



Date: August 30, 2019

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T. West*

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

As you know, the Long Beach Budget Priority Survey was launched on August 1, 2019 to obtain feedback from residents regarding their budget priorities. This memorandum summarizes the responses received as of August 30, 2019.

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 36 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 30th, 371 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
23	32	69	29	35	16	41	34	30	24	3	35
7%	10%	21%	9%	10%	5%	12%	10%	9%	7%	1%	--

Age

0-18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Skipped Question
1	22	61	53	75	76	62	21
1%	6%	17%	15%	21%	22%	18%	--

Household Size

1	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Skipped Question
70	140	54	45	22	9	7	24
20%	40%	16%	13%	6%	3%	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	293	50	7	2	2.80
Providing emergency medical services (paramedics, EMS)	256	78	12	2	2.69
Providing fire protection services	250	86	18	1	2.65
Maintaining and repairing streets (fixing potholes, etc.)	243	110	7	2	2.64
Providing services and identifying solutions that address homelessness	235	89	16	8	2.58
Maintaining and repairing public buildings (community and senior centers, fire stations, libraries, etc.)	199	134	13	2	2.52
Maintaining parks	200	149	13	0	2.52
Preparing the community for emergencies or disasters	205	128	15	6	2.50
Providing nuisance abatement programs (loitering, illegal drug activity, excessive noise, etc.)	210	93	29	11	2.46
Enforcing traffic laws to protect the safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers	198	126	24	7	2.45
Reducing ocean pollution by improving storm drains	196	125	21	11	2.43
Keeping the City attractive and eliminating blight	191	126	28	7	2.42
Maintaining and repairing sidewalks	184	141	28	3	2.42
Collecting illegally dumped items	180	133	28	6	2.40
Providing neighborhood police patrols	192	105	30	16	2.38
Providing free or low-cost recreation programs for youth and teens	163	139	38	8	2.31
Providing prompt graffiti removal services	180	116	45	13	2.31
Providing specialized Police units (property crimes, directed enforcement, etc.)	162	120	36	18	2.27
Planning for the future of the city	156	139	42	11	2.26
Maintaining a strong budget reserve	134	144	44	12	2.20
Providing code enforcement services (citing blighted buildings, etc.)	148	123	60	14	2.17
Providing access to libraries (hours of operation)	136	138	53	20	2.12
Providing affordable housing	163	98	49	38	2.11
Providing environmental sustainability programs	122	142	48	20	2.10
Trimming trees on residential streets	114	150	69	11	2.07
Providing programs for seniors	108	170	52	19	2.05
Paying down the City's unfunded liabilities (pensions, health care, etc.)	109	140	61	18	2.04

Providing library books, media, access to technology, programs and services (reading, homework help, etc.)	131	126	61	29	2.03
Providing animal care/animal control services	110	154	62	21	2.02
Providing business assistance and supporting economic development	100	159	61	20	2.00
Prosecuting all adult misdemeanor crimes committed in the City	117	112	76	39	1.89
Creating new parks and open space	99	125	90	37	1.81
Providing arts and cultural programs	90	137	73	40	1.81
Providing special events and programs for families	71	153	88	31	1.77
Providing public access to the internet	81	106	95	50	1.66
Providing translating services (Language Access)	67	107	93	64	1.53

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 2019 survey to those of 2018 survey, several services have been replaced in the “Top 10.” Items highlighted in yellow under 2019 have been elevated to the Top 10. Items highlighted in blue under 2018 have dropped out of the Top 10.

2019	2018
1. Maintaining a low crime rate	1. Maintaining a low crime rate
2. Providing emergency medical services	2. Maintaining and repairing streets
3. Providing fire protection services	3. Providing emergency medical services
4. Maintaining and repairing streets	4. Providing fire protection services
5. Providing services that address homelessness	5. Maintaining parks
6. Maintaining and repairing public buildings	6. Maintaining and repairing sidewalks
7. Maintaining parks	7. Reducing ocean pollution
8. Preparing the community for emergencies/disasters	8. Maintaining and repairing public buildings
9. Providing nuisance abatement programs	9. Providing services that address homelessness
10. Enforcing traffic laws	10. Preparing the community for emergencies/disasters

Attachment

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

Long Beach Budget Priority Survey Comments (8/30/19)

1.	A solution to street parking or lack of. Suggest a control on how many parking spaces a household can have. I have neighbors, numerous neighbors with 3 [or more] cars, some of which only move from side to side for street cleaning. The 72 hours policy is not a solution.
2.	No to Taxes!!
3.	No on continuing Measure A! We already pay enough property taxes! We planned to retire here. Cut the park on the City budget. We give away everything to everybody!
4.	Access and inclusion for people with disabilities and families with children with disabilities
5.	Stop picking on 9th. Put in a grocery store - like Vons. Better street, repair, sweeping & tree trimmings. stop using my tax dollars for projects like community hospital need more stores like, CVS or Ralphs.
6.	Necesitamos el presupuesto de la Comunidad, necesitamos mas personas que ablen barrios idiomas, necesitamos que seamos escuchados en nuestras ideoma cuando bamos a edificios de la ciudad. Necesitamos que meyoren el parque ramona mejor para que se mire mas hermoso y de gusto poder venir al parque. gracias
7.	hay muchos problemas con indingentes en los edificios que estan en la esquina de 7 y Pacific
8.	We need more police patrols in district 9 we have had multiple shootings in the last couple of months. I want my family to feel safe here. Also gang enforcement police units and graffiti removal
9.	Short-term band-aid pothole fixes be damned... It's time to repave the entire 9th District (North Long Beach) except of course for the already fully repaved street that Rex Richardson lives on, otherwise it's actually time for North Long Beach to begin thinking of incorporating as its own City!
10.	Paving and fixing the alley on the 2100 block of San Ansedine
11.	Park appear cramped- not enough parks space soccer Need to have clear out reach policy and procedures as promised to residents.
12.	-Need to take credit for services that our taxes pay for. (Make sure people know where ther money ids going) -Its unbecoming of council members to "fight" over the discretionary funds cover the redness to the public. -Make sure that the public understands that these solorys/pensions they complain about thir pay neighborhoods a living wage.
13.	I am concerned about the increased density of our neighborhoods and the lach of street parking.
14.	Much is going wll, yet need all services listed on this survey are valuble.
15.	You can see the dirt under our pavement we have asked for repaired streets for five years! (St. Joseph, Granada, Argonnes)
16.	Endorsing live music (Bus King)- Advocate for improved process of permitting
17.	We have enough park, lets just work on maintaining what we have. They need attention all the time. Part of public land in residential neighborhods as the parkways that in some areas were the city planted trees. The city trims the trees some trees but they need maintainance regarding diseas as weed. There needs to be money in the budget to maintain trees and work where necessary.
18.	We need more energy put towards doing things not planning, presenting-our city needs more boots on the ground and less in the offices
19.	Go Suzie go!
20.	NO RENT CONTROL!!!!
21.	Earthquake preparedness
22.	It is very important that we make better delegation of the city budget. Giving the police department almost half the budget is not practical. We need to fix the housing problem with fair rent affordable housing.
23.	Great job balancing competing priorities

