City of Long Beach
Working Together to Serve

Memorandum

Date: August 31, 2018

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Patrick H. West, City Manager

Subject: **Summary of Responses to Long Beach Budget Priority Survey**

As you know, the Long Beach Budget Priority Survey was launched on August 1, 2018 to obtain feedback from residents regarding their budget priorities. This memorandum summarizes the responses received as of August 31, 2018.

Before reviewing the information provided below, it is important to reiterate that the Budget Priority Survey is not a formal survey with requisite controls and the results should not be considered representative of the public at large. The survey does not preclude multiple responses from a single individual, nor does it attempt to balance responses from all segments of the community.

Participants were asked to rate 35 different City services as being "very important," "somewhat important," "not very important," or "not at all important." This survey was available online and through a hard copy handout (in English, Spanish, Khmer, and Tagalog), which were distributed at budget community meetings. As of August 31st, 135 survey responses had been received.

The following are demographic descriptors of the respondents:

Council District

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Don't Know	Non-Resident	Skipped Question
7	16	21	11	14	9	27	12	4	6	1	7
5%	13%	16%	9%	11%	7%	21%	9%	3%	5%	1%	--

Age

0-18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Skipped Question
1	9	20	17	29	32	17	10
1%	7%	16%	14%	23%	26%	14%	--

Household Size

1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Skipped Question
26	63	18	10	5	1	3	9
21%	50%	14%	8%	4%	1%	2%	--

Results

The following is the summary of survey responses, reflecting the relative percentages of responses for each service. A weighted ranking of each service has also been included to provide a means for comparison. A "very important" response received 3 points, a "somewhat important" response received 2 points, a "not very important" response received 1 point, and a "not at all important" response received 0 points. The services have been reordered from how they appeared on the survey form to reflect the weighted average.

Service	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Very Important	Not at All Important	Weighted Average
Maintaining a low crime rate	98	22	6	3	2.67
Maintaining and repairing streets (fixing potholes, etc.)	91	34	5	1	2.64
Providing emergency medical services (paramedics, EMS)	91	30	7	1	2.64
Providing fire protection services	92	30	8	1	2.63
Maintaining parks	66	59	5	0	2.47
Maintaining and repairing sidewalks	71	50	8	2	2.45
Reducing ocean pollution by improving storm drains	66	50	10	0	2.44
Maintaining and repairing public buildings (community and senior centers, fire stations, libraries, etc.)	63	60	6	2	2.40
Providing services that address homelessness	72	42	9	6	2.40
Preparing the community for emergencies or disasters	65	53	9	4	2.37
Providing neighborhood police patrols	73	29	17	7	2.33
Enforcing traffic laws to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers	66	42	15	6	2.30
Keeping the City attractive and eliminating blight	59	49	18	2	2.29
Providing nuisance abatement programs (loitering, illegal drug activity, excessive noise, etc.)	65	41	14	8	2.27
Providing free or low-cost recreation programs for youth and teens	63	48	10	9	2.27
Collecting illegally dumped items	54	55	16	3	2.25
Providing prompt graffiti removal services	61	46	17	6	2.25
Planning for the future of the city	56	53	15	5	2.24
Providing code enforcement services (citing blighted buildings, etc.)	50	50	21	7	2.12
Providing new Library books, ebooks, media and access to technology	50	53	17	10	2.10
Providing specialized Police units (property crimes, directed enforcement, etc.)	54	45	14	14	2.09
Providing affordable housing	64	26	16	19	2.08
Providing access to libraries (hours of operation)	45	56	19	11	2.03
Providing programs for seniors	35	66	20	8	1.99

Providing environmental sustainability programs	47	41	25	12	1.98
Providing animal care/animal control services	37	54	30	6	1.96
Trimming trees on residential streets	32	64	26	6	1.95
Providing business assistance and supporting economic development	36	57	28	9	1.92
Providing library programs and services (reading, homework help, etc.)	41	51	22	15	1.91
Prosecuting all adult misdemeanor crimes committed in the City	38	39	28	19	1.77
Providing arts and cultural programs	29	53	32	15	1.74
Providing public access to the internet	37	35	36	18	1.72
Creating new parks and open space	33	47	32	19	1.72
Providing special events and programs for families	27	50	33	16	1.70
Providing translating services (Language Access)	24	37	33	30	1.44

The survey also allowed participants to provide comments regarding any of the survey items, or things the survey did not cover. A summary of these comments is attached.

