



Community Budget Questions April 20 - May 19, 2020

Summary

Each year, staff tracks comments on the City's budget. The City Manager's Trial Budget was scheduled to be presented to the City Council on March 17, 2020, with budget hearings scheduled to begin April 2, 2020. However, due to current restrictions on public gatherings, the City unfortunately had to cancel normal and customary community budget hearings and the Trial Budget is being revised due to the economic downturn.

Based on the revised budget adoption schedule discussed at the March 26, 2020 City Council Policy Session, staff returned with additional information on April 2 and April 6 to walk the City Council through four different budget scenarios modeling the impact of COVID-19 on our General Fund revenues. On April 13, staff presented the 2020-21 Revised Trial Budget, focusing on the City's proposed response efforts to the current economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 public health crisis. On May 5, staff presented the City Manager's Proposed budget and on May 19 the proposed budget was approved by City Council.

We very much value the feedback and community engagement received in our community budget hearings. Unfortunately, this year it will be necessary to use a different format and a compressed schedule to accomplish this goal. Once those decisions have been made we will update the calendar on the website. As always residents can continue to provide feedback by calling 602-262-4800 or email us at budget.research@phoenix.gov. Additionally, Budget and Research continues to promote the FundPHX interactive budget tool, available at phoenix.gov/FundPHX.

Attachment A transmits a summary of the electronic and voice mail comments regarding the budget for May 1 - May 19, 2020.

In addition to the comments included on Attachment A, we also received 39 comments from Poder in Action. A summary of these comments can be found in **Attachment B**.

Attachment C contains voice mail comments left with the Budget and Research Department from April 20 - May 19, 2020.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by City Manager Ed Zuercher and the Budget and Research Department.

ATTACHMENT A



City of Phoenix

To: Ed Zuercher
City Manager

Date: May 19, 2020

From: Jeff Barton
Deputy City Manager

Subject: BUDGET QUESTIONS SUMMARY MAY 1 – MAY 19, 2020

This report transmits a summary of the electronic and voice mail comments regarding the budget from May 1 – May 19, 2020.

Residents can access additional information at phoenix.gov/Budget.

SUMMARY MINUTES
VOICEMAIL, ELECTRONIC, AND WRITTEN BUDGET COMMENTS
Responded to May 1 – May 19, 2020

1. Alexander Griego sent an email in support of funding more crosswalks.
2. Josh Finnon sent an email in support of funding arts and culture.
3. Elvia Baron sent an email in support of funding a budget that reflects the health of the community and not criminalization.
4. Alma Baron sent an email in support of a COVID-19 relief fund to support rent and service payments to all people in need, especially the undocumented, refugee and asylee communities.
5. Jeff Spellman sent an email in support of eliminating the PHXCARES program and transferring the funds to the Phoenix Police Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

Khala Stanfield
Management Assistant II

Attachment B

	Person	Question/ Comment
1	Juana	Can police money be moved into low cost medical centers?
2	Raquel	The City requires us to pay taxes but we don't receive any aid.
3	Berta	If the City doesn't want to support undocumented people, can the City Council make a policy that undocumented people don't have to pay taxes?
4	Noemi	Why does the City want undocumented people to be counted in the census this year?
5	Marta A.	Every year we never hear about the budget. Why is the Spanish-speaking community not included in these conversations and decisions?
6	Alondra	Why are the police given so much money instead of putting more funding into head start or other programs that make us safe?
7	Arturo Escalera	In our community we do not see the police working to keep us safe, instead we see a lot of police violence.
8	Karen	Why don't they invest in our communities to have better streets, parks and free kids programs instead of so much money in the police department?
9	Betty	What is the benefit of an undocumented person being counted if we do not receive help?
10	Noemi Garcia	Our community asks why they have to file taxes and clean up counting on the census, but when our community needs help they no longer want to count them.
11	Angelina	If undocumented people didn't receive federal aid, why isn't the city of Phoenix helping them? They are also entitled to help because they contribute a lot to this country.
12	Lore Valdez	How can you engage with the community to put pressure on other councilmembers who do not want to support a private relief fund for undocumented people?
13	Antonia medina	Councilmembers, you can or have the power to put pressure on the governor and mayor to help establish a private fund for undocumented people.
14	Anabelle	Will part of the money that Arizona received for COVID-19 be given to Police?