24.	Please rebuild the olympic pool and re-open community hospital.
25.	Take money out of general fund to fix roads faster
26.	Narcotic Police need patrol El Dorado Park around the duck pound and skate park for drug dealers
27.	City should work with the business you still left to provide services that the city cant do and provide do less City Hall renewing and more help to citizens.. We need more Jobs, & Affordable Housing and fewer Library's and City and Police Sub buildings
28.	Grass more open space in parks improve wet lands. Reduce density keep building
29.	First fix our infrastructure. We need the basics first.
30.	The City is wasting huge amounts of money replacing safe 4-way stops with unsafe, too large, poorly designed traffic circles on top of the disastrous waste of funds on Broadway. Putting stop signs on traffic circles defeats the whole purpose of a traffic circle. If you want to slow traffic, time the traffic signals at 25 mph and post billboards showing the traffic signals all green at 25 mph, and don't let pedestrian buttons mess up the flow.
31.	Police, police, police! We voted ourselves a tax increase to pay for approximately 200 officers and have yet to see them materialize. In the meantime, arson, violent crime and burglaries are on the rise in our neighborhood (Cal Heights / Bixby Terrace). There also are a lot more sketchy people hanging around than there used to be. This and the lack of adequate police patrols has everyone on edge. Fears have been heightened by the recent spate of unsolved arson fires. We need a greater police presence in our area. We voted for a sales tax increase that was supposed to help fund public safety. So far, it appears that we haven't seen much of a return on our investment.
32.	Please prioritize the hiring and training of police officers and the deployment of them to neighborhood patrols. Whether because of homelessness, drugs or mental illness, there seem to be a lot more marginal or "sketchy" strangers in our neighborhood. It's making residents anxious and distrustful. The presence of community-oriented officers would help restore the sense of calm and security we once enjoyed.
33.	Animal proper housing such as Horses and safety regulaions
34.	Funds need to be allocated more equally along districts. Too much goes o Belmont Shore Heights area vs lesser areas of the city.
35.	The arborist company was hired by he city of long beach, it was unable to trim the rees due to lack of technical knowledge.
36.	City trimmed the trees on Pine ave/Bixby Rd., but the trees are still to tall and dangerous. I complained to the city , but not available. Can I cut the tree?
37.	Most of the programs listed could easily be accomplished through increased funding to local non-profits. But I would like to see LB invest in some non enviromental public art pieces and public artful spaces like gardens and other interactive spaces.
38.	We live along E Ocean Blvd. It is the noisiest Street - car races, loud exhaust displays, visitors exiting the beach at Junipero adding to the mayhem. We need speed control signage as a start. Thank you.
39.	named alleyways have been neglected or decades.
40.	Help for the mentally ill wandering the streets of Long Beach. Helping foster children that have aged out of the system and have no place to live. Why can't we take abandoned buildings/lots and build low income housing with people donating their time and supplies? We need to stop people from becoming homeless, everything else is just a band aide.
41.	Homelessness and loitering in our beaches and parks need to be taken care of in order for the majority of residents and visitors/tourists to feel safe and be able and willing to enjoy amenities and the city itself.
42.	Stop blowing money on roundabouts and bike lanes. Stop eliminating vehicle lanes. Don't build high rises in residential neighborhoods. Cops should cruise more neighborhood streets, not just main arteries. Stop breakins.

43.	Move the homeless out of our residential neighborhoods and put them on the step of the city hall or police department so you can control their activities and the amount of crap they collect and haul around. Increase the parking enforcement.. there are constant violators parking in the red and white zones on corners and by fire hydrants. All you have to do is drive to Linden and 8th every day to ticket or tow 2-5 cars.
44.	Wasteful dog parks- need more for the kids. Clean up homeless who take away from the community, destroy property. wasteful rauda/Spend more time on our future-Kids!
45.	Hard to choose priorities sometimes. Everything looks desirable =)
46.	More Police!!
47.	It's a shame of how often the highest economic areas are exempt from lack of help and public service. The city leaders are one big group of self sewing people.
48.	fix potholes on wardlow in EDPE
49.	Sweeping alleys needs to be a priority
50.	Streets need fixing! Bad!
51.	Reform prop 47, prop 57,AB 109. Prosecute illegal drug crimes. Prevent all crimes + property crimes by local law enforcement and criminal justice system.
52.	More attention should be paid to conditions in the alleys in Long Beach. There has been a a big increase in trash in alleys and wild growth of weeds.
53.	Drake park- Parking/enforcement no parking in red curbs MLK Park- not safe aggravates robberies cant visit peace garden Bus Emergency? Lock bus pull over arrest rapist dont let them put Arts Budget- List free workshops per month paid by micro grants LBUSD- Peimeter and sidewalks belong to city Health Dept- us meeting food money at carmelites csa boxes. Mayors commision on children is defuncy Fire man please cook chicken breast and salad Bret Harte- More attractive programing Kidd Park Open from 7-10 M-F
54.	Keeping the beach clear of people between 10pm and dawn
55.	Transparency campaigns/govermental accountability mechanism
56.	Parking NEED to move the black curbs one more lane over so we have more room to get out on both sides its dangerous. Please consider lots of drunks riding the scooters. Please do something not fare. Please look inti this please.
57.	Dog park development + Maintenance
58.	Lived in Long Beach for 30 years. I love Long Beach. I am here to advocate for some amenities (water) for the Dog Park at Bixby Park. I feel that LB parks are crucial to our city! Lets support maintanance of parks!
59.	I think everything was covered, however I personally feel that as a person working for another city but live in the City of Long Beach, I see so much done in the City I work for than in my own City I live in. From the homeless, to housing, to graffiti being removed in a timely matter to trash being dumped is removed very promptly. With a big city as long beach, I just hope you all step up your roles and actually do something about the issues we face and not just turn the other cheek. We need to stop focusing on downtown and start focusing on the remainder of long beach. I know my voice doesn't really mean anything I just wanted to express my opinion and hope things will soon get done.
60.	Need to replace firehouse 9.
61.	Enforcing recreational and educational programs for high-crime-areas youth that will benefit from them in the long run, as they are the Future. Keeping them busy will allow them different avenues they're not usually exposed to.
62.	Green Space in the Hamilton area is a must. Kids are playing in the streets. Need meeting space as well.
63.	Keep the business corridor safe and clean.

