

## **ATTACHMENT D**

### **Community Feedback on the FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget**

Community feedback on the proposed budget is a critical component of the annual budget process. Input from Phoenix residents can help the City Council and departments prioritize existing resources and plan for the future. Based on the feedback received, overall residents support the FY 2026-27 proposed budget. Multiple comments were received requesting additional resources in the areas of shade, Margaret T. Hance Park and downtown parks, youth and education, immigration legal defense fund, veterans services, eviction legal services, free public transit, electric buses, the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Community Safety Plan (CSP), the City Prosecutor's Role in CSPs, and Real Time Operations Centers. The information below highlights efforts to date in these areas and plans for the future.

This attachment also includes feedback from residents received at the 12 community budget hearings held across the City from March 30 – April 6 and comments provided through email and phone directly to the Budget & Research Department.

#### **Shade**

The City of Phoenix has continued to increase its investment in improving tree and shade coverage citywide, as guided by the Shade Phoenix Plan approved by City Council in November 2024. The Shade Phoenix Plan established a guiding framework for five years of investment to target actions where shade can have the greatest impact on human health and wellbeing, especially for vulnerable populations. City departments and partner agencies have made measurable progress on each of the 36 actions in the Shade Phoenix Plan since its adoption, and 31 of 36 actions were reported to be fully on track or ahead of schedule in the first annual Shade Phoenix Plan progress report completed in fall 2025. Recent and ongoing tree and shade programs have been funded by a combination of sources including the City of Phoenix General Fund, General Obligation Bond, and American Rescue Plan Act Resources, the Transportation 2050 initiative, a U.S. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Grant through the Inflation Reduction Act, and philanthropic support from American Forests and the Ford Foundation.

Phoenix's efforts to increase and maintain tree planting in neighborhoods with low tree canopy coverage has been accelerated by the Community Canopy, Canopy for Kids, and Tree Stewards programs funded by the U.S. Forest Service. The Community Canopy program provides free, professionally planted trees for residents along with supplies and tree-care education. Approximately 2,500 trees have been planted through this program to date at more than 1,300 homes, adding to another 2,000 trees planted by the phase of the Community Canopy program funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Total FY2025-26 Community Canopy expenditures are estimated at \$1.3 million. The Canopy for Kids program, which is implemented in partnership with Arizona State University and Watershed Management Group, plants trees, revitalizes landscapes, and provides new environmental education for youth at local schools. More than 200 trees were planted through this program in FY25-26 with estimated expenditures of \$245,000, including landscaping and educational components of the program. In partnership with the Arizona Sustainability Alliance, ten Phoenix residents were newly hired and trained this year as Tree Stewards, who will help build tree care knowledge and capacity in participating neighborhoods. 200 additional trees have been planted through the Tree Stewards program, and estimated FY25-26 expenditures including tree planting and compensation for participants is \$130,000.

Several city departments have continued making substantial contributions to increasing tree canopy on public property. The Parks and Recreation Department and Street Transportation Department collectively manage approximately \$6,000,000 in dedicated funding for tree planting and maintenance, which supports the planting of more than 3,000 trees each year. Maintenance of trees and landscaping on public property is addressed through a combination of city employees and contracted labor. All departments that manage property with trees are participating in the ongoing update to the municipal tree inventory, which will be used to guide more than \$1,000,000 in budgeted FY26-27 tree planting investments at city property through the General Obligation Bond.

In addition to tree planting, the City is investing in built shade consistent with the goals and values of the Shade Phoenix Plan. The American Rescue Plan Act-funded Sidewalk Shade Program allocated approximately

\$2,000,000 to create shade structures benefitting pedestrians at high-use intersections and crosswalks. Designed in concert with a local artist, the structures feature Sonoran Desert-inspired patterns and were completed in spring 2026. The Public Transit Department is on track to meet its annual target of adding shade shelters at 80 bus stops in FY25-26, representing more than \$1,400,000 of new investment. 15 playgrounds, pools, and splashpads are scheduled to receive new shade structures through the next two years through the General Obligation Bond program, with a budget of \$1,700,000.

