

City of Austin Budget Town Hall Meetings – Comment Cards

Date	#	Comment
-------------	----------	----------------

6/10/2009 1 Please get the police cadets going! We need more cops now – forget about updating the website and parking meters now.

6/10/2009 2 "I like to urge the city council to focus on keeping residents safe. Police, fire, EMS must be priorities. The rest is luxury."

6/10/2009 3 "Save Summer Youth Employment! You speak of being open, transparent but it is easy to see that transferring the program to Workforce Solutions with stimulus money will go away in a year or two. This is pulling the wool over our eyes! Keep SYE! It's great for our kids!"

6/10/2009 4 "Reduce all police, fire, EMS salaries to equalize them to their peer cities in Texas and the Southwest."

6/10/2009 5 Continue having these meetings. Be sure to LISTEN and act on what the citizens have requested because we are managing their \$\$\$\$. We need to make some tough choices but it's worth it. We have it a lot better than many places on the planet.

6/10/2009 6 Produce a better way to inform the community on the process of this Town Hall meeting. I don't think this meeting represents the whole community.

6/10/2009 7 This experience was excellent. The staff did a good job. The department heads have done an excellent job. Everyone at our table enjoyed the process and enjoyed the choices. Good luck and continue the good work.

6/10/2009 8 "I would have liked to see an option to cut more developer subsidies!! And increase fees to developers. Also, increase the assessed value of commercial property (working with Tax Assessor office). Also, maintain programs that help lower income (libraries, summer programs, parks/recreation). "

6/10/2009 9 "My largest and most important concern is PUBLIC SAFETY. I don't want to see cuts to Police, we need more officers to protect this city."

6/10/2009 10 "Please charge for parking at Barton Springs and Zilker Park (south side of Barton Springs Rd) \$3, 7 days a week during peak season months. This income could offset "Trail of Lights." This could be accomplished relatively quick.

6/10/2009 11 Devote less time w/intro of staff and a little more help to participants in how to use 40 minutes effectively; our facilitator could have moved us along – need a timekeeper & targets per dept. Be sensitive to encouraging quiet people & minimize overbearing people. We ran out of time.

6/10/2009 12 I did like the way the voting was done because I felt there were plants at each table that had more minorities and most of the cuts at the table were in minority areas or minority contractors. Voting was too fast and not enough time to think about the impact on the

communities involved. I was notified of this meeting in this location 4 hours before the meeting was to take place. The people need to be more prepared for a forum like this one. Thank you for the opportunity.

6/10/2009 13 "EMS fee increases with a low-income discount is a good idea to let users pay more of the cost of service. If additional cuts are needed after this process, please consider small staff furloughs, since staffing costs are such a large part of the expense budget."

6/10/2009 14 It's minor – but compounded – expensive copies in black and white – far less expensive than color. Color copies – expensive. Is it worth it?

6/10/2009 15 "Youth Program – important to keep prgm where it is to guarantee funding; kids off street in summer learning work skills, understanding employment, having a budget, having an income, valuing and gaining a good work ethic; crime down, teen pregnancy down, employable youth up, stimulate economy. Pools, libraries, books – all important for helping youth to physically and educationally grow."

6/10/2009 16 Eliminate manager's integrity unit positions. Function should be provided by informed audit department. Take the fluoride out of the water.

6/10/2009 17 "Police – have the very best – need more; 2. Fire – “; 3. EMS – [?]; AH Hooper, 8867 [?], 78759"

6/10/2009 18 "HS-1 Collect an additional tax on pet products – Petsmart, Petco, Tomlinson, etc; MC-2 Person can use own interpreter or use vol; DR-2 Accepting is bad for the economy; HG-3 Does not serve enough people; PD-4 Cadet class every other year; ? Highest paid City Council in the state? What sacrifice will they make?; LI-2 Disproportionate hours for (non-day) users at night; What is planned for PR-2 issues for the future? How much is related to growth? No more expensive retirement parties for “popular” city officials."

6/10/2009 19 "The LBJ Fire Academy program is worth keeping. If problems exist which place obstacles in the way of hiring these mostly minority students, then the city should work to change things. Those students, when graduated, make a win-win for the city. "

6/10/2009 20 "To cut our city safety services would be detrimental to the quality of life in Austin. It should be the last area to cut, not the first."

6/10/2009 21 "Please do not cancel your 2010 cadet class. Domestic violence calls are highly dangerous and lethal to the [female], children and police officers. More than one officer is needed for the response. This will be especially true as we prepare for the war(s) to end and we know there is an increase in domestic violence and re-entry of military.

6/10/2009 22 A good process: I suggest that staff spend a few months prep participants how to manage time during exercise: examples: 1. Take straw vote to determine how much discussion is needed prior to final vote; 2.. estimate average time available per time/dept and use a timekeeper; ex: 40 min – avg 5 min/dept to keep group on target.

6/10/2009 23 I'm more concerned about the Summer Youth Employment Program because this teaches them the concept of work ethics and learning how to save libraries are important and there needs to be more free tutoring for youth that go to schools like McCallum.

6/10/2009 24 Our public safety is THE MOST IMPORTANT to myself and my family. I am concerned about protection for our family. Keep the cadet class. Keep the services for the youth. We can go for a year without frivolous things such as: painting fences or recruitment programs.

6/10/2009 25 Libraries are more important now with lack of discretionary funds for individuals to buy books. Allowing access for young families/children so important to engendering love of learning in youth.

6/10/2009 26 I am against eliminating the Summer Youth Program (HS-2) by transferring it to Workforce Solutions. Stimulus money is a one time benefit. This program must continue. Language states "should" not not certain that W.S. would fund.

6/10/2009 27 Keep station #31 fully staffed with both trucks. It services Capitol of TX HWY for EMS needs – It is 20 minutes from a trauma center! Heavily wooded area with a lot of homes. It is a very high fire risk area!

6/10/2009 28 I think this was a good exercise for us to look at the difficulty in choosing what to accept and reject – we would like to know that in HS-2 the funding would be getting the support of the Federal Stimulus program before it would be cut.

6/10/2009 29 I think that a more understandable chart would have been more appropriate.

6/10/2009 30 "I am willing to donate 1 pretax week's income to help alleviate the shortfall if all City Council members, City Manager and all staff will match my donation!

6/10/2009 31 "As a father my job is to provide a safe environment for my children to thrive in. As a citizen I believe it is crucial for the City to assure this safe environment. Cutting this cadet class for APD threatens the safety of my neighborhood, my city, and my family. Do not cut the class. At all costs it must go on. Approve the rollback. "

6/10/2009 32 The proposal to eliminate the Summer Youth Employment is not based on factual information. The department asserts that WIA dollars can be used to supplement local funding. This is not a viable option. Also the requirements of WIA Funding would prevent 97 to 98 percent of youth that we serve from being able to participate. Goodwill is a WIA grantee and are at full capacity.

6/10/2009 33 "I am concerned that some depts.. are playing a shell game. In the 360-page budget document, the following pages included references to shifting the resources to another dept or elsewhere within the city: 28, 35, 82, 261, 47, 125, 195, 242, 247. Please ensure that budget cuts – if really needed – are real. "

6/10/2009 34 "The online budget document did not identify the cost of the trail of lights; instead tracks hours in a "task order." KXAN estimates it at \$800,000; the Statsman estimates at \$950,000. Failure to provide the actual dollar costs could mislead the public on this very expensive program. I think if this dollar figure were known, more people would support cutting this program. "

6/10/2009 35 "Avoid problem-solving or discussing implementation concerns" – this is absurd; the devil is in the details. To close discussion of the specifics of each provision is anti-democratic and will lead to bad decision-making.