64.	Don't try to be like LA, drop the climate change push, get rid of the homeless, adopt a policy like Culver City where landlords can't increase rent by more than 3% a year and make it retroactive by 4 years. Rent is out of control and if it goes up again, I'm gone maybe.
65.	Get rid of the office of sustainability under CM's office and fold it into public works or planning. Cut back on the discretionary funds for all City Council offices - give them each a base budget and they can use it for either staffing for constituent services or for special events in their districts. The money they spend in the "divide by nine" mentality is better spent on parks maintenance, infrastructure maintenance and budget reserves. Do we really need another concert in the park, Susie Price? I'd rather you use that \$5000 to repair potholes, repave streets or pick up trash. We need an old fashioned litter patrol. I also want to talk about maintenance of bus stops, particularly on the west side of town. It looks so dirty and crappy and blighted because there is litter all around the bus stops (Pacific Ave, LBB). The pedestrian improvements on Willow are a waste of time and money since they aren't being maintained. There is so much trash in the new tree wells, and no one to water the trees or to prune the suckers on them. And why did you let Brian U design the improvements? The stupid bench-like u-shaped tree wells on Willow actually constrain the sidewalks and don't let ADA access around them - check it out in front of the laundromat on Willow b/t LBB and Atlantic. Stupid. Lastly, please hire an actual arborist to focus on street trees. The poor trees on 7th Street all have "suckers" growing out the bottom of the tree trunks, which inhibit tree growth. You need either a biologist or a tree arborist to actually select the best trees for migratory birds and to maintain the trees. They look horrible. Same with Atlantic Ave, esp north of Hill Street where it is a dead zone. Thanks for your time.
66.	REPAVING OF WARDLOW ROAD FROM STUDEBAKER EAST TO LOS ALAMITOS BLVD.
67.	Urgently needed street repairs on Studebaker Rd., Wardlow Rd. and Kearen Ave.
68.	The items on the survey list are all valued and essential, so there's really nothing I'd not devote resources to. Perhaps a follow-up survey would ask respondents to actually prioritize among these items for more meaningful guidance. In general, I found it difficult to strike a balance between needs for the city as a whole vs needs I'd value for my immediate neighborhood, which would largely center on quality of life issues — homelessness, petty crime, noise, parking, etc. The greater good would likely place these neighborhood needs far lower on a priorities list. Is it possible for individual districts to have an equal portion of the overall funds to prioritize and allocate as they see fit?
69.	Having citizens' oversight commissions that have the ability to actually guide the city. IE: budgeting, policing, policy making..... NOT Mayor/Council appointees without any authority to act or make changes.
70.	Please fix the potholes in our area! You can see the dirt underneath. We need a 4 wheel drive car to drive down our streets.
71.	The highest priority should be safety for residents and their property. Don't use taxpayer funds to attempt to reverse court decisions related to illegal alien convictions as was done in 2019.
72.	I have lived in LB since 1972. My husband worked in LB at Douglas Aircraft. Our two daughters attended LB schools. My husband passed away on December of 1995. Soon after I was employed by General Telephone for 12 years which then became Uerigon. Al Austin started a program for seniors at the expo four and a half years ago mainly comprising of volunteer seniors who needed a place to meet people and stay active at the same time. On our own we have been collecting bottles and cans on a weekly basis to alleviate cost and welcome new seniors so they don't have to be alone. The seniors of LB have made this city what it is today with ever increasing taxes and cost. Wont you please reconsider your budget in future years for keeping the expo open to seniors who need to stay active and feel part of the LB community and not feel so alone. Some day you may be a senior yourself- Please listen to your constituents. Thank you.
73.	We should be encouraging people to build, remodel, expand their homes and business as a way to clean-up long beach and improve the economic situation.

