1,861	792	287	2.06
Providing affordable housing	2,254	941	682	700	2.04
Maintaining a strong budget reserve	1,416	1,998	791	234	2.04

Results – Lower Ranked Services

Service	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not at All Important	Weighted Average
Providing nuisance abatement programs (loitering, illegal drug activity, noise, etc.)	1,919	1,345	770	510	2.03
Providing business assistance and supporting economic development	1,625	1,778	796	359	2.02
Providing access to libraries (hours of operation)	1,735	1,612	875	379	2.02
Providing environmental sustainability programs	1,690	1,462	821	555	1.95
Providing programs for seniors	1,174	2,173	920	288	1.93
Providing animal care/animal control services	1,180	2,056	1,058	306	1.89
Paying down the City's unfunded liabilities (pensions, health care, etc.)	1,294	1,602	907	494	1.86
Providing public access to the internet	1,784	1,108	899	790	1.85
Providing prompt graffiti removal services	1,386	1,557	1,070	566	1.82
Providing neighborhood police patrols	1,784	1,095	747	930	1.82
Providing specialized Police units (property crimes, directed enforcement, etc.)	1,718	1,086	764	940	1.79
Providing arts and cultural programs	1,306	1,543	1,055	690	1.75
Providing code enforcement services (citing blighted buildings, etc.)	1,000	1,786	1,243	450	1.74
Prosecuting all adult misdemeanor crimes committed in the City	1,332	1,207	1,062	864	1.67
Trimming trees on residential streets	761	1,931	1,488	403	1.67
Creating new parks and open space	1,090	1,333	1,352	794	1.60
Providing special events and programs for families	798	1,635	1,417	674	1.57
Providing translating services (Language Access)	1,294	1,095	747	930	1.50

Top 10 Comparison

2020

1. Providing emergency medical services
2. Providing fire protection services
3. Preparing the community for emergencies/ disasters
4. Maintaining a low crime rate
5. Maintaining and repairing streets
6. Providing services that address homelessness
7. Maintaining parks
8. Reducing ocean pollution by improving storm drains (↑5)
9. Maintaining and repairing public buildings
10. Providing free or low-cost recreation programs for youth (↑9)

New to List

2019

1. Maintaining a low crime rate
2. Providing emergency medical services
3. Providing fire protection services
4. Maintaining and repairing streets
5. Providing services that address homelessness
6. Maintaining and repairing public buildings
7. Maintaining parks
8. Preparing the community for emergencies/disasters
9. Providing nuisance abatement programs (↓10)
10. Enforcing traffic laws (↓5)

Dropped from List

Written Comments

- Approximately 2,300 written comments were received
- The comments concerned a wide variety of issues, both big and small. Major themes include:
 - Defund/Reduce Police
 - Support for Police & Public Safety
 - Homelessness/Mental Health
 - COVID-19 Recovery
 - Affordable Housing
 - Streets, Infrastructure & Parks
 - Employee Pensions
 - Quality of Life Concerns (Parking, Trash, Traffic, Noise)
 - Fireworks
 - Library Services
 - Youth Services
 - Road Diets & Bike Lanes
 - Environment/Sustainability
 - Survey Format



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