

Date: August 13, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Kevin Riper, Director of Financial Management



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Response to Questions from the Budget Oversight Committee on August 6, 2024**

During the Budget Oversight Committee held on August 6, 2024, City staff provided information regarding budget engagement and educational opportunities available to the community, as well as a status update on Long Beach Recovery Act (LBRA) programming. This memorandum provides responses to questions raised by members of the Budget Oversight Committee during that time that required further clarification.

1. What additional efforts are being made to increase community engagement participation beyond digital opportunities?

Community members and residents have been invited to join the budget conversation and provide their feedback on the FY 25 Proposed Budget through the Digital Comment Card. In addition to being distributed through social media and on the City's website, the Digital Comment Card has also been and will be advertised at each community meeting. Information about each of the community meetings and Digital Comment Card is being promoted by our City Communicators through various listservs, including the Neighborhood Resource Center listserv and Long Beach Recovery Act community partners. The information has also been distributed to local library branches (flyers) and local parks (posters). Posters can also be found at the City Hall lobby during the duration of the upcoming budget hearings. Physical copies are available in multiple languages at City Parks and in the City Council Chambers during Budget Oversight Committee meetings, Budget Hearings, and City Council meetings until Friday, August 23, 2024.

2. Please provide more detail regarding the Digital Comment Cards, specifically, how to access in public spaces, such as parks and libraries.

The FY 25 Digital Comment Card is open until Friday, August 23, 2024. The Comment Card can be found on the City's Budget website at [Longbeach.gov/FY25](https://longbeach.gov/FY25). Additionally, residents can complete the Comment Card at

any local Long Beach library. Residents can approach the front desk at a library branch and request to use a computer to complete the Comment Card. If a resident does not have a current library card, they can fill out an application for one, free of charge. Library staff can assist any resident who may need digital assistance. Physical copies of the Comment Card are also available at City parks in multiple languages.

3. On Agenda Item 3, Long Beach Recovery Act, slide 14 of the presentation, what is the General Fund breakdown?

The first General Fund line represents funds made available due to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds covering existing City services at \$125.8 million.

The second General Fund line represents funds made available due to funding from CARES Act covering existing City services, Police Department savings, and other sources at \$4.4 million.

If you have any questions, please contact Budget Manager Rebecca Bernstorff at (562) 570-6408.

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