74.	My major concern is keeping our city safe, especially from crime due to drug use. This often results in loitering in city restrooms, stealing and stripping bikes, etc.
75.	Specific to law enforcement-how about we enforce the laws in place (traffic, cycling, scooters, fireworks)? That shouldn't require a special committee or more funding.
76.	Plan & established funds appropriately for ongoing maintenance of roads, sidewalks, etc., so the need to replace doesn't come as a surprise or a crisis.
77.	There needs to be more focus on reducing crime, repairing roads, and keeping the city cleaner around high crime, low-income areas. If you will be allowing homeowners to rent out their properties, including with section 8 subsidizes, then the city should have plans that routinely follow up and maintain responsibility to make sure these buildings are up to code and clean for their residents throughout the year and not only during crisis, such as infestation of vermin or high dumping and crime notice. Some people pay full uncontrolled rent prices in areas of section 8 housing, but still, the city does nothing to support residents in making sure these areas are being maintained up to the codes and clean like those of more preferable areas. Infestations of rodents and vermin are a cause of these inconsistencies in part of slum lords and section 8 housing. If these areas were put at higher priority to be renewed, it might encourage and promote people to be cleaner, take better care of their neighborhoods and reduce crime. The budget should include a planned task-force that focuses on the overall and routine wellness check of these areas without alert, especially on higher crime and poorly unsanitary areas of the city. Regardless, section 8 or not, every human deserves a vermin-free, slumlord-free, and crime-less living space. Do something to help these areas as it fully impacts the city as a whole. Take care of ALL your people, not just the privileged and elite, and get rid of these financial and crime thugs.
78.	Tough survey, as all items are important! I would add Improve Air Quality from Port - Natural Gas or Hydrogen Vehicles.
79.	The lack of affordable housing is the root cause behind many of the City's problems. It's gotten out of control and no one seems to want to do anything about it.
80.	More police bike patrols in the alleys. The alleyways are one of the most un-monitored and potentially dangerous parts of the city.
81.	A person living in the City of LB can make decision based on what? Does the city manager have the city of LB vitality to seniors in his best interest. To omit the 40,000 in the next year budget was made by what determining factor?
82.	City has to provide better public services to eliminate the blight in our neighborhoods.
83.	Homeless and money beggars are probably the worst problem in the city. While homeless problem is hard to solve, get rid of fake homeless money beggars should be doable. Every weekend at the cross section of 7th Street and PCH, there will be a fake homeless beggar standing at the middle of the intersection asking for money from drivers stopping at the red light waiting to turn left from PCH to 7th street. That is very likely from a very large organized fake homeless beggar group because every time the beggar is a different person. And every one of them wear a pair of very clean and even new shoes. Obviously not real homeless. Law enforcement should investigate and get rid of this group that makes the city and maybe other cities look bad. The second most important problem is the lack of parking problem. At night time and weekend, it's very difficult to find parking space in the neighborhood. The city should build a lot more parking spaces around all parks and allow people to park there overnight and weekend. Insufficient street parking caused me great difficulty to rent to good tenants. And even caused me to lose good existing tenants because they got tired of not able to find parking at night time. Long Beach with CSULB has great potential to become a very nice college city, but when these highly educated students come back from their night classes and could not find a parking, they had to move out of Long Beach and live elsewhere. Please solve the parking problem.

84.	North Long Beach is ignored by City Hall. Streets are in the worst shape (try driving Orange north of Del Amo) and we rarely see any police patrols. What's not on your survey is the bureaucracy. No doubt there are inefficiencies there and way overpaid staff. No more tax hikes to pay these bloated pensions. Start cutting non essentials.
85.	don't let pat west to experiment with a district he does not live in. pat west does not know my needs, what has he done with his mother... his grandmother. my tax dollars are not met by an outsider.
86.	mental health was not addressed in the survey
87.	Use community service program participants to maintain parks. For the median on Daisy between PCH and Hill, devote 1 block to xeriscaping with paved walkway and benches so that those with disabilities may also enjoy the space. Keep 1 block as is for green space for soccer, and other team sports. Have one block for dog park, small dogs; one block for dog park, large dogs.
88.	There's nothing on here about health, yet the city is experiencing skyrocketing cases of STDs. We face high rates of poverty and food insecurity in many neighborhoods. In the hierarchy of needs, why are we forgetting about health?
89.	The questions are worded in a yes or no instead of giving us space to voice a total opinion. Homeless camps should be forbidden, mental health and addiction problems should be mandatory for all living on the streets. The rights, health concerns, safety and home values should be priority for the majority not the few! Long Beach has FAILED to provide law abiding, home owners and hard working citizens with their rights and safety!
90.	Helping and finding solutions for the homeless will help making our city more attractive and safe. Medical treatment for drug addiction and/or mental illness would help as well, not just housing.
91.	We need our LBPD Gang Unit back. Increased shootings in Long Beach what are we doing about it?
92.	My street has a blighted area that belongs to the city and the city doesn't maintain it as they should. The city needs to fix the sidewalk, provide a better drainage system when it rains on my street.
93.	Homelessness is out of control on the beach. We pay \$15K in property taxes only to be surrounded by homeless sleeping, doing drugs, and publicly urinating and defecating all around us. Most of these people are mentally ill and/or drug addicted and don't want affordable or free housing where they have to abide by rules. We are frequently nearly run over by scooters and bicycles on Ocean Blvd sidewalks. Police have told us riding on Ocean Blvd sidewalks is illegal but there is no enforcement so it happens every day.
94.	We need police!!
95.	Being that the cost of living is so expensive it would be good to provide Housing Solutions for a hard-working individuals
96.	The noise pollution downtown (Pike Area) from the loud illegal mufflers, street racing and car clubs is almost unbearable. We need to start ticketing for loud illegal mufflers, that's why the state passed the new law to curb noise pollution and make it a violation instead of a fix it ticket but we do not enforce this law at all. The open drug use among the homeless population and the trash they leave behind is a disgrace. There are so many positive things going on in downtown but if we let this homeless population take hold then it's time for us to move out of state and the Cali will lose more high tax payers who provide the revenue.
97.	Tax, tax, tax. It's what the City of Long Beach does best. Better to find managers who can do what needs to be done with existing funds instead of trying to squeeze water from stones. I wonder what it would be like if council members were a thing of the past. Who benefits the most from council districts and elected members? The council persons themselves. Eliminate them and eliminate the politics that create divisiveness in the city.

