



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

SANTA MONICA INSTITUTE TRAINING ROOM
330 OLYMPIC DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR (PLAZA LEVEL)
SANTA MONICIA, CA 90401

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

6:00PM

santamonica.gov/BudgetTaskForce

I. Call to Order at 6:07pm

II. Roll Call

The Interim Chair conducted Roll Call.

Present

Judy Abdo, Interim Chair

Dominic Gomez, Interim Vice Chair

Dominick Bei

George Brown

Janine Bush

Laurence Eubank

Ina Godoy

K. John Lee

Brandi Lockhart Kimberly Ong

Jeremy Peterson

Concepcion Rechtszajd

Matt Rice

Phillip Ticun

Absent

David Nanjo

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
David Martin, Director of Planning and Community Development (PCD)
Jing Yeo, Planning Manager, PCD
Lynn Wolken-Gonzales, Principal PCD Analyst
Francie Stefan, Mobility Manager, PCD
Henry Servin, Parking Manager, PCD
Michael Towler, Principal Administrative Analyst, PCD

III. Approval of Minutes

November 18, 2019 meeting minutes were approved by Laurence Eubank and seconded by George Brown as amended by Judy Abdo.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action Items

PCD Director David Martin introduced the proposals by discussing the Department's previous efforts to reduce expenditures.

Proposal One: Eliminate Planning Fee Waivers

Planning Manager Jing Yeo presented PCD's proposal to eliminate fee waivers for building and safety review and planning review. Yeo's discussed topics including but not limited to: historic reasons for waiving fees; categories of existing fee waivers (affordable housing, sustainability, historic preservation, childcare, and homeowner or small business support); and potential impacts on stakeholders.

PCD presented two options: Option A to eliminate fee waivers for solar system installation on new construction and to subsidize fees for Historic Preservation applications and voluntary solar installations at 80%, for an annual revenue increase of \$106,000; and Option B to eliminate all fee waivers in all categories for an estimated revenue increase of \$580,000. PCD recommended Option A.

The Task Force discussed the cost of planning fees in relation to total project costs; the Department's reasoning for subsidizing Historic Preservation permits; the staff time

required to process applications; whether or not waived fees incentivize project participation; the availability of state or federal subsidies for solar installation; the building code requirements for new construction; the potential to collect fees in installments; the potential to reduce fee waivers in a phased manner to measure potential changes in user behavior; and the landmarks designation review process.

Public Comment

There was no public comment on the proposal.

Motion

Laurence Eubank moved to support an amended version of Option B which would charge full cost recovery in all fee categories except childcare and affordable housing. The motion was seconded by Dominick Gomez.

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

Judy Abdo	Y
Dominic Gomez	Y
Dominick Bei	Y
George Brown	Y
Janine Bush	Y
Laurence Eubank	Y
Ina Godoy	Y
K. John Lee	Y
Brandi Lockhart	Y
David Nanjo	<i>absent</i>
Kimberly Ong	Y
Jeremy Peterson	Y
Concepcion Rechtszajd	Y
Matt Rice	Y
Phillip Ticun	Y

The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal Two: Reduce Grace Period in Downtown Parking Structures

Parking Manager Henry Servin presented the Department's proposal to reduce the parking grace period in Downtown parking structures. The Department presented three options: a.) to reduce the grace period from 90 minutes to 60 minutes in Year One and from 60 minutes to 30 minutes in Year Two, b.) to reduce the grace period from 90 to 60 minutes in Year One without further reductions, and c.) to maintain the 90-minute grace period.

Servin's presentation included a discussion of topics including but not limited to: to current supply of off-street parking; recent changes in the City's parking rates; parking policy goals in the Downtown area; parking rates in all citywide facilities; the grace period in neighboring cities; stakeholder outreach and engagement; The Department recommended Option A, which was estimated to raise \$700,000 in Year One and \$1.5 million in Year Two.

Task Force discussed topics including, but not limited to: long-term revenue projections; the potential to expedite the reduction to a 30-minute grace period; the potential for rate increases to incentivize mode shift or trip attrition; the Department's tradeoffs to balance parking availability, disincentivize short vehicle trips, and promote consumption in Downtown area; subsidies for part-time workers in the Downtown area; validations for those spending money in the Downtown area; parking accommodations for those with accessibility issues; potential effects on a changing retail industry; and potential effect on sales tax revenue.

Public Comment

Kent Strumpell, representing Climate Action Santa Monica, spoke in favor of removing subsidies for vehicle use in order to reduce transportation-related emissions.

Motion

George Brown moved to support Option A to reduce the grace period from 90 minutes to 60 minutes in Year One and from 60 minutes to 30 minutes in Year Two. The motion was seconded by Matt Rice.

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

Judy Abdo	Y
Dominic Gomez	Y

Dominick Bei	N
George Brown	Y
Janine Bush	Y
Laurence Eubank	N
Ina Godoy	N
K. John Lee	N
Brandi Lockhart	N
David Nanjo	<i>absent</i>
Kimberly Ong	Y
Jeremy Peterson	Y
Concepcion Rechtszajd	Y
Matt Rice	Y
Phillip Ticun	Y

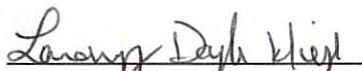
The motion passed by a vote of 9 to 5.

V. Future Meetings and Agenda Items

Member Brandi Lockhart suggested the proposals before the group should include cutting staff if the existing proposals are not sufficient to close the budget shortfall. Gigi Decavalles-Hughes referred Task Force members to the list of long-term budget proposals which the Task Force may consider in the future, noting that some involve staffing changes. The next meeting is Monday, January 13, 2019 at 6pm at the Ken Edwards Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

ATTEST:


 Landry Doyle Wiese
 Secretary

APPROVED:


 Judy Abdo
 Interim Chair

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