



**SANTA MONICA BUDGET TASK FORCE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

SANTA MONICA INSTITUTE TRAINING ROOM  
330 OLYMPIC DRIVE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR (PLAZA LEVEL)  
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019  
6:00PM**

[santamonica.gov/BudgetTaskForce](http://santamonica.gov/BudgetTaskForce)

- I. Call to Order at 6:06pm
- II. Roll Call

The Interim Chair conducted Roll Call by asking members to introduce themselves.

*Present*

Judy Abdo, Interim Chair  
Dominic Gomez, Interim Vice Chair  
George Brown  
Janine Bush  
Ina Godoy  
Brandi Lockhart  
David Nanjo  
Kimberly Ong  
Jeremy Peterson  
Concepcion Rechtszajd  
Matt Rice  
Phillip Ticun

*Absent*

Dominick Bei  
Laurence Eubank  
K. John Lee

*In addition, the following City staff were also in attendance:*

Rick Cole, City Manager  
Katie Lichtig, Assistant City Manager  
Brandon Ward, Deputy City Attorney  
Gigi Decavalles-Hughes, Director of Finance  
Susan Lai, Budget Manager, Finance  
Stephanie Lazicki-Meyer, Principal Analyst, Finance  
Jennifer Young, Senior Budget Analyst, Finance  
Jonathan Tang, Senior Budget Analyst, Finance  
Landry Doyle Wiese, Management Fellow  
Joseph Cevetello, Chief Information Officer  
Oscar Santiago, Administrative Services Officer, ISD  
Cynthia Renaud, Chief of Police  
Neela Patel, Senior Administrative Analyst, Police

III. Approval of Minutes

November 4, 2019 meeting minutes approved (motion by Phillip Ticun, seconded by George Brown).

IV. Discussion and Possible Action Items

**Proposal One: Eliminate City Wi-Fi Along Transit Corridors**

Chief Information Officer Joseph Cevetello presented the Information Services Department's proposal to eliminate free City Wi-Fi from transit corridors. Cevetello presented the history of the program and the initial need for connectivity along transit corridors to support Big Blue Bus operations. Cevetello explained that Big Blue Bus never fully utilized the Wi-Fi services as planned and that currently only 10% of total usage occurs in transit corridors.

ISD presented three options: a.) to only eliminate Wi-Fi from transit corridors, b.) to eliminate City Wi-Fi in all areas, or c.) to keep the program as is and continue planned capital expenditures.

The Department recommended Option A, which would result in \$721,000 in savings over seven years by eliminating Wi-Fi coverage in the transit corridors and instead focusing the coverage on City parks and other high usage public areas, such as the Promenade and Pier. The savings would come from reducing the amount of equipment and services needed by not replacing equipment at the transit corridors.

The Task Force discussed topics including, but not limited to: when cash savings would accrue; the original purpose of the program; the status of Wi-Fi in parks and transit corridors that could also be considered tourist destinations, including Main Street, which is currently covered by City Wi-Fi and Montana Ave, which does not have coverage; the availability of public-private partnerships to provide Wi-Fi; the arrival of 5G and expected impacts on connectivity; the availability of on-board Wi-Fi in Big Blue Bus vehicles; the availability of data to provide information on equity impacts; the rationale for discontinuing Wi-Fi provision when technology use is increasing broadly; and trends in public Wi-Fi usage.

*Public Comment*

There was no public comment on the proposal.

*Motion*

George Brown moved to preliminarily accept the CIO's proposal to eliminate Wi-Fi coverage in all transit corridors while maintaining other access points, for a savings of \$721,000 over a seven-year period; subject to obtaining additional information related to:

- a.) commercial arrangements, including advertising or sponsorship, to supplement revenues for the program;
- b.) service levels in transit corridors like Main Street, that act as high-traffic pedestrian centers;
- c.) a regular evaluation of the renewal cycle of connective technologies and whether public Wi-Fi is still needed, and
- d.) consideration of the impact eliminating the entire system might have on disadvantaged members of the community.

The motion was seconded by Jeremy Peterson.

Brandi Lockhart offered a substitute motion to eliminate the entire City Wi-Fi program, based on the understanding that the proposal is separate from and would not affect Wi-Fi access in libraries. The substitute motion was seconded by Dominic Gomez.

The Task Force held a roll call vote on the substitute motion.

Judy Abdo	N
George Brown	N

Janine Bush	N
Ina Godoy	N
Dominic Gomez	Y
Brandi Lockhart	Y
David Nanjo	N
Kimberly Ong	N
Jeremy Peterson	N
Matt Rice	N
Concepcion Rechtszajd	N
Phillip Ticun	Y

The motion failed by a vote of 3 to 9.

The Task Force returned to the initial motion from George Brown and conducted a roll call vote.

Judy Abdo	Y
Dominic Gomez	N
George Brown	Y
Janine Bush	Y
Ina Godoy	Y
Brandi Lockhart	N
David Nanjo	Y
Kimberly Ong	Y
Jeremy Peterson	Y
Concepcion Rechtszajd	Y
Matt Rice	Y
Phillip Ticun	N

The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 3.

**Proposal Two: Eliminate Overtime Usage for the Explorer Program**

Chief Renaud presented a description of the Police Department's Explorer Program including its history, purpose, collateral basis staffing model, program costs, and mitigating actions the Department already has in process.

The Department presented three alternatives: a.) leave program as is, b.) eliminate overtime for the program for savings of over \$74,967, and c.) eliminate overtime from the General Fund and identify alternative funding sources for the program including grants and/or asset forfeiture funds.

The Task Force discussed topics including, but not limited to: the viability of alternative funding sources to reduce program costs including using retired police officers or other volunteers and the availability of resources from either the Boy Scouts or the POA (the Police Officers' Association); the pool of applicants and recruitment process; the program's acceptance of LBGTQ members; context behind developing the proposal; the Department's ratio of sworn to non-sworn officers; and the program's relation to the Department's Police Activities League program.

*Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

*Motion*

Brandi Lockhart moved to approve option C—to make programmatic changes to reduce costs (including changing meeting schedules and optimizing officer scheduling) and to pursue alternative funding sources to fund overtime costs that cannot otherwise be reduced, so that the program continues to operate without reducing services for youth—for a total annual General Fund savings of \$74,967. Concepcion Rechtszajd seconded the motion.

The Task Force held a roll call vote on the motion.

Judy Abdo	Y
Dominic Gomez	Y
George Brown	Y

Janine Bush	Y
Ina Godoy	Y
Brandi Lockhart	Y
David Nanjo	Y
Kimberly Ong	Y
Jeremy Peterson	Y
Concepcion Rechtszajd	Y
Matt Rice	Y
Phillip Ticun	Y

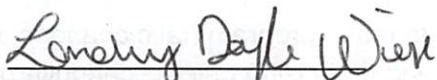
The motion passed unanimously.

V. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

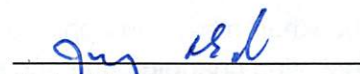
The next meeting is Monday, December 2, 2019 at 6pm. In addition to the regularly scheduled items, Gigi Decavalles-Hughes noted that the next meeting will include a discussion of the full list of proposals for consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

ATTEST:

  
 Landry Doyle Wiese  
 Secretary

APPROVED:

  
 Judy Abdo  
 Interim Chair

*The Santa Monica Institute is accessible. To request a disability-related accommodation (e.g. sign language interpreter), please contact Brian Mondragon at 310/458-8281 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. This document is available in alternate format upon request from the Finance Department.*