6/10/2009 36 "Aquatics programs – grouping all of the pools issues together – unrealistic. I support closing draw & fill pools but not cutting back on other pools' hours. If you must cut pool hours, rather than cut an hour each a.m. and each p.m. every day, cut 2 hours each a.m. and 1 hour each p.m. during the week and leave as is during the weekends."

6/10/2009 37 The city retirement multiplier is 3% per year which is very generous. The state uses 2.3% why not reduce to 2.3% for new employees. This was a good exercise. Provide the total points on the option sheets at the beginning of the exercise to help people know how rigorous they must be in accepting cuts.

6/10/2009 38 "As someone who has participated in the spay/neuter program, having personally trapped 18 feral cats, I implore you not to make cuts. You cannot be assured of donations to cover this much needed service. Trapping, neutering and releasing does work."

6/10/2009 39 Please do not cut EMS/Fire/Police; we need to keep our city safe and responsive to emergencies. Everyone's budget is tight. We need to keep the basics.

6/10/2009 40 "Keep EMS Services, Fire, Police"

6/10/2009 41 HS-2: accept on condition it is funded by Federal Stimulus dollars; Where does it say cut salary of the City Mgr? (1/4 million is too much); We need to look @ quality of life and what influences Austin's health and safety; FD-3: Absolutely reject – There are canyons of greenery – fire hazard; we are on Cap of TX HWY EMS.

6/10/2009 42 1 .Cut car expenses and cars (take home) for adm. 2. Cut adm salaries.

6/10/2009 43 Don't build new central library: keep branch libraries open; 2. Against BIOMASS which we had no say in.

6/10/2009 44 "Have Austin Energy reduce its salaries, expenditures; 2. Reduce the number of people that Austin employs in "Public Relations;" 3. Do not build a new library; 4. Do not build solar plant; 5. Do not build wood energy plant."

6/10/2009 45 The City of Austin is among the lowest in the amount of \$ spent on buying books for our library – do not reduce any more; shuld have more options of having items such as which pools are closed.

6/10/2009 46 Close Trail of Lights; 2. Release the salaries of our public officials; 3. Reduce library hours!; 4. Reduce library book purchases; 5. Close LBJ Fire Academy.

6/10/2009 47 "I agree to cut HS-2 on the condition that the program by funded by Fed. Stimulus dollars; 2. As long as the City Mgr makes a salary like this, we should not be talking about these cuts; 3. The mgr and staff should be ashamed to even ask about cuts for the library."

6/10/2009 48 Keep the Summer Youth Employment program.

6/10/2009 49 HS-2 Do not transfer Summer Youth Employment programs. The students need the summer employment every year. Stimulus money is only temporary money.

6/10/2009 50 FD-4 Do not eliminate the LBJ Academy. This is still a fairly new program and the students enjoy it. Give this program time to work for the students. They need all the motivation they can get.

6/10/2009 51 The Summer Youth Employment program has been very successful in its current state/home. It has maintained the respect of the community and has been nationally recognized. The Youth of the Community (Travis County) look forward to participating each summer. They are familiar with the director and staff currently in place. They work very hard during the course of the school year in order to help with their success on the job. I think it to be absolutely crazy to even consider moving this program away from its current home base to a state agency.

6/10/2009 52 "Close wading pools, but do NOT shorten pool hours. Find some other way of cutting Human Services besides killing more animals at TLAC."

6/10/2009 53 "Regarding FD-3: Please do not remove a fire truck from Station 31. Rivercrest subdivision has NO fire hydrants, we need all trucks to carry water to the fire site. We live in Rivercrest subdivision. Thank you. Wanda Thompson."

6/10/2009 54 Rivercrest subdivision has NO fire hydrants. We need to keep our fire trucks at Station 31. The trucks bring all water for fire control. Art Thompson; thank you.

6/10/2009 55 Delay discretionary spending (e.g. website update); sell land not needed in next 5 years; outsource collection of unpaid EMS fees; reduce staffing in depts. with reduced activity.

6/10/2009 56 How is it that City Council voted last year to spend \$64 million on the high end domain shopping complex and that we spend about \$1 million a year to fluoridate our water with toxic waste from the phosphate fertilizer industry and then are asked to cut services we need???

6/10/2009 57 "Increase or maintain budget for youth jobs in the summer and through the year; keep the budgets as permanent positions (not transferred to Americorps or other stimulus-funded orgs), this will help our youth in learning how to work and will help keep them off the street where they may get into mischief; 2. City Mgr Ott – cut his salary by 10% - he is vastly overpaid and can afford 10% less – set the example; 3. Make sure the allowance for City Mgr's unsold home in the DFW area is discontinued immediately."

6/10/2009 58 The Travis County Summer Youth Employment program is a great program; there is a tremendous need to employ our youth over the summer. Do not cut the funding.

6/10/2009 59 Please keep/give library as much support as possible; Del & Kay Taebel.

6/10/2009 60 "As a concerned citizen my first priority in considering this budget is police presence in my neighborhood. Cut library hours & close swimming pools, but get that cadet class on board ASAP."

6/10/2009 61 "Eliminate trail of lights completely! Supporting trail of lights is a violation of separation of church and state, causes loss of use for area homeowners, and lost revenue for business owners in the area nearby. "

6/10/2009 62 PR-3: Eliminate Trail of Lights. Eliminate city vehicles for home use – those that can use their own cars should and they need to pay for the upkeep of their cars.

6/10/2009 63 Please reduce the budget by at least enough to maintain the effective rate for property taxes. We cannot afford a property tax increase during the recession.

6/10/2009 64 Cancelling/postponing the 2010 cadet class is absolutely unacceptable!!! This city cannot afford to go years with no new officers!!!

6/10/2009 65 "As a citizen of Austin I am deeply concerned with budget cuts to our city's most basic services, mainly cuts to our public safety services to be there when I need them. With police seeing shortages in officers I would like the next cadet class for AOD to happen and not be cut."

6/10/2009 66 "Do not raise Houston property tax; Do not give developer any tax for homeless or other developing projects. I think all city employees should take a pay cut, including police, firemen, and the city council; freeze taxes for people over 65 homestead."

6/10/2009 67 Cut all org development consulting; cut cultural develop; cut eco growth and redevelopment; not police or fireman or pools and libraries; cut all management consultants; have goats eat weeds – Denver uses goats.

6/10/2009 68 "Austin is more dangerous than ever – I used to go downtown at night, not now, too dangerous and I lived in NYC; children w/o pools are going to get in trouble; charge use fee to commuter from RR, Elgin, Pflugerville; Integrity Office, don't our city officials have integrity? Administration is top heavy – Park dept has 4 assistants?"

6/10/2009 69 "Can we take the – nice to have – monies, allocated to the "bio-mass" and solar projects postponed? If not why not? What was your logic in spending these monies when we knew we had extreme risk with our revenues? Andrew Bowen."

6/10/2009 70 Don't cut cadet class; OT Budget from police; Fire fighters' arson investigators either.

6/10/2009 71 I suggest that they do not cut the summer program. It would only put more youth on the streets doing things they shouldn't be doing.

6/11/2009 72 Eliminate all boards & commissions since AFD has already given up raises – NO CUTS.

6/15/2009 1 "We can't eliminate non-emergency calls because I live next to Section 8, and I'm always calling 311 about them. I would probably have to call 911, and I don't want to because that should be for emergency calls only. We need cops to drive around our neighborhoods in North East Austin - Copperfield early in the morning (3-4 a.m.). The dogs are barking at that time. I was robbed at 3:30 a.m. (Wickfield Lane)"

6/15/2009 2 "On proposal HS-1, please do not even consider cuts to the free pet sterilization program! This will result in increased intake of animals at TLAC, which will increase the overall cost to the City, as well as increasing the numbers of animals authorized at TLAC. Not a smart move!"

