



TO: Mayor Michael B. Hancock  
FROM: Council President Stacie Gilmore, President Pro Tem Jamie Torres  
DATE: October 9, 2020  
SUBJECT: City Council Adjustments to the 2021 Budget Proposal

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AMANDA SANDOVAL  
DISTRICT 1

KEVIN FLYNN  
DISTRICT 2

JAMIE TORRES  
DISTRICT 3

KENDRA BLACK  
DISTRICT 4

AMANDA SAWYER  
DISTRICT 5

PAUL KASHMANN  
DISTRICT 6

JOLON CLARK  
DISTRICT 7

CHRISTOPHER J.  
HERNDON  
DISTRICT 8

CANDI CDEBACA  
DISTRICT 9

CHRIS HINDS  
DISTRICT 10

STACIE GILMORE  
DISTRICT 11

ROBIN KNIECH  
AT-LARGE

DEBORAH "DEBBIE"  
ORTEGA  
AT-LARGE

City Council has been called on by our Denver neighborhoods to advocate for them as they navigate their way through a global pandemic and to address systemic racism and social justice issues that have plagued our country from its beginning. As we face these challenges, it is our goal to ensure the proposed \$2.1 billion budget helps all Denverites through the difficult challenges we currently face while continuing to provide necessary city services.

To accomplish these goals, City Council took a more hands-on approach to the budget process this year. During city council budget hearings, we were able to hear from several City agencies for the first time, including the Office of Children’s Affairs, the Office of the Independent Monitor and Human Rights and Community Partnership as these agencies support our neighborhoods in innumerable ways.

During the process, City Council used our agreed-upon budget priorities to guide our decisions:

- Mitigate and reduce involuntary displacement of community members and businesses
- Increase affordable housing options and support for those experiencing homelessness throughout our City
- Reframing safety in a public health, evidence-based and anti-racist approach with community investment to ensure healthy neighborhoods
- Prioritize and support the recovery, resilience and encourage innovation of our workforce, local businesses, and community organizations
- Protect our natural environment through policy and invest in communities to combat climate change
- Increase complete multimodal transportation connections throughout the city

After four budget working sessions and accepting review and input from all 13 council members, we request the following changes to the budget. Each request was evaluated using two methods; requests were first prioritized by a rank-choice process and then by a vote of council members.

## **BUDGET REQUESTS SUPPORTED BY A SUPER MAJORITY**

### **\$3 million for STAR Expansion**

This request is to fund a phased expansion with teams/vehicles added to cover each of the six police districts before the end of 2021. This request advances equity through providing non-police resources to reframe safety in a public health, evidence-based and anti-racist approach. The recommendation to transfer oversight of the program and its contracts to DDPHE is also consistent with this goal, and is based on the more robust mental health qualifications, contract administration infrastructure, and experience with diverse external stakeholders and advisory groups of DDPHE in comparison with the 9-1-1 division, which of course will continue to be a critical implementation partner regardless of contract administration.

**Recipient Agency:** DDPHE

**Suggested funding source:** Fair Elections Fund or DPD recruit budget or DPD services and supplies

### **\$220,000 for Transportation Management Associations**

Reinstate funding for 5 Transportation Management Associations. TMAs function in all city council districts (except District 2). TMAs have been an invaluable partner to Denver for more than two decades, eliminating their funding is short-sighted and will impede achieving our mobility, climate and equity goals.

**Recipient Agency:** DOTI

**Suggested funding source:** DOTI - Office of Business & Community Engagement

### **\$391,800 for Rental Registry**

These funds will set up the Accela software needed for a rental registration and licensure program (\$241,800), provide 2 FTEs who will serve as licensing technicians for the program (\$140,000) and outreach and education funds (\$10,000) for the initiative to collect city rental property data, find property owners in case of emergencies or code violations, and ensure safe and healthy rentals are maintained in Denver. Agency use of these funds would be contingent on the passage of an ordinance enacting the program.

**Recipient Agency:** Excise and License

**Suggested funding source:** Fair Elections Fund or DPD recruit budget or Safety administration

### **\$300,000 for Digital Inclusion**

Digital inclusion is a significant issue among low-income and BIPOC communities and our ability to reach households without computers or internet severely impairs our ability to connect effectively.

**Recipient Agency:** Denver Public Library or Office of Children's Affairs

**Suggested funding source:** Fair Elections Fund or DPD recruit budget or DOTI - Office of Business & Community Engagement

### **\$71,700 for the Citizen Oversight Board**

This funding will convert a part-time, on-call position to a full-time position to better support the increased size of the Citizen Oversight Board and to help the COB in meeting its obligations to receive, analyze and make recommendations based on community input regarding public safety agencies in Denver — the demands of which are greater than ever.

**Recipient Agency:** OIM on behalf of the Citizen Oversight Board

**Suggested funding source:** DOS services and supply budget

### **\$50,000 for Office on Aging Expansion**

This expansion supports the Office on Aging and makes the DenverConnect initiative a permanent budget item to help with senior supports and services (grant currently ends June 30, 2021). This funding will ensure the continued work of this office especially in vulnerable neighborhoods that cannot access resources and supports at downtown locations.

**Recipient Agency:** HRCP/ Office on Aging

**Suggested funding source:** Fair Elections Fund or DPD recruit budget or DPD Special Ops

## **BUDGET REQUEST SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY**

### **\$1 million for Legal Support for Eviction Defense**

The extreme amount of evictions that we are facing, are a major issue to address. Predatory and large rental/management companies will permanently harm the most vulnerable and exacerbate our homelessness crisis. If we do not get in front of this, we will have larger numbers of people on the streets with no real pathway to housing.

**Recipient Agency:** HRCP or City Attorney's Office

**Suggested funding source:** City Attorney's Office

Denver City Council appreciates the efforts of all agencies, including Parks and Recreation, to adapt to the unprecedented emergencies of COVID-19 and mid-year budget cuts. Our parks are always treasured, and now more than ever, are a lifeline for physical and emotional well-being of our residents and visitors. In times of emergency especially, we must

prioritize fundamental city services, and restroom facilities that allow park users to meet their basic human needs are critical to public health and equity for users of all ages and health conditions, many of whom are not yet a "10 minute walk" from home to a park.

We call upon the administration to ensure that the final 2021 budget definitively funds and explicitly references that the personnel, services and supplies funding in the budget is adequate for all park permanent restrooms to be open and operational for their full 2021 season, as well as to provide portable facilities (with sanitizer/handwashing wherever possible) in those parks without permanent facilities and in those parks ordinarily serviced with portable facilities during the seasons where plumbing cannot be operated. Because the science is clear that COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future, even if mitigated to some unknown degree by a vaccine, we recommend conservatively assuming that COVID-19 cleaning standards would be required in 2021 when planning for these expenses.

Youth violence prevention has been and continues to be a priority of the City. However, the Safety Department is not equipped to provide the wrap-around services and supports that communities need like other city agencies can, especially neighborhoods that have been historically disadvantaged. A super-majority of council members ask the administration to transfer youth programs from the Safety Department to the Office of Children Affairs to mitigate the negative, unintended consequences of police interaction with citizens who require different services than police are able to provide.

Sincerely,



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Stacie Gilmore  
Council President



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Jamie Torres  
Council President Pro Tem

CC: Brendan Hanlon, Chief Financial Officer  
Stephanie Adams, Budget Director  
Alan Salazar, Chief of Staff  
Skye Stuart, Mayor's Legislative Director