

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 4  
STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK, MEMORIAL HALL  
APRIL 2, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

Deputy City Manager John Chan opened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. and introduced Spanish-language interpreter Elsie Duarte. Ms. Duarte provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation during the hearing.

Mr. Chan noted the importance of City budget hearings, where to find additional information on the proposed FY 2025-26 Trial Budget, additional ways to provide budget feedback, and next steps in the budget process.

Mr. Chan requested the budget video presentation to be played.

Councilwoman Laura Pastor welcomed residents to the hearing, thanked City staff for staffing the meeting, and thanked residents for attending the hearing.

Mr. Chan opened the floor for public comment.

1. Dafne Cortez expressed support for heat-relief investments in vulnerable areas, especially in the Maryvale area.
2. Thomas Kendra spoke in favor of funding for veteran service officers who assist veterans and their families in navigating federal VA benefits and services.
3. Joseph Dora commented in favor of allocating \$350,000 in funding for veteran service officers.
4. Dante Mitchell commented in favor of continued funding for arts and cultural programs, 3rd Street protected bike lane access to the Salt River corridor, other protected bike lanes, and alternatives to reverse traffic lanes on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
5. Ben Lindquist spoke in favor of the Trial Budget and funding infrastructure and resources to reduce Fire Department response times.
6. Angel Algarin expressed support for funding for public health, particularly for HIV-related prevention and care.
7. John Walker commented in favor of increased funding for cycling infrastructure, including the installation of a parallel street with protective bike infrastructure for every major arterial road, extending protected bike infrastructure on 3rd Street over the Rio Salado, and protected bike lanes along Virginia Avenue in Central Phoenix. He thanked the City for progress on bike lanes, especially along 3rd Street and 3rd and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues in the Willow neighborhood.

8. Alejandra Bucon expressed support for maintaining current funding for Library materials and needs.
9. Lara Sands spoke in favor of investing in additional high-quality bike infrastructure such as protected bike lanes in the downtown area.
10. Terry Ballentine expressed support for allocating \$400,000 for chapter service officers associated with veteran organizations and a meeting space for chapter service officers to meet with veterans and their families.
11. Dorian Vrenden spoke in favor of addressing gaps in outreach or safety net programs, such as outdated or discontinued programs or under-staffed phone lines, for individuals and families who are unhoused or are on the edge of being unhoused.
12. Karen Fruse expressed support for maintaining current funding for Library materials and needs.
13. Frank Urban commented in favor of improved Police interactions and the treatment of seized property of unhoused people during encampment sweeps. He also expressed support for increased funding for affordable housing.
14. Elizabeth Venable thanked Councilwoman Pastor and the City for investments in housing and homelessness and expressed support for continued investments to address homelessness.
15. Jean Paul Rwambali spoke in favor of funding for programs to assist people experiencing homelessness.
16. Papy Idrissa commented in support of more resources to assist people who are unhoused.
17. Tony Harris expressed support for more training and policies to improve Police and Park Ranger interactions with unhoused people and treatment of seized property during encampment sweeps. He also advocated for larger cooling centers for summer months and funding for unhoused people to pay for healthcare premiums.
18. Ricardo Palomera spoke in favor of maintaining current funding for Public Works facilities management and maintenance, Parks and Recreation, Office of Arts and Culture, Neighborhood Services Department's landscape maintenance at City-owned properties, Municipal Court's interpreter and translation services, and Library materials. He expressed support for some proposed position reductions in the Trial budget, increased partnership with local public schools, and funding for protected bike lanes.
19. Faith Kearns spoke in favor of keeping shelters and summer respite centers open and increased funding for programs to assist people who are unhoused.

20. Belle Espinoza submitted a card in favor of expanded heat shelters, water stations, housing, schools such as Isaac Middle school, and summer youth programming. She submitted a second card that expressed support for maintaining current funding for the Office of Accountability and Transparency and Library materials and reduced funding for Police.
21. Karl Ford submitted a card in favor of veterans' programs and Social Security Disability Insurance.
22. Shalae Flores submitted a card in favor of reduced funding for Police in light of social service needs.

Councilwoman Pastor thanked residents for participating in the hearing. She stated there are many community needs and summarized the importance of the expressed needs at the hearing.

She stated she would do what she can to support the request for veterans. Councilwoman Pastor stated the City has taken the lead on programs to address homelessness and stated that other cities need to take the lead as well.

Councilwoman Pastor adjourned the hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Siri  
Budget and Research Analyst