

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET**

TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager
FROM: Maria Villagómez, Management & Budget Director
COPIES: Mayor & City Council, Executive Leadership Team
DATE: August 25, 2014
SUBJECT: INPUT FROM COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETINGS



This correspondence transmits the comments provided by residents at the five community budget meetings held August 11 through August 14 on the City's Proposed FY 2015 Budget.

Community meetings allow residents the opportunity to provide input during the development of the annual budget. Five community meetings were held in May before the FY 2015 Budget was prepared and five additional meetings were held after the proposed budget was presented to the City Council.

After the budget was proposed on August 7, 2014, five community meetings were held throughout the City. At these meetings, residents were asked to identify services and programs in the proposed budget which they supported. Additionally, residents provided some programs and services that they would like to see increased. Since the proposed budget is balanced, residents were also asked to offer suggestions and alternatives to maintain a balanced budget with the additional service enhancement proposals.

Approximately 275 residents attended the meetings and provided 315 comments. A detailed report listing all group comments is attached. Below is a summary of the community input.

- **46%** of the comments are in support of the recommendations included in the proposed budget including Streets, Lighting, Drainage, aligning uniform healthcare closer to civilians, parks, animal care, maintaining the victims advocacy program in the police department, and libraries
- **29%** of the comments indicate that residents would like to see increases beyond what is recommended in the proposed budget for Streets, Drainage and Lighting; and Human Services and Delegate Agencies
- **25%** of the comments show support for additional revenues or reductions to existing programs to fund the suggested increases to the budget

A public hearing on the proposed budget was held on Wednesday, August 20 and a second hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:00 pm in City Council Chambers. Additionally, a public hearing for delegate agencies will be held on Tuesday, August 26th at 6:00 pm at Council Chambers. The FY 2015 Budget is scheduled to be adopted on September 18.

ATTACHMENT

FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget
Community Hearings

Summary of Comments

*Prepared by the Office of Management & Budget
August 25, 2014*

City of San Antonio, Texas

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IDENTIFIED AS AN AREA SUPPORTED IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET**PAGES 1 - 12**

Align Uniform Health Benefits Closer to Civilian
Animal Care Services
Code Enforcement
Department-wide
Economic Development
Human Services and Delegate Agencies
Library Services and Education
Parks and Recreation
Public Safety
Solid Waste
Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage
Victim Advocacy Program

IDENTIFIED AS AN IMPROVEMENT TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET**PAGES 13 - 20**

Administration of the City
Animal Care Services
Code Enforcement
Department-wide
Economic Development
Health
Human Services and Delegate Agencies
Library Services and Education
Parks and Recreation
Public Safety
Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage
Uniform Employee Benefits

IDENTIFIED AS A REDUCTION OR REVENUE TO MAINTAIN BALANCED BUDGET**PAGES 21 - 27**

Administration of the City
City Attorney's Office
Code Enforcement
Department-wide
Economic Development
Human Services and Delegate Agencies
Parks and Recreation
Property Tax and Other Revenue
Solid Waste

Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget

Community Budget Meetings Comments

FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget	
<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Align Uniform Health Benefits Closer to Civilian</u>	
Supports having police and fire pay into healthcare.	East
Supports police and fire paying into healthcare.	East
Supports uniform healthcare benefit reduction.	North
Supports aligning civilian and uniform benefits.	South Central
Reduce fire benefits and increase civilian pay.	South Central
Reduce police dependents on insurance.	Southeast
Police and fire should pay 3 percent for healthcare costs.	Southeast
Supports alignment with civilian benefits.	Southeast
Supports alignment with civilian benefits.	Southeast
Realize more savings from police and fire healthcare.	Southeast
Uniform health care contribution should match civilian.	West
Uniform health care contribution should match civilian. Deductibles should be the same as civilian.	West
Supports making changes to uniform healthcare.	West
Cap police and fire budgets at 66 percent.	West

NOTE: The comments contained herein are represented summary points of each speakers' actual comments made during the Budget Hearing

FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget	
<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Animal Care Services</u>	
Supports funding for animal care. Suggests using Universal K9 to train stray dogs as Police dogs and save the City money.	North
Supports increased funding for animal care and addition of 2 additional ACS Officers.	North
Supports funding for animal care services. Would like to add animal care service personnel to enforce laws.	North
Supports increases to animal care.	North
Supports increased funding for animal care.	South Central
Supports funding for animal care. Suggests the City do more to solicit volunteer services.	South Central
Supports budget for animal care services.	South Central
Supports spay and neuter Services funding.	South Central
Supports funding for animal care. Suggests utilizing veterinary schools for animal care services.	South Central
Supports budget for animal care services. Would like to see a faster response time to pick them up.	Southeast
Supports increases to animal care.	Southeast
Supports increased funding for animal care. Would like to increase the number of Animal Care Officers.	Southeast

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
---------------------	------

Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Animal Care Services

Supports budget for animal care services. Would like to see a faster response time to pick them up.	Southeast
Supports funding. Suggests additional animal care enforcement and patrol.	West
Supports increased funding for animal care.	West
Supports increased funding for animal care.	West
Supports the 2 new veterinarians added to the proposed budget.	West

Code Enforcement

Supports increases to code enforcement on delinquent properties.	East
Supports proposed upgrade to code enforcement.	East
Supports the vacant building ordinance; proposes expanding it.	East
Require vacant buildings to be covered and create additional revenue.	North
Supports vacant building ordinance (increase ability to enforce).	South Central
Supports the vacant building program.	South Central
Supports vacant building ordinance.	Southeast
Supports funding for technology upgrades to let Code Compliance do their job.	Southeast

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Code Enforcement

Supports funding for code enforcement.	Southeast
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Department-wide

Supports no layoffs in proposed budget.	East
Maintain exemptions for senior citizens.	East
Maintain no layoffs for uniform and civilian.	East
Supports the AAA bond rating.	North
Supports no tax increase as proposed.	North
Supports current staffing levels in the proposed budget.	South Central
Supports sales tax staying the same.	West
Supports no tax increase as proposed.	West

Economic Development

Supports funding for Inner City Redevelopment.	South Central
Supports funding for Inner City Re-investment.	South Central
Supports economic development funding to attract new businesses.	Southeast

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget (Arranged by Category)

Economic Development

Supports economic development funding levels. West

Human Services and Delegate Agencies

Supports that there is only minimal reductions in Human Services. North

Supports delegate agency levels. North

Supports funding for new senior centers. South Central

Supports funding for senior services. West

Library Services and Education

Supports increases for libraries. East

Supports adult literacy and computer access. East

Supports increases for libraries. East

Supports increases for libraries. North

Supports new library locations. South Central

Supports library funding but would like to see an increase in library hours. South Central

Supports increases for libraries. South Central

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

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Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget (Arranged by Category)

Library Services and Education

Supports adult literacy programs.	South Central
Keep library funding at same level.	Southeast
Supports continued focus on education, specifically prek4SA.	Southeast
Supports increases for libraries.	Southeast
Supports funding for computers and additional access.	Southeast
Supports technology funding for libraries.	Southeast
Supports increases for libraries.	West
Supports improvements for adult education.	West

Parks and Recreation

Supports funding for parks.	East
Supports funding for parks.	East

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Parks and Recreation

Supports wellness programs and fitness initiatives. Continue to encourage healthy living in order to reduce medical expenses.	North
Supports funding for parks.	South Central
Supports funding for wellness initiatives.	South Central
Supports funding for parks.	South Central
Supports proposed budget for Parks.	South Central
Supports funding for parks.	Southeast
Supports funding for parks. We have 244 parks in San Antonio and need to support the existing parks.	Southeast
Supports funding for Parks Maintenance.	West
Supports funding for parks.	West

Public Safety

Supports public safety.	Southeast
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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Public Safety

Supports public safety funding. Doesn't want to lose any police or fire personnel.	Southeast
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Solid Waste

Supports funding for solid waste.	Southeast
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Supports recycling programs.	Southeast
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Supports maintaining efforts for recycling and preserving natural resources.	Southeast
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Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage

Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	East
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Supports the increase in street maintenance. It keep us moving in that positive direction.	East
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Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	East
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Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	East
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Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	East
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Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	North
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Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	North
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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage</u>	
Supports comprehensive planning.	North
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	North
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	North
Supports increase in street maintenance but would still like to see additional funding.	South Central
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	South Central
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	South Central
Supports funding for sidewalks, lights, drainage.	South Central
Supports the increase in sidewalks and drainage.	South Central
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	South Central
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	Southeast
Supports keeping infrastructure projects moving forward	Southeast
Supports maintaining sidewalks for seniors and ADA access	Southeast
Support funding for streets. Need to take care of potholes	Southeast
Supports increased funding for Streets and drainage.	Southeast

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage

Supports streets funding and wants potholes fixed.	Southeast
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	West
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	West
Supports funding for sidewalks and street lights.	West
Supports funding for sidewalks.	West
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	West
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	West
Support increases for streets, drainage and sidewalks.	West
Supports the increase in street maintenance funding.	West

Victim Advocacy Program

Supports victim advocacy program.	East

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget	
<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Victim Advocacy Program</u>	
Supports victim advocacy program.	North
Supports victim advocacy program.	North
Supports victim advocacy program.	North
Supports victim advocacy program.	South Central
Supports victim advocacy program. Increase victims services for enforcement & prevention.	South Central
Supports victim advocacy program.	South Central
Supports victim advocacy program.	South Central
Supports victim advocacy program.	Southeast
Supports victim advocacy program.	Southeast
Increase training for domestic violence team.	Southeast
Maintain continued support for victim advocacy program.	Southeast
Supports victim advocacy program.	West
Supports victim advocacy program.	West
Supports victim advocacy program.	West

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process
Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings
- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments

Area

Identified as an Area Supported in the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Victim Advocacy Program

Supports victim advocacy program.

West

Supports no change to Domestic Violence programs.

West

Supports victim advocacy program.

West

Supports social services and domestic violence program.

West

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Identified as an Improvement in the Proposed Budget

Community Budget Meetings Comments

FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as an Improvement to the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Administration of the City

Appoint 1 representative from each district and hold round 2 of Healthcare Taskforce with neighborhood representations.	North
Increase pay for Mayor and Council.	Southeast
Increase City Councilmember pay.	Southeast

Animal Care Services

Partner with veterinary schools to increase manpower and provide college credit.	East
Add more positions to assist with stray population.	East
Increase funding for spay and neuter programs.	East
Increase more enforcement of the laws and removing animals from the streets.	North
Increase funding to animal care services by adding 2 additional animal care officers.	North

Code Enforcement

Increase funding for additional code enforcement officers.	East
Expand the vacant building ordinance program.	East
Increase funding for code enforcement.	East

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
---------------------	------

Identified as an Improvement to the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Code Enforcement

Would like to see more aggressive code enforcement.	Southeast
Increase code enforcement.	Southeast

Department-wide

Reduce fees.	East
Increase support for Dies Seis activities.	South Central
Increase support for more City Council Projects.	South Central
Increase civilian compensation.	South Central
Increase civilian compensation.	South Central
Increase civilian compensation.	South Central
Increase civilian benefits and align with public safety benefits.	South Central
Supports competitive wages for city employees. 1 percent COLA is not enough. Take from public safety benefits and give to civilian employees.	South Central

Economic Development

Increase funding for economic development for Fredericksburg Road.	West
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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Health</u>	
Increase health programs.	South Central
Increase vector control.	South Central
<u>Human Services and Delegate Agencies</u>	
Improve workforce development funding, particularly Project Quest.	East
Increase funding for family advocacy.	North
Keep delegate agencies that train and educate people to better themselves.	North
Increase funding for education, adoption education, and mentoring adolescent girls.	North
Create short term increase in funding for those displaced or homeless due to economic development events.	North
Increase funding for senior centers.	North
Increase daycare for working moms.	North
Add senior citizen center to District 9.	North
Increase funding for delegate agencies.	South Central
Increase funding for transition of teens with shelter, guidance and support programs.	South Central

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
---------------------	------

Identified as an Improvement to the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Human Services and Delegate Agencies

Increase funding for Delegate Agencies.	South Central
Increase workforce development and youth programs (DARE, drug prevention).	South Central
Increase Project Quest.	South Central
Reopen senior center nutrition sites.	West
Increase funding for Maverick Music Festival and profit sharing with parks and animal care services.	West
Increase funds for social services and Project Quest.	West
Increase job creation and Project Quest.	West