98.	You need to make the Community Watch Captain's help to cite illegal fireworks. This will help you see more illegal activities. Be transparent and stop lying and hiding facts. There is a gang war going on so open your eyes and see what is really going on in the City. We still have an Human Trafficking issue here on the West Side of Long Beach. The more you are honest and open the more the people will respect you and be on your side.
99.	If these programs are already funded in the general funds, please don't create anymore taxes to fund the funded general funds. Please do not increase water bills, electric bills, utilities, sales city taxes to fund what is already funded.
100.	More projects need to be done on the Eastside of town, trimming tress, fixing roads etc, too much is being done to Downtown and the rest of us are being pushed aside.Also too many businesses shuttered and not reopening
101.	Did not discuss density. In 1980's, open space was a priority in planning. Are we going to create more and more ghettos, barrios, slums? That is where we are headed. Keep R-1 zoning as much as possible.
102.	I don't think it is fair that homeowners are penalized with property taxes to pay for things like college tuition for the college promise, while renters in the Long Beach and Signal Hill don't contribute. I also have a college student who graduated from a Long Beach HS that doesn't get nor has gotten free tuition at LBCC. So I have to pay his tuition and I still get taxed for a strangers tuition through property taxes. Technically I pay for two people to go to college and we can barely pay our bills! In two year I will also have my daughter entering college who wants to go to a college out of Long Beach. That means we will be paying for 3 people in college. There needs to be a tax exemption in the property tax that goes to the college promise for families who have college students. It is not free tuition, rather it adds the cost of some strangers tuition on the backs of hardworking middle class homeowners!
103.	Our in North Long, in Coolidge Park should be looked after more by the city. We need city to patrol our alleys more for inappropriate dumping of items, fixing up cracks, and maintaining the alleys from growing to much weeds. Also, would like the city to have stricter hours for the park. No parking after certain hours at the park or near the park. This would help with less people hanging out at the park during late hours which hopefully helps with less littering and crime.
104.	Please fix our streets!
105.	I noticed north Long Beach is getting nothing compared to downtown Long Beach. They get fully new paved roads while north Long Beach just gets pot holes filled. We really don't need to try and attract new people to live in Long Beach, we have enough and need to sustain those who are living here. The city needs to get the priorities straight, like police and fire, libraries and parks versus more new buildings and something new in downtown all the time. Sustain and make what we have better before doing more.
106.	We need more programs ó events for our community of Washington Neighborhood Association. To have the most united community safe and clean.
107.	Animal control can save more lives if the number of pets allowed is increased. It will also bring in more revenue from licenses.

108.	To clarify my response to budgeting towards "planning for the future of the city"- there's money in the reserves. We need to focus on the problems and concerns of the city in the present moment, before we start allocating money towards a committee, or special group, to plan meetings on an unpredictable future. I refuse to let my tax money be wasted on resources for the "long run", especially because there's no clarity to what kind of planning will be done. Also, a page or distributional pamphlets to all neighborhoods on what criteria would fall under "who to call". I'm tired of calling a number for [specific] department, just to have them tell me to call a different department and then [department 2] tells me that they don't handle [certain] situation. The outer districts of the city have terrible and trashy neighborhoods, increased homelessness, increased crimes, increased illegal drug use, and increased suspicious activity ever since all the construction in downtown. Your focus should be on your whole city, and not just its tourist parts. Stop looking at your statistics, because that's just reported information. Get out and actually LISTEN first-hand from your constituents. Some of us can't make it to the council meetings, so our voices are never heard, and our emails are never replied to.
109.	Priorities need to be to fix the foundation before continuing to decorate the house: 1. Decreasing crime and better traffic enforcement 2. Emergency services- medical, fire. Also emergency preparedness. 3. Addressing drug addiction and homelessness. 4. Programs that keep kids off the street 5. Incentives to create more living-wage jobs in Long Beach. We are doing a good job of attracting the beautiful people but they are not going to want to stay if they have to worry about getting shot, stabbed, their car stolen, their house broken in to, etc, plus getting harassed in grocery store parking lots and other public places.
110.	I found it difficult deciding which of these items were the most important to me because a lot of them are almost equally important. Perhaps change the survey type to include questions that are rated differently.
111.	Access and inclusion for our citizens with disabilities.
112.	WE NEED MORE FUNDING FOR YOUTH AND PARKS!!!!
113.	I think there should be more park and library programs to help out kids and keep them out of trouble.
114.	VERY IMPORTANT we need funding for our youth and parks!!!
115.	More trees and more parks and more neighborhood associations please. Also, thank you for the bike lanes and continuing to expand bike lanes.
116.	Helping maintain and preserve our many and special historic districts.
117.	Need to properly fund public safety and infrastructure repairs before spending all that Measure A money on shiny toys, new signs and bike lanes. Definitely fell the people of Long Beach got the bait and switch on Measure A. Now the Mayor wants us to make it permanent. Prove you can be financially responsible.
118.	We need more attention and services directed towards those not living downtown but are still in the 1st Council District. It feels like so many resources are going to clean up downtown but not enough further north.
119.	#1 priority is to get the homeless drug addicts off our streets and beaches!
120.	During the rainy weather our neighborhood sees so many tree branches fall and cause damages to our vehicles. The neighborhood around Poinsettia Street in the Long Beach 9th district has made multiple complaints and we just keep getting denied. I also want to make note that the streets look way better than they used to. Potholes are being repaired quickly. Thank you!
121.	Put cameras in neighborhoods that are crime infested or where callers seem to phone the most for patrol. Also, Get rid of signs in the city that segregate one race from another. Calling certain areas of Long Beach a town of a certain country, does not help the community connect or come together. It creates separation as one race may feel inferior or superior to another. It does not bring community together. Notice crime has risen ever since?

