



Community Feedback on the Proposed 2024-25 Budget

This report transmits the summary minutes from community budget hearings held April 2 through April 5, 2024, budget comments received by the Budget and Research Department for March 1 through April 9, 2024, and social media statistics.

Summary

This report provides community feedback on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Trial Budget received by the Budget and Research Department via phone, email, and the FundPHX interactive budget tool. Staff also provides summary minutes from all 11 Community Budget Hearings, scheduled to be held April 2 through April 16, 2024. Community feedback on the budget is an important component of the annual budget process and is provided to the City Council ahead of final budget decisions scheduled for May 21, 2024.

Attachment A transmits the summary minutes from the first four Community Budget Hearings held April 2 through April 5, 2024. **Attachment B** transmits a summary of electronic, voicemail and FundPHX comments regarding the budget from March 1 through April 9, 2024, and social media statistics.

Community Feedback Reports are also available on the Budget and Research webpage at phoenix.gov/budget. Comments received are responded to by Budget and Research staff and/or the appropriate City department, as necessary.

Summary of Community Feedback

Below is a summary of comments received on the budget as of April 9, 2024. The summary includes topics with two or more comments received. Staff has received a total of 94 comments as of April 9, 2024, and all comments are included in **Attachments A and B**.

Comments for additional funding/support of the budget:

- (25) additional funding for maintaining current library hours and services.
- (8) additional funding for streets safety improvements and road initiatives like Vision

Zero.

- (6) additional funding for cricket fields with additional lighting in South Phoenix.
- (6) additional funding for firefighter positions and resources.
- (5) additional funding for public safety in parks.
- (5) additional funding for increased homeless services.
- (4) additional funding for affordable housing.
- (2) additional funding for Camelback Corridor revitalization.
- (2) additional funding for police officers.

Comments for reduced funding/opposition of the budget:

- (4) reduce funding for road initiatives like Vision Zero.
- (2) reduce funding for Green New Deal initiatives.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by City Manager Jeffrey Barton and the Budget and Research Department.

ATTACHMENT A

SUMMARY MINUTES COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING COMMUNITY-WIDE HEARING (VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON) CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS APRIL 2, 2024

City Manager Jeff Barton opened the budget hearing at 6:04 p.m. by welcoming those in attendance and introducing the interpreter. The interpreter briefly introduced himself and provided instructions for anyone needing interpretation.

Councilwoman O'Brien thanked City Manager Jeff Barton, Budget and Research Director Amber Williamson, and their teams for their budget work, expressing eagerness for citizen feedback.

Councilwoman Hodge Washington thanked Budget and Research staff and community members for their engagement, highlighting the importance of public input for Phoenix's budget.

Councilwoman Pastor thanked attendees and staff, highlighting the importance of addressing community needs for decision-making.

Mr. Barton introduced the Parks Master Plan video. Following the video, he explained the speaking process for the budget hearing and introduced the Trial Budget video. Following the video, he opened the floor for public comment.

1. Teresa Hill asked to prioritize homelessness support within the budget, urging the use of surplus funds toward housing, legal aid, and mental health while criticizing expenditures on private property cleanup.
2. Ginnie Ann Sumner praised Graffiti Busters' digital updates and supported safety and park upgrades, calling for more funds for homeless services, police resources, and city planning for storefront revitalization, while also criticizing inefficient street sweeping and advocating for improved park facilities and infrastructure.
3. Annie Eldon of Phoenix Spokes People requested funding for safer city initiatives, including protected bike lanes, a designated Complete Streets position, and support for the Phoenix CAN program.
4. John Walker of Phoenix Spokes People supported building separated bike lanes on Third Street, urging continued funding to expand, connect, and enhance safety for cyclists, alongside advocating for removing age restrictions on e-scooter and e-bike use.

5. Patrick McDaniel, from Phoenix Committee Alliance, praised budget preparation efforts and advocated for maintaining funding for homeless services, historic preservation, and active transportation, proposing increased staffing in the Housing Department for affordable housing initiatives.
6. Steven Gilman, from the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), voiced concern over the absence of plans or budget for hiring more firefighters, emphasizing the importance of addressing response times and prioritizing public safety.
7. Chris Murphy, a Phoenix firefighter, urged the council to invest in more resources to improve declining fire department response times and ensure public safety.
8. Jason Newman, a Phoenix firefighter, emphasized the urgent need for more personnel and equipment to meet increasing demands and ensure timely emergency response amid the city's population growth.
9. Lisa Glow, representing Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), expressed gratitude for the City's partnership in addressing homelessness and requested budget support for operating costs for the Sunnyslope Family Shelter and additional funding to meet the rising demand for services.