Comparison to Prior Year

In comparing results of the 2018 survey to those of 2017 survey, several services have been replaced in the "Top 10." Items highlighted in yellow under 2018 have been elevated to the Top 10. Items highlighted in blue under 2017 have dropped out of the Top 10.

2018	2017
1. Maintaining a low crime rate	1. Maintaining a low crime rate
2. Maintaining and repairing streets	2. Providing emergency medical services
3. Providing emergency medical services	3. Providing fire protection services
4. Providing fire protection services	4. Maintaining and repairing streets
5. Maintaining parks	5. Providing neighborhood police patrols
6. Maintaining and repairing sidewalks	6. Maintaining parks
7. Reducing ocean pollution	7. Providing nuisance abatement
8. Maintaining and repairing public buildings	8. Maintaining a police presence in neighborhoods
9. Providing services that address homelessness	9. Providing well-lit city streets
10. Preparing the community for emergencies or disasters	10. Reducing ocean pollution

Attachment

cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney
Laura Doud, City Auditor
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Kevin Jackson, Deputy City Manager
Rebecca Garner, Assistant to the City Manager

Long Beach Budget Priority Survey Comments (8/31/18)

1.	Public Safety, Homelessness, Infrastructure, Parks & Recreation.
2.	Thank you. please continue to keep community involved. CCabrera67@yahoo.com
3.	Prevention. Renovate burnett & harte libraries. Education and outreach would solves many issues. Proactive vs reactive support. Concern: cost and decades of cares for landscaping that's dying to drought no water. Yet needed for air and environment.
4.	Tree trimming on streets with majority of palm trees. 2000 block San Francisco Ave. Very dangerous to walk across especially. why cant neighbors go together and get trees trimmed as city waits 6 years- outrageous. I have been in my home 35 years, this is the worst lack of concern. City vehicles and trucks travel very fast on San francisco ave - back and forth to city yard at PCH and Golden/Oregon
5.	Is there a volunteer program in place to assist fire or police services?
6.	Installation of CCTV cameras.
7.	Would like to see more focus on neighborhoods like the west side. that are forgotten. too much goes towards downtown. For example, repairing streets and parks. More patrol of police in neighborhoods and parks. Traffic control around schools.
8.	More police, plant more trees
9.	Do not approve of special election funding. At all! Self serving!! cant wait for election.
10.	1. If water can't be provided to our current density without sacrifices then increased density should be halted not boasted as in the August 2018 Grunion Gazette. Congestion and parking sucks as it is.
11.	I don't see enough investment in our city parks buildings need major repair. They have lost their critical mass and according to the mayor, the parks have never looked worse. I hope the city will fix this.
12.	Expungement fund for other offenses. Solar flashing lights stop signs.
13.	Provide more youth programs in our district. Work hard at getting more neighbors to your meetings.
14.	I heartily support Mayor Garcia's recommendations, especially the Justice Fund and trust that the level of funding will remain as proposed or increased. Affordable housing in our City is scarce. I encourage City Council to develop and plan to alleviate the situation. We need many more affordable units and information need to be distributed in different languages so that people who are eligible can apply in a timely manner.
15.	I live on St Joseph between 23rd and Vernon. Last year, our association and Councilmember Supernaw were instrumental in the street repair of Rogeroff, Vernon, and Park. Supernaw has worked very hard for the streets of St. Josephs to Clark getting repaired in 2019. We were told that St. Joseph and Argonny were getting skipped but Granada and Clark were being repaired. Our street is literally falling apart. You can see the dirt under the pavement!