6/15/2009 3 "Austin's budget could be helped by increase in revenue in tandem with reduction of expenditures. If APD would ticket trucks using residential streets with ""No Trucks"" signs posted, there would be an increase in revenue AND more satisfied residents. These trucks

are 6-18wheelers. I have seen semi-tractors pulling car haulers, tankers, flat beds and closed containers. Witnesses have seen APD officer allow trucks"

6/15/2009 4 "I am very concerned about possible cuts to public safety -EMS, Fire & Police. I am strongly opposed to any cut that eliminates safety personnel. Please do not cut fire positions or the police class."

6/15/2009 5 "I pay \$7,000+ (no more please) property taxes a year. Why not raise the sales tax? Some programs are too important to cut (1/2 or full). A lot of large & growing cities are doing this! Something to consider: Pay now versus later. Let Austin be proactive. Thanks for having the meeting tonight!"

6/15/2009 6 "It needs to be clear that the City's Free Spay and Neuter program needs to stay fully funded through the City General Fund, not the donations fund."

6/15/2009 7 I would not like any budget reductions to animal services.

6/15/2009 8 "I do not support moving the free pet sterilization program to the donations fund. This could result in fewer sterilizations in Austin's highest intake zip codes, which will increase intake, cost and euthanasia."

6/15/2009 9 Please do not move the City's free sterilization program to the donation fund. It will result in higher animal care cost and more animals killed.

6/15/2009 10 "I'm concerned about big expenses NOT on the list for discussion. The boardwalk extension of hike-and-bike trail is unpopular, and we should have a chance to communicate to you that we don't want to use tax dollars for it."

6/15/2009 11 The summer youth program needs to be in East Austin for easy accessibility for the youth who are seeking employment rather than trying to get to Airport Blvd.

6/15/2009 12 I disagree with our table's decision to cancel the solo cadet training class.

6/15/2009 13 I have been very disappointed in the menu of items offered up on the cutting block. The largest percentage will impact communities East of IH 35.

6/15/2009 14 "Cutting the APD cadet class to save money is going to increase criminal justice costs, cost in lives and domestic violence. This is going to have a large impact East of IH 35. This is pennywise and poundfoolish. "

6/15/2009 15 Cut public work budget! No extra public work inspectors use outside firms

6/15/2009 16 I & my daughter live in 78702 & often catch stray cats & have them spayed and neutered at Emancipet & keep them here until they can be released. I could not do this without the free option at Emancipet. Please do not cut Emancipet!

6/15/2009 17 Spend dollars on roads in East Austin.

6/15/2009 18 "Do not hire additional construction inspectors; use outside firms to avoid paying overtime, vacation, retirement. Outside firms will not require the benefits!"

6/15/2009 19 Please keep the Emancipet funded. This organization is vital to low income people & the animals that are served. Pay now-not later.

6/15/2009 20 "HS-1 fund sterilization/microchipping programs-very important cause, we need to keep this program for people who can't afford these services & feral cats so they don't multiply"

6/15/2009 21 "It is imperative to maintain public safety at the highest levels necessary to create a safe and welcoming environment for business and residential development. Please do not cut public safety, and keep our fine, special city safe. "

6/15/2009 22 "This session was run very well. I am ""AGAINST"" cuts to our police academy. I am very concerned for our own public safety. It is of great importance to keep the police force strong. I am also concerned about the library. Morning hours are very important to the youth & elderly! Also we need ""MORE"" books."

6/15/2009 23 "The City should examine more closely the use of ""company"" cars for employees. That seems to be an excessive expense that can and should be reduced."

6/15/2009 24 "I think that it is an incredibly dangerous proposition to consider cutting the budget allocated for the Police Cadet class. With the expected retirements, compounding the issue by not backfilling to meet that demand is incredibly near-sighted."

6/15/2009 25 The Emancipet free day services need to stay in place. These services are for people who drastically affect TLAC/Shelter intake.

6/15/2009 26 The City's free spay/neuter & microchip save the City money & save animals' lives.

6/15/2009 27 International Filtration Systems has a possible solution that would cut the budget by 1/3 in Departments that use oil filters-mikewhite&internationalfiltrationssystems.com

6/15/2009 28 Delaying the APD Cadet class any further is totally unacceptable! Please keep public safety a #1 priority!

6/15/2009 29 I really hope all of the work & thought we put into tonight's decisions are taken into consideration for setting next fiscal year's budget.

6/15/2009 30 "We all realize cuts are needed-let's not cut something now that will cost us more later-police positions, spay/neuter, summer youth employment, non-emergency call support - thanks"

6/15/2009 31 "Public Safety is extremely important. I want to feel safe at my home, in my community & teaching at my school. I want my students to be safe in their neighborhoods no matter what their zip code. Don't cut the Police Academy!"

6/15/2009 32 "According to the theory of the Social Contract, a government's primary responsibility is to protect the right of it's citizens, as well as their property. Don't cut Public Safety!"

6/15/2009 33 "My overall comment is to thank you for holding these Town Hall meetings. This was my first experience in engaging in this type of meeting, and I appreciate the opportunity."

- 6/15/2009 34 How much \$ will it cost to reimburse the police overtime? Who benefits?
- 6/15/2009 35 "Thank you so much for this public forum, & I trust the input will be seriously taken into account! Thanks to City workers for helping with this & being here after hours. Please put top priority for fire, police & EMS. Citizens are at more risk & safety is the very basic essential element in quality of life. I agree that in future, public input (in addition to City employees) should be gathered for ideas (suggestions)-what they want & then provide forum like tonight. I agree with speaker to reduce subsidies to developments such as Domain & let them give support & pay cash to the City! There are greater, more inclusive needs to the general public than having a high-end shopping center. (I never see anyone at this Rec Center, so glad it was put to use!)"
- 6/15/2009 36 Great process! Thanks. Rej: Summer Youth Employment Program - Please do not reduce or consider moving responsibility to Workforce Commission-no guarantee program will be funded -De La Gaza
- 6/15/2009 37 Need at least 1 hour to decide the budget key issues - 32 issues in 45 minutes wasn't enough time.
- 6/15/2009 38 "After witnessing two breakins on my street in the middle of the day, I oppose any cuts to the police budget."
- 6/15/2009 39 Cut Domain subsidies. Use the funds on Youth Economic Development.
- 6/15/2009 40 "The way the explanation for ""Use donations to fund sterilization/microchipping programs"" is written, it sounds like there will not be a cut to sterilization services. But the Donation Fund currently funds sterilizations so this explanation is misleading. Please explain it IS a cut!!!"
- 6/15/2009 41 Keep Summer Youth Employment funded. We need youth to be trained to give them opportunity to experience employment before they graduate from high school. Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church has trained over 150 children in the last 4 years.
- 6/15/2009 42 "Let's talk about the real boondoggles earlier in the process. Large luxury items, subsidy packages, unnecessary water treatment plants (implementing a true water conservation program), grounding to the APD helicopter would save \$1million alone."
- 6/15/2009 43 "On HS-2=This program is very vital to youth in COA. Youth are at risk on a daily basis. To help these youth increase their self-esteem & give & increase & make their responsibility strong, please keep this program available to help growth of our youth!"
- 6/15/2009 44 Please do not cut HS-2. The funding is not actually requested or allocated yet & is not guaranteed that the summer youth program would be funded next year. This is truly needed by our youth. -John Mendoza (Our Lady of Guadalupe Church)
- 6/15/2009 45 "Please charge for parking at Zilker Park (Barton Springs) \$3 per car during the peak summer months - both North and South parking lots. Proceeds assist Trail of Lights *Adds ""City Youth"" Positions -WT Fraser "
- 6/15/2009 46 1. Stop using 3/4 tow trucks for inspections of any kind 2. Send 1 person for City services (not 2) 3. Please answer all calls 4. Stop waste in departments & services to people