Phoenix is also continuing to invest in innovation, partnerships, and professional development of the city workforce to increase local capacity to implement high-impact, state-of-the-art tree and shade programs and policy. Examples of these efforts include completion of the Sombra! Experiments in Shade project led by the Office of Arts and Culture, which created nine temporary unique shade installations in public spaces in Phoenix, as funded by a \$1,000,000 grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Public Art Challenge. Phoenix's efforts to engage with the business community on tree and shade programs and other heat mitigation efforts are supported by partnerships with and funding from entities including Resilient Cities Catalyst, Smart Surfaces Coalition, and the Ford Foundation. American Forests, Bloomberg Associates, the Arbor Day Foundation, and a wide suite of local nonprofit, community-based, and academic organizations are also essential collaborators in shaping the city's tree and shade strategy and are critical partners in delivering programs that benefit residents.

More information about Phoenix's complete portfolio of tree and shade programs is available at [phoenix.gov/shade](http://phoenix.gov/shade) or by contacting the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation. A one page summary of the Shade Phoenix Plan and a table charting Year 1 progress of the plan is located at the end of this report.

### **Margaret T. Hance Park and Downtown Phoenix Parks**

The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department remains committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and accessible environment throughout the central core parks, including Margaret T. Hance Park. Safety efforts are

currently supported through a combination of contracted security services, Urban Park Rangers, Parks staff, and ongoing coordination with other City Departments. Windom Security provides overnight roving patrol coverage at Margaret T. Hance Park, Civic Space Park, Roosevelt Park, and Heritage Square Park. The Parks and Recreation Department budget for contracted security services for the downtown parks is \$389,000 annually. Urban Park Rangers which includes a third-shift provide 24/7 patrols through all city parks including Hance. Additional Parks staff continue proactive seven day a week engagement through regular park visits, monitoring park usage, checking for reservations, trash pickup, monitoring restroom conditions, and code of conduct education.

Urban Park Rangers average more than three and a half park visits per day at Margaret T. Hance Park, enforce the code of conduct and Phoenix City Code, and issue trespass notices and citations. The most common violations relate primarily to after-hours activity, loitering, and drug activity. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department continues to work closely with the Office of Homeless Solutions, Phoenix Police, Streets, Neighborhood Services, Human Services, and the Library Department through regular coordination meetings focused on safety, outreach, activation, and operational improvements. The Parks and Recreation Department is also advancing plans to utilize space within Burton Barr Central Library to support third shift Urban Park Rangers, which is anticipated to further enhance visibility and response efforts in and around Hance Park. Currently, the City is under agreement with ASU and Downtown Phoenix Inc. to split costs for two Urban Park Rangers who are assigned at Civic Space Park. The ongoing budget that is split between the three entities is \$212,000. There was a one-time startup cost of \$82,000.

### **Youth and Education**

The City provides a range of services related to early childhood literacy and education, in a variety of ways, including through the Human Services Head Start Program, the Youth and Education Office, Phoenix Public Libraries, and the Parks and Recreation Department. These services are documented below:

- The City of Phoenix Head Start Program provides comprehensive, free early childhood education, health, nutrition, and family support

for eligible families with children aged 0-5. The program has an emphasis on school readiness through early learning opportunities that promote strong child outcomes in the areas of social and emotional development, language, cognitive, early reading, science, math, and physical development. These services are provided in partnership with school districts and community-based organizations who provide direct education and care engagement with children Monday thru Friday, while HSD staff provide the family support and health services. The most recently available funded enrollment data included 2,205 children. FY 2026-27 funding is anticipated to be \$44.9 million through federal grant funds from the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Head Start.