122.	The city is negligence in providing proper health information for the residents. Los Angeles County has 9.8% diabetic. The Long Beach Schools do very little with health courses that key into the prevention of diabetes. The health department has done nothing relating 2 diabetes these last five Years this is a disgrace. Diabetes 2 represents 90% of all the diabetes and it is avoidable and the city is doing nothing. Before you do homeless assistance and financial assistance for the homeless how about taking care of the residents and citizens of Long Beach first. Marvin Cummings
123.	Please stop the "traffic quieting" and destroying our streets! We need more than one traffic lane on busy streets!
124.	Homelessness and drugs are so bad that it is affecting the general public health and decisions that businesses make to locate here. Criminals committing thefts of residences are brazen and not concerned about law enforcement authorities. The quality of life, even in my zip code has decreased tremendously over the 40 years that I have lived here.
125.	I am on the board of the Friends of the Library so well funding for libraries is very important to me.
126.	LB Code Enforcement by the LB Building Dept. for "Illegal VRBO-Vacation Rentals's By Owner" needs to be started now. My next door neighbor has 2-3 bedrooms converted for her VRBO home business. Parking, Excessive Trash and VRBO Tennant turnovers is a constant problem. Fire danger is high due wiring for a 1928 Building-1500watt heaters during cold periods. Fire alarms, Carbon Dioxide alarms, escape routes are Hotel requirements-not for VBROs. R1 zoning not R3 should be enforced.
127.	I think this is an ineffective survey. Several prompts are too vague and obviously certain services (fire, police) are non-negotiable. After taking out the cost of those services, find a real way to get the opinions of residents on additional services. For me, addressing homelessness and ensuring there is adequate affordable housing for long time residents is way more important than bringing in new luxury apartments and businesses from LA that are pushing out our local mom and pops.
128.	Non-hosted BnB's are creating parking problems in our area as well as he large apartment complexes that do not provide enough parking for renters so many of them park vehicles on the street. I understand that the apartment renters must pay extra for parking on the property. Thus . . . high rents so renters use street parking instead. The old "Cause & Effect" syndrome.
129.	Enforcing traffic laws is especially important to me especially as a mother for the safety of my kids. Providing a safe outlet for residents in the East quad of El Dorado Park Estates has been needed for way too long. We need "yellow" markings on the ground clearly stating DO NOT BLOCK CROSSING so that residents could safely pull out to especially make a left turn onto Wardlow and not dodge traffic that continuously blocks our exit. If our quad had an emergency responders would have a problem getting in!! Likewise many streets along Wardlow west of Studebaker have flashing crosswalks except our area in El Dorado Park Estates where numerous accidents have taken place on Claremore & Wardlow and where children walk to School at Newcomb. I'm surprised none of these two things have gotten taken care of to this date.
130.	Lower taxes to bring back second street
131.	I am opposed to the current Short Term Rentals actions and proposed actions by the city council. Government is over regulating residents properties to the extent of communism or becoming a police state. The fewer the regulations the better. Also use the current laws and remove the homeless. Stop providing handouts to those that do not want to work and just want freebies!
132.	Tax increases are driving people out of LB and putting a tremendous burden on retired senior citizens. Why are we offering more freebees at tax payers expense. Why are we encouraging more and more people to move here - we are packed. Homelessness and crime are out of control.The - you all come attitude is having s negative effect in Long Beach.
133.	Love our Councilmember Suzie Price. She communicates well, is very visible in the community, and is very inclusive. She encourages us to participate in government. We also love the Municipal Band and would like to see it fully funded for 8 weeks!

134.	Increase the frequency of bus service. If you're going to put us all on a "road diet," then there has to be some alternative to use. And those damned scooters are not the answer. We have close to 1,000 police officers, don't we? If we don't organize them into special units or whatever the survey describes, does that mean that these issues are not addressed? I take the bus and hear the Chief's recorded message: If you see something, say something. How about making that an expectation for city employees? There was a couch on the street which stayed there for three weeks. Three weeks. How many city trash collection vehicles came by during those three weeks? How many street sweepers and parking enforcement officers drove by during those three weeks? Did any of them report the couch? I don't expect them to load the couch into the back of their truck, but I don't understand why they can't report the problem. If you see something, say something. That goes for street signs that are obstructed by foliage, etc.
135.	We lack usable park space compared to our city population. We have a ton of "parks" that are the size of green belts with a bench or a table, a random few trees, and then a sign that states the park name. That should not be the definition of a city park.
136.	Our street is a shambles re: pavement issues. I complained re: in front of my property and ONLY the car length was repaired. Needless to say neighbours were miffed... I / we pay a load of property taxes in our community so I feel road works should be a priority. This does NOT include the bike lanes that no cyclists seem to use... We have people from a neighbouring street parking on our street...One particular gentleman said his street has NO parking...well... his garage has a workstation in it and he does NOT park in the garage he has a (2-3 car garage). The gentleman always seems to find the prime pkg spots a few steps from his home!. It is NOT our streets fault that his street is impacted...USE YOUR GARAGE!!!! If others must park on our street common courtesy should prevail...park at the top of the road by the tennis courts. They may be inconvenienced with a walk to home; why should our street dwellers be inconvenienced?? 2 weeks ago he parked his 1/3 cars in front of my property for 6 days. I own an owner occupied duplex. I put my car in the garage...most nights my tenant has to park up the road because there is no parking in front of our address. There is a duplex across the street and the landlord has just rented it to 4 college students...that means 4 more cars...in addition to neighbouring street dwellers parking on our street!!!! I hate to sound like a total witch...we really need resident parking stickers for our street!!!!!!!!!!!! Riviera has LOADS of parking as they have resident parking stickers... Many households do NOT use the garage as a car park...if they do it might mean that they have "other" cars to park.
137.	Overall comment: This survey, as in past years, does not distinguish, or allow residents to distinguish, between NEEDS (have to have/offer) and WANTS (nice to have, but at what cost?). WANTS: Almost everything listed in this survey would be "nice to have" (e.g., free or low cost services, such as public access to the internet or services to families and seniors, free or no cost recreational services to youth and teens), but in an era of tight budgets, how many of them are "have to have?" NEEDS: e.g.,public safety - police, fire, recreation, education - i.e., libraries) Not a fan of free or "low cost" services to any resident of any age who does not fall below the poverty line. Survey items should be more specific in that respect. Sustainability programs: Great to have, if the budget has surplus, but if the budget is tight what NEEDS get cut to pay for an Office of Sustainability? Or a Bike Czar?
138.	We missed a chance to sustainably grow the 3rd district when people opposed creating a mixed use development where the mall is being constructed. Now we have more retail than can be supported by the neighborhood & other areas in LBC are providing shopping/dining so people have more options than Belmont Shore. I hope when the strip malls adjacent to the mall die we can not cave in to NIMBYism & will build affordable housing & mixed use developments in the 3rd district
139.	Own rental housing at 257 Molino Av. Area is being overrun with rats. Have Terminix for my building but the infestation covers several blocks. Help! Richard Roth 562 541 5053