6/15/2009 47 "1. Do not allow City vehicles to be taken out of the City. 2. No special pay for employees that choose to live out of the City. 3. No incentives, tax cuts to malls (shopping)"

6/15/2009 48 "Drop executive pay (\$100,000 and above) by 10% just as happens in the private sector"

6/15/2009 49 "City Manager mumbles; Couldn't understand a word he says. It was loud enough-just all garbled. Enunciate, enunciate enunciate. Terrible that City staff used parking at building, and handicapped had to park at the other side of the school. APD directing traffic just mid ""full"" when trying to turn into the Garcia lot- nothing about a shuttle pick-up"

6/15/2009 50 I saw no American Sign Language or Spanish Language interpreters. Were those citizens excluded from these budget meetings?

6/15/2009 51 My largest concern is Public Safety. I don't want to see crime up. I don't want the Academy class cut again. We need more POLICE!

6/15/2009 52 "I'm a Travis County employee, working with the summer youth Employment program. This program not only provides jobs for approx. 800 kids each summer, these children learn how to be productive and driven employees who will eventually be working in our place. So, we are not only investing in our future community and work place, but also getting kids off the streets while stimulating the economy!"

6/15/2009 53 "Lamar and Guadalupe-tore the road up & put in fixes. Apparently, at this same site, there was a problem. They tore the road up again (2nd time). For a 3rd time, this same road site had to be-the road had to be completely taken out. I don't know all the circumstances, but it seems better organization and planning need to be done before tearing up a road 3 times. "

6/15/2009 54 Thank you for allowing participation-please follow these results as much as he followed protocol in voting based on these explanations.

6/15/2009 55 I appreciate the opportunity given to us-the public to participate in giving ideas on the budget.

6/15/2009 56 "First, I want to comment the Council and Manager for responsibly addressing the effects of the economic downturn. My request is that if we are able to deal w/this crisis that we do it fairly. With all departments acting in a fair and equitable manner in the effort."

6/15/2009 57 Why are you taking softball away from me I've been playing at Balcones for years now. I love this place and I can't believe you are trying to take it away from me. My little sis was crying-a softball player at Balcones -Shayla Maxwell 12 years - Balcones Youth Sports

6/15/2009 58 "Your budget cuts for City of Austin Parks that will affect our Balcones Youth Sports. These potential votes could risk 1,000's of youth who will not be able to play baseball/softball, which could result these children to focusing their efforts to crime and/or drugs. "

6/15/2009 59 "My name is Breanna Epperson. I'm 12 years old. Why are you taking softball away from me! I have been playing softball at Balcones since I was four and been a pitcher for 3 years, and I've pitched at nationals, and we won fourth place in the nation, so I am very upset."

6/15/2009 60 From Balcones Youth Sports-I find it grossly shocking that the City of Austin has forgotten its children (future voters). You are pulling funding for our electricity and water. We will have to shut down. Our children & generations to come will have no place to play ball. You didn't even bother to put PR-9 on the list. How DISHONEST & SLEEZY! Typical City of Austin Politics. I've lived here my entire life. I know how it works.

6/15/2009 61 "My name is Charles Epperson, Softball VP at Balcones Youth Sports. I showed up at the Town Hall meeting on Monday, June 15 only to find out that the \$50,000 proposed cut to our program was not considered a key issue for the meeting. I assure you that this cut will cause our softball/baseball program to shut down. In 1986, City Council provided assistance to our program to provide the City a program where the City was not capable due to limits on available sites and staff. Since then, volunteers have build this program to build one of the strongest youth programs in Austin. Do you really want to kill it?"

6/15/2009 62 "The proposed exercise did not include the Balcones Youth Sports proposal cut. Balcones is an important program to the City because no other softball program exists in northwest Austin alone, MoPac from the River to RoundRock. Hundreds of girls and boys would not be able to play if this program were cut. The program directly feeds almost all softball players into the Anderson HS Program. Please don't recommend the cut to the Balcones program."

6/15/2009 63 "I'm 10, and my name is Mary Cantrell, and I play at Balcones Youth Sports. A lot of kids from Balcones come from single parent households. And if they have this budget cut, our registration fees will go up to 300 something. I know a single parent who has 5 children and will need to pay for all five of them. That will cost A LOT! I feel that coming to this meeting was a waste of our time!"

6/15/2009 64 "Balcones Youth Sports-1. You didn't put PR-9 on your list. 2. You wasted a ton of money on this ridiculous mtg. thinking that voters would be fooled by this gimmick. 3. BYS is the only softball program from University Hills to Wells Branch. If you cut our funds, we will cease to exist. 4. This will keep a lot of girls and boys from being able to participate in team sports 5. This is really hurting our youth if we lose funding. It's hurting children & future voters!"

6/15/2009 65 "Hello! My name is Hannah-Joy & I am 11 years old. I am not happy that you think that we are not important. The softball field will close down if you stop paying for the electric bill. We are the only softball place in North Austin - Balcones Youth Sports (There is a 4-year old just starting at Balcones, and you shall dash her hopes?) (Balcones placed 4th in Nationals."

6/15/2009 66 "No additional construction inspectors. Continue to contract with outside construction firms, and this will eliminate overhead, retirement and benefits"

6/15/2009 67 Keep the police fully funded! Keep pet sterilization programs!

6/15/2009 68 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to have a say.

6/15/2009 69 Great process. Our facilitator was great.

6/15/2009 70 Police Dept. needs to uniformly work for all citizens at present- minority citizens and other neighborhoods are not given equal protection. I know; I am a victim. Public Works: too many employees doing nothing. Too many employees driving around after 2PM killing

time. Parks and Recreation: curtail hours and personnel at Gus Garcia Center. Too many personnel not doing a job for the City & citizens at the community level - Crispin Villarreal

6/15/2009 71 "In regard to FD-2, I wish that this could have been divided into 2 parts, as I support cutting everything mentioned except special-ops & haz-mat training. Thank you."

6/15/2009 72 "As a victim of Austin, I am concerned that public safety seems to be forced to make the largest cuts. Our safety should be the City's priority!!!"

6/15/2009 73 "Stop all City employees from taking City vehicles home at night. Many live 30-40-50 miles from Austin. The day of the ""company car"" is gone!!! I have seen City vehicles in Taylor, Elgin, Lockhard and more. Also reduce the size of vehicles. Many are 4X4 BIG trucks."

6/15/2009 74 DR1-Cut the cost of cutting the services by cutting the bloated bureaucracy of the overlarge development staff. HS1- Do not cut the free S/N days - let the City pay as it reduces the cost of killing and dumping.

6/15/2009 75 We should never cut the police department or fire department and EMS. Do not hire outside study groups. I am sure we have employees that could do a good job. Do not give all the tax breaks to builders & new businesses.

6/15/2009 76 "Police, Fire, EMS = Public Safety-one of the few things local governments do well. How is it out of all the cuts presented it is only the Fire Department is looking like a salary cut (reduction in certification pays etc.)"

6/15/2009 77 Add the \$ amount of the exercise on the master sheet. Use better choice of words instead of accept or reject.

