



2021-22 Budget Advocate Report to the Neighborhood Councils #1

The Coming Fiscal Year

In September, the Mayor recently issued his Budget Policy and Goals letter directing the departments what to include in their budgets for the coming fiscal year. It calls for more equity – good, but wants to keep department costs at last year’s reduced levels – not so good in that salaries and prices are likely to increase which may translate to further reductions in services.

The City needs to look at the bigger picture in setting priorities which may mean increases for some departments and reducing others to reflect changes in the needs of our communities.

The Budget Advocates are currently setting up meetings with the various departments to discuss their plans and concerns and hope to have our recommendations to as many departments as possible by early November so they can be considered before they submit their 2022-23 budget proposals which are due November 20th.

These recommendations will be the focus of reports on each department which will form the basis of our 2022 White Paper.

Anyone interested in specific issues such as Rec and Parks or Finance, who would like to work on these reports and/or the White Paper, please contact Barbara.Ringuette@budgetadvocates.org

The Current Fiscal Year

Budget Advocates Jack Humphreville and Liz Amsden presented a workshop on [A Critical Analysis of the City Budget at Congress](#) which, while expressing satisfaction that the City has a balanced budget this year, addressed coming challenges including the continuing impact of the pandemic on the City’s economy and its structural deficit.

A video of the workshop is posted on our website: www.budgetadvocates.org, along with a written version of our [presentation](#).

Regional Meetings & Town Halls

In response to requests made during some of the break-out sessions at Budget Day, we are planning for additional Regional meetings throughout the year to address region-specific concerns. The first of these will be for Regions 1 and 2 in the Valley – details to come.

And once the Budget Advocates have met with the City departments and have our reports out of the way, we will be developing Town Halls on issues related to the City’s budget. Stay tuned.

Who are the Budget Advocates?

Most Neighborhood Councils know the Budget Advocates, from Budget Day or from our reports to their board.

Through their Budget Representatives Neighborhood Councils can communicate their concerns to us and it is Budget Reps who can be elected Budget Advocates. Budget Reps can be board members, or stakeholders of the Neighborhood Council.

Over the past months, people have dropped out due to personal reasons and time constraints so we now have Budget Advocate openings in Regions 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10.

Do you, or someone you know, have a passion to improve the City. You don't need a degree in economics or experience as an accountant or treasurer, just curiosity and a willingness to learn.

If you care about the City, come to our meetings and check out our website. If you are still interested in our mission, ask your Neighborhood Council to name you as one of its two Budget Reps, and contact Carol.Newman@budgetadvocates.org to throw your hat in the ring.

Neighborhood Councils

To verify our contact information for all recently appointed and continuing Budget Reps, please send names and contact to: info@budgetadvocates.org.

Even if people don't want to be a Budget Advocate and meet with the Mayor, we welcome anyone interested to work with us – on specific departments, editing, expanding our social media, setting up Budget Day, Regional meetings or helping develop a Town Hall.

An Invitation

The next Budget Advocate meetings will be on Monday, November 1st at 7 pm and Saturday, November 20th at 9:30 am. Meetings are open to everyone who wishes to attend. The agenda and Zoom link are posted on our website www.budgetadvocates.org a few days prior to each meeting.

October 17, 2021

Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Goodie & Glenn Bailey

Vice Chair of Development: Barbara Ringuette

Vice Chair of Outreach: Kay Hartman

Administrative Secretary: Élice Hennessee

Corresponding Secretary: Hugo Rodriguez

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