- Phoenix Families First Resource Centers (FRCs) serve as safe, supportive community hubs (Burton Barr/ Ceasar Chavez Libraries, Aeroterra, and Beuf Community Center) that promote early literacy and healthy development for pregnant mothers and families with children from birth to age five. The centers provide early childhood education programming and connect families to services tailored to their unique needs. Core areas of engagement include: school readiness and early literacy, access to information and community resources, parenting education and support groups, and referrals to health, education, and social service programs. Key data and outcomes from FY 2024-25 are shown below:
  - Unduplicated families served: 2,841
  - Duplicated families served: 26,284
  - Unique program workshop/activities: 2,319
  - Referrals to partner/community resources: 3,476
  - Funding Source: First Things First Grant of \$750,000
- Experience Corps Tutoring supports third grade reading proficiency through an evidence-based, Tier 1, one-on-one tutoring model led by adult volunteers aged 50 and older. The program's goal is to strengthen academic achievement by providing consistent, individualized support that builds students' skills and confidence. Key data and outcomes from FY 2024-25 are shown below:
  - Number of school districts: 10
  - Number of schools: 14
  - Number of students: 326
  - Number of volunteers: 86
  - Funding Source: Youth and Education General Fund at \$225,000 annually

- The Read On Phoenix Literacy Hubs, located at Sullivan Elementary in the Murphy School District and Peralta Elementary in the Cartwright School District, are a strategic initiative designed to address early literacy challenges in economically disadvantaged communities through the implementation of evidence-based practices rooted in the Science of Reading. These hubs aim to close literacy gaps by providing coordinated, community-based services that support both students and families from Birth to Third Grade. The Hubs directly provide: access to developmentally appropriate literacy resources, offering a safe, welcoming space for families to engage in literacy-focused programming during and after school, and supporting schools in connecting more effectively with parents, caregivers, and communities. Key data and outcomes from FY 2024-25 are shown below:
  - Unduplicated families served: 1,640
  - Students tutored: 82
  - Literacy Fairs: 4
  - Free books: 3,251
  - Youth and Education General Funds for \$25,000 per school annually
- Phoenix Public Library's Early Literacy Outreach Team (ELOT) delivers a variety of high-impact early learning programs designed to support school readiness for young children and their families. Programs include Kindergarten Bootcamp, a seven-week interactive series that prepares children for kindergarten through activities focused on letters, numbers, social-emotional skills, and classroom routines. Library 101 and Ready Set Kindergarten offer parent workshops on how to support children as they transition into school. The new Family+Math program, created in partnership with Arizona PBS, provides six weekly sessions for caregivers and children ages 3–5 to build foundational math skills through hands-on exploration of counting, shapes, patterns, measurement, and more. Key data and outcomes from FY 2024-25 are shown below:
  - 800 early learning programs
  - 7,600 children and 7,704 adults (Duplicated)
  - 6,000 free books for children ages 0-5
  - Funding Source: First Things First Grant of \$414,000
- Library Story Times offer young children and their families a fun, engaging space to explore books, build early literacy skills, and

develop a love for reading. Through interactive stories, songs, and hands-on activities, library staff create welcoming experiences that support language development and strengthen connections between families and their local libraries. Key data and outcomes from FY 2024-25 are shown below:

- Overall: 2,400 programs a year
- 33,000 children and 30,000 adults (Duplicated)
- Funding Source: Library General Funds at \$84,000 annually
- The Parks and Recreation Department offers several programs related to youth development, including early childhood initiatives, Project BRAVE (Bringing Reality About Violence Education), Phoenix After School Care (PAC), and PHXteens.
  - Project Brave
    - Violence-prevention and life-skills program coordinated by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department.
    - Serves youth ages 6 to 18 and provides healthy alternatives to self-destructive behaviors and violence through education and leadership training
    - FY 2026-27 Grant Funding - \$220,000
  - PHXteens
    - Offers activities created by teens for teens at facilities citywide for youth ages 13 to 17
    - FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget - \$460,000
  - Toddler & Preschool programs
    - PRD offers a variety of engaging programs for ages 0-5, with parents and caregivers.
    - 847 hours of programming for 1,320 participants
    - FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget –Funding is included in the overall recreation budget by division; specific funding info unavailable.
  - Childcare programs
    - The department offers care through the PAC program and school break camps for ages 6-12
    - 5,317 participants
    - FY 26-27 General Fund Budget - \$2.85 million

## **Immigration Legal Defense Fund**

Some community members asked the City to create an immigration legal defense fund to help individuals facing removal proceedings and their families who are affected.