6/15/2009 78 "I like to urge the City council to prioritize Public Safety - Police, Fire & EMS. It must be a priority to other non-essential services such as pools, parks and library hours."

6/15/2009 79 "I hope you will commit to the public asap, that you will make the \$100K and higher salaried staff to take a 10% (or 5% if you must) salary cut for 2010. 5% of your salary > one FULL YEAR'S PAY for some City employees! Show them that they are worth keeping."

6/15/2009 80 "Trail of Lights: Whatever you do in terms of cost per person or how many free nights there are, please do these things: 1. Do NOT make the FIRST night FREE--first night is SO popular (& crowded) that you don't want to increase the crowds! 2. Do NOT allow any vehicles other than maybe Dillios for handicapped on a given night. 3. Offer maybe 2 free nights- one only is going to make that one night horrible (& as said in #1, definitely don't make opening night free!)"

6/16/2009 1 "Make all budget meetings accessible. Use \$5 million TX DOT Rebate for sidewalks. Build affordable, accessible, integrated housing for families at or below 30% MFI - Jennifer McPhail Adapt of Texas"

6/16/2009 2 "I am strongly against cutting any budgeting of spay/neuter/sterilization efforts. The City seems to think private charity can take this on; it can't. Mission Orange was a temporary program that I believe ends in 2009-it was a 3 or 5 year experiment program run by the national chapter of the ASPCA. It will cost far more to catch, kill & dispose of bodies in the future than spay and neuter now. Moreover, the planned shelter in East Austin has a capacity predicated on the idea that Town Lake will reduce its intake of animals from currently, about 20,000 to only

12,000 by 2012!!! That is ambitious to start with , but will NEVER be realized without the City paying for the current sterilization efforts. I have done a lot of research on this and would love to discuss this further if you need data or other details. I volunteer at Austin Humane Society with my husband. Sincerely, Nicole Fagerberg, J.D.

6/16/2009 3 "1. Don't include the Domain Subsidy in 2010 \$2,000,000 2. Eliminate the NY PR Firm \$100,000 3. Scrap \$250,000 to Greater Austin Economic Development Group 4. Scrap the 728,200 of flouride chemicals per year."

6/16/2009 4 "1. Do not include the Domain Society Subsidy in 2010 \$2,000,000. 2. Scrap the NY Based PR Firm \$100,000 3. Scrap \$250,000 to Greater Austin Economic Dev. Cor. 4. MOST IMPORTANT! - Scrap the \$728,000 of flouride chemicals per year! I like that there is input at all! I hope it continues. -post all 217 online/or in the paper. Don't put flouride - big difference between mandatory and free choice - don't put chemicals in our water/let add what they want"

6/16/2009 5 Reject HS-1; free spay/neuter needs to be supported w/the GENERAL FUND!

6/16/2009 6 Take responsibility for the Parks System & Barton Springs & Zilker Park in particular. Go to www.pgms.org/2008greencities.htm & see what the good cities are budgeting for their Parks. Austin is shameful.

6/16/2009 7 "I have moved to this N.W. area 3 years ago and 9 is my son met this lovely & dedicated Balcones. It's a ""field of dream"" of my son. Please save Balcones. I came here to say this! (I closed my business (Burger place) early! God bless you!"

6/16/2009 8 Why hasn't the City done these meetings before? And will you continue them in the future?

6/16/2009 9 Less presentation after exercise please.

6/16/2009 10 Great experience-time well spent!

6/16/2009 11 Great Process! Please leave animal services alone-we're making incredible progress!

6/16/2009 12 "I would like to suggest that the City look for other ways to keep the libraries open. Please look at utilizing volunteers to keep the library open. Also, the pools in Austin provide much needed relief during our very long, hot summers. The pools offer children a way to cool off. The library is also a place to provide a cool, out of the sun place for children, elderly, etc. to find entertainment and knowledge. Please do not close the proposed pools, and do not reduce library hours. Please keep the pool and library hours. Thank you."

6/16/2009 13 "Police Department - please bring back the number of Mental Health Officers. As a social worker at Psychiatric Emergency Services, we are in danger of having to wait for such long response times for a CIT Officer. Thank you."

6/16/2009 14 Very informational. Please don't cut any Arts programs!

6/16/2009 15 Keith Reeves=GREAT FACILITATOR. Keep him around. Do NOT cut spay/neuter & microchip programs! Keep programs like Emancipet fully funded! Thanks!

6/16/2009 16 1. Delay water treatment plant #4 - 1yr. 2. Require all management take 10% pay cut. 3. Begin charging \$300 per inch class 1 trees to reflect true value /tie to index for cost of living 4. Fire 100 of the 120 lawyers on COA staff. We should not require such a huge legal dept.

6/16/2009 17 Didn't feel comfortable with voting on things I didn't completely understand. Not sure how this meeting was messaged - heard through the grapevine - Appreciate the opportunity to provide input - would be interested to understand how the list presented was determined (rather than other cut options)

6/16/2009 18 I am concerned about public safety!!! DO NOT CUT THE POLICE ACADEMY! I am also NOT in favor of cuts to the spay & neuter program & library hours. Keith was a great group leader!

6/16/2009 19 "This city and its reputation depends on the continuation of the core public safety services, particularly the police department and its ability to provide the level of service in the safety sector that we are proud of, and that was so important in laying the foundation on which Austin was built. Please do not cut the police budget and our safety."

6/16/2009 20 Keith Reeves did a great job as our facilitator.

6/16/2009 21 Strongly want to add PR-4 since our group has extra money in our list. No cuts to PARD-needs increased money to take care of heritage trees in our parks. Heritage trees are 1% of our trees and provide 90% of our shade.

6/16/2009 22 Treat PARD & the City parks with great respect & care- be responsible - increase their inexcusably small budget! Get with the program of ALL the major cities.

6/16/2009 23 "I wanted to explicitly voice my opposition to proposed HS1, and how it relates to the actual HHS Budget. Please reject this proposal, as well as potential HHS Budget Reductions ranked #6 & #21."

6/16/2009 24 Thank you for this opportunity to participate. Please take all of these opinions into consideration when making your final decisions.

6/16/2009 25 "I appreciate this opportunity to be a part of this budget meeting and hope that events like this continue. With more opportunities and getting the word out about them, hopefully the attendance will grow as well so that more Austin citizens can participate."

6/16/2009 26 Eliminate Fluoride. Eliminate Police Helicopter. Eliminate Domain Mall subsidy. Eliminate tax breaks to developers.

6/16/2009 27 Since almost all toothpaste is fluoridated and infants & kidney dialysis patients are at high risk of health endangerment from fluoridated water. Roy Mark

6/16/2009 28 Remove from proposed cuts to Health & Human services-rank 4 -using donations for free microchip program rank 6-funding 1 day of sterilization program w/donations rank 21-eliminate day of sterilization program rank 3-using donations to fund cat sterilization rank 14-eliminating animal care worker

6/16/2009 29 "If you eliminated the spay/neuter programs that reduce the number of stray animals in the city, then it is going to cost much more to capture/house/destroy them in the future! Save money now, pay more later!"

6/16/2009 30 "Cut Domain \$2 million project, donations for HS-1-sterilization for animals-won't work. Please do not cut this item"

6/16/2009 31 The emancipet free-day program must remain in tact as is funded out of the general fund not the donations fund.

6/16/2009 32 Leave emancipet free day program fully funded from the general fund as is.

6/16/2009 32 Felt like my voice might make a difference for a change. Thank you!

6/16/2009 33 Thank you for public input & meetings! Good job!

