



Budget Advocate Report to Neighborhood Councils #4

Instead of the traditional White Paper, the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates are working on a series of short papers on a broad variety of current issues and concerns. Even when one of our working committees tackles an individual department, the intent is to move away from the silos of the present City structure and focus on issues of relevance to the people of Los Angeles.

These committees will be added to the Budget Advocate website and board members and stakeholders are invited to become involved.

To date we have established 22 committees. They are addressing a variety of different issues including, but not limited to, Neighborhood Council and Stakeholder Issues; City Budget Cuts; Public Works & Planning; Homelessness and Affordable Housing; the LAPD; the impact of Covid-19 on the City and its budget; Recreation and Parks; Undocumented Immigrants; Pensions; Opportunity Zones and Redlining; Cannabis; the People's Budget Los Angeles; Animal Services; HHH Funds; DONE; Equity; and the City Council.

Some of the papers will be issue-specific; others will address broad citywide concerns such as homelessness and affordable housing. All will draw on concerns and issues that have been raised by Neighborhood Councils, Budget Advocates, Budget Representatives, and/or stakeholders.

Yes, there is cross-over but that can be beneficial, expanding the discussion outside of traditional boundaries. Other committees and interests can and will be added throughout the year.

The Budget Advocates are also developing:

- a presentation for the online Congress of Neighborhoods on September 26th
- an interactive seminar for individual NCs on what the Budget Advocates do
- the first of a series of Town Halls, tentatively for the afternoon of Saturday, October 3rd

The Budget Advocates' primary objectives, all of which are incorporated in the committees, were drawn from themes and budget priorities outlined in our internal survey:

- Equity in the distribution of resources and City services
- Homelessness/Affordable Housing

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- The LAPD budget
- Infrastructure investment and City Services
- Economic Development
- Covid-19
- Public Safety
- Balancing the budget/Fiscal integrity

Another priority for the Budget Advocates is to develop closer relationships with the Neighborhood Councils by:

- having a Budget Advocate attend their meetings on a regular basis
- providing the NC's Budget Representative (or, in their absence, the President or Treasurer) with a report to be posted/circulated as appropriate, and presented as the Budget Advocate report if no Budget Advocate is present
- encouraging every NC to appoint or elect two Budget Representatives to
- actively soliciting input from the NCs on the City budget, City services and other issues of fiscal concern
- adding material to the Budget Advocates' website specifically for NC board members, including previous Budget Advocate reports, upcoming events and how to contact their assigned Budget Advocate

To encourage the City to make its budget more transparent and responsive to the needs and desires of all Angelenos, Neighborhood Councils can:

- develop NC-specific and board approved budget priorities and topics as a resolution to your elected officials
- call, e-mail and mail your Councilmembers on issues of concern that you believe are being ignored
- using Community Impact Statements to get your views on record
- work with the Budget Advocates to amplify your voices

Neighborhood Council Budget Executive Committee

Co-Chairs: Liz Amsden and Jack Humphreville

Vice-Chair, Development: Albert Farias

Vice-Chairs, Outreach: John DiGregorio and Julia Moser

Corresponding Secretary: Glenn Bailey

Administrative Secretary: Jennifer Goodie

Treasurer: Lanira Murphy

Parliamentarian: Carol Newman

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