Library Services and Education

Increase funding for library services.	North
Increase library services.	Southeast
Increase library personnel.	Southeast

Parks and Recreation

Increase funding for parks and recreation.	East
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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
---------------------	------

Identified as an Improvement to the Proposed Budget (Arranged by Category)

Parks and Recreation

Increase funding for community centers.	South Central
Increase lighting on Bike Trails.	West
Update tennis courts and landscaping. Also focus on smaller parks (Longfellow).	West

Public Safety

Add more uniform and civilian personnel to public safety	East
Increase police patrolling.	West
Increase police patrolling.	West
Increase total compensation for police.	West

Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage

Increase lighting and increase pavement markers.	East
Increase funding for streets and lighting.	East
Add more funding for street lights, \$3 million to District 5 and \$2 million to District 2; and focus on residential areas.	East
Distribute it \$1 million per district and then prioritize remaining \$2 million each year. Over a 10 year period, there could be an equal leveling of sidewalks.	North

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
Identified as an Improvement to the Proposed Budget	
<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage</u>	
Increase funding for street lights for district 5 and other districts.	North
Increase quality of work in construction.	North
Increase funding for street lights in district 5 and other areas of the city with shortage.	North
Increase funding to street maintenance.	North
Increase funding for street lighting.	North
Increase funding for street lighting. With more light, there will be less crime.	North
Increase funding for street lighting.	South Central
Increase funding for street lighting.	South Central
Add funding for lights under bridges.	South Central
Increase street lights on W. Commerce.	South Central
Increase funding for street lighting.	Southeast
Increase funding for street lighting.	Southeast
Increase funding for street lighting.	Southeast
Use fund balance to pay for more street lights.	Southeast

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
Identified as an Improvement to the Proposed Budget	
<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Streets, Lighting, Sidewalks, and Drainage</u>	
Increase funding for street lighting.	Southeast
Increase funding for street lighting.	Southeast
Increase funding for street lighting.	Southeast
Increase funding for street lighting.	Southeast
Increase funding for street maintenance.	West
Increase funding for curbs, alleys, street lights and sidewalks.	West
Increase multi-modal ways of transportation.	West
Add more protected bike lanes.	West
Increase funding for street maintenance.	West
Add funding for solar street lights	West
Increase curb and sidewalk funding.	West
Increase intersection improvements. 5 points intersection (St. Cloud, Donaldson, Thomas Jefferson Street)	West
Increase street maintenance for St. Cloud/Donaldson to Fredericksburg.	West
VIA should contribute to street repairs.	West

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments

Area

Identified as an Improvement to the Proposed Budget

(Arranged by Category)

Uniform Employee Benefits

Don't change uniform benefits. Instead, offset costs with fewer pay raises.	East
Increase uniform health benefits (maintain current 2014 levels).	North
Keep public safety benefits as it is currently.	North
Increase health benefits and uniform positions.	North
Increase uniform health benefits (maintain current 2014 levels).	North
Uniform benefits should stay the same.	West

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Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget

Community Budget Meetings Comments

FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments

Area

Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget (Arranged by Category)

Administration of the City

Get rid of surplus property.	East
Decrease executive salaries.	East
Limit executive salaries and bonuses.	North
Decrease performance pay.	North
Review purchases by shopping around instead of at contracted prices.	North
Increase mileage for vehicles so they don't have to be replaced as often.	Southeast
Sell used city equipment.	Southeast
Sell Red Berry mansion.	Southeast
Reduce executive pay.	Southeast
Reduce executive bonuses.	Southeast
Decrease wages.	Southeast
Increase transparency in departments spending and cut executive bonuses.	West
Reduce executive wages.	West

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget (Arranged by Category)

City Attorney's Office

Decrease City Attorney Budget.	East
Decrease City Attorney Budget.	South Central
Decrease the amount city pays on legal consultants.	Southeast
Decrease City Attorney Budget.	Southeast
Decrease City Attorney Budget.	West

Code Enforcement

Reduce the code management system to \$1.5 million.	East
Increase collection rates for fines.	South Central

