



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
FINANCE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Commissioners to participate via
ZOOM Meeting ID: 993 3994 6079
Password: 468458
May 27, 2021, at 6:30 pm.**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Commission Chair Elsner
- ROLL CALL:** Chair Elsner, Vice Chair Choi
Commissioners Toa, Wood and Findley
City Treasurer Pia
- COUNCIL LIAISON:** Council Member, Jack Donovan
- STAFF PRESENT:** Interim Assistant City Manager, Elaine Aguilar

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, the Regular Meeting of the Finance Commission for **May 27, 2021** will be conducted remotely and held by video conference, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, the Council Chambers will not be open for the meeting. Commissioners will be participating remotely and will not be physically present in the Council Chambers.

If you would like to comment on an agenda item, or make a general public comment, members of the public may submit their comments for Finance Commission’s consideration by one of the following options:

Option 1: Participants will be able to “raise their hand” using the Zoom icon during the meeting, and they will have their microphone un-muted during comment portions of the agenda to speak.

Option 2: Email your public comment(s) to fcpubliccomment@southpasadenaca.gov. Public Comments must be received by 6 p.m., May 26, 2021 to ensure adequate time to compile and post. Public Comment portion of the email is limited to 150 words. Please make sure to indicate: 1) your name; 2) what agenda item you are submitting public comment on, or if it is a general public comment; and 3) clearly state if you wish for your comment to be read.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

1. Review and Recommendation Regarding the FY 2021-2022 Proposed Budget
2. Approval of Minutes from the April 29, 2021 Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

FUTURE FINANCE COMMISSION MEETINGS

June 24, 2021

Virtual Meeting

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS

Prior to meetings, agenda related documents are available for public inspection at, City Hall, 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030. The complete agenda packet may also be viewed on the City’s website at: www.southpasadenaca.gov/financecommission

ACCOMMODATIONS



The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Hearing assistive devices are available in the Council Chamber. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City’s website as required by law.

5/18/2021

Date

DATE: May 27, 2021

FROM: Elaine Aguilar, Interim Assistant City Manager
Armine Trashian, Accounting Manager
Albert Trinh, Finance Manager

SUBJECT: **Review and Recommendation Regarding Proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Finance Commission review and provide a recommendation regarding the Proposed FY 2021-2022 Budget.

Discussion/Analysis

The Proposed Budget as presented is described as a post-pandemic operational budget, with services restored that were reduced or delayed as a result of the COVID pandemic. However, new programs and services have been added to the budget to assist in post-pandemic needs of the community and to improve upon the manner in which the organization addresses the needs of the unhoused and mentally ill among us in our community. These new additions are funded with ongoing revenues, and no Federal ARPA Corona Virus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (ARPA Funds) or last year's one time Cell Phone Lease Tower revenues are used in the budget as presented.

It is anticipated that the City Council would consider the use of the estimated \$4.7 million in ARPA and the \$4,374,439 in Cell Tower lease funds as part of a comprehensive strategic planning process that will be underway as soon as in-person public input meetings can occur. However, the City Council has indicated that a preliminary recommendation from the Finance Commission would be welcomed regarding potential uses for the one-time funds. The Finance Commission's recommendations will be provided to the City Council.

Background

This report provides a high level analysis of the proposed budget. The details for revenues, expenditures, fund transfers, staffing, and other financial information is included in the budget document that is attached to this staff report. (Budget to be provided as an additional document on Wednesday, May 26, 2021)

To estimate the fund balances, and assist in providing historical data for analysis, the Proposed Budget, uses audited financial data for Fiscal Year 2019, and unaudited financial data for Fiscal Year 2020. It should be noted that when "Estimated 2020" numbers are shown that these numbers may be adjusted based upon the results of the FY 2020 audit. FY 2020 was closed months ago, and the City's auditors are auditing the financial records. Staff does not anticipate any major revisions. The anticipated completion timeline for the FY 2020 audit is July 2021. Should there be any revisions to the Estimated 2020 numbers, staff will make the adjustment in the Mid-Year Budget for FY 2021-2022.

Total General Fund Proposed Budget

Revenues

The budget assumes an almost complete (but not fully complete) recovery in revenues that were impacted by the pandemic in Fiscal Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Last year’s receipts of a full year of Measure A revenues could not have arrived at a more opportune time. The receipt of these revenues offset a portion of the major decreases in other areas of city revenues. City revenues most impacted by the pandemic includes sales taxes, fees for current services, recreational fees, rental fees, business licenses, and filming revenues.

It is important to note that Sales Taxes have not fully recovered, particularly for restaurants, and fuel/service stations. The Proposed Budget assumes a gradual, but not complete recovery. Staff will closely monitor Sales Tax receipts and provide updated information in quarterly financial updates to the City Council. Staff will need some data to determine how quickly shoppers will return to in-restaurant dining, and return to regular travel patterns, and the associated retail and economic impact.

In the FY 2021-2022 Proposed Budget, the total general fund revenue is estimated at \$31.9 million, which is \$3.3 million less than the estimated FY 2020-2021 general fund revenue of \$35.3 million. The majority of this decrease is the result the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, one-time revenue from the cell tower lease agreement in the amount of \$4,374,439. The difference between the \$3.3 and the cell tower lease revenues reflects the actual increase in General Fund revenues from FY 2021 to FY 2022, if the one time cell tower revenue is removed. The chart below illustrates this point.

General Fund - Adjustment for Cell Tower Lease			
	Approved Budget for FY 2021	Proposed Budget for FY 2022	Variance
Total General Fund Revenue	35,279,484	31,947,634	(3,331,850)
Less One-time Cell Tower Revenue	4,374,439	-	(4,374,439)
Adjusted Total	30,905,045	31,947,634	1,042,589

The chart on the next page shows a history of total General Fund Revenues (less transfers) from Fiscal Year 2017 to the Proposed FY 2022.

General Fund Revenue History								
	Actual FY 2017	Actual FY 2018	Actual FY 2019	Adopted FY 2020	(Unaudited) Estimated FY 2020	Adopted FY 2021	Estimated FY 2021	Proposed FY 22
Property Tax	13,236,932	14,135,844	15,368,198	15,414,035	15,491,557	15,566,000	15,616,772	16,490,087
Assessments & Special Taxes	309,886	317,141	330,941	326,729	342,237	350,008	350,008	357,170
Sales Tax	2,456,665	2,501,264	2,563,117	2,430,802	2,864,474	4,750,720	4,811,318	4,836,713
UUT	3,381,948	3,345,582	3,228,320	3,485,000	3,445,454	3,177,105	3,327,105	3,383,000
Other Taxes	1,019,207	951,196	1,132,910	1,048,900	950,130	1,002,000	1,072,000	1,169,000
Licenses & Permits	1,056,357	935,633	892,560	1,023,900	861,697	751,780	731,280	819,280
Fines & Forfeitures	397,690	388,061	339,636	382,700	264,601	265,000	215,000	265,000
Use of Money & Property	541,750	579,006	1,057,074	647,750	989,984	4,794,718	4,781,054	438,500
Revenue from Other Agencies	93,130	6,993	711,179	58,100	64,239	676,500	771,353	230,000
Current Services	2,913,979	3,115,558	3,082,342	3,013,750	2,985,842	3,006,550	2,898,150	3,391,000
Other Revenue	465,204	280,271	(2,130,764)	286,000	56,944	455,719	43,843	84,500
Reimbursements from Other Funds	483,384	-	483,384	483,384	483,384	483,384	483,384	483,384
General Fund Total	26,356,132	26,556,549	27,058,897	28,601,050	28,800,543	35,279,484	35,101,267	31,947,634

The chart above includes a final estimate of revenues for the current fiscal year. The variance between Adopted FY 2021 and Estimated FY 2021 is not significant, but it was important to show the revised estimate due to the treatment of the Internal Service Fund for Insurance.

One of the major differences for the previous and current fiscal year is the establishment of an eventually self-sufficient Insurance Internal Service Fund. Previously revenues (refunds from insurance) and expenditures were budgeted through the General Fund via a transfer. Beginning with the FY 2020 Audit, the revenues and expenditures associated with insurance is accounted for in the internal service fund.

The chart below identifies Measure A revenues verses regular Sales Taxes. While both are essential sales taxes, Measure A was the ¾% local sales tax measure approved by South Pasadena voters in November 2019. Measure A along with the continuation of the Utility Users Tax (UUT) are both indications of the continued support from South Pasadena voters by approving local tax measures that have provided necessary resources to fund municipal operations.

Sales Taxes and Measure A Revenues							
	Actual FY 2017	Actual FY 2018	Actual FY 2019	Unaudited FY 2020	Adopted FY 2021	Estimated FY 2021	Proposed FY 22
Sales Taxes	2,456,665	2,501,264	2,563,117	2,451,813	2,655,720	2,620,318	2,592,713
Measure A	-	-	-	412,661	2,095,000	2,191,000	2,244,000
	2,456,665	2,501,264	2,563,117	2,864,474	4,750,720	4,811,318	4,836,713

Expenditures

Total General Fund expenditures, including fund transfers, are estimated at \$31.8 million. This is approximately \$956,000 (or 3.1%) more than the previous fiscal year’s General Fund budget as originally adopted. As shown in the chart below, the majority of the increase is in Maintenance & Operations, approximately \$1.6 million, or 20.7%. This is primarily due to the implementation of a self-sufficient Insurance Internal Service Fund. For this Internal Service Fund, the goal is to maintain reserves to fund the outstanding self-insured liabilities at the minimum level of 70 percent. (Ultimately this is a City Council policy. See the Financial Policy for the current fiscal year.) Previously, the City was “paying as you go”, and budgeting for

actual costs incurred each year, instead of building up a fund to provide for the entire potential liability. The differences in approach is visible in the chart below, based upon the previously large “Transfer Out”, that is no longer necessary, as the funds have instead been included in the Maintenance & Operations portion of the budget.

This will be the second full year of increasing reserves in the Self Insurance Fund. Even with the significant amount budgeted this fiscal year and last fiscal year, the Internal Service Fund for Insurance is estimated to have a \$700,000 deficit at the end of FY 2022. It is anticipated to take another one or two fiscal years to completely fund this internal service fund, the result of which will be to stabilize funding from year to year.

Total Salaries & Benefits increased by approximately 2% compared to the 2020 Budget.

General Fund Expenditures with Fund Transfers				
	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Estimate (Final/Unaudited)	FY 2021 As Originally Adopted	FY 2022 Proposed
Wages & Benefits	17,615,843	19,457,515	20,344,844	22,155,993
Maintenance & Operations	6,436,170	6,501,867	7,879,596	9,511,645
Capital Outlay	405,680	95,613	126,500	116,500
Total Operations	24,457,693	26,054,995	28,350,940	31,784,138
Transfers Out	1,860,956	2,451,729	2,477,198	-
Capital Projects	213,344		-	-
Total Expenditures	26,531,993	28,506,724	30,828,138	31,784,138

Significant changes between FY 2021 and FY 2022 include services associated with post-pandemic recovery and general operational changes, such as the Insurance Internal Service Fund which was previously explained.

Post-Pandemic Recovery and Social Services Enhancements

The City has received public input prior to preparing the Proposed Budget. The Finance Commission and the City Council have been provided with the input received to date. It is conceivable that a portion of either the Cell Tower Lease Revenues, and/or the ARPA funds will eventually be designated by the City Council to fund recovery efforts, reduce the City’s unfunded pension liability, provide infrastructure (capital projects) funding, or to implement new or enhanced social service type programs. The latter is discouraged for the use of these funds inasmuch as new programs will require ongoing expenditures that will burden the general fund budget in years after the one-time resources are exhausted. Thus, the Proposed Budget only uses regular, ongoing revenues, and does not include any Cell Tower or ARPA funds. Staff was able to allocate resources to begin post-pandemic recovery and return city operations to “normal” levels.