Mr. Barton ended the hearing at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Consador
Management Fellow

**SUMMARY MINUTES
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING
COUNCIL DISTRICT 4
STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK
APRIL 4, 2024**

Deputy City Manager Inger Erickson opened the Community Budget Hearing at 6:02 PM. Ms. Erickson welcomed those in attendance and made opening remarks. The Spanish language interpreter introduced himself and provided instructions for anyone needing interpretation.

Ms. Erickson also introduced Deputy Budget and Research Director Aaron Mertz. She stated public input on the 2024-25 Trial Budget was important and briefly explained the budget status and approval process. Ms. Erickson encouraged residents to provide feedback on the 2024-25 Trial Budget by engaging with FundPHX, an online tool on the City's website.

Councilmember Laura Pastor encouraged attendees to provide comments on the proposed budget to reflect needs in the community.

Ms. Erickson introduced a video regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Councilmember Pastor urged residents to become engaged and provide input on the Master Plan.

Ms. Erickson requested the budget video presentation to be played and stated that staff was available to answer questions. After the video, she opened the floor for public comments.

1. Noah Wolodkin spoke in favor of funding for more Fire Department positions to improve response times.
2. Rebecca Denis spoke in favor of funding for more water fountains outside of City facilities, maintenance of existing water fountains, a renters/emergency eviction legal services program, more services for unsheltered individuals, more permanent supportive housing units, and more low-barrier shelters.

Councilmember Pastor asked if the request was for more low-barrier or permanent housing. Ms. Denis replied she was advocating for both.

3. Phillip Scharf thanked the City for its support for affordable housing and services for unsheltered individuals.
4. John Walker thanked the City for 3rd Street improvements and advocated for cycling infrastructure and connectivity.

5. Zachary Holman spoke in favor of funding for bicycle and pedestrian-friendly street improvements and advocated for improvements to light rail safety and timeliness.

Councilmember Pastor stated the City was working to increase police visibility on light rail platforms and was reviewing street light timing.

6. Lara Sands spoke in favor of funding for safe streets for all bicyclists and pedestrians and commended street improvement projects in the Willow neighborhood.
7. Shirley Dieckman submitted a card in favor of continued funding for Fire and Police and efforts to repeal State laws that hurt funding for cities.

Councilmember Pastor reiterated her support for bicycle-friendly street improvements, lower Fire response times, functioning water fountains, affordable housing, mental health services and emergency eviction services for renters. She thanked residents and staff for attending and sharing their comments.

Ms. Erickson adjourned the hearing at 6:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Siri
Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING
COUNCIL DISTRICT 6
DEVONSHIRE SENIOR CENTER
APRIL 4, 2024**

Councilmember Kevin Robinson opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy City Manager Mario Paniagua welcomed those in attendance and introduced the interpreter. The interpreter briefly introduced herself and provided instructions for anyone needing Spanish-language interpretation.

Councilmember Robinson welcomed and thanked the citizens and staff for participating in the budget process and stressed the importance of letting the Council know what the community wants to see in the annual budget.

Mr. Paniagua introduced the Parks Master Plan video. Following the video, he explained the speaking process for the budget hearing and introduced the Trial Budget video.

Councilmember Kevin Robinson opened the floor for public comment.

1. Nicole Dizon asked funds to be prioritized in the budget for neighborhoods, safety, community connection and efficiency. She asked for park restrooms to be updated; an increase to the number of community events; and investment in technology to increase efficiencies. She spoke in support of the budget set aside for heat resiliency and tree planting projects.
2. Ginnie Ann Sumner supported safety and park upgrades, calling for more funds for homeless services, police resources, while also criticizing inefficient street sweeping and advocating for improved park facilities and infrastructure.
3. Mike Brannon, a Phoenix firefighter, urged the Council to invest in more resources to improve the Fire Department response times and ensure public safety.
4. Lisa Glow, representing Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), expressed gratitude for the City's partnership in addressing homelessness and requested budget support for operating costs for the Sunnyslope Family Shelter and additional funding to meet the rising demand for services.
5. Christina Eichelkraut, discussed disabled residents with mobility issues focusing on the lack of safe passage to the Cross Cut Canal and nearby shopping, medical, employment and other services.

