

NEIGHBORHOODS FIRST BUDGET PROPOSALS

Our budget philosophy: In a true fiscal crisis, the privileged parts of the budget must be cut as well as the services that the community relies on.

At a minimum restore \$17 million dollars to prevent many of the proposed cuts in these critical neighborhood services:

1. Branch Library Hours

Branch library services are to be reduced to 25 hours a week (3 days/week).
Four new libraries won't open this year at all.

2. Code Enforcement Officers and Strong Neighborhoods Initiative

SNI code enforcement officers are eliminated as well as 7 full-time community workers. Only 2.25 citywide code enforcement inspectors will remain to investigate threats to life and property.

3. Fire Fighters

"Brown outs" and reduced staffing will delay critical emergency response tasks, threatening the department's ability to protect life and property particularly when multiple incidents occur simultaneously.

4. Youth Programs and Anti-gang Programs

Funding is cut back for San Jose BEST, the Safe Schools Campus Initiative, and other programs that assist at-risk youth.

5. Community Centers and Vulnerable Populations

Many Centers vital to neighborhood stability will become "re-use sites" at which service levels will depend on the capacities of fiscally weakened non-profit organizations. Seniors who lack other options will lose support they rely on.

6. Police and Park Security

Cutbacks will reduce investigation of crimes at schools and crimes against property including burglaries, auto theft, and robberies. Severe reductions in Park Rangers will cause a decline in safety levels at city parks.

Recommended sources of funding:

1) Reductions in senior management positions and compensation	\$3,000,000
<p>Between 2002-2003 and 2011, the City has lost more than 1,500 positions. The number of the city's highest paid managers - such as Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant to the City Manager and Council Appointees - needs to decline, and/or the compensation of those holding these high paid positions should be reduced by as much as 20%.</p>	
2) Repayment of Redevelopment Agency loans to the General Fund	\$5,000,000
<p>The Redevelopment Agency owes tens of millions of dollars to the city General Fund. At the same time, the Agency has a \$6,500,000 unrestricted reserve and the RDA and/or the city through holdings transferred from the Agency has more than \$200 million in net capital assets.</p>	
3) Require significant reductions from vendors and supplies budgets.	\$8,000,000
<p>Almost all of the proposed cuts are targeted at public services and city workers. Ten percent of the non-personnel portion of the budget is over \$18 million dollars, but less than \$10 million is reduced from the non-personnel, equipment, city-wide expenses category in the City Manager's plan. Private vendors that sell services and supplies to the City should be absorbing a full share of the budget solution. Eight million more should be cut.</p>	
4) Impose fines on banks that fail to maintain foreclosed housing	\$1,000,000
<p>When banks fail to maintain foreclosed properties, they reduce property values in whole neighborhoods. Other cities are aggressively insisting that properties be maintained and collecting millions in fines from banks that fail to comply. San Jose needs to demand responsible behavior from owners of foreclosed properties.</p>	
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TOTAL	\$17,000,000