The more significant changes in the budget are:

- Management Services – A full time Senior Management Analyst has been added to the budget (replacing a part-time position). This position will primarily be responsible for managing grants and will be instrumental in managing, tracking, and handling the reporting requirements for the new ARPA funds, in addition to seeking additional grants to fund new programs. In addition, a full-time Management Analyst was re-funded in the budget. (This position was previously frozen.) This generalist position will support the City Manager’s and City Clerk’s office, handling special projects, supplementing the preparation and dissemination of public information and assist in responding to public record requests.
- Police Department
 - A newly funded Crisis Intervention Team was included in the budget at a cost of \$200,000. A Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a mobile crisis-intervention program. Its mission is to improve the City’s response to mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness. The CIT provides support for South Pasadena police personnel by taking on many of the social service type calls for service to include crisis counseling. CIT’s often provides initial contact and transport for people who are intoxicated, mentally ill, or disoriented, as well as transportation for necessary non-emergency medical care. In Fiscal Year 2022, the contract budget for the CIT is approximately \$200,000, which funds 24 hours of service per day, seven days per week.
 - One of two previously frozen Police Officer positions has been re-funded in the Proposed Budget, but the Deputy Chief position has been unfunded/frozen.
- Planning – Funds for two new Associate Planner positions are included in the Proposed Budget. These positions will be instrumental in handling the staff workload associated with planning related housing measures, support new initiatives and programs such as the multi-family occupancy inspection program and additional tenant protections including implementing the Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance, and the Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, along with other housing and general plan related assignments.
- Community Services - The Proposed Budget includes funding to restore a previously unfilled part-time Senior Services Coordinator. The addition of these staff hours will be needed to provide improved services to our senior population.
- Public Works – The Proposed Budget includes two new positions for Public Works: one Senior Civil Engineer, and one Inspector. These positions will address the backlog of infrastructure planning and construction, enhancing the physical environment.

Other significant changes are:

- Restored funding for Library and Community Services to regular, pre-pandemic levels. This includes three position upgrades to provide improved services to the community:
 - The previously mentioned funding for the restoration of a part-time Senior Center Coordinator, and in Transportation, the upgrade of one full time Management Analyst to a Senior Management Analyst and the upgrade of one full-time Management Assistant to a Management Analyst.
 - The restoration of recreational programming, including Summer Camp, Special events, and recreational classes.
 - In the Library’s budget, an upgrade from a Library Clerk to an Associate has been funded.

- Other position upgrades included in the budget are:
 - Upgrade of a Assistant to the City Manager position to an Assistant City Manager position, to better reflect the position’s duties and responsibilities, and to provide the ability to reorganize staff responsibilities and lines of control.
 - Upgrade of a Human Resources Manager to a Human Resources and Risk Manager – to better reflect the responsibilities of the position.

The FY 2022 Budget anticipates ending the fiscal year with a surplus of approximately \$160,000 without the use of one time cell tower revenues, or ARPA funds.

Reserves

Within the General Fund Reserves, the Council has established designated reserve funds for a variety of special projects. These funds can serve a multitude of purposes, from establishing a “savings account” to accrue dollars over time for future, significant projects, to setting aside funds for a specific purpose, so that the funds do not “get lost” in the undesignated reserve balance. Funds are essentially moved from undesignated reserves to designated reserves by formal City Council action. However, it can fairly be said that once so designated it is rare that these reserves are released to be available for other community priorities. Just as financial policy priorities (or interests) can change elsewhere in our daily lives, this can be true in local government.

At this time, the Council’s designated reserves are shown below.

The currently designated reserves include:

- Arroyo Golf Course; \$600,000
- Legal Reserve; \$500,000
- Maintenance Yard/ Community Center; \$267,067
- Library Expansion; \$200,000
- Renewable Energy Source Reserve; \$700,000
- Retiree Pension Reserve; \$500,000
- Retiree Medical Reserve; \$500,000
- CalTrans Vacant Lot Purchases; \$392,000
- Library Park Drainage Reserve \$147,000
- Tree Replacement; \$50,000
- Stormwater; \$600,000
- Financial Sustainability Reserve; \$900,000
- Slater Reimbursement Reserve; \$345,876
- Vehicle Replacement Reserve; \$100,000
- SR100 Interchange Project (Rogan Fund Match); \$1,410,000

The City Council will be reviewing these designated reserves at a City Council meeting. The Finance Commission is welcomed to provide input into these reserves. For example, the Commission may want to recommend the establishment of a new designated reserve for the \$4,374,439 in cell tower lease funds, or add the funds to a currently designated reserve. (For example, the Council could add to the “Financial Sustainability Reserve” or designate a new reserve.)

The Council's designation of reserves would ultimately be incorporated into the Financial Policies that are approved as part of the budget approval process. Any City Council revisions to the Financial Policies will be included in the final Approved Budget document.

Budget Input Process

This year the city conducted an online survey to gather input regarding priorities for the FY 2022 Proposed Budget. Interested individuals could either email the Finance Department, complete an online survey, or leave a voice mail message. A summary of the input received is attached to this report. Additional input can be provided at the public meetings of the Finance Commission and City Council.

The City will also be preparing a new (or updated) the Strategic Plan in the coming months. In addition to forming a renewed community vision, the Strategic Plan will seek public input to establish priorities, develop clear goals and provide an overall plan for allocating City resources to a variety of programs and services. The discussion of the use of one-time Federal funds and one-time lease tower sites will be integral to the strategic planning process.

The Finance Commission and the City Council were provided a copy of a proposal submitted by Care First South Pasadena. (A copy is attached to this staff report.) While not all proposals are included in the Proposed Budget, several areas were addressed, such as creating new positions in the area of housing, social services, and environmental affairs. Most importantly, \$200,000 was included in the budget to implement a multi-city mental health crisis response program, instead of waiting for County, other Federal funding, or grants. Additional information is provided on page 4 of this report.

Future Years

Regarding pension and other post-retirement benefits, in FY 2021, the City budgeted for an updated Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) actuarial analysis. The financial results of this updated actuarial report will be reported in the FY 19/20 Audit currently being completed. According to the city's completed FY 18/19 Audit, the unfunded pension plan liability was \$12,506,375 for Miscellaneous Employees, and \$23,889,760 for Safety Employees, for a total unfunded liability of \$36,396,135. Staff will be returning to the City Council during the upcoming fiscal year to discuss possible pre-funding and other alternatives, after the Finance Commission's review of the subject matter.

Public Notification of Agenda Item

The public was made aware that this item was to be considered this evening by virtue of its inclusion on the legally publicly noticed agenda, posting of the same agenda and reports on the City's website and/or notice in the *South Pasadena Review* and/or the *Pasadena Star-News*.

Attachments:

1. FY 2021/2022 Proposed Budget (To be forwarded as an additional document 5/26/2021)
2. Community Input Received

Summary Of Responses

As of May 6, 2021, 1:01 PM, this forum had:

Attendees:	266
Responses:	233
Hours of Public Comment:	11.7

Topic Start

April 8, 2021, 12:15 PM

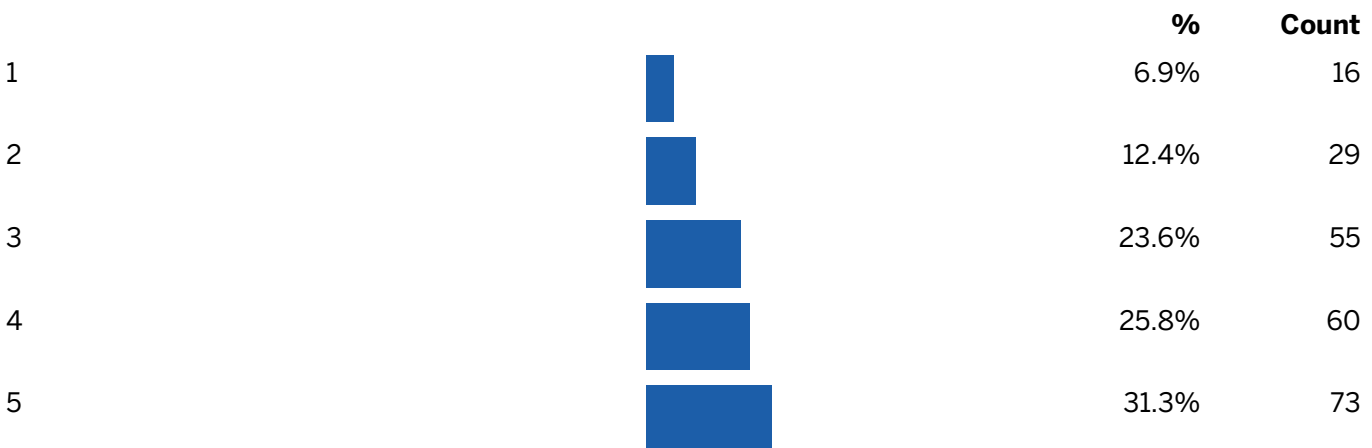
Topic End

May 4, 2021, 7:45 PM

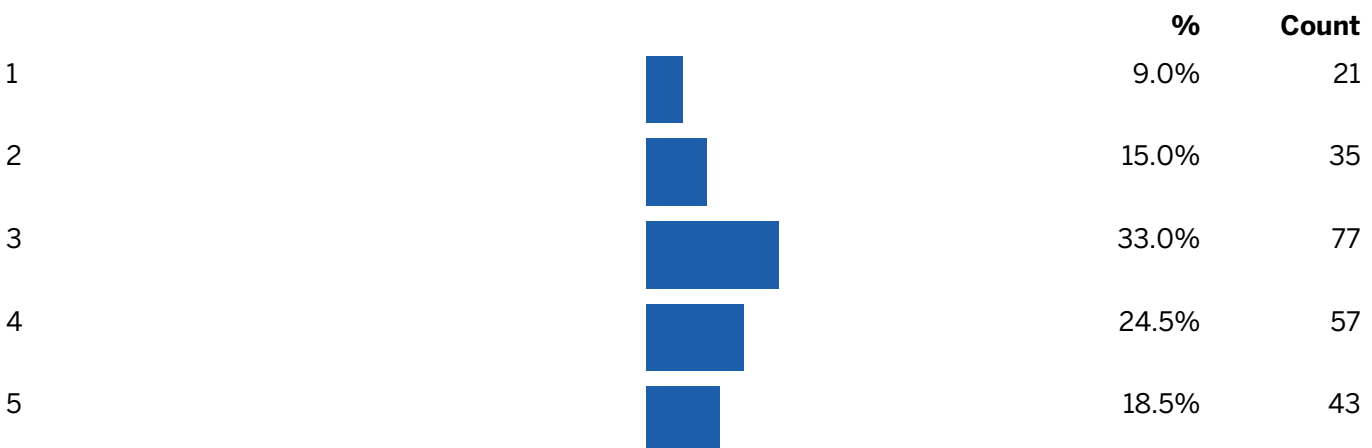
QUESTION 1

How important are these services (1=not important, 5=very important)?

Youth recreational programs (After school, Camp Med, Teen Center)



