



2021-22 Budget Advocate Report to the Neighborhood Councils #4 January 2022

Update on the Budget Advocates' White Paper

Despite the bitter winter of Omicron rather than the rebirth of a season of holiday get-togethers that most of us were looking forward to, the Budget Advocates are still moving ahead on our White Paper and reports.

We still have to meet with a few departments but the reports are coming in and will be going out for editing to ensure consistency. The White Paper itself will probably be updated until we publish to incorporate the nuances of the ever-evolving situation.

We are now looking to complete our work in late February.

Town Halls

The Budget Advocates' first Town Hall of the year will be on Saturday, January 29th at 10 am. General Manager Raquel Beltrán will be presenting on the budget for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and their need for increased funding, and then answering questions.

We hope to invite not only Budget Advocates but also Budget Representatives and others involved with the Neighborhood Council system to listen to and chime in on this very important subject.

This will be a virtual event via Zoom, and further details will be distributed shortly.

Issues your Neighborhood Council may want to address

We are developing a database to track Council Files that have fiscal impact on the City. Once set up, we would invite Neighborhood Councils to submit Community Impact Statements to help magnify our impact on the City Council when matters contained in these files come up for a vote.

The CAO released his 2nd Financial Status Report <https://cao.lacity.org/budget/FSR.htm> in December which concluded that the City's fiscal challenges are manageable even though it continues to overspend.

The Budget Advocates continue to be concerned, especially due to the new impact on revenue and expenses posed by the Omicron variant.

Future plans

We are starting to flesh out plans for the 2022 Budget Day on Saturday, June 18th and will circulate details once confirms. In the meantime, can all Neighborhood Councils leave that

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morning free so their board members and stakeholders can join us to learn more about the City's budget and financial challenges.

We are also hoping to hold Town Halls on issues of local interest that everybody can attend. Feel free to contact the Budget Advocates with your suggestions.

Details will come once we lock down topics and logistics and have shepherded the White Paper and its reports out to the Mayor, City Council and, of course, to the Neighborhood Councils.

We are still looking for people interested in being elected as Budget Advocates in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. Budget Advocates need to be Budget Representatives that are appointed or elected by their Neighborhood Councils, and can be board members or stakeholders.

A note to all Neighborhood Councils, when new Budget Representatives are appointed or contact updated for continuing Budget Reps, please send their names and e-mails to info@budgetadvocates.org.

If you have not had a Budget Advocate visit or contact your Neighborhood Council with a report in the past few months, please contact the Co-Chairs at info@budgetadvocates.org.

We also welcome feedback and suggestions at the same e-mail address.

The next Budget Advocate meetings will be on Monday, February 7th at 7 pm and Saturday, February 19th at 9:30 am. Meetings are open to all. The agenda and Zoom link are posted on our website www.budgetadvocates.org a few days prior to each meeting.

January 17, 2022

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Goodie *and* Glenn Bailey

Vice-Chair, Outreach: Kay Hartman

Vice-Chair, Development: Barbara Ringuette

Administrative Secretary: Élice Hennessee

Corresponding Secretary: Hugo Rodriguez

Treasurer: Lanira Murphy

Parliamentarian: Carol Newman

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