Department-wide

Reduce operational spending.	East
Streamline vendor processes and eliminate third parties to cut processing time and expense.	East
Cut down on landscaping of firestations.	East
Eliminate funding to SA 2020.	East
Review fire station construction costs (compare to Helotes).	North

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments

Area

Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget (Arranged by Category)

Department-wide

Eliminate funding to pay for Red Berry Mansion maintenance.	North
Decrease other funding that does not include public safety sector.	North
Improve and streamline vendor contracts.	South Central
Find private funding for things such as Luminaries. These should not come out of General Fund.	South Central
Cut one-time projects.	South Central
Don't reverse decisions made which end up costing the city money (i.e. bike lanes on S. Flores street)	South Central
Reduce Mayor and Council budget.	Southeast
Reduce overhead for Information Technology.	Southeast
Reduce Council Member discretionary funds.	West

Economic Development

Decrease downtown subsidies to attract businesses to move downtown - businesses aren't paying fair share.	East
Reduce tax abatements and assign a time limit for use.	East
Reduce funding for Westside Development Corporation (WDC) and San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE).	East

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FY 2015 Budget Development Process

Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

- Summary of Comments Arranged by Service Area -

Residents' Comments

Area

Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget (Arranged by Category)

Economic Development

Eliminate tax abatements.	East
Review tax break for developers to increase revenue.	North
Reduce downtown subsidies.	North
Decrease tax abatements.	South Central
Reduce funding for Westside Development Corporation (WDC) and San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE).	West
Decrease tax abatement.	West
Decrease big business tax abatement.	West

Human Services and Delegate Agencies

Reduce funding for delegate agencies.	East
Use volunteers to manage truancy issues instead of using public safety officers.	East
Reduce funding for financial aid workshop.	East
Reduce funding for Haven for Hope.	West

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Residents' Comments	Area
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Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget (Arranged by Category)

Parks and Recreation

Reduce funding for HPARC and let commercial entities pay for development.	East
Reduce funding for Hemisphere Park to use somewhere else.	North
Reduce parks and recreation services.	North
Reduce funding for HemisFair Park.	South Central
Reduce funding for HPARC.	Southeast
Reduce funding for fitness initiatives.	Southeast
Reduce funding for HemisFair Park.	Southeast

Property Tax & Other Revenue

Look for ways to collect more revenue such as entering into contracts with public safety in Alamo Heights, Kirby and charge them for services. Collect delinquent taxes and increase collection efforts of EMS transport fees.	East
Don't increase EMS fees to citizens. Rather, do more to collect the fees.	East
Redirect the HOT tax to support other programs.	East
Improve collection of fines and fees rather than raise fees.	East
Increase property tax rate to restore other cuts.	East
Increase property tax revenues with commercial property tax.	East

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Post-Proposed Budget Community Meetings

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Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget	
<i>(Arranged by Category)</i>	
<u>Property Tax & Other Revenue</u>	
Increase property tax rate since City has not done so in 22 years.	North
Property tax should be more scrutinized and buildings should pay what they should (right size assessment values).	North
Increase property tax rate or take from reserves.	North
Collect all property tax and enforcing laws.	North
Collect all property tax & increase property tax rate.	North
Collect taxes better.	North
Increase property tax by 1 cent.	South Central
Commercial property need to pay fair share taxes.	South Central
Increase property tax to offset civilian healthcare benefits.	South Central
Increase taxes on commercial property, especially vacant properties.	South Central
Increase taxes to fund childrens programs.	Southeast
Increase property tax rate to collect over \$7 million from a \$0.01 property tax increase.	Southeast
Supports a property tax rate increase.	Southeast
Charge more for commercial property taxes.	Southeast

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Residents' Comments

Area

Identified as a Reduction or Revenue to Maintain Balanced Budget (Arranged by Category)

Property Tax & Other Revenue

Be more aggressive in the collections of fines.

Southeast

Increase taxes for the hotel occupancy tax.

West

Supports full disclosure of commercial high value tax evaluations.

West

Solid Waste

Solicit city services such as solid waste to surrounding cities.

South Central

Increase solid waste fees for those that do not recycle.

Southeast

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