

City of San Antonio

FY 2023 City Council Budget Goal Setting Session Report

Session held on April 13, 2022



Prepared by Office of Management and Budget
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CITY COUNCIL BUDGET GOAL SETTING SESSION

SUMMARY REPORT

FOR THE FY2023 BUDGET AND FY2024 PLAN

APRIL 13, 2022



Every year, the City of San Antonio conducts a budget goal setting session for the development of the City's annual budget. The purpose of this session is to obtain City Council policy direction that will guide the development of the upcoming fiscal year budget.

The session for the FY 2023 Budget was convened on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. The session was hosted by the City Manager with the Mayor and City Council participating and presentations by executive leadership staff. The City's fiscal year runs from October 1 of each year to September 30 of the following year. The summary information below will guide the City Manager in the development of the FY 2023 budget and FY 2024 plan.

Five policy focus areas were discussed during the session: 1) Financial Policies 2) Homestead Exemptions, 3) Streets, Sidewalks, and Vision Zero, 4) Civilian Compensation, and 5) Police Services.

SUMMARY OF CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION OUTCOMES

Overall support of the following policy priorities as summarized by Mayor Nirenberg and City Manager Erik Walsh:

- Minimum 5% or higher Homestead Exemption rates and consideration of other exemptions.
- Transportation Infrastructure to include drainage, streets, sidewalks, and in particular vision zero investments.
- Civilian Compensation market adjustments.
- Public Safety to include policing and policing services.
- Other priorities to include funding for the arts, continued support for SAForward Plan, affordable housing, resiliency, and small business assistance.
- City's Financial Policies

BUDGET DISCUSSION – POLICY AREAS

Each section below represents the discussion and outcome for each of the policy areas. These points reflect key ideas and insights from Council Members for either action or study.

Financial Policies

The Mayor and Council support the current Financial Policies:

- Maintain a minimum General Fund ending balance of 15%.
- Maintain Public Safety below 66% of the General Fund.
- Manage structural balance in the General Fund.
- Maintain a \$1 Million contingency in the General Fund and \$3 Million in the Capital Budget.
- Address Internal Fund deficits within 3 to 5 years.
- Annually review the impact of the State imposed 3.5% Property Tax Cap on service delivery and provide a recommendation on whether to adjust the Property Tax Rate.

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- Annually review property tax relief with a focus on homeowners.
- Annually review and periodically adjust fees and charges to provide for cost recovery, inflation, consumer relief, and/or alignment with policy goals.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Conclusion on Homestead Exemptions

- City Council was supportive of the recommendations outlined in the Homestead Exemption Plan:
 - Explore a minimum of 5% or higher homestead exemption rates.
 - Conduct analysis of increases to other exemptions such as the disabled residence homestead exemption and the over 65-years if age homestead exemption.
 - Continue to pursue targeted property tax relief at the State Legislature.
- Develop outreach programs to educate residents and more specifically seniors and disabled individuals of available property tax relief.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND VISION ZERO

Conclusion on Streets, Sidewalks, and Transportation

- City Council was supportive of the recommendations outlined in the Transportation Plan.
 - Develop a safe and connected network of bicycle infrastructure.
 - Eliminate and reduce traffic fatalities and severe injuries through continuing the City Bike Plan and Vision Zero strategies.
 - Providing for targeted pedestrian safety projects.
- City Council favored additional funding for sidewalks to address pedestrian safety.
- City Council requested additional options for the allocation of street maintenance funds as part of the five-year financial forecast.
- City Council supports a strategy to address F Streets by allocating an additional funding allocated based on the percentage of F Streets and increasing investment in Vision Zero Projects and programs.
- City Council supports additional drainage projects to address Hazard Mitigation Projects and compliment the Bond Program through an increase in the Stormwater Fee.
- Increase Neighborhood and Mobility Program (NAMP) allocation.
- Develop a plan to increase drainage improvements that incorporates an increase to the Stormwater fee.

Additional budget request related to Streets, Sidewalks, and Transportation requested by individual councilmembers

- Identify dedicated funding for the Bike Master Plan.
- Explore options for better control of speeding and distracted driving.
- Provide a timeline for when the Vision Zero goal will be met with an annual target analysis.

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- Evaluate a street lighting multi-year funding plan.
- Evaluate options/alternatives for a Transportation Fee and a Sidewalk Impact Fee.
- Capital fund allocation for each Council District at \$500,000 per District.

CIVILIAN COMPENSATION

Conclusion on Civilian Compensation

- City Council expressed support for the framework outlined in the Civilian Compensation Plan addressing:
 - Market Adjustments
 - Restructuring of the City's Pay Plan
 - Performance Pay
 - Across the Board Adjustments
 - Distribute the \$10 million in ARPA funding equally to all COSA employees no matter what their employment status is (full-time, part-time, etc.)

POLICE SERVICES

Conclusion on Police Services

- Continue to work with the Public Safety Committee on the SAPD Crime Reduction plan. A "B" Session briefing will be scheduled to have a broader conversation with the entire City Council.
- Support for Public Safety in the form of additional resources, positions, and or training.
- Additional police officers.

Additional budget request related to Police by individual council members

- Explore alternatives for less lethal weapons used by the Police Department to respond to mental health calls.
- Inquire if UTSA could conduct a study that analyzes if adding more police officers in communities result in a reduction in crime .
- Support for SAFFE Program.
- Enhance enforcement of traffic laws.
- Support for continued diversity training and sensitivity training for police officers.
- Support for the Good Sam App to address mental health calls.
- Office of Crime Prevention and Recidivism.
- Support for an Interdiction unit.
- Crime prevention programs and strategies

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OTHER PRIORITIES

OUTCOME OF OTHER PRIORITIES DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Metro Health Strategic Growth Plan

- Continued Support for the Metro Health SAForward Plan.

Affordable Housing

- Continue the Demolition Diversion program known as Operation Rebuild.
- Continue to develop programs that preserve affordable housing stock.
- Options to assist with housing opportunities for youth aging out of the foster care system to include permanent supportive housing.
- Advocate for education program to assist homeowners to apply for the homestead exemption.
- Programs to assist seniors and individuals with overgrown yards as a tool to keep them in their homes.
- Support for homeless coordinators and housing programs as a tool to prevent homelessness.

The following priority items were identified as priorities by individual council members:

- A healthy corner store in the Marbach area.
- Community Garden in the community worker's council area.
- Senior activities and programs.
- Support for the Symphony.
- Programs to educate community about code violations.
- Support for code compliance case managers to assist residents navigate resources and programs available.
- Examine solutions for illegal dumping.
- Increase funding for MLK march and programming for Juneteenth.
- Increase support for Animal Care Services.
- Support for sustainability, resiliency and hazard mitigation projects.
- Increase the City's tree canopy.
- Grants or loans for small business impacted by City construction projects.
- Increase the number of Full-Time Equivalents for City Council Staff.
- Programs/Opportunities for young adults to stay in San Antonio and prevent brain drain.

WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN

Following the budget prioritization discussions, the meeting was Adjourned by Mayor Nirenberg.