15	Juan Lopez	I want to thank the council for being here and answering questions and doubts from the community. This shows that you are interested in knowing the needs of our community, thank you.
16	Juanita	I would like to thank you for committing to lobby other councilmembers to make a schedule change for later meetings. With the time change more people will be able to participate in meetings.
17	Humberto	Does the council have the power to forgive payments for basic services such as water, electricity, gas for three months for everyone who lost their job?
18	Marcos	I would like to know how you are going to engage with the most vulnerable to make Phoenix better?
19	Anita	I would like you to be our voices and use your power to put pressure on the other councilmembers to stop investing our money in the police and to invest more into our communities to make them healthy and safe.
20	Beny	Councilmember Nowakowski and Mayor Gallego, you are in your positions because many undocumented people supported you now we need you to help the undocumented people who helped you.
21	Iliana	The City of Phoenix never takes into account the most vulnerable communities when deciding where our money should be invested and we cannot participate given the time of the council meetings, how can we participate?
22	Cristina	Do you know where undocumented families who have been evicted from their homes for not paying rent can get help?
23	Crystal	In this time of COVID-19 do you know what you are going to do to make children safe when they return to school? What measures will they take?
24	Josefina	Invest in our communities, not in police.
25	Lali Mejia	I am a single woman and I have the responsibility of raising my three grandchildren (Ages 2 months, 9 and 5). I don't have a job or money to cover my bills and it is very difficult for me right now because of my legal status. You have the power to help people like me.
26	Luis	During COVID-19, police don't offer us any help instead they make our lives more complicated and we live in fear, depression and stress.
27	Omar	I live in district 5 and I have not seen police make things better for our community. Do the rights of your community include undocumented people?

28	Lidia Barragan	Councilmember Nowakowski and Mayor Gallego we need your help with a private fund for undocumented people.
29	Maria	Council can and should commit to fundraise funds for our undocumented community. We need you to vote on this publicly and figure a way to bring aid to our undocumented community.
30	Miguel Cornejo	The migrant community and people living on the streets should be taken into account and relief should be provided to them during these times.
31	Diana Melendez	Is it possible for the council to create a private fund for the undocumented community like other cities have done?
32	Elva Perez	I am not undocumented but I think help should be for all. I also pay taxes when buying food. I cannot work and I have never wanted to qualify for disability but I have worked for many years and I didn't have help. The government is unfair and the money from Trump and the CARES act should be used to help all.
33	Martha Flores	Can the council help citizens who have children and did not receive federal aid?
34	Aleyda Zepol	Can you help with rent, mortgage, and utilities for people without a job and those with young children?
35	Misa Amane	Unfortunately there has been no support for the Latino community. We should organize private support with large companies that are willing to help.
36	Benny Ochoa	I am a construction worker and my parks and street lights are in terrible condition. Why not put more money in these areas instead of into the police department?
37	Angel Maciel	If undocumented people did not receive federal aid, doesn't the city support a fund for those families?
38	Ana Maria Calderon	I would like you to be our voices and use the power you have to put pressure on the other councilmembers to stop investing our money into police and to invest more into our communities to make them safe and healthy.
39	Corona Enriquez	Immigrants are also part of the community and we deserve the same rights as citizens.

Attachment C

	Date	Person	Question/ Comment
1	4/20	Sonny Rodriguez	Does the city have a performance management program?
2	5/1	unknown	In support of COVID relief fund.
3	5/5	unknown	In support of COVID relief fund.
4	5/7	unknown	Include undocumented people in COVID relief money instead of growing police budget.
5	5/7	Cristal	Request a budget that reflects the health of the community instead of the criminality/discrimination of the community. The budget should be inclusive of undocumented immigrants. Everyone benefits by having undocumented immigrants in our community and they play an integral role in all of our daily lives. Would like to see the police department budget cut instead of departments such as NSD, Human Services, Parks & Rec.
6	5/7	unknown	Same as #5
7	5/7	unknown	Same as #5
8	5/7	Daniela Quintana	Same as #5
9	5/7	Kimberly Hernandez	Same as #5
10	5/7	Fernanda	Same as #5
11	5/7	Maria Sanchez	Requests a budget that reflects a healthy community and not one that increases more in the police budget. Requests COVID relief funding to include undocumented people.
12	5/7	Paris Moore	Same as #11
13	5/8	Carmen	Same as #11
14	5/8	Gia Ruby Vasquez	Same as #5
15	5/8	unknown	Same as #5
16	5/11	Cristal	Same as #5
17	5/11	Josefina	Same as #5
18	5/11	Italia Miranda	Same as #5
19	5/11	Luke Black	Prioritize funding for undocumented people with a COVID relief fund. Community input to be part of budget process. Essential programs should continue and not be cut. Don't use pandemic to remove funding for traumatic fund. No increase to police funding.
20	5/12	Angel Gonzales	Same as #5
21	5/13	Gia Ruby	Same as #5
22	5/15	Unknown	Same as #5
23	5/15	Fernanda	Same as #5

24	5/17	Zach Dennis	Didn't leave question/comment
25	5/17	unknown	Would like the city to provide assistance to the community for help with paying for housing, food, and schooling/childcare because of the COVID 19 pandemic.
26	5/17	unknown	Community over police. Community resources first.
27	5/18	Jeff Hawkinson	Create a private based relief fund for undocumented people impacted by COVID and not more money to police. Wants money for housing, food, jobs, mental health resources, Office of accountability and Transparency and Traumatic Response Unit.
28	5/18	Hanna Heman	Don't cut funding for civilian review board. No more money for policing.
29	5/18	Paula Beady	Create a private based relief fund for undocumented people impacted by COVID and not more money to police. Requests money for resources that will help during the pandemic.
30	5/19	Alissa	Didn't leave question/comment