6/16/2009 34 "PR 9: The budget proposal which would raise the utility costs on the Balcones baseball center is not well-advised. This facility, which is largely volunteer-staffed, provides an outstanding youth program over 40 years vintage that would be extremely cost-inefficient to replace. This budget cut would effectively end Balcones. Please do not!"

6/16/2009 35 HS-1 Reject this! Donation will not be enough guaranteed for sterilization which is working.

6/16/2009 36 Please reject HS-1.

6/16/2009 37 Please reject HS-1. Our pets & cats need our help to keep their populations in check. Microchipping helps poor citizens get valued family members back.

6/16/2009 38 "Marc Ott needs his salary pay reduced!! Help Austin, Marc! (AISD Superintendent needs her salary reduced, too!) Stop giving huge tax incentives (breaks) to all these big companies. No wonder we don't have any \$! Builders that are building mansions don't need any tax breaks. They should pay extra for defacing Austin's skyline. This is a good idea as long as it isn't just a futile exercise. I don't want to do all this and then ""you"" just do whatever you were going to do to the budget anyway. Where is the diversity? Austin talks about it but doesn't value being bilingual."

6/16/2009 39 Reject HS-1-donations will not cover a cut in the general fund (we will destroy in 1 year what has taken 10 years to build)

6/16/2009 40 "Mr. Ott claimed that the electorate voted to pay Simon Properties the amount the Council had no business proposing in the first place. In fact, the City's budgetary situation has changed dramatically since then (or at least so far as the public was informed). Also, Mr. Ott conveniently forgot to mention that the payment became optional when Simon properties settled out of court to avoid a less cost in court, making the payment optional. Moreover, the City of Austin has an expensive, wasteful record on determining economic development-witness the Intel bldg. fiasco among others. The City has NO business making contributions to private corporations that give them an unfair competitive advantage against existing businesses, especially in a time of dire budgeting shortfall when services are being dramatically cut, and the court settlement effectively was a renegotiation of the deal with Simon Properties, conceding that the payment was NOT required. "

6/16/2009 40 "To pay this money to Simon Properties after all this would be outrageous in view of the City's changed budgetary situation; Intel reacted only to changed plans rather than losses when it reneged. Fire, Police & Public Safety are NOT optional. Moreover, opponents of Austin economic development grants mounted a huge campaign funded by Simon Properties (\$400K) to mislead people that Simon Properties could sue us & simultaneously funded opposition to grants in El Paso when the grants were to their competitors -Ray L. Marv

6/16/2009 41 "We came here to support Balcones!!! My family and I are really disappointed to learn that PR 9 was not the budget reductions key issues. We don't believe that City is acting in the community's best interest. Without Balcones, the City is losing a long-standing organization, and all that is good comes from Balcones!"

6/16/2009 42 Against HS-1-This will be a devastating effect on Austin's homeless pet population. I am speaking for thousands (potentially) innocent animals that cannot speak for themselves.

6/16/2009 43 Please find a way to continue your support for youth sports in Austin (Balcones Youth Sports)

6/16/2009 44 PR-9 Please don't cut the utility supplement to youth sports programs.

6/16/2009 45 Please save support for Balcones Youth Sports. It's a great organization & a wonderful ballpark for all kids (softball & baseball). They are not hard-core competitive & have a great family atmosphere that nourishes physical & mental growth in kids. -Helen Ingham

6/16/2009 46 Clarified the process. BUT wonder if there will be any impact.

6/16/2009 47 Please consider stopping the fluoridation of Austin's water. Anyone who can't afford expensive house reverse osmosis water filters has to bathe in fluoride.

6/16/2009 48 "Every time you consider cutting funding for anything that benefits our youth, you MUST look beyond the current financial situation. Reducing or eliminating youth services negatively impacts all the youth currently involved and countless numbers in the future years. Remember, the youth you are casting aside now may be the adults who will be in charge later when you are seniors and in need of services! Not a threat-just a fact!"

6/16/2009 49 "Cutting City Park Utilities funds affects Balcones Little League, which puts kids on the streets. Ask City police if this is a good idea."

6/16/2009 50 I understand that there were many many more issues. I think we should have seen a wider range of issues.

6/16/2009 51 "The implication of these proposals are quite unclear. Providing examples of each of these programs would be very beneficial. In addition, race-based programs appeared to take a hit in this process. Without more information as to why these programs are ""underutilized,"" this process doesn't represent the entire community's needs."

6/16/2009 52 "Water dept. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss a couple of ideas to conserve water. L.D. Garrett "

6/16/2009 53 Hold one (or more) for these meetings in the afternoon to accommodate seniors? They frequently cannot drive at night or in the afternoon rush hour traffic.

6/16/2009 54 Discussion about removing the Domain subsidies needs to be considered before we act to cut any funding for public services.

6/16/2009 55 1. Cut the Domain's \$2 million payment scheduled. 2. Make developers pay the full cost of their impact of growth from their developments.

6/16/2009 56 "Charge \$3 for parking at Zilker Park, Barton Springs - both South and North sides through the peak summertime months. Off-set the Trail of Lights expense. WT Fraser

6/16/2009 57 "Balcones Youth Sports has been a blessing to our family since 1980's. We are active members in an all-volunteer organization that serves our city and provides our children with healthy, safe, confidence building opportunities to spend their time. Please don't take this opportunity from our children."

6/16/2009 58 Please do not cancel the program that allows private youth organizations (i.e. Balcones Youth Sports) to operate with City of Austin assistance. Many children will be adversely affected.

6/16/2009 59 1. Have all Council take 30% pay cut (remember 1988!) 2. Consolidate tree care into adept of public works 3. Stop the KBR Contract at Waller Creek for 2 years! 4. Eliminate the 600K for the music at the airport.

6/16/2009 60 Please do not cut funding for free spay and neuter services. Donations are too unpredictable for essential services that are key in reducing shelter intake & euthanasia rates and preventing health risks to people and animals.

6/16/2009 61 Stop having the annual Trail of Lights! Put the \$\$\$ toward protecting trees at Barton Springs & all parks. Trail of Lights causes pollution & traffic congestion for a secular holiday.

6/16/2009 62 Balcones Youth Sports has partnered with the City for 44 years. Please don't turn off the lights and put 500+ families at risk. Save Balcones!!!

6/16/2009 63 "Please do not cut any jobs in the fire, police or EMS dept. as we need these dept. at full operating conditions. Thank you."

6/16/2009 64 Why didn't we have input on which items are going to be discussed??? Seems like a preordained process when only 1% of budget items are discussed.

6/16/2009 65 "Great cities have great libraries! When I moved here, signage was all over the library promoting this and a building of a new central branch. We compared ourselves to cities like Seattle and Salt Lake City. Seattle Public is open 55 (branches) - 62 hrs/week/ SLC is open 52-70 hrs/week. Currently Austin Public is open 51-66 hrs/week. Under proposed changes (one hour off opening & closing), we would be open 37-52 hrs. Library usage (computers and material use) is up, and we need to support our public libraries as a way to further express our commitment to education and literacy in our community. -Shannon Delaware"

6/16/2009 66 Please continue to support the great job that Balcones Youth Sports does by continuing to subsidize their utility bill at the highest amount possible.

6/16/2009 67 Please do NOT cut senior services or any other program that serves vulnerable populations - AND protect affordable housing programs like the Housing Trust Fund.

6/16/2009 68 1. Re: PR 1: Please ask for a nominal fee for this service (pg. 5 of 7) 2. Re: PD-2: Please use guardian angels -increase volunteers to walk the beat i.e. NYC 3. Decrease in salaries of City Personnel..