Cities like Chicago and New York City were referenced as having similar programs. Importantly, the laws in Illinois and New York are different from the laws in Arizona. In those states, state law does not require cities to check whether someone is legally in the United States before giving them local public benefits.

However, Arizona law works differently. Here a city must verify that every applicant for a local public benefit – such as an immigration legal defense fund – is legally present in the United States. Therefore, under Arizona law a legal defense fund could only assist applicants who can prove legal presence in the United States. Additionally, any program would have to be carefully constructed to avoid the Arizona Constitution's strict gift clause restrictions.

## **Veterans Services and the Veterans Court**

The City provides services to veterans through a number of channels, including the Housing and Human Services Departments, as well as through the Veterans Court.

The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program is a joint effort between HUD and the VA that combines housing vouchers with supportive services to help homeless veterans and their families achieve stable, permanent housing. The City of Phoenix Housing Department currently administers 1,003 VASH vouchers, supported by more than \$11M of federal funding, and provides housing to eligible veterans through referrals from the VA.

The Human Services department specifically focuses on veterans within its Community Services and Workforce Development programs. Within the Community Services program (CSP), one dedicated General Funded Caseworker III along with other support staff provided 136 veterans and/or active military households with 172 rent or utility assistance payments

totaling \$140,000 this fiscal year. Under the Workforce Development program (WDP), veterans receive priority of service, including highest priority for low-income or basic-skills-deficient Veterans, faster access to training and services when resources are limited, and eligibility extends to spouses of veterans in specific cases. The WDP staff work directly with the State's Veteran workforce services as well as maintain a direct referral partnership with US VETS. In FY 2025, 34 veterans and eligible spouses were enrolled in workforce programs.

The Veterans Court looks to address the unique needs of defendants who are veterans of the United States military. The goal of Veterans Court is to help restore those veterans in need to return to being successful, contributing members of the community, by ensuring that veterans participating in the court make contact with specific programs that address the root causes of the behavior and conduct, which resulted in the veteran entering the criminal justice system.

The target population consists of defendants (veterans) who served in the United States Armed Forces who are experiencing treatable behavioral issues such as post-traumatic stress (PTS), traumatic brain injury (TBI), anger management, domestic violence, or substance and alcohol abuse.

Eligible veterans may participate in Veterans Court by voluntarily opting into the court. Veterans Court meets as a separate court docket. A Veterans Administration representative is present and conducts a VA eligibility assessment. The prosecutor and veterans with their attorneys gather in Veterans Court along with the VA coordinator; together they explore the various counseling and behavioral programs available to the veteran and determine which is most appropriate for each veteran. When they reach a decision, a treatment plan is incorporated into a plea agreement that becomes the contract for the veteran's responsibility. The court ultimately must review and accept the agreement for the resolution of the case to be completed.

The veteran must be willing to participate fully with the designated program(s). If the veteran chooses not to participate in the agreed upon program(s), the court removes the case from the Veterans Court docket and returns it to the traditional criminal track. As with other cases within Municipal Court, some cases will be eligible for diversion if the veteran

completes specified treatment programs. In most cases, the programs will be specifically tailored for the underlying issues of the veteran. For example, domestic violence cases in a traditional track would be sent to standard domestic violence counseling. Veterans Court sends domestic violence offenders to counseling at the VA. If PTSD is an underlying issue, then PTSD counseling is incorporated into this program.