140.	Safety should continue be paramount in our city, beefing up enforcement teams both code enforcement AND gang task force units. Maintaining our parks with activities for families, more importantly, for our youth to discourage them from being unproductive and on the streets. Cultural Arts and Visitor's Bureau is important, but to an extent, must be sustainable to some extent.
141.	Suzie, You/Your office simply does the best job I have ever seen in keeping people informed about what is going on, not only in your district, but in the city at large. It takes me several (i.e., many) minutes to read through your electronic newsletter! Long may you continue your amazing work.
142.	First priority is the LBPD - no question. With so many potential issues from one side of town to the other, we really, really want our police department to have all of the resources they need to keep the Long Beach Renaissance going and going and going. Second priority is the LBFD - no question. No question, no question. We worry about individuals looking into and breaking into our cars. It is an every night thing and it is pretty scary. We worry about having access to medical assistance on the eastside of Long Beach. We need Mental Health Services at one of our hospitals. We absolutely NEED Mental Health Services. Next: Please make the Animal Care Services be a "No-Kill" shelter. If you fully understand how important YOUR life is to you, our pets feel the same way about theirs. To be executed because of space and food is horrific. It is evil. Please turn our animal shelter into a No-Kill Shelter. Please, oh, please. People say sickening things about our ACS employees. And from their the blame is falling UP the ladder. Welcome the public to come play MORE with the animals. It would possibly cause a need for another volunteer coordinator but it would be a huge step for people to respect ACS. 'Koffee with Kitties' and 'Donuts with Doggies' one evening a week or every other week, alternating. This is a very big issue to the eastside voters and it was sold to us in the Measures. Please help our Mayor to build the African American Cultural Center. We say that racism is an education issue. Let's all join in and build a beautiful Center with the guidance of our African American Leaders. Keep up the momentum of Economic Development. That formula is working. In summary my priorities are public safety (LBPD, LBFD), medical assistance on the eastside, Mental Health services inside a hospital, a No-Kill Shelter, and the African American Cultural Center.
143.	In Belmont Shore many of the streets were slurried (repaved) two to three years ago. Then last year the city had many of the curbs handicap updated. Now when is the city going to finish the rest of the 50% of the other streets? My neighbor said Santa Ana Ave. was last done 40 years ago? 25% of the year all summer traffic is diverted down Santa Ana, thus causing more dust, more noise, and more deterioration. We deserve to have our street redone, as well as the other streets redone. I have many pictures proving the poor condition of Santa Ana, especially close to Ocean Blvd.
144.	Do NOT provide funds to defend illegals from deportation nor provide them ANY taxpayer-funded services. Forget about the pool/diving center. STOP WITH THE BIKE LANE AND ROAD DIET BS--why does the city go overboard for such a small portion of our residents who bike? Clean up this homeless problem and its associated crime. We are tired of it!
145.	Please allocate money to repave Loma Avenue between Colorado and 4th Street. It is cracked with an alligator skin surface and has been neglected for 15 years while streets all around get fixed. This block is heavily traveled with postal trucks and needs to be repaved not just patched up.
146.	Streets need to be maintained. Gov should stay out of rent control and housing. Our city is alive but overrun by mentally disturbed homeless. Surveys won't help. Wish I knew answers but bleeding hearts and ending landlord rights won't help
147.	Road diet is a total waste of money and all it does is make driving worse and the roads are just getting more congested. THIS IS NOT AMSTERDAM! Muni band is worth the cost.
148.	Any type of aid to illegal immigrants needs to be curtailed. My wife went through the process of coming to this country legally and so should everyone else who wants to come here. Resources could be better spent. If possible, stop the new pool/diving center from being started. Again, these resources could be better spent on things like infrastructure and safety. STOP THE ROAD DIETS AND BOLLARDS! This is beyond silly and impacts businesses as well as drivers. And what is worse, the bike lanes are very rarely used.

149.	Prioritize safety and infrastructure, and address impact of homelessness first. The rest is all wonderful but only if viable funds still remain afterwards. Figure out how to curb crippling pension liability.
150.	With all the buildings being added downtown, we are not adding enough green space. There is no where for teens to go, we need a teen center so they will have a healthy alternative. The community needs more access to parks for events and it shouldn't be costly or complicated to hold community-based events at city facilities.
151.	Fix potholes and sidewalks, continue lawn to garden program, homeless off the streets.
152.	An educated solution to homelessness based on best practices of other cities/countries. Homelessness is not due to lack of housing! That is a Very small part of the problem! The bike lanes/road diet— very stupid!
153.	Homelessness and mental health needs to be addressed. Crime 2nd and city cleanliness and upkeep. Internet and interpreting not necessary. Library provides internet or business opportunities centers. Keep the city clean and maintained. More businesses and wealth will follow. Don't tax the car dealerships exorbitantly for example. They moved to signal hill and that city reaps the benefits. Trickle down theory. Enhance then benefit. Keep safe. Clean up.
154.	Thanks for the opportunity to offer my opinion!
155.	Please don't send all the money to police in fire but instead invest in jobs and housing for city residents
156.	The most important thing is to try to help low and middle class families own their own homes. I believe the city should work on attracting Google Fiber or creating it's own fiber internet service to help attract more tech companies to the area. I believe the city should try to work on creating more low cost urgent care clinics. I believe the city should focus on downtown development to create a more attractive and family friendly destination ala santa monica or redondo beach.
157.	Although I said many things were very important I think you need to work within your budget. I have to make decisions whether I can afford an item or not and many times I go without. Also some items I don't think are being taken care of anyway. I saw a truck from another country that can repair many potholes in one day! I think paying to put covers up for bicycles was not necessary. I think the council needs to work within the budget given and not rely on raising taxes. People can only afford so many taxes!!!!
158.	Streets are in dire condition! The city has never really addressed NOISE levels! The main offenders are CITY BUSSES and motorcycles...and cars with non functioning mufflers..
159.	Parking!!
160.	This survey did not define what it means to acknowledge the homeless crisis. I have seen more than 1 to many encampments in my district that does not have a concrete solution that connects them to the resource they need in order to avoid the conditions they are in. Matter of fact even if we do not see homelessness in our corners the majority of communities living here are a paycheck away from being homeless. 75% of long beach residents are renters. When will the city adopt rent control and value that it is actually people over profit. I am born and raise in long beach and if long beach become 75% home ownership i will see it as the city is doing something right to help the people thrive here. Over policing is NOT the solution, i am so sad that i was not in this budget process as though this is coming out of my public dollars. The police has targeting people in my communities, low income communities for crimes that does not make sense. Such as loud music, hanging out infrom of your home, yard sells etc. When you put police in place to patrol the area constantly the majority of the time people get pulled over but for the reasons of crime fight but poverty fighting. I seen my neighbor get pulled over for riding his bike that was assume by the police that it was stolen. Our streets in district 6 does not look like district 3 and 5s.. When we enjoy a bike ride it will not be viewed as a cruise, specifically if my people are constantly profiled. This survey was framed around support a budget that already thrive in but not once highlighted children and youth.