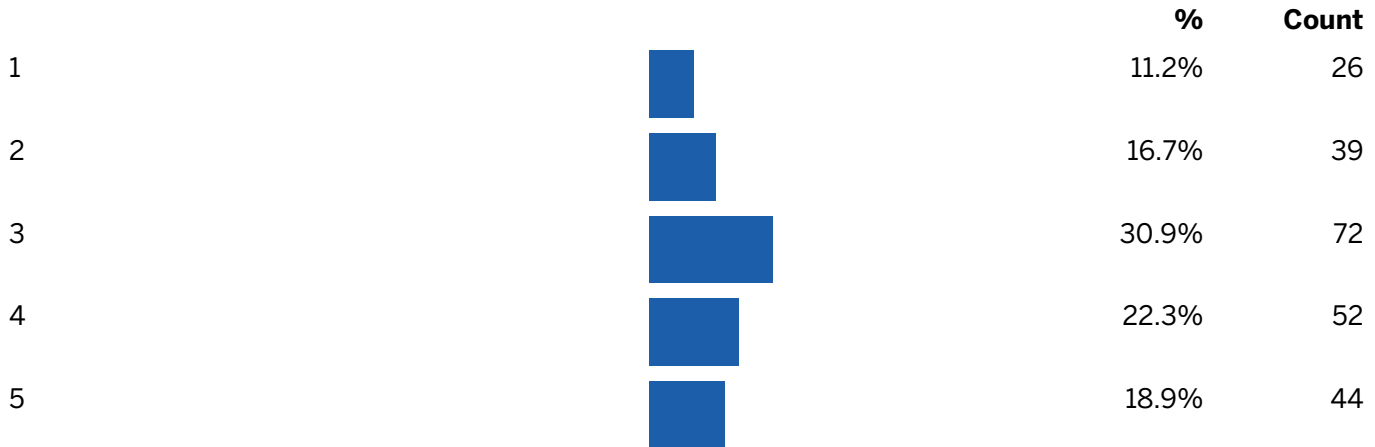
Adult & senior recreational programs



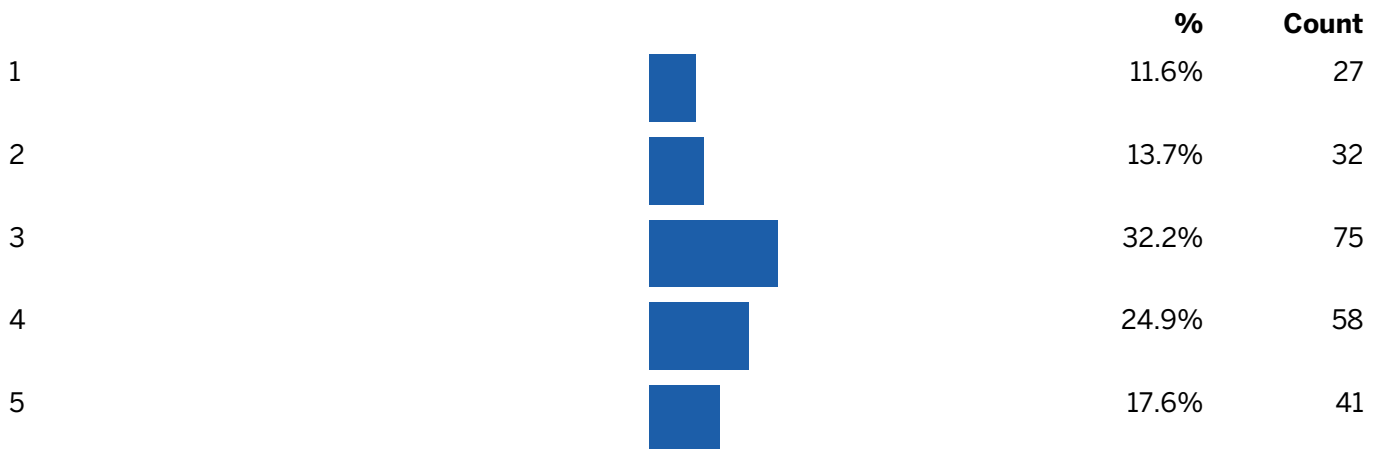
Budget 2021-22

Public Input on Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget

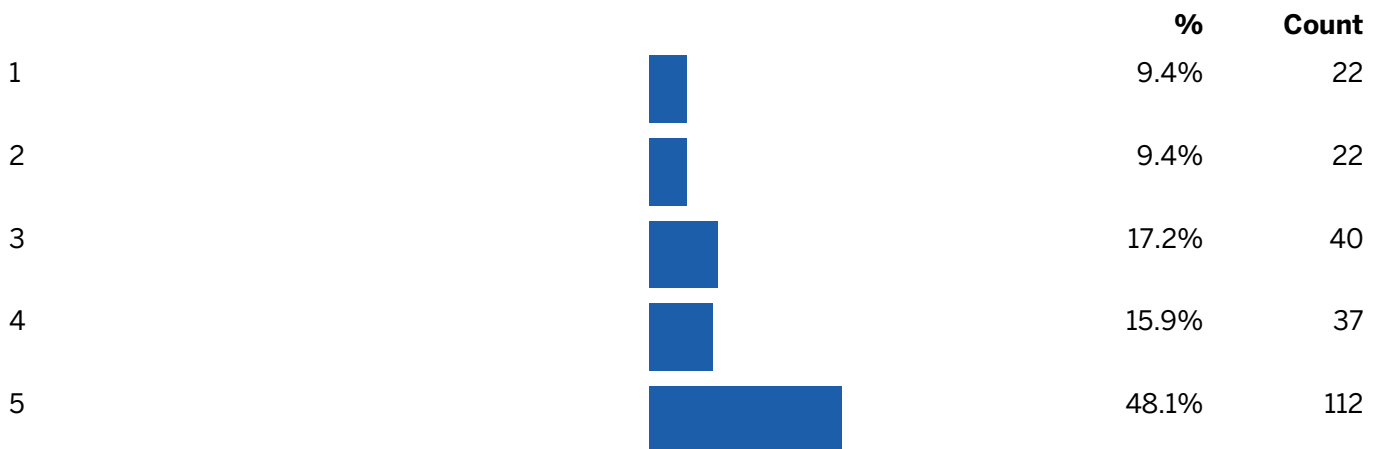
Community events & programming (concerts, breakfast with Santa)



Public arts programs



Policing services and public safety programs



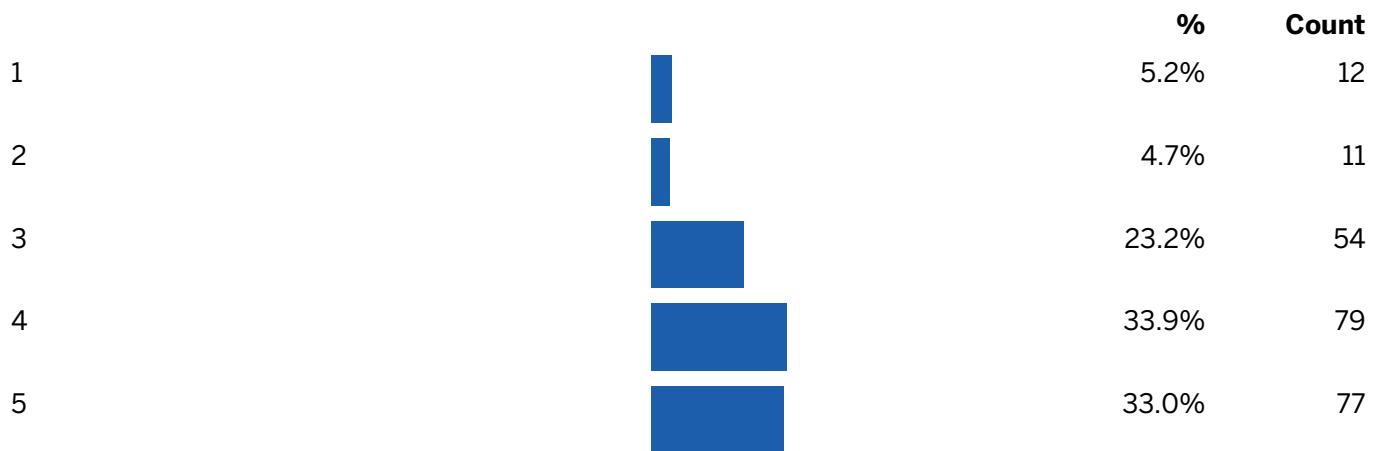
Fire protection and paramedic services

Budget 2021-22

Public Input on Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget



Library services and programming (author night, children's programs)



Utility services – water and sewer



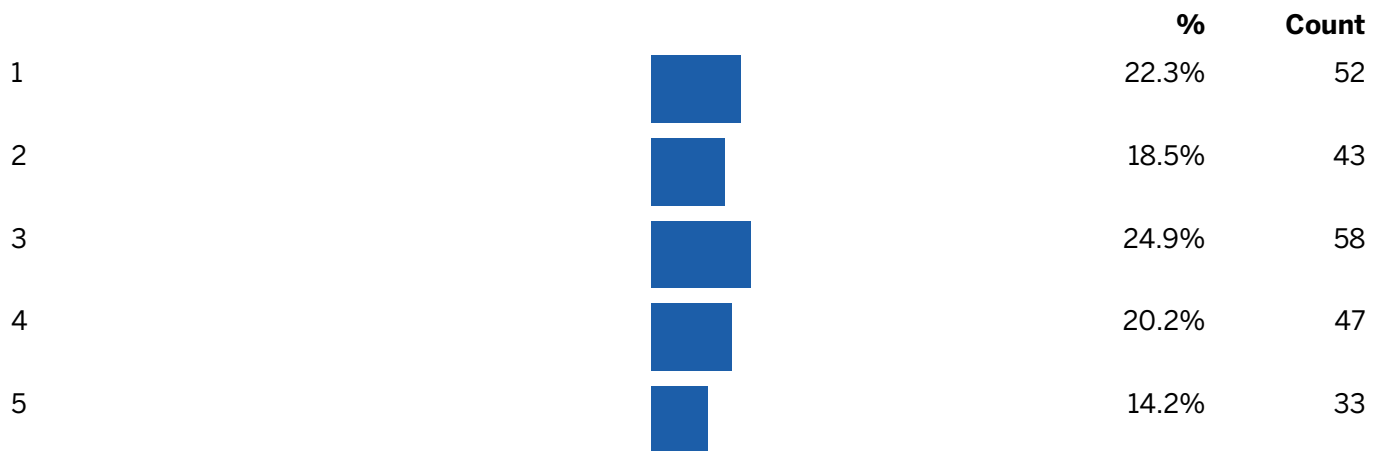
Transportation, streets, signals, roadway and sidewalk maintenance

Budget 2021-22

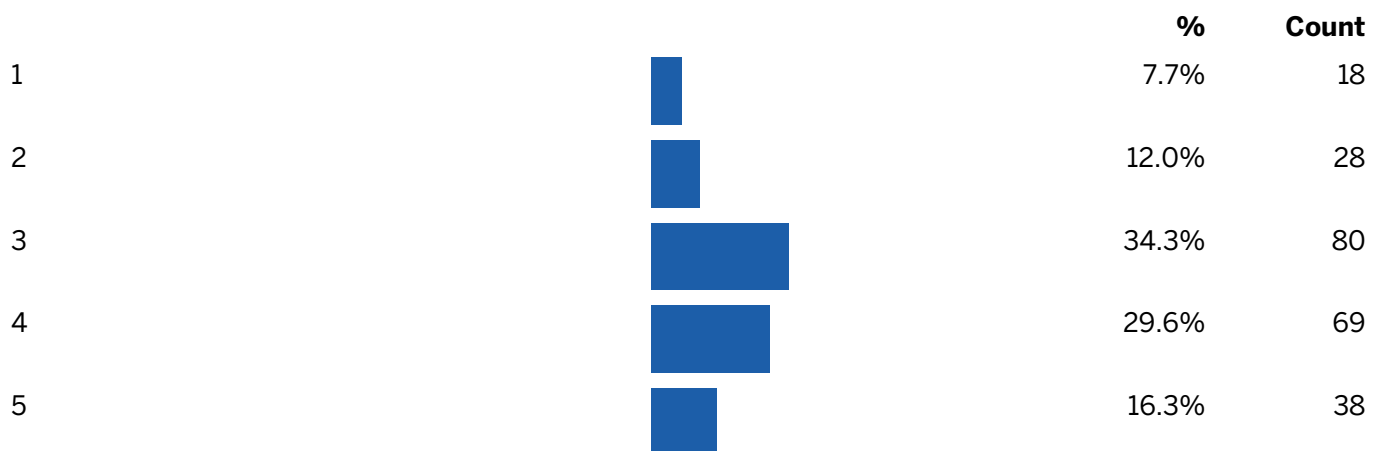
Public Input on Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget



Bicycle amenities



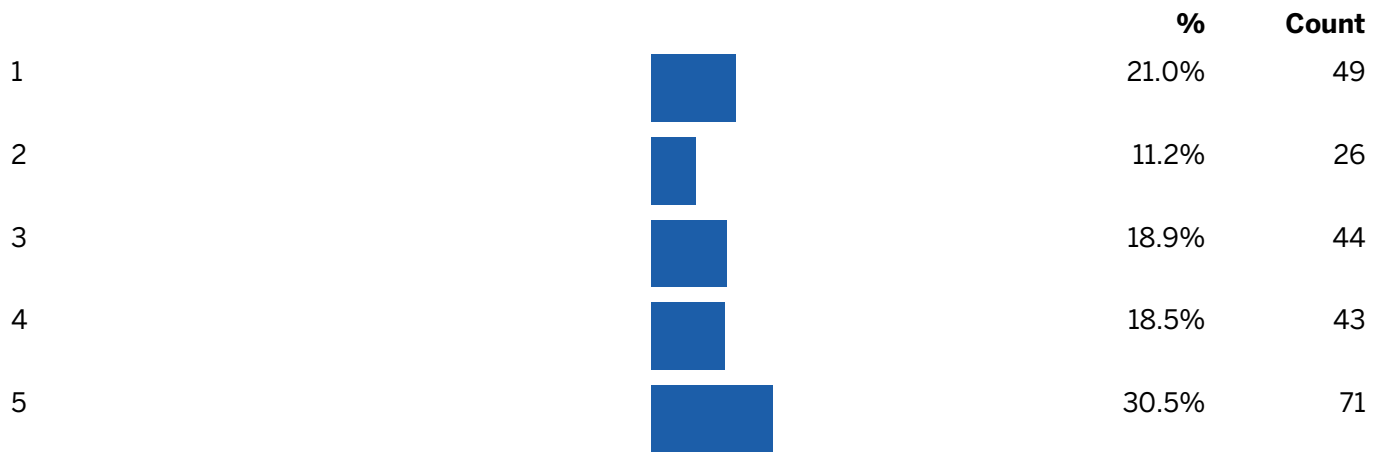
Information technology



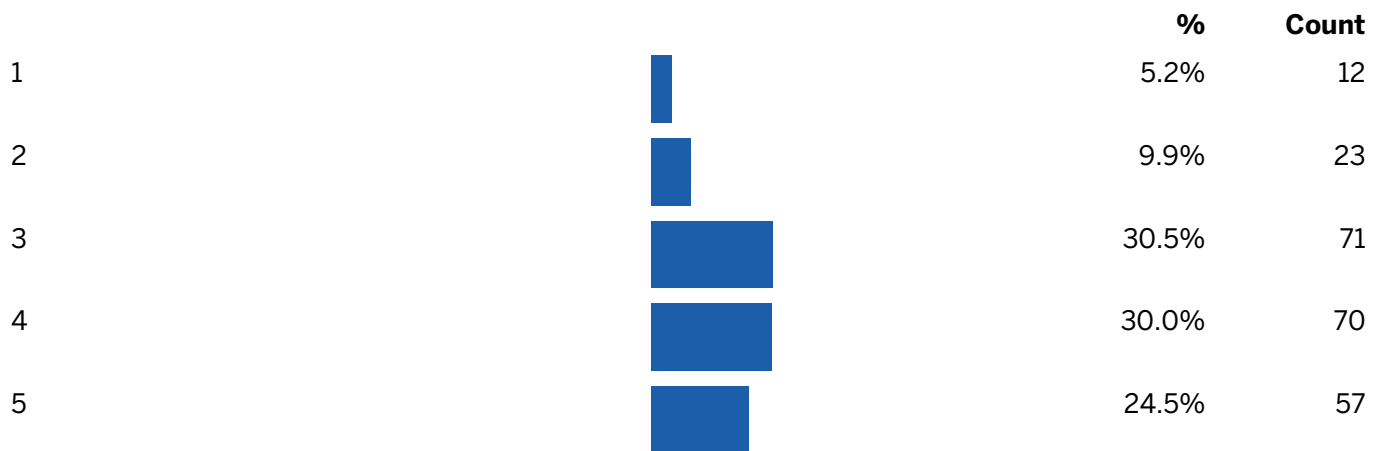
Affordable housing policies and programs

Budget 2021-22

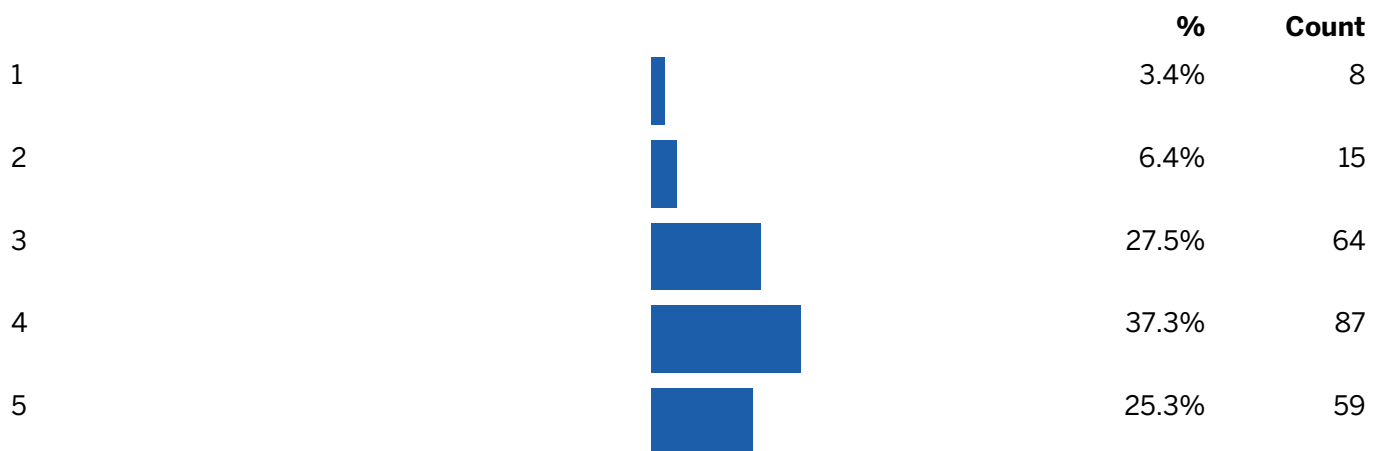
Public Input on Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget



Planning and Community Development



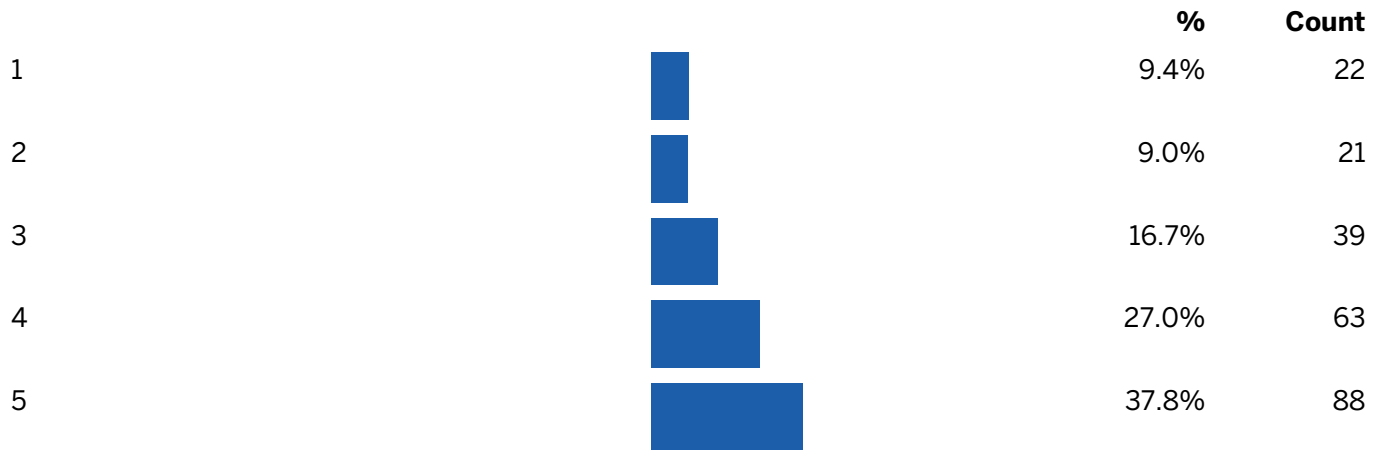
Economic development/ Business retention and attraction



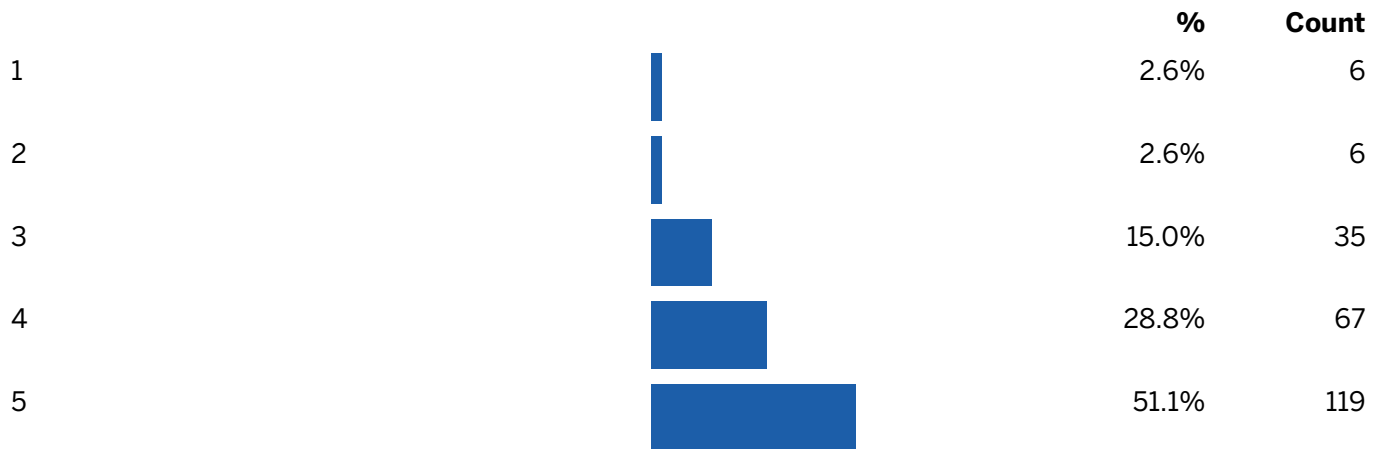
Environmental sustainability programs

Budget 2021-22

Public Input on Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget



Open space and parks



QUESTION 2

Other services not covered above.

Answered	63
Skipped	170

- ave bicycle bike cahoots **community** could del etc festival health **homeless** lanes lights like maintenance mental **more**
n neighbors new **none** places **plan** please **police** policing **program** **programs** public rey s **services** speed street
streets **traffic** transportation unhoused via

Individual Responses

QUESTION 2. Other services not covered

- Senior Meals
- transportation, specifically better bike lanes
- We have so many officially approved plans in place - the Master Plan, The Bicycle Plan, The Climate Action Plan, etc. Lets commit to fund these, to get implementation back on track.
- I would love to see "Slow Streets" in South Pasadena. Traffic has gotten overwhelming and the speed cars are going is dangerous. As an avid outdoors person, I wish I felt safer walking and riding a bicycle and running in the neighborhoods of South Pasadena. Please implement speed bumps, more stop signs, and dedicated bike lanes.
- Public swimming pool
- Start an anti-littering program. Encourage workers to take their trash with them after lunch breaks.
- CERT program
- Noise regulation
- Free tutoring by qualified tutors.
- Constitutional Training for the Police
- Bicycle "amenities" seems like a loaded term; bikes, pedestrians, and motor vehicles all deserve safe transportation facilities
- Mindfulness programs in schools and Language immersion programs for kids (like marengo ... but in all the schools)
- Dog park at Garfield Park
- Vehicles for the Police Fleet
- Bike lanes
- More low-income housing, reforming policing/defunding/returning to community policing, services for unhoused people
- Curb pollution. Tree health. No gas leaf blowers.
- Maintain local police department.
- Active transportation improvements, street safety improvements.
- Mailboxes
- mental health services, sexual health services, homeless services
- Health: How to ensure everyone follow city guild line on health. Like wearing mask in public. No party at home.
- A more streamlined task force to deal with homelessness
- Speed bump(s) needed on Garfield between Stratford LANE and Mission Street. Other alternative - have police ready to ticket speeding cars during peak hours.
- Volunteer xeriscape maintenance to medians and parking lots
- N/A
- N/A
- Diversity and anti-racism initiatives ensuring a diverse city staff, contractors and city residents.
- Mental health services like Eugene, Oregon's Cahoots program
- High speed internet access (fiber) is important for our future
- N/A
- Transformative justice practices and non-violent/non-carceral responses to harm
- Health and human services....please consider less police budget and instead redirect funding of mental health and safety in another way than in the police budget. This is not

Individual Responses

QUESTION 2. Other services not covered

the area where the police should be involved. Spend money of anti-bias training and community-based policing. We need another model in SP.