6/30/2009 1 Please have Austin have the pets funded and relook at the Domain mall.

6/30/2009 2 Keep emancipet's free day program fully funded through the city's general fund.

6/30/2009 3 Please keep funding for Emancipet's free program & to keep funding microchip program in the City's general fund.

6/30/2009 4 My main motivation for being here is public safety – DO NOT cut police services.

6/30/2009 5 "Good exercise, just hope the council listens to the voters. This is a time of need, and the city needs core services such as police, fire and EMS. After those departments are funded, then the wants can be looked into."

6/30/2009 6 "For the safety of the City of Austin, please keep the 2010 Cadet Class as scheduled for Sept 2009. It is an exciting time for Austin having Chief Acevedo and Marc Ott to have an impact on training this new cadet class."

6/30/2009 7 "Reject eliminating the LBJ program – program exposes students (minority, other) on non-traditional jobs to prepare you people to make different career choices. Pools: currently access to pools in East Austin is very limited; Bartholomew, Givens, Kealing (not up to standard); residents in these areas depend on these pools for inexpensive entertainment, health, keeping cool – some housing projects don't have AC. "

6/30/2009 8 "Summer Youth Employment – I reject (the cut) because Worksource "should/may" get stimulus? What happens if they don't? Worksource is not a stable company – it has changed management every 3 years. Children that take advantage of the program are mostly low income, some w/minor criminal offenses, some that may not have another chance to make money for school clothes, contribute to family, or learn valuable work/life skills. I have been a volunteer youth employee trainer and I have seen hundreds of children be helped by this program. The City needs to keep the oversight of this program."

6/30/2009 9 "If the entire city expense is approximately \$645 million, why was the public only given \$19 million to even discuss?"

6/30/2009 10 "Police department and other critical public safety departments must remain fully funded in order to perform their most essential functions. In the case of the police department, the new cadet class must go forward in September 2009 to ensure that the essential function of the police, crime prevention and response, may be fully maintained."

6/30/2009 11 "Emergency services need to take a precedence over all other services. That should be the paramount focus of the City Council. There are other luxuries we can do without so that our police, fire and EMS departments will not suffer and in turn, lower their standard of care to the citizens of Austin."

6/30/2009 12 Please do not cut the feral cat program and the spay/neuter program. Austin has made huge progress in decreasing the FO's homeless cats and dogs that have to be authorized. These programs work! No need to speak for the thousands of animals that don't have a voice!

6/30/2009 13 "I enjoyed this process. I am upset that eliminating \$700K/year to stop fluoride in our water and eliminating the \$2M/year we're giving to the Domain were not included on the list. The Domain has not met its contractual obligations and WE AUSTINITES are not obligated to pay them. I was a shady, horrible deal to begin with. Those items are not on the list, and WE'RE DEBATING ELIMINATING CALL RESPONDERS AND LIBRARY HOURS?? THIS IS ASININE!! Thank you."

6/30/2009 14 DOMAIN DOMAIN DOMAIN! FLUORIDE FLUORIDE FLUORIDE! Save nearly 10% of Budget goal expenses with just these single items while helping nearly all Austin residents.

6/30/2009 15 I pay 100% of my taxes – STOP giving tax breaks to corporations and businesses.

6/30/2009 16 "Do not cut city jobs that serve the Juhler in Neighborhood Center, Outreach Center, social service settings."

6/30/2009 17 1. Do not include the Domain Mall subsidy payment in the 2010 budget. 2. Abandon the artificial fluoridation of its public water supply.

6/30/2009 18 Stop taking away from health and human services – if you do not have your health you do not have anything.

6/30/2009 19 Free spay/neuter programs save our city money. Please do not make the mistake of thinking this program can run off donation – I want a no kill city! Prevention is key!

6/30/2009 20 "Please do not cut any money for animal services! Our pet overpopulation crisis needs to be prevention-based with Austin committed to the animals by reducing intake and eliminating unnecessary euthanasia. We will be saving money in the long run by reducing the costs of unwanted pets. Also, why didn't your spreadsheet include more options for budgeting cuts and budgetary revenues? Your list only included 3 % of the total city budget. This reflects the dept. recommendations from the City Manager's Office – there are many more options such as cutting city subsidies for malls and expensive shopping centers."

6/30/2009 21 "Reject HS-1, the pets need this as much as the city! Do you want strays contaminating Austin?"

6/30/2009 22 "Please, please, please do not cut funding for animal services. Emancipet (and similar entities) provide a critical service to the animals and their humans here in Austin. This is not solely an animal issue – it is a human issue (thus HHS overseeing animal services). Austin is a progressive city in many, many ways – Entities like E-pet, Austin Pets Alive!, and rescues

have made tremendous progress, particularly in the past year. Please do not hamper their great work by cutting their funds. Austin is better than that. Cutting \$200 K of Emancipet's funds and \$30 K for feral cat programs will be hugely detrimental to those programs. Perhaps the best trade-off is to eliminate the City's allocation of \$200 K (if that is accurate) to art in public places for the shelter. Instead, pull in the community and have children paint murals, and/or have a rotating art display. Austin is full of creative communities – use them!"

6/30/2009 23 Find out who is in the room – How many from local neighborhoods? Representative demographics will give more legitimacy to the meeting and results.

6/30/2009 24 Need to give people time to read the items before voting.

6/30/2009 25 Would be useful to enter results electronically and show on-screen to see room-wide results. Then have further discussion on most controversial items.

6/30/2009 26 "Much better to have moderator read the explanation, not just proposal. Also, please review the Town Lake Animal Center budget – there is LOTS of money wasted. Do not do away with spay/neuter – that program is saving money for Austin. This is a great way to involve the community. Thank you, Marc Ott!"

6/30/2009 27 "If California grass clippings alone were converted to alcohol (E85), they would produce 1.5 billion gallons of alcohol – 15% of the state's auto fuel needs. I think if Austin actually wants to be a green city and a leader in this, we should be using grass clippings, hedge and tree clippings, waste, sawdust and all other potential sources of cellulose suitable for producing alcohol. Each acre = 4206 lbs. dry weight or 350 gallons/acre (about the same as corn). We need to not cut pet programs, unemployed programs, library when we have a resource that could make us money. The gas we buy for city vehicles and even for the lawn mowers, tree clippers, generators, etc. etc. could be from our own gas and not purchased!"

6/30/2009 28 The exercise did present a real struggle of budget and the time is too short to make a decision – one concern is that the information which is provided in the table is only one part of the budget.

6/30/2009 29 "I want to voice my opposition to proposal HS-1. It is crucial that the city's pet sterilization program remain fully funded as a part of the general fund budget, and not moved to the donations fund."

6/30/2009 30 Thank you for your willingness to allow us participation today. Please continue to fund the current animal welfare programs and find a way to increase the same. We will gain tremendous national renown if we become a real no-kill city.

6/30/2009 31 Money for the police should not be cut. Money for emancipet should not be cut. It should be tripled.

6/30/2009 32 "Keep youth services, eastside story. Look at more items that do not allow the city to give away money – are all programs necessary that are in the budget?"

6/30/2009 33 Please keep Eastside Story program for children. Camp Apple. After school program. These children will pay taxes with this leadership model. The children will not have to sleep under bridges.

6/30/2009 34 Please do not cut Eastside Story – it is for kids. The police dept. did a fabulous job. We hope that Parks and Recreation will not eliminate it.

6/30/2009 35 "Parks and Rec Dept: (1) I would like to know how much money closing the Civitan Wading Pool would save if it hasn't been opened in over 12 years. Yes, I have called and complained every year. (2) The proposal to close both the pool and playground at Civitan is very disturbing to me. I'm a lifetime resident in Montopolis Neighborhood and know that Montopolis Drive is a dangerous street and divides the community in half. Eliminating both pool and playground site would impact the youth on the "east side" on Montopolis Drive."

