



## **Budget Advocate Report to the Neighborhood Councils #15 April 2021**

### **White Paper and reports go out**

The Budget Advocates' White Paper addressing concerns with the City's budget including reports on many of the departments has been completed and was delivered to the Mayor and key budget people at City Hall on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

It is currently being distributed to City departments, other City officials, Budget Representatives and, of course, the Neighborhood Councils prior to the release of the Mayor's Budget for 2021-22 on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please take some time to review the White Paper and reports to see what resonates with you and your Neighborhood Council. There were some departments the Budget Advocates were not able to meet with prior to our deadline but we hope to do so and release articles on them and their budgetary concerns in the next few months, before the City Council votes on the final budget in June.

Community Impact Statements will be needed in support of the White Paper but perhaps more importantly on the individual reports that address services that are of particular importance to the various communities of Los Angeles.

Whether you agree with the Budget Advocates' recommendations or not, please make your concerns clear to our elected officials. Federal funds may have solved the immediate budget crisis but the City faces further fiscal challenges for the coming year.

Tourism will be slow to return to pre-pandemic levels and, with it, the tax revenue the City depends on to pay for the services we need.

Beyond our concerns with the current and upcoming budget there is the long term concern: since an influx of federal funds is unlikely to recur, as individuals and as Neighborhood Councils we need to ask: "What is the plan to fully fund core City services and infrastructure?" We need to ask all elected officials and City leaders and all candidates and keep asking until we get some real answers. The time to stop kicking the can down the road is now.

The Budget Advocates will also comment on the Mayor's Proposed Budget and the meetings of the Budget and Finance Committee.

### **Budget Day & Town Halls**

Please remember that Budget Day is set for Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup>. We will be sending out a save-the-date shortly so people can put it on their calendars and avoid inadvertently scheduling conflicting events.

We are still hoping to have some Town Halls on budget issues before then.

### **Who are the Budget Advocates?**

As the new boards are seated, we are hoping to prepare a brief video and other information on who the Budget Advocates are, and what we do to address the City's budget and services.

And to explain why it's so important that Neighborhood Councils and board members participate in addressing the budget process: "What's in it for me?" can be very different for office workers, students, small business owners, store clerks, developers and City Hall.

FYI, Budget Reps serve until replaced and do not have to be board members so they are not automatically displaced by the elections but they do need to continue to be a stakeholder for their Neighborhood Council.

Please send your Budget Reps' names / contact info to [Jennifer.Goodie@budgetadvocates.org](mailto:Jennifer.Goodie@budgetadvocates.org) as they are updated so we maintain a current record of who represents each Neighborhood Council.

The next Budget Advocate meetings will be on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 930 am and Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm. Meetings are open to all. The agenda and Zoom link are posted on our website [www.budgetadvocates.org](http://www.budgetadvocates.org) a few days prior to each meeting.

*April 13, 2021*

### **Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates**

Co-Chairs: Liz Amsden and Jack Humphreville

Vice-Chair, Development: Jay Handal

Vice-Chair, Outreach: Julia Moser

Corresponding Secretary: Glenn Bailey

Administrative Secretary: Jennifer Goodie

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