161.	Assisting the homeless because they are people is more important than making sure the city looks pretty. Persons experiencing homelessness deserve compassion and services, not shame and patrols/arrests.
162.	I strongly believe all security at city public buildings shall be contracted and use special services officers from Long Beach PD instead of contracted security companies. Special Services Officers provide higher quality service and are better trained. In addition, all Special Services Officers assigned to the port shall be under the command of the Long Beach PD. Preferential Parking Districts shall be free of charge as long as the process is approved and the district remains active for a minimum of five years. Parking Control Officers shall be Special Services Officers instead because they will receive better training and carry tolls necessary to defend themselves and assist Police Officers on certain events. They shall also be assigned under the Long Beach PD and distributed throughout the city 24/7 in order to allow police officers to respond to more urgent calls and keep them in service to do more police work. Parking Control Officers shall be assigned 24/7 to parking impacted areas.
163.	Fix the potholes!!!!
164.	Public health is not mentioned at all which is a shame! The fact that the City's Health Department is almost 90% grant funded is outrageous. The City should invest in the health of its community by funding the department through general funds. Investment in upstream prevention (public health and mental health) is key to reducing the need for additional police and homeless services support. Public safety does not just live with Police, however, they are funded at a disproportionate rate compared to Libraries, Parks and Public Health. Police are necessary to keep communities safe, BUT, they are not the solution to long term crime reduction. Until City decision makers understand that and prioritize prevention strategies, crime, blight, homelessness and substance use will always be a challenge in our City.
165.	I would like to see the return of the specialized gang unit. I think it made a difference in this area.
166.	Stop wasting money on more bike Lanes and road diets. Just makes traffic worse and no one uses the bike lanes/corridors. Money would be better spent on repaving roads instead.
167.	Quit building more stores. PCH and 2nd should have been housing or multi-use. The surrounding malls are practically empty. What a waste. Our teachers afford to live in there own city. It's a disgrace.
168.	Most important topics the city should be addressing are homeless encampments popping up all over the city and increase in crimes under 950.00 to avoid felonies.
169.	If we want to actually "own" being a "destination city", we must CLEAN THIS PLACE UP! Businesses, absentee and negligent property managers and residents need to be held accountable according to City Codes. We have codes in place that Code Enforcement DOES NOT enforce! I am ashamed to see the filth on our streets and the dumping that plagues our sidewalks and alleyways. Stewardship is not encouraged or rewarded; likewise, violators are rarely fined. Another thing...stop giving residents the run around when we call to get work done. Who does what? How do we get problems resolved?
170.	This city wastes too much time in optics for the mayor and outside of down town we're being forgotten. We've spent half a billion dollars on a civic center, and our roads are covered in potholes. It's embarrassing. Sales taxes disincentives local spending and hurt the poor the most.
171.	I just want to Thank the City of Longbeach, I think we are on a good roll. Born and raised here and have seen a Lot of change. I am Especially grateful for Our First Responders, Longbeach Police Department, and Fire=Paramedics. They have there hands full, and STILL Do The Best!!!
172.	Funds for many of these services should be prioritized based on neighborhood need and not just in higher income neighborhoods (like ours). What about education and public health? I don't see anything on the list about prevention/health related programs or supporting education and training to help lift people out of poverty and homelessness. These should be on the list and should be a priority. From this list it seems the only departments the city funds are police, fire, libraries, and parks. What about all of the other services?
173.	Road diets are poorly conceived. Fashion has taken over common sense.

174.	We don't need more cops. I don't care about graffiti or handing out tickets. We need better access to food, water, housing, the internet, jobs, libraries and healthcare - all of these things should be free. The bus transit system, which you didn't really ask about it, should definitely be free to everyone. Long Beach already has tons of people living here, they just need some help so that they can contribute to our local communities.
175.	PLEASE make the animal shelter NO KILL and please (Pat West) get out from under the thumb of SPCLA. Mayor Garcia, you promised to "fix" the shelter problems and you have not. Do you understand we STILL DO NOT HAVE AN ADOPTION PROGRAM at LBACS??? Please do the right thing.
176.	Support and funding for police and fire/ent is highest priority. Reinstate anti-fang unit. Need more money to support animal Care Services and make LBC a no kill city.
177.	I am a proponent of keeping tenants in their homes/Apts. Seniors, fixed income, disabled, and single adults ect..I want rent control plus a fair return for landlords. Meaning rent increase 1 time per year..preference 7 to 10 percent. I do not want to live in squalor and cannot ask for repair, without being in fear of rent increase (priced out) or notice to vacate retaliation. I would like a stronger code enforcement that is fair for tenants not just the landlords. I would like show cause for eviction. I would like stronger laws for noise abatement and drug trafficking, that landlords can vacate these type of tenants within 3 to 5 days. I would like rent relocation to stay in effect until we can come up with the proper decision for control. I was not happy with the council trying to be shady and put it on the agenda 2 water it down further, favor landlords, and to dismantle it and take it away from renters. Too many people are being forced out of their homes into homelessness it's an epidemic, a crisis that needs to be stopped. In my opinion we would not need this option of relocation fee if we had rent control. The mere pittance that we are given will not cover are moving cost first month last month security deposit application fees. Because the law states we would still have to pay rent during the time that we are to be vacated without show of cause. I would also like to have bus shelters. Meaning a place to sit and over head lighted shelter, like downtown Long Beach first street. Why do we have to stand by a pole looking like strippers out in the hot sun and rain for the bus? I want my write-in vote. I find it unconstitutional and it was taken away this last election. I disagree a third-term, this was voted down two times makes no sense that all the sudden it just happened. I would like to repeal that. I do not like that the Ethics Committee is being monitored by the mayor and Council that's not fair. I also would like to have an outside agency monitor mayor and city council just like in the Bell corruption case. The auditor cannot be trusted. I want city council to be a part-time job with part-time pay and no benefits, unless there is an option for them to buy in benefits. Work a real job like the rest of us. City council and mayor is a voluntary position I should be treated like that. I want we the people to vote if mayor or Council, should be given a raise. This should be merit-based. I do not like the fact that they arbitrarily just vote themselves more money in the pockets, a pay raise how is that fair?