- Street repairs and paving up on old hill (Alta Vista Ave/Indiana Ave area)
- Social services for disadvantaged populations
- Good road conditions. Road pavement on via del rey
- Street lights and new pavement on Via Del Rey
- N/A
- street lights on dark hillside neighborhoods (Kolle Ave, Brunswick Ave)
- More traffic calming
- none
- CAHOOTS style program, homeless services, UBI Pilot Program
- We need to defund the exorbitant police budgets and divert these funds to mobile mental health crisis units instead.
- Racial equity
- Disability services, but could be covered under transportation, sidewalks, etc.
- Homeless services
- I support CareFirst proposal.
- Programs for our unhoused neighbors, Diversity and Inclusion programs, renters protection, programs that welcome new immigrants and refugees
- City street maintenance on main high volume streets (Fair Oaks Ave) and install plan for EV chargers on City Property and for municipal code for residents street side
- Public Tree Maintenance, Traffic Management
- Please resurface our streets
- N/A
- None
- Community compost facility
- Not adding anything but clarifying...stop wasting money on Moon festival, Balloon festival and others of that sort. Spend it on IT, arts and development of diverse business and NOT 10 pizza places or 20 massage places.
- homelessness - services for our unhoused neighbors
- mental health services, homeless services,
- None
- City should establish a Cahoots program and employ social workers and medics for calls about unhoused and mentally ill people, as well as for some domestic dispute situations.
- Everything listed above is important. My interest is in an approach to budgeting that acts on the interconnectedness of expenditures to address multiple goals in measurable ways.
- Partnering with community organizations (i.e. Chamber, SPARC, etc.) that have resources that could augment the city's capacity.
- NA
- To create CAHOOTS program in our community

Budget 2021-22

Public Input on Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget

QUESTION 3

Below are the City's current Strategic Plan Initiatives. Which ones are more important to you? Rank them in priority order.

1. Enhancing community sustainability through investment in infrastructure and environmental management programs
2. Implementing strong fiscal policies to ensure a resilient financial future
3. Creating a strong economic development strategy to strengthen local businesses
4. Developing a comprehensive emergency preparedness plan to ensure public safety
5. Plan for affordable housing to comply with State mandates and respond to community needs
6. Enhancing customer service through innovation to more effectively respond to community priorities

QUESTION 4

Please use the space below to let us know of any new programs or projects you are interested in the city pursuing.

Answered	85
Skipped	148

affordable all bike **community** del from get **health** homelessness housing infrastructure **library like** mental **more** need new other **park**
parking pasadena people **police** policing **program** programs public **residents** s **safety** see services so south
street streets t traffic water

QUESTION 5

Is there any additional input you would like to provide regarding the City's FY 2021-2022 Budget? Please write your comments in the space below.

Answered	65
Skipped	168

000 affordable **budget** **businesses** care community del electric facilities fire first housing **like** make more need needs new
other park parks people **please police** programs reduce **residents** s see **services** spending street streets such support
they **think** until **was** year

Individual Responses

QUESTION 4. Let us know of any new programs or projects you are interested in the city pursuing.

- A practical plan to deal with the CalTrans properties.
- I think the city should pursue projects that allow safe biking routes, affordable housing and keep the outside dining.
- South Pasadena is ideally set up to close multiple streets to traffic and open them up for use to people. Our downtown core is walkable and we have the luxury of having a transit stop in the middle of our city that services the major hubs of Pasadena and Downtown LA within minutes. I am scared to send my kids out on these streets, and policing drivers behaviors won't help - we need to design our city for its people, instead of as a thoroughfare. Quick-Build projects will cost little but provide huge benefit once people can see and feel an alternative.
- New Senior Center
- Library Expansion
- Homeless Outreach and Services
- Better access for those with disabilities
- Funding for Library programming and renovation.
- Creating more sustainable, affordable housing in South Pasadena.
- Help get that Krispy Kreme open. We Have ENOUGH Pizza places!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- The city should drastically reduce funding for the PD, which--yes in SoPas, too--has not served the community adequately. Redistribute those resources to alternative modes of safety that minimize and/or abolish the reliance on policing and other criminalizing responses.
- And just for the record: the PD came in with guns drawn to a private residence because a black man, who was the boyfriend of my neighbor, was sitting listening to music on their porch. They are, I believe, the only
- Vanessa Rosalia Marquez, whose killing the department defends, was a preventable death. The officers also killed somebody while serving a warrant in Burbank.
- Start a "save our restaurants" initiative for people to tip an optional percentage to help recoup losses.
- Start a catchy "bring it, trash it" anti-littering campaign showing the environmental damage to wildlife when trash masks gloves etc are left in the street. Get people used to taking their trash with them after breaks rather than dumping in gutter.
- Host special shop local retail days, where people are encouraged to spend money in local shops by offering giveaways or discount incentives.
- Small Business Development/Grant Program
- New zoning requirements for businesses that have closed or been dormant for more than 3 years to either sell or lease the space.
- No more pizza parlors.
- Funds to be available to low income residents to do maintenance & repairs to their homes.
- The City should charge for parking on all public streets to non-residents of the City of South Pasadena. There is parking problem from non-residents of the City of South Pasadena parking on residential streets near the metro station. The intersection of El Centro Street and Orange Grove Avenue is a prime example of where parking from Non-South Pasadena residents is an issue. Orange Grove south of El Centro is very narrow and during the day is very congested, but afterhours when metro riders go home the street is empty. This problem can be an opportunity to increase funds to the City. I suggest the City of South Pasadena charge a parking fee to all non-South Pasadena residents. Residents will get to park for free in residential neighborhoods and free for a limited time

Individual Responses

QUESTION 4. Let us know of any new programs or projects you are interested in the city pursuing.

as posted in commercial areas. The existing overnight parking decals for residents will serve as proof of residency. For a small fee, South Pasadena residents can purchase a “proof of residency” decal to place on the windshield or hang from the rearview mirror, when parked on public streets. Non-South Pasadena residents should be able to purchase a “free parking” decal if the person works within the City of South Pasadena. All non-South Pasadena Residents parking on any public street within the City of South Pasadena must pay for parking. New modern parking meter ticket machines will print parking paid receipts showing the allowed parking time. The parking receipt will be placed on the driver’s side dashboard. The parking machines can be strategically placed throughout the City’s commercial areas.

- Constitutional Training for the Police - monies allocated so police can purchase copies of the U.S. Constitution for every officer to review
- Constitutional Training for the Police - monies allocated to pay for Constitutional Expert to provide 1 hour briefing to Police as part of their training
- Constitutional Training for the Police - monies allocated to allow LT Robledo/Deputy Chief Solinsky to produce a training film
- Affordable housing supply - further promote and streamline ADU development, for owners willing to accept affordable housing covenants/Section 8 tenants
- Environmental sustainability - discourage the installation of new gas appliances in homes
- Public safety - redesign Fremont, Meridian, and Monterey as "complete streets" with reduced vehicle speeds, improved bike and pedestrian facilities
- Please put a dog park at Garfield park. This city has so many dogs; one park isn't enough. And owners leave their dogs off leash all the time at Garfield park; we need a fenced area for them to do this in.
- More spaces in the after school programs at the elementary schools
- Full golf course
- Electric Vehicle charging stations. Rehab of Cal trans owned properties
- Sharing of all streets by drivers and cyclists. Drivers are shouting at cyclists to get off residential streets
- Hosting Green Streets walk, cycle, skate day
- Replacing the sidewalk water utility cover by the SP community garden. Plywood is inadequate
- Removal of dead trees and bushes from fire prone arroyo.
- More bike lanes
- Composting.
- Bike lanes.
- Housing near the train.
- Finding a way to have private gardeners behave like the park gardeners. No loud gas blowers.
- Water saving...so many automatic sprinklers waste water.
- Creating an additional fund for homeowners to get rebates when purchasing electric yard maintenance equipment without a trade.
- A longer term reconfiguration of Mission street to allow for more outdoor seating for businesses, additional parking to aid in Cebu
- Via Del Rey is in need of re-paving on the 2000 block. I have seen more and more potholes over the years. I need to drive around the potholes to avoid throwing the alignment of my car off.
- Environmental programs for the high school kids could volunteer at.

Individual Responses

QUESTION 4. Let us know of any new programs or projects you are interested in the city pursuing.

- More charging stations for electric cars.
- Defunding the police and investing in other forms of community safety measures that provide more specialized rapid responses to crises.
- Defunding the police and investing in new community emergency services that are trained in de-escalation.
- Investing in public infrastructure for bicycles, pedestrians, and other methods of transportation that aren't cars.
- defunding the police and using that new money to create a mental health services department that has resources directly aimed for youth and BIPOC community members.
- create a guaranteed income program for lower-income and BIPOC, especially Black, residents
- establish historical markers acknowledging the City's history of racism
- How to keep homeless off city street and parks. We saw homeless camp by Arroyo Seco park. It is horrible.
- Our water pipe is so old. Water color is light pink. Time for a replacement.
- Health: A text message number people can text and send pictures if there is party going on which violate state order. Sometime we walk on street and see neighbors has big gathering but don't really know the exact street # and don't want to call policy in front of the house. Or any health concern.
- none
- Protecting our historic city properties - like the Rialto Theatre
- Bringing business to South Pasadena
- Improving community event involvement to keep our house prices high
- Keeping up with our sidewalks etc to keep the neighborhood nice
- A crackdown on homelessness, with a stronger police enforcement to move these people off our streets & into shelters.
- Charge families tuition if they opt out of in-person learning @ public schools (without a legitimate medical excuse) for their kids this fall.
- I would like to see more outdoor live music venues.
- Family activities throughout the year would nice.
- Recycling in public spaces, businesses & separation for residential waste
- CareFirst South Pasadena is researching how to implement a program like Cahoots in Eugene, Oregon in South Pasadena and possibly across San Gabriel Valley
- Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) of South Pasadena has many task forces aimed at racial justice in government policy, public safety, education, housing, art, and community services
- Reconsider exclusionary zoning in single-family home neighborhoods. Biden's infrastructure proposal would award grants and tax credits to cities that change zoning laws to bolster more equitable access to affordable housing.
- Public safety programs that do not involve police or the justice system at all. Completely separate, no interaction.
- Permanent supportive housing
- Expand high speed internet access (fiber) for everyone
- Stop sign at Meridian and Oak
- More green space opportunities. Can we repurpose vacant lots or utility easements for additional green space?
- Focus on core responsibilities: police, fire, library, parks, streets.
- community activities, updating recreation building, library(public offices)

Individual Responses

QUESTION 4. Let us know of any new programs or projects you are interested in the city pursuing.

- Adapting to and mitigating the climate emergency
- Continue to seek out grants and matching funds
- Divest from fossil fuel and other carbon intensive companies
- Get CHP out of the city. We need to take a stand against the disgusting act of paying hundreds of thousands of dollars guarding vacant homes from houseless families.
- Kahoots policing program model
- More emphasis on social services and mental health than policing.
- Connect City's efforts to County efforts to meet needs of people experiencing Homelessness
- Connect to Countywide biking and pedestrian safety programs
- What are the City's affordable housing programs? To support homeownership?
- Road pavement on Villa Del Rey
- Re-paving Via Del Rey. The street is in dire condition of repair and repaving. The deteriorated state of the street downgrades the neighborhood and invites criminals to burglarize homes which has been happening regularly lately.
- Provide more street lighting on Via Del Rey to prevent more burglaries.
- We are very concerned our street conditions on Via Del Rey with many pot holes and uneven pavement and poor street light conditions as recently we have many crimes and burglaries on this street.
- We need to upgrade street lights similar to Alpha Street and Camino Del Sol.
- Poor light conditions encourage crimes, and poor street conditions encourage falls especially senior citizens.
- I believe our community is thriving, and the expansion of South Pasadena by thousands of housing units is folly. I would rather invest in our current community's infrastructure than allow Big California Government to interfere in the natural growth of our community. Fight these proposals!
- Fix the roads in Monterey Hills, not just patch the holes
- Invigorate downtown area development. Kids and family entertainment facilities are needed.
- Would be great to activate "dead spaces" and long unused storefronts. These are eyesores.
- Library Film Program
- Please build more PROTECTED - not just painted lines - bicycle infrastructure along the entire length of South Pasadena's main roads (Monterey, Fair Oaks, Mission) to connect neighborhoods and the main shopping areas. There's no way to safely cycle from one end of South Pasadena to the other without having one's life threatened by speeding, distracted, intoxicated, vindictive, and malicious drivers. Cars do not give cyclists any room on the road, especially if there are parked cars along the street. There's not really any safe way for my kids to bike from our house on the west end of South Pasadena to the library. Trying to bike from our house to Marengo Elementary School for SPEF programs was like a suicide mission. South Pasadena no longer feels like a small town for families, but increasingly it feels like a city devoting itself more to speeding car traffic and inefficient car storage.
- Regional coordination/communication/shared resources plan in regards to homelessness and mental health crises
- Centralized information/resources that all could access in regards to homelessness and mental health
- CAHOOTS style program

Individual Responses

QUESTION 4. Let us know of any new programs or projects you are interested in the city pursuing.