16.	Please include the Peoples Budget Proposals. Money for youth programs. Deportation Defense Fund of a minumus $250,000 & referring to LB Values act - no on carveouts. Comments added to following items: Providing special events and programs for families - for all, no exclusion; Maintaing parks - maintaining for safety so no hate crimes occur; Enforcing traffic laws to protect the safety of pedestrianas, cyclists, and drivers - not to go against or be overly enforced to POC; Keeping the City attractive and eliminating blight - not for tourism; Planning for the future of the city - w/ community orgs (LIBRE, LB Forward) in lower income communities; Creating new parks and open space - in lower income areas; Providing business assistance and supporting economic development - Not Very Important if it provides gentrification; Providing specialized Police units (property crimes, directed enforcement, etc.) - less than 48% of budget. Allocate more to the youth; Providing arts and cultural programs - To All, lower income and POC community; Providing translating services (Language Access) - Spanish, Khmer & other; Providing services that address homelessness - mental health very important; Providing affordable housing - w/ the prices of rent going up so is the median, to qualify housing units as affordable housing - something to consider. real affordable housing,
17.	In Mayor Garcia's Budget Message he talks about using $250,000 to fund the Justice Fund for immigrants. Why not use that money for many of the items listed above (especially police to patrol the neighborhoods of the people living in LB. Crime has gotten out of hand)
18.	Invest in the future in order to create productive members of society. Invest in early Literacy, mental health, and are youth.
19.	(disability availability) throughout the City
20.	Please invest $500,000 for the children & youth fund. thank you!
21.	Changing the time of this meeting @ the last minute was not very convenient.
22.	The city should stop supporting Community Hospital waivers (for non-compliance with earthquake standards). It is inevitable that it needs to be closed. Instead, direct the "ambulance" to take people to Los Al. Hosp, if that is closest. If you let Community Hops stay open and there is a major earthquake, I think the City will be liable if the hospital falls down & injures people. In addition, I don't think the city should spend ANY MONEY on the Charter amendment to let Council & Mayor have a third term. That should be illegal to spend money on any campaigns. Big rocks just left in Heartwell Park, near duck pond. They look out of place, like they just fell from the sky.
23.	It might be good to have a questionnaire on what should be city spending priorities when budget times are tight again. You also need to get a better handle on police, fire, and higher ups pensions! Comment of Too broad, more specific on item Planning for the future of the city. Comment of gangs on item on Providing specialized Police units..., Comment of Get more ESL classes on item Providing translating services (Language Access).
24.	No unnecessary ticketing for item on enforcing traffic laws to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Fee license noted for item on providing animal care/animal control services.
25.	I would like to see a far greater investment in our parks, streets & maintain low density in my district.
26.	Remove homeless from the beautiful section of Belmont shore which belongs to Long Beach.
27.	We need genuine, compassionate services for homeless people, not in an effort to eliminate "blight," but to help people on their road to recovery from poverty, addiction, and/or mental illness.
28.	Out of a total Budget of 3 Billion dollars Only 17% provides Much of the resources for critical city services then these General funds should be allocated strictly to the "VERY IMPORTANT"
29.	Please stop building bike paths. Please get rid of those electric scooters. Please focus on all parts of Long Beach not just downtown Long Beach.
30.	Affordable and accessible parking to those of us who live in apartments and do not have a place to park. It is not safe to park far from my home because I leave so early in the morning.

31.	I truly appreciate the new ordinance on RV parking and the way it has been enforced. As more fall victim to housing instability, I would like to know if the city can use the causeways as over-night parking for those living out of vehicles of all sorts. Having a place to park and stay in their cars would help those that live around parks as there are many people who park in neighborhoods near parks to sleep overnight.
32.	Stop concentrating homeless services in the west side. Every time you open another shelter ,feeding location, you cause tremendous blight in the surrounding neighborhoods. Provide bathrooms, how can the blue line not have restrooms? Any business that sells food or drink must provide bathrooms.
33.	keeping long beach beautiful and providing family fun activities is important. keeping homeless away from people's property abd beaches is important so people want to visit the city and beaches and continue to live here.
34.	fix homeless issue!!!.it is going to ruin tourism. Enforce traffic laws for pedestrians, cars AND bikes. Enough parks, , maintain ones we have. Enforce all laws, especially loitering...I have the right to feel safe.
35.	City gov.is mismanaging the general fund. examples(special election that is a waste of resources which could be done at no cost in 2020,new bike lanes w/ bollards that impact traffic that 75% of the impacted citizens do not want.Allotting funds for pet projects like murals when side walks and infrastructure has been neglected for years.Homeless funds are not strategically utilized. No fiscal accountability, priorities (needs) are held hostage to special interest $. Asset allocation of General fund is disjointed at best. We need Infrastructure,Infrastructure, Infrastructure ! and safe neighborhoods !
36.	ITS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP OUR TEEN OCCUPIED IN THING THAT INTEREST THEM. I BELIEVE PARKS SHOULD HAVE BIGGER BUDGETS TO PROVIDE YOUTH JOB TRAINING INSTEAD OF HIRING OTHER PARTNERS FROM THE COMMUNITY, WE SHOULD USE THE RESOURCES WE ALREADY HAVE. I FEEL THE CITY IS NOT LOOKING WITH IN ITS OWN DEPARTMENTS AND IS GIVING MONEY AWAY OUR TAX DOLLARS TO PARTNERS THAT ARE DOING THE SAME THING THAT DEPARTMENTS WITH IN IT SELF ARE ALREADY DOING.
37.	We spend too much money on the police and need more social services.
38.	I agree with the mayor's recommendations. Resolving homeless issues is a major priority.
39.	Where is education?
40.	Good lord. All the services are important. How does one start?
41.	I would like the city to invest in the full spectrum of public safety, especially in prevention programmings, not just on the law enforcement side. We need smart and balance spending and prevention programs will save the city money.
42.	Libraries are important to economic development, literacy, internet access, family learning, building community, etc. Libraries should be open every day.
43.	In 2017, at our city budget meeting, I brought the subject of our alley on 44th circle (found by Freeland Ave Lindin Ave). Nothing has been done, and our alley is in horrible shape. According to neighbors who have been in the community for 40-50 yrs, the alley has never been resurfaced since the houses were built in the 1940's.
44.	Why are the mini roundabouts taking priority over repairing the streets?
45.	Salaries for city staff excessive at least is grater than private industry.
46.	Stop WASTING money. The roundabouts in Belmont Heights are a waste. What us the city doing to ASSIST the homeless? What is the city doing about the parking crisis? Why are left turn signals on 7th street only 3 seconds long?
47.	The word homeless in the survey shows bias. Stop calling those who live on the streets in our neighborhoods homeless - they are mentally ill or substance addicted. Even if they all were given a house or apartment at no charge, they would be unable to care for it or themselves. The rights of the general society outweighs an individual's 'right' to live illegally on the street, polluting our neighborhoods with criminal behavior as well as urine, feces, and trash! Focus on stronger law enforcement.

