

Budgeting Process,
Lower Cost Safety,
Agenda Item 47

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September 17, 2019

Current Budget Process

- City charter article V section 5
- Mayor delivers budget
- Three budget hearings
- Two city council readings
- Amendments
- Public and council input are afterthoughts
- Not enough input for 1/2 billion \$
- Huge budget deserves far greater oversight

More Democratic Process

- Mayor presents initial budget ideas
- Coordinates with council, public for 2 months
- More ideas makes a better plan
- Initial overview hearings
- Multiple detailed hearings, discussions
- Codify by updating charter

2020 Budget General Expenses



General Fund Expenses \$177.7 Million

Largest General Fund Item

- Police budget 1/4 of operating expense
- Law enforcement is not always public safety
- Law protects status quo, power
- See “Modeling Government” by myself presented here October 11, 2016
- See “The Flow of Power” July 11, 2017
- See “Oath of Office” July 10, 2018
- We can increase public safety while reducing police cost

Drug Prohibition

- Developed in 1930's to encode racism against Mexicans, Filipinos, Negros
- Extended by Nixon to crush democratic movements
- Extended in 1990's to “get tough on crime”
- Based on fear, not science
- Now exists to protect alcohol, pharmaceutical, prison industries
- Fear distracts us from systemic corruption

Drug Policy

- Alcohol, drugs main driver of crime
- Migrate from alcohol to safer alternatives
- Treatment – not jail – to reduce addiction
- Address childhood trauma to reduce addiction
- See “Alcohol and Law” November 8, 2016
- See "Drug Prohibition Part 1" August 1, 2017
- See "Drug Prohibition Part 2" August 15, 2017
- See "Drug Prohibition Part 3" September 5, 2017
- See "Drug Strategy" May 21, 2019

Homelessness

- Another crime driver
- Build an economical shelter
- See “Respite Park” August 13, 2019

Homicide

- Mostly preventable
- Care for troubled kids
- See TED Talk “Lessons from death row inmates”
by David R. Dow

Lighten Up

- Don't use multiple officers to hassle innocent people
- Showing great force wastes manpower, costs \$, not nice
- Lawsuits are expensive
- See “Police Violence” October 4, 2016
- See “One Dead Bulb” June 6, 2017
- See “Police Improvements” November 21, 2017
- See “Respecting Free Speech” August 20, 2019

Victimless Crimes

- Exist to punish weird people, protect convention
- Real victims are taxes, freedom, families
- They should be repealed
- Save money many ways

Eliminate Push Bumpers

- Risky for pedestrian collisions
- See “Push Bumpers” October 17, 2016



Turn Engine Off

- Patrol cars idle frequently
- When car is stopped, stop engine
- Save gas, maintenance, environment

Motorist Speed

- Flat straight roads encourage excess speed
- Excess speed conflicts with city safety
- Design road shape for desired speed, not 100 mph
- Incorporate “speed knolls” or random curves

Enjoy Nature