The VA coordinator and prosecutor regularly review cases to monitor compliance. As part of the therapeutic approach of Veterans Court, frequent sentence review hearings are used to verify the veteran's compliance with the program. This not only establishes accountability for the veteran but also allows the court to recognize the accomplishment of the veteran in taking responsibility for their actions.

For the calendar year 2025, there were 268 defendants responsible for 335 cases in the Phoenix Veterans Court. The Court has two bailiffs and one Judge that oversee the Veterans Court. They do not exclusively handle the Veterans Court only. Veterans' cases are staffed on Thursday, and matters are heard on Friday. The Court is not a provider of services; it convenes the Veterans Court and providers utilized by the Defense and the Prosecutor's Office to assist Veterans.

Services provided to Veterans include, but not limited to, case management, mental health services, housing navigation (rapid re-housing), obtaining VA benefits, social security and disability benefits, counseling, and employment.

### **Eviction Legal Services**

The Human Services Department's Eviction Legal Services (ELS) supports residents by offering no-cost services to eligible persons experiencing an eviction crisis by providing mediation outside of a courtroom proceeding, legal representation, or post-eviction services to address possible impediments to future renting opportunities. This program is funded with \$1.2 million in ARPA interest, and began in January 2025 and is forecasted to be funded through June 2027.

In calendar year 2025, the program received 623 applications of which 360 applications were approved for services. During this period, 50% of closed cases achieved overall positive outcomes, including 45% of legal

representation cases reducing negative impacts of eviction, 16% of eviction filings being dismissed, and 25% ended with a negotiated settlement. The Human Services Department (HSD) had only one mediation case in the first year of the program. This is primarily due to the short turnaround timeframe of the Arizona eviction process coupled with residents not contacting HSD prior to an eviction filing being submitted by a landlord. HSD has implemented several solutions to combat this challenge, including implementing a community outreach plan targeting areas of high evictions and making direct connections for residents requesting rental assistant and landlord/tenant services to ELS.

### **Free Public Transit**

The cost to ride transit remains low, with fares not having been increased since 2013. A single ride on local bus or light rail service is \$2; an all-day pass is capped at \$4. Nonetheless, fares are a component of the revenues the City and the region uses to operate transit services, and without a replacement revenue source, transit services would need to be reduced to make up for the lost revenue. Also, while Phoenix has a transit fare ordinance which outlines the cost to ride, Phoenix is one of 18 cities plus Maricopa County which operate transit services as part of the regional transit system the public knows as Valley Metro. As such, any changes to transit fares would require regional concurrence and approval by the Valley Metro Board. Finally, in 2023, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1102 which allowed Maricopa County to seek approval from the voters of the county to extend the half-cent sales tax through 2045 under Proposition 479. One component of the legislation requires that beginning in fiscal year 2026-2027, a farebox recovery audit be conducted for the regional transit system and that minimum fare recovery ratios be met; the ratio begins at 10% and increases thereafter – eliminating transit fares would not allow the regional transit system to comply with these requirements.

### **Electric Buses**

The City's Public Transit Department (PTD) operates a fleet of 500 heavy-duty buses. 2/3 of the fleet operates on clean-burning natural gas, while 45 hybrid electric buses were also recently added to the fleet. The department is currently piloting twelve (12) battery-electric buses made possible by a competitive Federal Transit Administration grant under the previous federal

administration which had goals to transition transit fleets to zero-emissions operating systems; the current administration does not have such goals. Additionally, since July 2023, PTD has been using Renewable Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to fuel the 2/3 of the fleet that uses compressed natural gas. RLNG is a natural gas fuel product generated from the decomposition of organic waste streams, or “biomass.” PTD’s RLNG is primarily sourced from landfill waste streams.

