

Budget Advocate Report to Neighborhood Councils #1

We live in interesting times. And it is a challenging time to address the dual issues of the City's budget and services which are the purview of the Budget Advocates.

On June 27th and 28th Town Halls were held by Region to obtain input from people on their concerns, and for Budget Representatives to elect Budget Advocates for the next two years.

On Monday, June 29th, we held the first Budget Advocate meeting of this coming year. It was long. I'm sure you've had some of those with the transition to virtual meetings. We elected 6 of the 8 Executive Committee positions but, after 4 hours, decided to conclude the elections on this past Monday, July 6th.

Co-Chairs are Jack Humphreville of Greater Wilshire and Liz Amsden

Albert Farias of Voices of 90037 is the Vice-Chair of Administration/Development

John DiGregorio of Panorama City and Julia Moser of Greater Wilshire are sharing the duties of Vice-Chair for Outreach and Communication.

Jennifer Goodie of Mid-City is the Administrative Secretary

Glenn Bailey of Northridge East is the Corresponding Secretary.

Lanira Murphy of Panorama City is our new Treasurer

Carol Newman of Lake Balboa is our Parliamentarian.

We have a great mix of returning Budget Advocates along with strong new voices with great ideas. Ideas we are going to need to address the City's budget deficit and the Structural Budget Deficit over the next four years, and the continuing need to advocate for the services that you as stakeholders are due.

The Budget Advocates are going to need input from all Budget Reps as well as NC board members and stakeholders to help develop the ideas we need to bring to the City Council. The imbalance in the City budget is due not only to the pandemic – both costs incurred and the loss of projected revenue – but also to the salary increases and the Structural Budget Deficit that they did not address over a year ago.

They need to hear all our voices to ensure these budget cuts don't fall too heavily on the services that every neighborhood deserves.

We will have a retreat to set our priorities on the 18th drawing in part of some of the suggestions that came out of the Town Halls.

If your Neighborhood Council has concerns that may not have been heard, please e-mail them to the Co-Chairs at Jack@TargetMediaPartners.com and LizAmsden@hotmail.com.

These should be one-liners and be issues that would affect other neighborhoods across the City. With 99 Neighborhood Councils to draw from, we are looking for your top 2 or 3 of the challenges you are facing.

We also welcome stakeholder participation – feel free to contact your Budget Advocate with any questions.

July 9, 2020