- Racial Equity Economic Opportunity Incentives to lure Black owned business to South Pasadena
- Housing/Unhoused Aid Center
- Alternatives to policing - mobile mental health units and support centers
- Neighborhood traffic management, traffic slowing and calming devices where needed on residential streets
- Making Mission Street more business friendly with parklets, angled parking, 1 through travel lane
- More quickly and creatively using grant funds to improve quality of life; reduce delay
- Homeless shelter
- Public option for internet since ATT and Spectrum offer poor service
- More crosswalks
- Buying the school district office property and therefor expanding the library/senior center footprint and keeping the property for the community.
- Create a resident friendly plaza area to increase and keep foot traffic for our businesses.
- Revisit the idea of having a permanent band stage for concerts and other entertainment in the park. It can be controlled by locking electricity outlets so they can only be used by City approved events. So the neighbors won't have to whine about loud teen rock bands invading anytime of the day.
- A traffic light at Oak and Meridian.
- Smaller Police Budget
- I strongly support Care First budget so we can be a more inclusive city to all.
- City should do comprehensive review of roadway lane spacing, bump-out curves, and speed limits
- Perhaps part of Landscape & Maintenance _City street trees/wells up maintenance on existing main thoroughfares (e.g. Fair Oaks Ave)
- I support the Care First platform.
- Resurfacing city streets.
- Convert part of the arroyo into a water park so residents have a place to go in summer
- Build a food concession at Garfield park
- Citywide compost program and central community garden
- More information available on how to participate in local government/politics
- None
- Increase tree planting. Ban the use of gas-powered lawn equipment.
- Clean up and beautify the trail/path between the dog park and the Arroyo baseball fields/playground (where the tunnel is graffiti-tagged). I like graffiti art, but the area is a mess, and feels dangerous.
- Not a program but I have occasionally watched the city council meetings on TV and you SERIOUSLY need to improve the quality of the broadcast. It's the year 2021 and it looks and sound like it is from 1985.
- Literacy programs for not only children but for adults as well. To raise the level of competence level of language. The more competent the community is the better.
- Completion of the General Plan/Downtown Specific Plan & Housing Element updates critical.
- Implement policies to deter vagrancy and homelessness
- rent control and eviction protections for renters/tenants
- infrastructure to prioritize pedestrian, cyclist, and non-vehicle safety on our streets

Individual Responses

QUESTION 4. Let us know of any new programs or projects you are interested in the city pursuing.

- continue to allow use of parking spaces and streets for public use and expansion of businesses, especially on Mission
- car free days so we can walk/bike the streets
- Consolidate camp med with the SPUSD extended day program and offer it on-site at schools for everyone who wants it.
- Handle mental and social service issues separately from the police.
- Social Services (Homeless, Low Income, Mental Health)
- Inspector General Management & Operational Audits
- Please see the Care First budget proposals.
- I would like to see both professional and elected community servants to learn more about systems thinking in order to make decisions, budget and otherwise, that address multiple symptoms by getting at fundamental root causes and don't result in unintended consequences. I would like to see more systems thinking processes employed when sharing information with the public and seeking public input.
- Systemwide pedestrian safety program. Slowing down/traffic calming.
- Purchased a home in SP only recently and moved here — still familiarizing myself with everything here.
- Purchased a home and moved here only a few months ago; still getting "acclimated" to things.
- Stop allowing turf which is terrible for the environment (causes heating, kill biomatter below, ruins rainwater drainage, and really should be cleaned unlike grass which gets cleaned naturally)
- Fixing curbs and streets
- To create CAHOOTS Program
- More robust funding for youth programs like Teen Center
- Programs for our unhoused neighbors
- Cahoots type policing policy

Individual Responses

QUESTION 5. Any additional input you would like to provide regarding the City's FY 2021-2022 Budget

- Stick to the core fundamental purposes of local government--police, fire, infrastructure, safety and service FIRST. Then add other services. Economic development will be important, as will investment in technology.
- strong police and fire
- The police department budget is disgustingly inflated and needs to be cut. Our (now retired) Police Chief publicly endorsed a hate group and terrorized BLM protesters. Why was he not vetted? Why was he making six figures? For the sake of the City's financial future, cut the police budget.
- Charge MORE for Filming Permits! They can afford it ...
- This is not a time for mild reform of the police. This will be my single issue voting criteria moving forward. I have lived here for almost 20 years; there was no other issue that resulted in daily well-attended protests at Fair Oaks & Mission for months on end. I was out protesting in SoPas with many of my neighbors.
- "Thank You!" for this opportunity to provide feedback. Much Appreciated From This Long-Time Resident & Voter!
- I think it's very important to do door-to-door outreach with police officers reacquainting themselves with citizens, listening to grievances and reassuring community they are our friends and here to protect community not menace citizens. Let south Pasadena be a model community of working together.
- Please always keep in mind racial and gender equity in all aspects of city planning and programming. Thank you.
- I would like monies allocated for the Police to be able to do Constitutional Training and Review.
- Please explore alternative safety and health programs to decrease the need for armed police response. Reduce police funding.
- Vehicles for the Police Department
- The City has an extremely high employee turnover rate and their employees are some of the lowest paid in local government. This is sad and unacceptable; especially in such an affluent city where the median income is over \$104,000 and the median home value is over \$1,000,000.00. Most city employees couldn't afford to live in the city they serve.
- Budgeting for police needs to hold officers liable for misconduct
- Allocate money to implement the bike plan that the city passed long ago. It's climate arson not to prioritize safe biking.
- Please allocate funding to fix and re-pave Via Del Rey's 2000 block.
- Please siphon a significant amount of the police budget into things that are more specialized to meet the community's needs. Thank you.
- I think mental health services, homeless services, affordable housing services, environmental programs, and defunding the police should be the priority for the City's FY 2021-2022 budget.
- balanced budget. focus one/few thing at a time.
- PLEASE use funds to re-pave our streets! They are shameful. You can literally tell the border of San Marino because their streets are taken care of.
- Not thrilled about larger branded stores coming in. Local/family owned businesses should be supported to maintain our identity and sense of community. Thanks for asking for input!
- Make salary cuts within the government like the state of California
- I would like to see a 5, 10, 15 year forecast if possible.

Individual Responses

QUESTION 5. Any additional input you would like to provide regarding the City's FY 2021-2022 Budget

- Please see recommendations made by the Care First group
- build pocket parks, exercise equipment in parks, walking trail along Arroyo Drive
- Fiscal responsibility, we need to make sure our finance is in order. Parks and Rec. we need to resume the children programs after school and summer.
- Can residents access a copy of the proposed budget with individual line items?
- Please expand high speed (fiber) internet access for all residents
- I don't think my individual input will make a difference, but I wish the city would move quicker when they make a decision it gets implemented and not request another study to be made.
- Approve the budget in a timely manner. Don't wait until the year is nearly over to approve, which hobbles the City's ability to conduct business and also affects the City's credit rating. Allowing politics to derail the budget process and to not approving the 2020-21 budget until mid-April was fiscally irresponsible.
- The warrant register shows that the city spent \$40,000 to \$50,000 a month of electric power for city facilities until a change two years ago that slightly more than doubled the city's monthly electric bills. You're spending an extra \$600,000 a year on electricity for city facilities. Discuss community choice aggregation as a BUDGET topic. How can the city reduce its spending on utilities at city facilities?
- You need to significantly reduce (by at least 50%) the amount you are spending on police. Police do not keep people safe. We need to invest in our young people, our houseless neighbors, and on repairing the harm we have caused to BIPOC residents.
- We need to get businesses in SP that are not big corporation:s. It saddens me that the new restaurants are big chain corporate developments. We need creativity and innovation with new exciting businesses. Highland Park is really outdoing us. We are beginning to look like a boring, cookie cutter suburb. Where is amour uniqueness.
- compare the cost for outsourcing policing
- Please repair and pave streets on Alta Vista Avenue
- I support community development efforts that strengthen community supports vs excessive investment in policing efforts
- Add recycle bin
- We would like to see FY 2021-2 budget to include new pavement on the remainder of Via Del Rey, and upgrade street lights on Vial Del Rey like Alpha Street and Camino Del Sol.
- Please continue to fund and train our first responders at current levels. South Pasadena Police is a vital part of the community, and deserve training and support.
- Defund the Police
- The park that is off the 110 freeway Marmion exit is sooooo sad! Terrible grounds with graffiti and litter and homeless people. It would be wonderful if park was spruced up for the families who live nearby. I have kids and we avoid that park.
- We need to invest in staffing so that the city can implement the initiatives and services that the residents want and need.
- reallocate police resources to non police response of homelessness and mental health crises
- I support the 20-21 Care First Budget Proposal
- Important to continue to reconstruct streets, upgrade and manage traffic signals and lighting
- We need more affordable housing in South Pas.
- I am not in favor of more affordable housing, this will lower the existing home values in the city

Individual Responses

QUESTION 5. Any additional input you would like to provide regarding the City's FY 2021-2022 Budget

- I believe our police department needs to be working closely with social workers and other trained professionals to avoid deadly officer-involved shootings in our neighborhood. I also think we need more services for the homeless in our community.
- I support the Care First Plan
- Have to be able to build reserve, costs control and have a surplus budget for long term.
- I'd like to see the city's economic development activities focus on independent businesses, rather than chains (such as Starbucks or Chipotle or Blaze Pizza).
- Electric Vehicle Chargers Plan on city property and municipal code to address what residents can install near street parking (when no garage/driveway exists)
- I support the Care First Budget
- We have too many police.
- None
- More EV charging stations please!!!
- Again stop wasting any monies on frivolous events like Moon Festival, Balloon Festivals and such and use it any of that money for infrastructure like water and roads.
- Police and fire departments are too expensive. Find ways to reduce their cost or contract it out to other cities and/or the county.
- to remove racist or historically inaccurate murals and plaques around the city
- Hire more staff and reduce the number of contractors/temp hires
- I endorse Care First's budget proposals. The city has many good plans and aspirations and now is in a position to hire the staff needed to turn them into reality.
- I think some consideration should be given to bringing the business license services back in house, or at least a better collaboration between the city and vendor.
- More funding for police and fire departments
- Please adopt CareFirst budget
- Prioritize racial justice and civil rights norms in all aspects of city government
- Resume and expand afterschool programs such as Camp Med.

CARE FIRST BUDGET

Proposals for the
South Pasadena
City Budget 2021-2022

April 2021



21-22 BUDGET OUTLOOK

South Pasadena has never had more money available to improve services and facilities for residents. **“Financially, we’re doing really well,” Acting City Manager Sean Joyce told a civic gathering on April 10. Acting Finance Director and Assistant City Manager Elaine Aguilar added that the city has “healthy reserves.”**

What will the city—home to residents of substantial wealth and, on average, with higher income per capita than most cities in Los Angeles County—do to address growing economic insecurity, the region’s homelessness crisis, and accelerating global warming?

Now, more than ever, the money is available to make progress on improving services and facilities, address housing insecurity, and take steps to slow global warming. Indeed, both property tax and sales tax revenue have been higher than projected this year, even before the pandemic shutdown. **Rising property values, increased property tax revenues related to transfers, and a higher sales tax level make it possible for South Pasadena to hire the additional staff needed to achieve the city’s goals.**

In fiscal year 2021-2022, the city will benefit from one-time revenue of \$4.4 million from a cell phone tower lease agreement plus a projected infusion of \$4.8 million as a result of the recent federally-enacted American Rescue Plan Act. The Act allows cities to use the federal funds in a flexible way to meet a variety of local needs.

Overall, the general fund revenue at the end of this fiscal year (2020-21) is forecast at \$35.3 million, with spending of just \$28.3 million, leaving a **\$7 million surplus** as fiscal year 2020-21 nears a close. The federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act will result in an estimated **\$12 million surplus**.

The 2020-21 budget just adopted shows the city has \$15.3 million of undesignated general fund reserves, plus \$7.7 million of reserve money dedicated to various projects, many of which have been planned for years, but have never come to fruition. That’s a total of \$23 million. Rainy day reserves are good, but not to the extent that services to residents are starved.