### **19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Community Safety Plan (CSP)**

This fiscal year, the 19th Avenue CSP advanced through increased enforcement, stronger coordination, and expanded community engagement. The Phoenix Police Department enhanced corridor operations with increased training and focused narcotics operations, multi-week crime-suppression efforts, and visible proactive patrols through Resource Team deployments, officers in training on the light rail, and technology-guided patrol activity. Additional efforts included liquor inspections, traffic enforcement, and Authority to Arrest compliance evaluations.

The Prosecutor’s Office improved alignment with the Transit Unit through job shadowing, early case identification, and leadership meetings, while partnering with City and state agencies on problematic properties and working with MCAO on crime-suppression training, felony travel restrictions, and repeat-offender charging.

Neighborhood Services advanced place-based strategies through coordinated cleanups, support for a new business alliance at Glendale Avenue, and direct neighborhood engagement.

In the coming year, the City will work with the 19th Avenue CSP Community Committee to identify lighting improvements along transit corridors and evaluate effective strategies and funding options. The City will also collaborate with Valley Metro as they research approaches for implementing live light rail system camera feeds, including potential integrations with local and regional public safety partners. Staff will continue working with community and agency partners to identify and pursue appropriate funding opportunities, including federal competitive

grants, to support these efforts. These efforts collectively continue to improve safety, coordination, and quality of life along the 19th Avenue corridor.

### **City Prosecutor's Role in CSPs**

Within the CSPs, the City Prosecutor's Office is taking a proactive, data-driven approach to identifying repeat offenders and escalating cases by strengthening collaboration with Phoenix PD and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO). Through ride-alongs, regular information-sharing meetings, and coordinated enforcement along key corridors, the office has improved early identification of transit-related and high-risk offenders, enhanced prosecution of focused misdemeanor arrests, and expanded the strategic use of travel restrictions and bond recommendations.

Community Prosecutors handled more than 400 Repeat Offender cases and 40 STOP cases in 2025, securing impactful outcomes such as long-term custody sentences and citywide transit restrictions. The office is also bridging gaps between misdemeanor and felony matters, providing crime-suppression training to officers, and developing improved reporting tools that include streamlined travel-restriction tracking and a citywide repeat-offender report. In addition, the office began tracking instances in 2024 where bond was requested at Initial Appearance but not imposed, documenting more than 600 such cases in 2025. This tracking effort allows prosecutors to better monitor release trends and adjust strategies to protect community safety.

Additionally, the Phoenix Municipal Court is currently developing a new case management system. The existing Court Management System does not easily track several of the data points referenced above, and while the new system is expected to enhance data tracking and analysis, it is not yet clear how all judicial case management information will be captured or reported. Furthermore, data from the Phoenix Municipal Court would not include individuals arrested on felony charges prosecuted by MCAO, such as drug-related offenses.

## **Real Time Operations Centers**

The Police Department will reallocate existing positions to be assigned to Cactus Park (2) and Desert Horizon (2) precincts, enabling 24/7 coverage so technology can be leveraged to support patrol operations day and night. This expanded staff provides one civilian operator, on duty 24/7, in each of the two precincts to run law enforcement databases, cameras, gunshot detection and license plate readers in support of on-duty patrol squads. This expanded coverage maximizes RTOC's capabilities and support to the community.

The Shade Phoenix Plan was unanimously adopted by the Phoenix City Council in November 2024, becoming the master plan of record for citywide tree and shade efforts. The Shade Phoenix Plan supersedes and modernizes policy direction previously set by the 2010 Tree and Shade Master Plan. This briefing sheet provides a high-level summary of the content of the new plan and progress made since its adoption.

- **Shade Phoenix Plan Vision, Values, and Strategies**

- Vision: A future where all community members and visitors to Phoenix experience the benefits of trees and built shade throughout the city.
- Core values of the plan include centering health and wellbeing as priority outcomes for tree and shade efforts, positioning shade as a critical resource, and directing efforts towards undershaded communities.
- 36 specific actions in the plan address four broad strategy areas: Expand Shade, Preserve and Maintain Existing Shade, Evaluate and Institutionalize Implementation, and Educate and Empower the Community.