48.	Our libraries, especially the main library downtown, should be open and accessible 7 days a week. Residents rely on them for internet access (see digital divide crisis), opportunities for education and economic development, etc.
49.	Line #1 - provide free or low cost recreation programs to youth & teens based on need. Stop providing free aquatic classes to people 50 & over. Pat West always preaches "full cost recovery" which is impossible when services are free. Line #3 - A) Need a better definition here as to what are "special events and programs." B) Renegotiate or cancel the contract with Larry xxx for the Municipal Band, and require the new vendor to use local musicians. Most of the councilmembers are adding new concerts dates beyond the 6 Muni Band dates, and those concerts showcase a larger variety of music and local musical talent than does the Muni Band currently. Line #6 - Same comment as in 3A) above. Line #13 - For park-scarce areas only, and then only when there are identifiable sources of funding for maintenance. Line #24 - See comment for 3A) and 6. Line #34 - Setting (reasonable) incentives for developers to construct affordable housing is something I can support as a city service, but I cannot support using city funds to "provide," i.e., "build" affordable housing.
50.	Terribly worded in a way that leaves many people out. Eg I mall in favor of maintaining a low crime rate. But I know a positive answer would be interpreted as a yes to putting more police on the street. I m against that until we retrain them to stop harassing and killing people of color.
51.	Regarding creating new parks and open space, there needs to be dog-free park space, especially for young children in the downtown area. Every park and green space in downtown is a virtual dog toilet. Not to mention every light or sign post. Hopefully the new Lincoln Park addresses this. And we need playground equipment for small children included. The "tot-lot" at the park on the Promenade is anything but. The signage for the play equipment even states for 9 years old and above.
52.	Seems City Officials prefer using monies for adding Dog Parks instead of helping residents dealing with unfair property management practices. How about building small homes on the empty city lots for homeless families?
53.	Our city's priorities are upside down and we are less than impressed with the way it is run. Children going to kindergartens near 710 have asthma and will never grow up to have a fully developed set of lungs, but finding $250,000.00 for "illegal aliens" or whatever term a la mode these days is no problem? If this city has become a trampoline for modern politicians who are carreeists, arrivists, and excel in clientlism, than we're out of here. Attracting big businesses have never proven to work out well in other cities, in general. Perhaps when we have transparency and vote everyone in or out downtown, things might change.
54.	Spending of city funds seems to be out of control. The city hall will keep the city in a deficut for 4 decades. A million dollar swimming pool is excessive. We need more fiscal restraint.
55.	It’s unacceptable to allow our city to deteriorate the way it has over the last 10years. Neighborhood crime is up regardless of what the mayor wants to report. Maintaining Our infrastructure is absolutely essential and should not be neglected. Address fraud issues and enforce existing laws to ensure our tax money is used wisely. No more tax increases.
56.	The survey did not cover providing extremely high salaries to many city employees - not at all important. It didn't cover the intention to spend money to hold a totally unnecessary and very costly special election this fall - not at all important. It didn't cover how the mayor, who was quoted as pointing to the "billions and billions of dollars" of development going on in the city, intends to provide the police, fire, and EMS services necessary to serve all those new developments - extremely important.
57.	Libraries and programs for kids and teens will help with all of the other problems, I have already seen the red scooters abandoned (Bayshore and Vista on Sunday) Happy we are increasing retail (LB Exchange) in improve the tax base We are a beach city so if I don't feel it is our responsibility to provide low cost housing - look in Hawaiian Gardens sorry if that is mean. Seems a lot of money is going into environmental sustainability that I don't see a return on - bike lane on Bellflower makes sense (CSULB) but not on Studebaker, don't see use on Broadway either