FINANCIALLY, WE'RE DOING REALLY WELL.

*Sean Joyce, Acting City Manager,
April 10, 2021*

THE CITY WILL HAVE AN ESTIMATED \$12 MILLION SURPLUS.

WHY NOW?



Never has local fiscal action been needed more, as the pandemic has taken an incalculable toll on the economic well-being of low-income and middle-income people. The pandemic has stalled environmental programs and much needed transportation improvements to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Prior to the pandemic, low- and middle-income people already had been struggling with growing income inequality, stagnant wages, and higher costs of living.

- A tidal wave of evictions is anticipated when tenants' accumulated back rent comes due as eviction moratoria sunset.
- Many people in South Pasadena are housing insecure. One-third of the city's renters are rent burdened, meaning they spend over a third of their household income on rent. Of this, about 1,000 households, or 20% of renters, are severely rent burdened, spending over half their income on rent. Renters make up 53% of our city. Meanwhile, between 2000 and 2018, median home sales prices in South Pasadena increased 223%, averaging \$1.1 million per new home. (1)
- The pandemic is expected to substantially increase the number of people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. (2) By 2023, the Economic Roundtable estimates 52,000 more working-age adults will be homeless in L.A. County—nearly double the most recent estimate of approximately 66,000 unhoused people. (3)
- The pandemic dealt a severe blow to women in the workforce—particularly Black and Latinx women—as sources of child care evaporated.
- Students have suffered isolation and depression at unprecedented levels during distance learning.
- Progress on environmental programs, infrastructure improvements, and transportation projects stalled during the pandemic. The city has done little to begin implementing its new climate plan, or to adapt to an increasingly hot climate that poses a health threat.

The pandemic brought to the fore the ongoing struggle for racial justice in our city. The city's past as a sundown town continues today in more insidious ways to exclude non-whites from living and thriving here. South Pasadena is home to residents of enormous wealth and, on average, has a higher income per capita than most cities in Los Angeles County. Much of this wealth is the product of unequal opportunity in past and present governmental policies that continue to favor white people and those who are already privileged: advantage that is experienced in homeownership, lower property taxes, and higher educational attainment. South Pasadena's past racially exclusive covenants created an all-white town and contributed to the racial and economic segregation of the Greater Los Angeles area.

The city must accept responsibility for its racist policies and reverse course for itself and its place in the region.

CARE FIRST PRINCIPLES

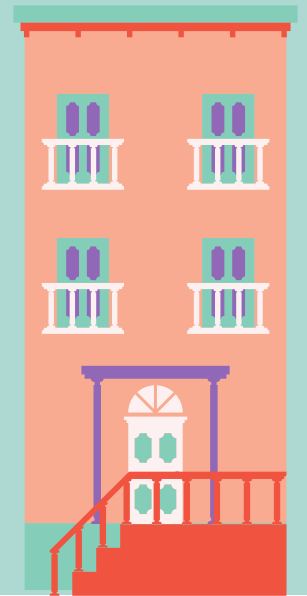
This coalition's budget proposals advance priorities to support a racially and economically inclusive future for South Pasadena and an improved environment and transportation system for all. At this juncture, rather than merely seeking a return to normal, it is imperative that South Pasadena fundamentally redirect some resources and allocate new money to address new needs and to position itself for the future. It is time for the city to modernize its structure and management processes to make sure that all of its residents are served.

Accordingly, we call for a budget for the upcoming year that will:

- **Address racial and economic inequalities as the city emerges from the pandemic in a strong fiscal position.**
- **Create new positions within City Hall, including new staffing in the areas of **Housing, Social Services, Environmental Affairs, and Transportation**; and**
- **Direct funding through specific budget line items to new purposes in areas of social services, affordable housing, racial equity, youth development, environment, transportation, and a reimagined approach to public safety that begins with budgeting for and implementing a multi-city mental health crisis response program with city money instead of waiting for county money.**

We envision a city where everyone, regardless of race or wealth, can live and travel through here safely, with dignity, and with care for each other and the environment we inhabit.

HOUSING & HUMAN SERVICES



Affordable Housing

The city should seek to preserve existing affordable housing, add more affordable housing, protect tenants from unlawful evictions, and support tenants to avoid evictions based on economic insecurity. Toward these goals, the city should budget for the following expenditures in the upcoming fiscal year:

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

As we exit the pandemic, there are lingering financial hardships, and a continuing affordability crisis facing all renters in California. Advocates expect a wave of evictions without large-scale rental assistance. The city should enact a rental assistance that shores up deficits in State and County rental assistance programs.

INCLUSIONARY HOUSING

Monitor compliance with and study the impacts of the City's inclusionary housing program including current deed-restricted housing units and below-market rate rental and for-sale housing agreements.

SECTION 8

Develop relationships with local landlords and identify vacant units to encourage landlords to accept Sec. 8 vouchers and placement of unhoused individuals. Monitor landlords' compliance with laws that prohibit discrimination based on payment type, such as Sec. 8.

NEW CITY POSITIONS

Fund two to three positions focused on affordable housing, renters' rights, and CalTrans homes within the city. The city routinely complains that it lacks resources to proactively pursue affordable housing strategies and protect renters. It took the city over three years to develop and enact an Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. Renters make up more than 50% of the city's population. An outside share of the Planning Department's resources are committed to homeowners' concerns, i.e., permitting and historic preservation. The city should show its commitment to affordable housing and tenants with dedicated staff.

CALTRANS HOMES

Monitor nonprofit affordable housing managers of CalTrans homes, and develop a stakeholder process to decide the future of these houses in our city.

HOUSING RIGHTS

Expand the contract with Housing Rights Center or another legal services provider for tenant legal assistance and full scope representation, regardless of income. We want a larger contract with a more robust set of services, including a presence at a weekly drop-in center at the War Memorial Building to address housing issues (more on p. 5, Homeless & Housing Resource Center).

RENOVATION FUNDS

The City can make (non-COVID) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds available to landlords to renovate rental units to code. The receipt of grant funding must be conditioned on the landlord's covenant not to evict tenants based on 'substantial renovations' without complying with all the requirements of SPMC section 17.106 et seq.

HOUSING STOCK

Develop policies to increase affordable housing stock in South Pasadena, and study other similarly-situated cities for best practices with regard to affordable housing.

Services to People Experiencing Housing Insecurity & Homelessness

The City of South Pasadena is home to an average 12-15 permanent homeless individuals at any given time, as well as many housing-insecure residents. Currently, the City lacks adequate programs to address the needs of those experiencing housing and employment insecurity.

Given the resources available to the City through additional County, State and Federal grants, we propose a **South Pasadena Homeless & Housing Resource Center** that would provide increasingly needed supportive and preventative services and resource referrals to the unhoused and those vulnerable to homelessness. The center, modeled after a similar operation in Arcadia (4), would serve as a one-stop shop for housing and social services to the unhoused as well as low-income seniors, people with disabilities, students and others in need of housing, rental rights advice and other social services. Among services provided would be assistance and referrals for healthcare, job training and employment opportunities, education and transportation aid.



SOUTH PASADENA HOMELESS & HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER

A one-stop shop for housing and social services to the unhoused as well as low-income seniors, people with disabilities, students, and others

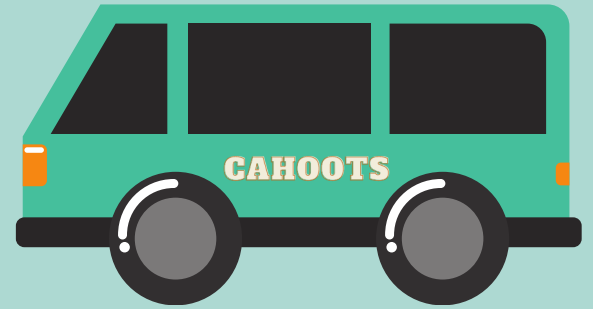
In addition to serving as a service center for case management, referral services, and housing assistance, we propose that the facility designate two days per week on which the unhoused will have access to showers and laundry. This would be in addition to permanent restrooms, a secured locker area, WiFi and charging stations available during hours of Center operations.

Potential sites for the Center may be existing South Pasadena structures (e.g., South Pasadena Recreation Division Headquarters, South Pasadena Theater Workshop, a CalTrans property, or commercial acquisition) or a trailer/modular unit housed at an appropriate and accessible location (e.g., War Memorial parking lot). The Center should be safe and welcoming. The Center can also serve as a regular hub for volunteer activities such as clothing and food distribution, donation collection days, and holiday and back-to-school giveaway events for those who qualify.

Management of the Center will require some time commitment by a City Staff member, or outside contractor.

Additionally, for homeless prevention, affordable housing access, disability rights and renters' rights, the Center would partner with the **Housing Rights Center** or another legal aid organization to have on-site presence on designated times and hours each month. Other potential partnerships will be with Foothill Workforce Development Board, LA County Public Health, Pasadena Community College and other service providers in the San Gabriel Valley. Similarly, the City would partner with **Union Station Homeless Services** to provide Homeless Case Management and Housing Navigation services at regular, weekly hours.

PUBLIC SAFETY



The city's police budget is outsized and overfunded, preventing our city from making investments in programs and services that will provide public safety in more racially and economically equitable ways. For this fiscal year, we propose a moderate approach to steer our city into a new era of public safety:

- Halting the growth of the police department with a gradual reduction of the number of officers in the coming years, and
- Immediately investing in an alternative model to policing to intervene in mental health-, substance use-, and homelessness-related crises.

In FY 20-21, the police budget occupied over one third (35%) of the General Fund at \$9.9 million. This is an increase of about \$1.5 million in the past four (4) years. FY 21-22 should see no increase in the police department's expenditures from the General Fund.

Additionally, the city should freeze hiring for the Police Department and allow attrition to reduce expenditures on policing to increasingly fund alternative approaches to public safety. Alternatives will prioritize social services, eliminate the use of lethal force, and complete streets with traffic calming features and engineered traffic controls. Such approaches, already widely being employed in surrounding cities in Southern California, increase pedestrian safety on a consistent basis across the city instead of just when motorcycle traffic officers are available to stake out dangerous intersections.

At present, there are already two unfilled positions in the Police Department, which currently has 51 filled positions. **Leaving these two positions unfilled and reprogramming the compensation money would free up enough funds going forward to pay the city's share of a West San Gabriel Valley CAHOOTS program (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets) serving several cities.** A local CAHOOTS program would provide more effective services to individuals experiencing mental health needs, such as those needing welfare checks, and individuals experiencing homelessness, such as those needing a ride to shelter. Since its founding in 1989, the original CAHOOTS program in Eugene, OR, has operated without armed workers and has never had a worker hurt on the job. We should strive to have a similar non-armed response team in South Pasadena, which would reduce the disproportionate use of force against Black and Latinx people and in the worst situations, the disproportionate shooting of Black and Latinx people by armed police officers. The reallocation of police funds to support a non-law enforcement crisis response program is widely supported by our community and likely voters polled nationally. (8)

RACIAL EQUITY IN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



Given South Pasadena's history as a sundown town and the national history of discrimination against Black people, it is far past time we reckon with the very real wealth gap that exists between White and Black residents of our town. From the inception of our town, white residents have had a very real advantage to building wealth and commanding representation in our city, while Black residents have been shut out due to redlining, discrimination and racism.

Historically, Black-owned small businesses have been disproportionately affected by an environment of increasing consolidation by large corporations and the effects of the pandemic on the economy. (5) Aside from the moral mandate of aiding and promoting Black small businesses, there is a critical economic rationale. Evidence points to the multiplying factor for the overall economy when Black small businesses are created. (6)

The City of South Pasadena, utilizing funding from flexible block grants included in the American Rescue Plan, can take steps to repair its legacy by promoting and aiding existing and potential Black small business owners, as well as address poverty among our lowest earners. Here are a few ways. (7)

(1) PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES TO GROW IN SOUTH PASADENA

- Provide direct Commercial Rent Subsidies and Tax Breaks to POC-owned small businesses.
- Prioritize Black small businesses for city contracts.
- Direct Black small businesses to low-cost SBA loans.
- Provide access to trusted and affordable professional services to small business owners, like banking, accounting, marketing, web and legal services.
- Connect business owners with Entrepreneurial Support Organizations.
- Create a web page on the city website clearly outlining the incentives offered by South Pasadena to Black small businesses
- Market our city and it's incentives to potential small business owners, both inside and outside of the city to attract Black owned businesses.