6/30/2009 36 Post the eight pages online to do a virtual meeting - Metalink: consider options for partnering with Private Corp to fund citizens' needs – like the company that gave fencing materials for poor folks that owned dogs so they could build fences. Online presentation: chat room at posted times. /webcast. Include more than General Fund. / No incentives to build any more condos and stop those in progress – find their own money. Don't stop public meetings – not everybody has computer access / owns a computer / uses computers. Discuss how to generate money for city instead of taking away services for citizens (i.e. SXSW chargeback = good!). Now look at UT / Texas Relays / ROT Rally / Chargeback / confiscate troublesome Boob Box Cars and shooters – resale and auction.

6/30/2009 37 "Please try to keep the parks and the rec centers open, because there are so many families that need these supports for children at all times. This would keep the kids off the streets and in a safe place. "

6/30/2009 38 Keep funding for Emancipet's sterilization program.

6/30/2009 39 "If Austin's most visible citizen, Willie Nelson, can make Bio Willie Diesel Fuel, why can't the City of Austin do the same thing? It fits Austin's image."

6/30/2009 40 "Excellent process – well organized, excellent availability of "experts" and smoothly facilitated. Please continue to support Emancipet and reject HS-1. Please do not support the Domain with \$2 million payments."

6/30/2009 41 "Save Austin pets! I think that funding should not be added to animal services. Education should be provided for poor people who don't know how to take care of their pets. From personal experience, I can tell that waiting for a bus is excruciating. City needs to put more buses on the road, promote public transportation and develop more routes. Also I think that rezoning land for high rises and promoting principles of new urbanism makes a lot of sense."

6/30/2009 42 Add educational programs to teach people how to be responsible pet owners – spay/neuters – vaccinate!

6/30/2009 43 Please use your judgment and experience to make tough budget cutting decision. Many services are not needed to keep the city running. Many taxpayers do not reap the benefit of some of the items in the budget.

6/30/2009 44 Jose Quintero – Greater East Austin Neighborhood Assistant recommend that it would be shown on Channel 6 access TV live for re-run for the public. Thank you!

6/30/2009 45 Are the capital improvement projects being considered for postponement to cut the budget?

6/30/2009 46 Please don't cut the feral cat program – keep it funded. This was not mentioned at tonight's meeting.

6/30/2009 47 I do not feel that more police presence is needed here in Austin. I also do not feel that our current police force is moving in the spirit of Austin and its native citizens. Cutting pay and pay raises would help. I do believe that entertainment makes money and is a great service. "Creative economics."

6/30/2009 48 Very interesting process – never attended before and thought it was beneficial. HS-1 needs to be rejected.

6/30/2009 49 Enjoyed participating in the process and getting acquainted with other citizens.

6/30/2009 50 HS-1 should be rejected! It will cost the City millions more in intake/euthanasia/carcass disposal if the free spay/neuter program is reduced. The program is highly utilized by City residents and should be continued.

6/30/2009 51 Very interesting. I was happy to be a part of it and impressed with how well the groups worked together. HS-1 needs to be rejected!!

6/30/2009 52 "I personally think this is an amazing model to encourage community input and allow us to take responsibility for what is cut. I love this! I do with everything was on the cutting board. Even if you can't do it, get our input on it, or tell us why it's not on the list. This is democracy at work."

6/30/2009 53 "I believe we should look to the quality of life and entertainment as a creative economic growth program. Sports, music, film and theater are all Austin loves and tourist attractions to our great city!"

6/30/2009 54 "Thank you for this opportunity – please keep the funding for the free spay/neuter programs in the budget. Do not use donations for these programs – they are not guaranteed and are insufficient to fund these programs. Please also keep the microchipping programs, and medical money for the sick and injured animals. The City needs to stay committed to their animals and continue down the road to Austin becoming a no-kill city. Cutting sterilization = more euthanasia. Donation fund is unsolicited and unguaranteed. Thank you."

6/30/2009 55 Do not cut or eliminate funds for the spay/neuter programs.

6/30/2009 56 Please keep both free spay/neuter days funded through the general fund – this program is a success and ending it will cost more tax payer dollars to take care of the additional animals that will wind up at TLAC.

6/30/2009 57 "Reject HS-1 because donations will not even put a dent in maintaining the free pet sterilization program (do not destroy what has taken so long to build, with so much efficiency/success)."

6/30/2009 58 "Thank you for allowing us to participate. Please don't cut animal services, libraries, police and fire!"

7/10/2009 1 "I would like to suggest that the city should cut back on the services that are not used a lot, so that it would save the city some money, and the city should investigate the people, whether they need help from the services or not. The city should focus more on what is necessary for the city and the people. The city should have fundraisers to help the public libraries and more programs would help the youth into the business world, and make it affordable, so that most people can do it, and it would benefit the city, because there are going to be more people interested in getting a job, staying away from the streets committing crimes, and the graduation rate will increase, giving a good impression on the city. And I suggest that the city should put more restrictions on the water service. The City should make toilets that came out, that save water, affordable, so that more people can purchase them and use them to conserve water, so that the city won't have to spend as much and use as much."

7/10/2009 2 It is fun and I want to come again.

7/10/2009 3 I think that this event was very well thought out. It was rather interesting to be able to voice our opinions on actual City of Ausin proposals. Thanks for bringing us out!

7/10/2009 4 Betta food next time! Ain't full yet! Soggy bun's outta line!

7/10/2009 5 "Well idk where to start; 1. soggy buns, 2. funnier people"

7/10/2009 6 "What about your electricity? This rakes in \$800 million dollars (total revenue). I am surprise that you did not have at least something about it. How about using wind turbines on city owned buildings? This would save you 30% of costs for electricity. A wind turbine combines smart grids, solar power and wind power to create as much possible energy. Austin is all about being smart about the environment, right? "

7/10/2009 7 "This program is more for older kids. I believe that this should be more for teens. Also, it would have been better if there had been more time to discuss."

7/10/2009 8 Don't end the summer youth programs. I was with the YSJ with PODER.

7/10/2009 9 Thank you for giving me this opportunity to learn more about budgets and about taxes. This has been a great time for me. I have met new people and got interviewed for the first time J

7/10/2009 10 Don't close the public pools :D

7/10/2009 11 "Please do not get rid of the city pools, or cut the library hours."

7/10/2009 12 I think that the city should continue the free vaccination/neutering clinic but also ask for donations. There's a website where you can click a button to donate free. The summer youth programs are a great convenience to people and you shouldn't cut the funding for them.

7/10/2009 13 I thought the idea of having kids help was smart.

7/10/2009 14 I think this is an amazing idea.

7/10/2009 15 I think this was a waste of my time.

7/10/2009 16 "I do not think the city should close down all recreations, because then kids will have nowhere to go."

7/10/2009 17 I think summer camp is kind of fun and exciting. But why are we doing this?

7/10/2009 18 "Don't kill dogs. Why are we doing this thing? I'm bored. The government is better with Obama. McCain sucks. Oh yeah, Don't kill animals that are harmless."

7/10/2009 19 I felt this meeting was very helpful and I learned a great deal about how the City of Austin budgets money. It makes us teens feel that we're giving back. Thanks for having this!

7/10/2009 20 It was boring and long.

7/10/2009 21 "They could have done better, but yeah."

7/10/2009 22 "I think you should hire more lifeguards for the pools with diving boards, because the diving boards aren't always open."