58.	All of the items above are important, it is a matter of the level at which they are funded that is most relevant. Might get better information if you showed the percent currently allocated to these items and asked the respondent how they would allocate the funds based upon the percentages.
59.	We need more police
60.	I've lived in 6 states and have never seen a city catering to the lowest common denominator like we do in the LBC. I watch people committing crimes every day and nothing is done about it. Yet my taxes have never been higher. I think our priorities are off. We pay over 6 figures in taxes. When we retire, we plan on leaving the state
61.	More money needs to be given to the Health and Human Services Department in order for them to continue serving the residents and visitors of our city. They are extremely underfunded by the city and relies on grants to maintain their work.
62.	Keeping the City attractive and eliminating blight, this Item was redundant in the following questions: Maintaining a low crime rate; Providing prompt graffiti removal services; Trimming trees on residential streets; Providing code enforcement services (citing blighted buildings, etc.) There are other examples, how can you have one without the other?
63.	Transients are taking over every open space here. They have started occupying Admiral Kidd Park. They are in every store front asking for money. Something has to be done for these people. Also, there should be a free legal help office here for assistance in ALL situations.
64.	PLEASE put real grocery stores in 90810. We need more access to healthy food
65.	Providing these things is important, but probably more important is where these services are provided. If all the benefits are concentrated in a few districts while all the enforcement happens only in others, that is not fair, especially if the enforcement happens mainly against undeserved communities. Equity of resources is important and should be a major part of the consideration when allocating funds.
66.	QUIT MAKING BIKE LANES AT THE EXPENSE OF TRAFFIC LANES. IF YOU ARE PUTTING A STOP SIGN AT ROUND ABOUTS. THEN PUT FOUR STOP SIGNS IN.
67.	I believe among those services, fixing potholes and repaving streets (at least those with the most potholes and most damage) within our neighborhoods would make the City of Long Beach better for many of us. In determining such damaged streets, each city district office should be able to provide such information through a personal examination of their own district and through as much community input as can be gathered. In addition to the services mentioned in the survey, I would like to also ask for an emphasis in increasing the amount of parking spaces available for Long Beach residents. Thank you.
68.	The council members that have been elected to serve the public have to be more engaged in the community, meet with us and deeply understand our interests. An absentee councilmember making decisions for constituency that he never meets with regarding the important issues of the city (as opposed to low income services) is absolutely critical for representation in city hall.
69.	Parking- I understand that one off fixes aren't the solution, but the amount of red curbs in Alamitos beach is ridiculous. Also, with no carsharing options the City is not doing itself any favors with easing the parking burden. If there were a carshare option in my neighborhood I would get rid of my car.
70.	Use of funds collected from utility fees shoulb be only for emergencies or unforseen expenses. Yes,we approved Measure M, but it should be used carefully, not as expected general revenue.
71.	Great survey. Thanks for the opportunity to participate.
72.	Another fire station on the east side is far less important than expanded preschool education, library technology, affordable housing, or rapid re-housing for the homeless. We have enough firefighters, if an expansion of that type of service is required then further expand the HEART Team beyond the additional two budgeted paramedics, so our other firefighters can respond to fires rather than seniors falling down over and over and over without making lifestyle changes. I would even rather see these dollars go to fund watering in the parks, affordable daycare for working parents, universal pre-k for 4 year olds, or street tree watering than add another fire station in an area that does not need it.