(2) HOLD FREE DIVERSITY-INCLUSION COURSES WITH INVITED SPEAKERS.

(3) SPONSOR AND PROMOTE A BLACK VENDOR-OWNED ARTISAN AND FLEA MARKET.

(4) ESTABLISH AND STUDY A DEMONSTRATION GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAM

The city should establish a demonstration Guaranteed Income program with the goals of reducing racial disparities in income and reducing poverty overall. Concurrent with the demonstration, the city should study the outcomes of the program while consulting with other Guaranteed Income programs throughout California and the country. The city could, for example, participate in the Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, <https://www.mayorsforagi.org>.

YOUTH SERVICES



(1) MAKE PRESCHOOL AND CHILD CARE WIDELY AVAILABLE AND AFFORDABLE AS PARENTS RETURN TO WORK.

Subsidize after-school and summer childcare services for all families earning less than 400% of the FPL. Provide wrap-around care for half-day kindergartners to all families who seek it. Utilize more locations for these programs, potentially cooperating with Camp Med.

(2) CREATE A CITY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR YOUTH, OFFERING PAID INTERNSHIPS.

“Early work experience is an important tool for enhancing the future employment prospects and earnings potential of low-income youth,” according to a recent article in the [*Harvard Business Review*](#).

Twenty-two percent of students have financial need, qualifying for free or reduced price lunches. Many also do not go to four-year colleges after graduating. Thirty-five percent of high school graduates either go to community college or do not go at all. Working part-time while in high school can help youth transition to the workforce and introduce them to career opportunities. Many cities, including Long Beach and San Francisco, are already providing opportunities for young people by creating and operating paid internships within city government.

(3) EXPAND YOUTH VOTING RIGHTS.

Young South Pasadenans would like to expand the right to vote in all city and school board elections to people age 16 and older. Legally, this can be done here if approved by locally-elected officials. We ask that you allocate funds to study how this would be possible, and prepare a presentation to the City Council and School Board proposing a timeline for implementation.

(4) ENHANCE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO SOUTH PASADENANS AGES 18 AND UNDER.

Students report that they do not have adequate access to mental health professionals at the Middle and High School. While enhanced services may be offered at the schools through SPUSD, additional options for enhanced mental health support in the community include:

- Community-based therapists and social workers in South Pasadena who will treat South Pasadenans off campus with subsidies from the city;
- Mental health hotline available to all young people in South Pasadena;
- Seminars that focus on mental health issues;
- Fresh reading materials in the library with a focus on mental, physical and sexual and reproductive health;
- Support for outdoor activities that enrich mental health.

(5) CREATE A GRANT PROGRAM THAT ACCEPTS APPLICATIONS FROM SOUTH PASADENANS AGED 18 AND YOUNGER TO DEVELOP COMMUNITY PROJECTS.

Young South Pasadenans are looking for more opportunities to get involved in the community, and they have many ideas about how to do it that would benefit from the city’s support. Some of the innovative ideas for which you might see grant applications include:

- An annual community garage sale at Mission and Fremont in the empty lot. The money raised would be donated to a charity selected by the organizers.
- A program to expand composting in the community, such as by allowing collection at the Middle and High Schools for processing at the South Pasadena community garden. The products could be used in the community garden and donated to local gardeners.
- Mutual aid to feed and provide basic hygiene and clothing for people experiencing homelessness.

ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION

Environmental quality and transportation are inextricably linked. South Pasadena has adopted ambitious plans to improve the environment under its **Green Plan and Climate Action Plan** and to reduce auto use and the related environmental impacts by implementing complete streets. Yet little has been done to actually implement these plans even though grant money from the county, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and various state and federal programs is available.

Key to ending the gridlock is to increase city staffing dedicated to these programs and including in the upcoming budget specific direction and dedicated line items. The upcoming 2021-22 budget is the place to start.



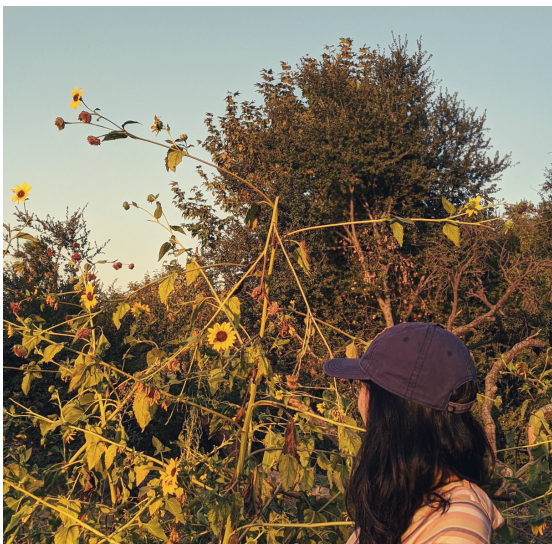
Environment

(1) HIRE AN ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS MANAGER FUNDED BY THE GENERAL FUND

Currently, the existing position of Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst is funded largely by the Water Efficiency Fee and has limited capacity to advance the city's Green Plan and Climate Action Plan. Lagging are long promised actions to extend the city's current restrictions on Styrofoam for to-go food packaging and single-use plastic bags, to additional types of single-use plastics; transition the community to electric lawn and garden equipment to reduce pollution, noise, and dust; and promote waste reduction, which in turn reduces the need to transport organic waste for composting under new state requirements. Ironically, the city has not even moved aggressively to promote water efficiency, having built up about a \$1 million surplus in its water efficiency fund. Likewise, the city has not promoted strategies to fund stormwater capture and infiltration, despite the availability of county money collected through increased property taxes since 2019 and earmarked for removal and replacement of impermeable surfaces under Measure W, passed by voters in 2018. **A new Environmental Programs Manager** would enable the city to actually implement environmental plans now gathering dust on a shelf, and tap available money to deliver the environmental benefits long promised to city residents.

(2) THE BUDGET SHOULD INCLUDE DIRECTIVES TO CITY STAFF TO IMPLEMENT SPECIFIC ELEMENTS OF THE CLIMATE ACTION AND GREEN PLANS IN THE COMING YEAR AND EACH SUCCEEDING YEAR

In the coming year, these should include developing ordinances to expand the city's restrictions on single-use plastic, transitioning to electric lawn and garden equipment (beginning with leaf blowers), and developing and implementing a plan to minimize the need for Athens to haul green and food waste to Victorville in diesel-powered trucks. The city should enable this material to be converted to mulch and compost locally by establishing and operating one or two community composting facilities, including at the community garden. The city also should establish a professionally managed restaurant-district composting program and promote and fund enhanced food-gleaning programs. Additional line items should designate funding for improved outreach and public communication programs to promote more water efficiency (drought tolerant landscaping, grey water systems, water-efficient fixtures and appliances). Finally, the city should launch a stormwater capture and infiltration program, including at the Nature Park on the Arroyo.



(3) ESTABLISH WITHIN THE BUDGET A SPECIFIC LINE ITEM FOR THE SOUTH PASADENA ARROYO SECO WOODLAND & WILDLIFE PARK (NATURE PARK)

More than 24 organizations have helped create and sustain South Pasadena's Nature Park. Since the park's inception, almost 100 educational and public outreach events have been hosted in the park, bringing in students (from elementary to college level), local conservationists, scout troops, service clubs, and local residents. Indeed, the park is one of South Pasadena's gems. However, it is unclear if the city has met its commitment to provide about \$18,000 a year for maintenance, weed and poison oak abatement, trash and graffiti removal, periodic tree trimming, and assorted other tasks. To remedy this lack of transparency, the budget should include a specific line item showing the planned annual expenditure for park maintenance.

(4) TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR A STORMWATER INFILTRATION FEATURE AT THE NATURE PARK

County money is available under Measure W to expand the restored area of the park by funding a dry streambed, detention basin, paths, benches, restoration of native plants and trees, and interpretive signage at the Nature Park to both replenish groundwater and showcase the potential for stormwater capture to augment the city's future water supply. However, engineering support is needed to qualify for county money. The upcoming budget should include the funding needed for that engineering support, potentially through hiring a consultant or enhancing city Public Works Department staffing (for instance by authorizing needed overtime or temporary staffing), so the project can qualify for Measure W funding and be carried out.

(5) ENHANCED PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

Many residents will voluntarily take steps to reduce their environmental impact. To that end, the city must do more to educate residents and businesses about available rebates for energy and water efficiency, electric vehicles and charging stations, waste reduction, the shade benefits of maintaining trees, active transportation, and other lifestyle and technological changes.

Transportation

Key to relieving gridlock, improving pedestrian and bicycle safety, and reducing the environmental impact of auto use is both hiring dedicated staff and allocating the coming one-time influx of money—from the cellular tower lease and under the federal American Rescue Plan Act—to pedestrian and bicycle-friendly complete street measures. The upcoming budget should therefore provide for:

(1) HIRING A TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

A Transportation Director would be able to monitor transportation agencies, marshal needed plans and engineering studies required to put already allocated funds from MTA and others to work, and develop a plan to fill in and interconnect existing bike paths as streets are repaved.

(2) DEDICATED GENERAL FUNDS

Some one-time revenue should be dedicated to bike lanes, especially on roads used to access local schools, and upgrading sidewalks, bus stops, and water bottle refill stations used by pedestrians and cyclists—for instance, in commercial areas.



CREDITS

Endnotes

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(4) City of Arcadia, Homeless Resource Hub, https://www.arcadiaca.gov/enrich/recreation_community_services/homeless_services/homeless_resource_hub.php

(5) Bassine, Peter, et al. A Five-Step Roadmap for Rebuilding the U.S. Small-Business Sector, Reviving Entrepreneurship, and Closing the Racial Wealth Gap, <https://www.bigideasforsmallbusiness.org>.

(6) Katz, Bruce, et al. How States Can Grow Black-Owned Businesses, Jun. 26, 2020, <https://www.thenewlocalism.com/newsletter/how-states-can-grow-black-owned-businesses/>; Small Business Equity Toolkit, <https://www.smallbusinessequitytoolkit.com>.

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(8) Bernstein, Molly & McElwee, Sean. National Poll: Shift Law Enforcement Funds to Non-Police Emergency Response, The Appeal, April 8, 2021, <https://theappeal.org/the-lab/polling-memos/likely-voters-support-non-police-emergency-response/>.

Contributors

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**City of South Pasadena Finance Commission
Minutes for Special Meeting of:
April 29, 2021 6:30 P.M.**

Broadcast via ZOOM conference call.

- I. Roll Call
 - Commission Chair Elsner – Present
 - Commission Vice-Chair Choi – Present
 - Commissioner Findley – Present
 - Commissioner Tao – Present
 - Commissioner Wood – Absent
 - City Treasurer Pia – Present
 - City Council Liaison Donovan – Present
 - Interim Assistant City Manager Aguilar – Present
 - Finance Manager Trinh - Present
 - Accounting Manager Trashian - Present

- II. Public Comment - None

- III. Action/Discussion
 1. Consider Revising Monthly Treasurer Investment Report: 6-month Projection
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Findley to utilize the same 6-month period using the current methodology with a Los Angeles- Long Beach CPI increase and compare expenses to the Adopted Budget, an amendment by Commissioner Choi to compare the same 6-month period from the prior year's expenses for the projection, Second by Commission Tao. Approved 5-0
 2. Appoint a Commissioner to the Community Services Ad Hoc Lease Committee
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Wood to appoint Commissioner Findley and Commissioner Tao to the Community Services Ad Hoc Lease Committee, second by Commissioner Choi Approved 5-0
 3. Report from the Ad Hoc Committee
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Wood to approve the recommended changes to the FY 2020-2021 Financial Policy, Second by Commissioner Findley. Approved 5-0
 - ii. Motion by Commission Chair Elsner to keep a standing item for Budget and Audit updates, Second by Commissioner Findley.
 - iii. Motion by Commissioner Wood to receive and file the report from the Ad Hoc Committee, Second Commissioner Choi. Approved 5-0
 4. Approval of Minutes (4/29/2021)
 - i. Motion by Commission Chair Elsner to approve the minutes for the April 29th, 2021 Finance Commission Meeting, with and I vote, Approved 4-0. Commissioner Wood abstained (not present at the meeting)

- IV. Communications
 1. NONE

Next regular meeting – May 27, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 PM