6. Annie Eldon of Phoenix Spokes People requested funding for safer city initiatives, including protected bike lanes, a designated Complete Streets position, and support for the Phoenix CAN program.

Councilmember Robinson thanked everyone for being there and participating. He reminded citizens that City staff is available to answer any additional questions. He adjourned the hearing at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwon Forte
Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON PHOENIX NORTH
APRIL 5, 2024**

Assistant City Manager Lori Bays opened the community budget hearing at 8:00 a.m. by welcoming those in attendance and introducing the interpreter. The interpreter briefly introduced himself and provided instructions for anyone needing interpretation.

Councilmember O'Brien welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending to provide feedback on the budget process.

Ms. Bays introduced the Parks Master Plan video. Following the video, she explained the speaking process for the budget hearing and introduced the Trial Budget video. Following the video, she opened the floor for public comment at 8:12 a.m.

1. Stan Bates supports fully funding public safety services and continuing to fund security officers at city parks. He also agrees with setting aside the budget surplus for next year.
2. Tim Knobbe advocated for more firefighters, paramedics, fire trucks and ambulances to aid in response times.
3. Mary Searle did not wish to speak but requested to increase funding for the Police Department and provide additional facilities for the Fire Department. She is also in favor of continuing security at city parks.

Ms. Bays thanked everyone for attending the hearing and ended the hearing at 8:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Pietrzykowsky
Sr. Budget and Research Analyst

ATTACHMENT B

ELECTRONIC, VOICEMAIL, FUNDPHX AND WRITTEN BUDGET COMMENTS RESPONDED TO March 1, 2024 – April 9, 2024, AND SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

Emails

1. Ben Buhanan sent an email in support of eliminating “road diet” policies related to Vision Zero and Street Transportation projects and supports reducing the amount of GO Bonds to eliminate property tax increases.
2. Linda DiMaggio sent an email in support of eliminating “road diet” policies related to Vision Zero and Street Transportation projects and supports reducing the amount of GO Bonds to eliminate property tax increases.
3. Tony sent an email in support of a balanced budget even if that means putting projects on hold.
4. Carol Stines sent an email opposing Light-rail extensions and instead adding smaller buses and increasing routes to prevent wasteful spending.
5. Jennifer Flores sent an email in support of the ReinventPHX Solano TOD Policy Plan to keep the Camelback corridor safe.
6. Julie Birky sent an email in support of the ReinventPHX Solano TOD Policy Plan to keep the Camelback corridor safe.
7. Santohsh Bhugatha sent an email in support of funding for cricket fields in South Phoenix to include additional lighting installation at approved fields.
8. Iftekhar Ahmed sent an email in support of funding for cricket fields in South Phoenix to include additional lighting installation at approved fields.
9. Syed Meheruddin sent an email in support of funding for cricket fields in South Phoenix to include additional lighting installation at approved fields.
10. Mohan Babu Samud sent an email in support of funding for cricket fields in South Phoenix to include additional lighting installation at approved fields.
11. Raja Rela sent an email in support of funding for cricket fields in South Phoenix to include additional lighting installation at approved fields.

12. Ashish Sharma sent an email in support of funding for cricket fields in South Phoenix to include additional lighting installation at approved fields.
13. John Hassett sent an email in support of funding for additional police officers but opposes Green Deal policies and “road diet” policies related to Vision Zero and Street Transportation projects.
14. Elizabeth Meyer sent an email in support of funding to improve the reversable lane signage on 7th Ave and 7th Street, recommended using signage that lights up so commuters could see the signs better.
15. Vania Guevara sent an email in support of funding for proactive solutions to quality-of- life improvements focused on streets, parks, housing and clean energy for citizens.
16. Brandon McGill sent an email in support of funding for Arts and Culture such as the Irish Cultural Center promoting connectivity and employment.
17. Lisa Cooper sent an email in support of funding to widen Dobbins Road between 20th Street and the 202 Freeway.
18. Jim McManus sent an email in support of funding for sworn police officers and opposes turning sworn positions into civilian positions.
19. Catherine Napoli sent an email in support of funding to bring local retail in the South Mountain Village community.
20. Devinee Peebles sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
21. Barbara Beaudoin sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
22. Robin Cusick sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
23. Jillian Kong-Sivert sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
24. Torbin Riise sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
25. Judy Whitehouse sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
26. Lucinda Montoya sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
27. Rudolf Dankwort sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.

