



City and County of Denver
CITY COUNCIL

TO: Mayor Michael B. Hancock
FROM: City Council President Jolon Clark and President Pro-tem Stacie Gilmore
DATE: October 4, 2019
SUBJECT: City Council Adjustments to the 2020 Budget Proposal

Amanda Sandoval
District 1

As advocates for our constituents and the community, our goal is to ensure that the Mayor's \$1.49 billion 2020 Budget allows all Denverites, in every neighborhood, to have the opportunity to share in our city's prosperity.

Kevin Flynn
District 2

We applaud the Administration's priorities as outlined in the budget that align with Council's goals and values while continuing to be fiscally responsible:

Jamie Torres
District 3

- Delivering a more equitable city for everyone
- Addressing homelessness and affordability challenges
- Increasing mobility and transportation options
- Combating climate change
- Investing in complete and safe neighborhoods

Kendra Black
District 4

Amanda Sawyer
District 5

Paul Kashmann
District 6

Upon review and input from 13 councilmembers with distinct and diverse districts, the Council is pleased to submit this response. We request additional investments in the following areas:

Jolon Clark
District 7

BUDGET REQUESTS THAT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A SUPER MAJORITY

Christopher J.
Herndon
District 8

\$125,000 for Tiny Home Supportive Services

Rationale: The most important outcome for a Temporary Tiny Home Village is graduation into stable housing. There is a need for a service provider partner that is skilled at housing navigation and able to deliver outcomes so that a small number of units can be reused by multiple individuals, ensuring more folks will get off the streets and into stable housing.

Candi CdeBaca
District 9

Chris Hinds
District 10

\$190,500 Services to Immigrants & Refugees- Denver Public Library

Rationale: The Mayor and the City of Denver have reiterated their commitment to serving immigrants. This program serves recent immigrants through a trusted space, meeting language needs and meeting them where they are. These staff provide navigation support, citizenship classes, English classes, and cultural engagement. All programming is absolutely necessary as we begin to plan for the Census and as immigrants and refugees have lost trust in government.

Stacie Gilmore
District 11

Robin Kniech
At-Large

Deborah "Debbie"
Ortega
At-Large

\$50,000 for Trash Receptacles in High Need Areas

Rationale: Homeless people do not have public trash receptacles in which to dispose of their waste. For sanitation and aesthetic purposes, Denver should provide public trash receptacles near encampments and places of congregation.

\$500,000 to Increase funds for Safe Routes to School

Rationale: Creating safe passage to our schools should be our top priority.

\$30,000 City Council Budget Expansion for District 1 Community Office

Rationale: The District 1 office has heard consistent feedback that coming to the City and County Building can be intimidating and logistically difficult for constituents. Moving the office into the district will strengthen ties between the community by breaking down barriers and increasing the public's access to the councilwoman and office resources.

\$208,835 for Denver Sheriff Community Work Program

Rationale: This valuable program gives participants a sense of pride and accomplishment by giving offenders an opportunity to learn new skills. The overall goal is reducing recidivism. Some participants are also offered jobs at the end of the program. This program is no longer funded after the first of the year.

\$200,000 for the Denver Day Works Program

Rationale: Homeless rights advocates have been coordinating street clean-up in exchange for meals and other assistance. By funding this self-efficacy model, the City would build trust and develop partnerships to work toward common goals, including employment and trash abatement.

\$70,500 for Expansion of the Office of Aging Budget

Rationale: Colorado is the third fastest growing older adult population in the nation. From 2014 to 2024, the older population will increase by 30.5% for 55+, 36.3% for 60+ and 35.3% for 75+ according to DRCOG data. With the increase of our aging population, we need to make sure we are creating the infrastructure needed to support this group. The Office on Aging has also had great success with the DenverConnect mobile van, but many of the initial and current operating dollars were grant funded. The office will not be able to keep up with the increased need and provide these services, especially in neighborhoods at risk for involuntary displacement and gentrification, without an increased budget.

\$730,000 to increase Vision Zero funding in high injury areas with high historical infrastructure inequities

Rationale: Throughout Denver we have multiple streets that have had repeated accidents at the same locations and severe speeding issues. Unfortunately, these areas are still not warranting any traffic calming measures. The Denver Public Works Equity Model map should be utilized in the decision-making process to prioritize traffic calming recommendations and installment in a timelier manner.

\$72,800 Westwood Library Concept Design

Rationale: Currently, Westwood Library is one of the smallest library spaces in their branch network at 900 square feet. The Westwood neighborhood is home to over 17,000 residents, 36% of which are under 18 years old, and 62% of residents speak a language other than English at home. The current library is insufficient to meet the needs of a young, diverse, and growing neighborhood. Additionally, the current library is housed within a city-owned facility managed by a local nonprofit who determines the access hours of the library. A design process can both look at location for a library and input from the community on what a new space can and should offer in neighborhood services and engagement.

\$1 Million for Housing and Rental Support

Rationale: Homeless people are ordered to move along; but with full, unsanitary, or unsafe shelters, they are either forced to move to another block, or are given one-day motel vouchers. When people are stabilized, they are more likely to access services and meet with their case managers.

\$1.5 Million Denver Sidewalk Gaps in High Need Areas

Rationale: The "Missing Sidewalks Prioritization Tiers" map in the *Denver Moves: Transit, Pedestrians & Trails* document illustrated there are several areas of "Tier 1" (red), unfunded, missing sidewalks in Denver. This additional sidewalk gap funding will help the City deliver on its pedestrian-related goals of accessibility, connectivity, access to destinations, equity, health and safety.

\$180,000 for Public Restrooms and Handwashing Stations

Rationale: Several public restrooms will not be available to homeless people because the pipes will freeze during the winter months. We must be as concerned with freezing people as we are with freezing pipes, and therefore must provide public restrooms during winter months.

\$250,000 for Solar Panel Subsidies

Rationale: By utilizing the management capacity of the new Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency and investing \$0 in city-owned infrastructure, the City of Denver would enter into direct partnerships with the city's homeowners, a commercial solar integrator, and Xcel Energy. Under this P4 (Public, Private, Provider Partnership), the City will "piggy-back" onto the systems leased by homeowners from large-scale residential solar integrators. According to The SunRoof Project, there are currently 129,000 solar-viable roofs in the City and County of Denver. Each of these viable locations represents a suitable solar generation site that does not require the additional costs of land acquisition. 25% of all viable roofs will be included in initial phase.

BUDGET REQUESTS THAT RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM A MAJORITY

\$50,000 for Lockers for People Experiencing Homelessness

Rationale: Many homeless people work or access services, and they need a place to store their belongings. Having 24-hour accessible lockers are needed so that people experiencing homelessness can access resources without worrying about where to store their belongings.

\$100,000 Increase BIOfund for I-70 Impacted Small Businesses

Rationale: Currently the total funding is \$1,000 to \$5,000 for each business. Many businesses along the north side of I-70 that were displaced got mitigation. Businesses on the south side of I-70 initially received nothing. Many of these businesses were immigrant-owned, and they can't get tax abatement because they are not land owners.

\$750,000 for Expedited Development Review for Green Building Code and Affordable Housing

Rationale: Denver's new Green "stretch" building code and affordable housing endeavors both need additional incentives to encourage utilization as well as offer up time and cost savings that will offset the costs of these projects. By offering expedited plan review these projects are much more likely to be built.

\$350,000 for a Traffic engineer and consultant to look at lowering speed limits

Rationale: Traffic deaths continue to rise in Denver. We need to lower speeds by ordinance as well as engineer our roadways to encourage adherence to those speeds.



Jolon Clark, Council President



Stacie Gilmore, 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