28. Linda Donofrio sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
29. Mary Ann Cook sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
30. Devoney Looser sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
31. Brandon McGill sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
32. Anthony & Barbara sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
33. Shelly Hornback sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
34. Susan Thomas sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
35. Kristen Vassar sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
36. Karen Owen sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
37. Mary Ann Johnson sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
38. Eric Ossowski sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
39. Iris Finkelstein sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
40. Monica Goddard sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
41. Toni Muma sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
42. Wayne Turner sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
43. Terry Goddard sent an email in support of maintaining current library funding.
44. Joshua Matthews sent a letter in support of funding for the redevelopment and repair on four racquetball courts at Mountain View Community Center. The letter is attached.

Voicemails

1. Melanie Klettlinger left a voicemail in support of Street Transportation initiatives, federal grants for affordable housing for the unhoused, hiring to support Parks and Preserves and creative vetting for immigrants to obtain their citizenship.

FundPHX

1. Paula Milner recommended the city stop approving the development of multi-unit buildings due to limited water resources. Ms. Milner also stated the increase in development brings increased traffic and pollution.
2. Erin Morrison recommended the city stop subsidizing vehicles and instead prioritize street improvements that protect pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users. Ms. Morrison would also like to see more services for the unhoused.
3. Natalie Davenport recommended a stop light along Cave Creek, between Hatcher Road and Cactus Road due to increased speeding.
4. Benjamin Joiner recommended funds be reduced in the patrol division of the Phoenix Police Department and added to non-police responders, such as mental health professionals, counselors and health and well-being specialists.
5. David Ramirez recommended an audit of police spending and instead invest the funds back into the communities.

Social media stats from March 25, 2024, to April 9, 2024, are as follows:

Facebook

1. 3 posts
2. 179 views
3. 46 likes/reactions
4. 16 shares
5. 5 comments

Twitter

1. 3 posts
2. 40 views
3. 2 retweets
4. 6 likes

YouTube:

1. 6 posts
2. 649 views
3. 1 comment

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Chavez
Administrative Secretary

Kari Lambert
Administrative Assistant II

March 27, 2024

Mayor Kate Gallego
City of Phoenix
200 W Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Mayor Gallego:

I am writing to you today to request and advocate for additional city funding for the Mountain View Community Center (MVCC), located at 1104 E. Grovers Ave. in north central Phoenix. For years, the MVCC has provided a critical resource that is truly unique in the city: indoor racquetball courts. The MVCC provides the only publicly accessible indoor racquetball courts in the entire city!

The four indoor racquetball courts at MVCC have provided residents an opportunity to exercise, compete and have fun playing a game enjoyed by over 3 million Americans each year. And these courts also provide the added benefit of being indoors and air conditioned, providing a safer, more comfortable, and enjoyable experience for players. In addition to racquetball, nets can be added to the courts to facilitate other games, such as volleyball and badminton. This critical resource supports competitive racquetball leagues that occur three to four times a year, lasting multiple months at a time, as well as volleyball classes and serve as a multi-purpose space for youth engagement and activities. This critical resource is truly a unique, essential part of MVCC, and has been for over 30 years.

Unfortunately, these courts have begun to fall into disrepair. Currently, one court is unavailable due to rain damage from a storm many months ago. The wood floors of the courts need repairs and resurfacing; multiple wall and ceiling panels need replaced; cracks between the floor and walls should be filled and sealed; the doors and doorknobs need to be serviced or replaced; the lighting should be enhanced; and the list goes on. As a resident of north central Phoenix, a dues-paying parks and recreation membership pass holder and an ongoing member of the racquetball league at MVCC, I kindly request that City Council and staff dedicate one-time funding for the redevelopment of these racquetball courts at MVCC, as well as ongoing funding to maintain a state of good repair. This funding will ensure the longevity, functionality and community value of this critical resource for Phoenix residents.

Thank you for your consideration,



Joshua Matthews

cc:

Councilperson Jim Waring (District 2)
Councilperson Debra Stark (District 3)