- **Funding Sources and Implementation Partners**

- The 36 actions in the plan are supported by an estimated \$60,000,000+ in funding committed over the period 2024–2029. *Note: no new funding was allocated with the adoption of the Shade Phoenix Plan; all investments reflect prior commitments.*
- Funding sources include the General Fund and Capital Improvement Program (~\$35M), Inflation Reduction Act Urban and Community Forestry Grant (~\$9M), American Rescue Plan Act allocations (~\$8M), General Obligation Bond (~\$8M), and additional smaller grants (~\$2M).
- Departments and offices responsible for delivery of major funding commitments include Public Transit, Street Transportation, Parks and Recreation, and Heat Response and Mitigation. However, at least 14 City departments, as well as external contractors and community partners, will play some role in delivering Shade Phoenix Plan actions.
- Many actions in the plan have a specific focus on undershaded communities and locations where adding shade can have the largest impact on improving public health and safety.

- **Year 1 Progress Update**

- Staff delivered a progress report to the TIP Subcommittee in September 2025 reflective of the first year of action following adoption of the Shade Phoenix Plan (Fiscal Year 2024-25)
- Progress was made on all 36 proposed actions during the first year of implementation, with 31 of 36 actions (86%) fully meeting or exceeding year 1 milestones.
- Key year one metrics included the planting of more than 7,200 trees, addition of 155 new shade structures, and engagement of more than 130 city employees in capacity-building efforts to improve tree and shade programs.
- The summary table of Year 1 progress for all 36 actions is included as an attachment.

# ACTION SUMMARY TABLE

**MILESTONE MET**



**MAKING PROGRESS**



**FACING OBSTACLES**



#	ACTION	YEAR 1 MILESTONE	PROGRESS
1	Shade for Students Grant	Install 47 structures	
2	Canopy for Kids Grant	Plant 1,000 trees	
3	Build shade at playgrounds	Increase shade at 5 playgrounds	
4	Plant trees at City Parks	Plant at least 120% of the number of trees lost the prior year	
5	Add shade to city facilities	Increase shade coverage at 5 facilities	
6	Build Green Stormwater Infrastructure	Finalizing location for 3 projects	
7	Expand Cool Corridors Network	Assess potential project sites and complete prioritization assessment	
8	Add built shade at bus stops	Install at least 80 shade structures	
9	Construct shade in right-of-way	Begin construction of 10 structures	
10	Pilot built shade right-of-way permit	Draft requirements for permit	
11	Community Canopy Grant	Plant 1,000 trees	
12	Develop permit for planting projects	Draft requirements for permit	
13	Enhance shade stipulations	Complete review of existing stipulations and begin drafting	
14	Expand tree replacement program	Plant 500 replacement trees	
15	Maintain City trees and built shade	Develop maintenance protocol across all departments	
16	Strengthen tree code enforcement	Create pilot program for enhanced enforcement	
17	Complete tree and shade assessment	Complete tree assessment; Complete shade assessment	

#	ACTION	YEAR 1 MILESTONE	PROGRESS
18	Create tree and shade inventory	Finalize tree inventory; Finalize shade inventory	
19	Provide annual progress report	Develop reporting mechanisms and begin data collection	
20	Update Shade Phoenix every 5 years	n/a	
21	Improve processes for city tree care	Complete initial study, pursue recommendations in working groups	
22	Improve maintenance practices	Collect data and benchmarking guidelines to inform assessment	
23	Build City capacity for GSI	Train at least 10 employees on GSI	
24	Establish working groups for trees and shade	Urban Forestry work group meeting regularly; Launch Built Shade work group	
25	Update City plant species guidance	Analyze existing tree species guidance	
26	Embed shade recommendations into City design standards	Review projects for compliance with shade recommendations	
27	Pilot a Public Shade Fund	Conduct research, stakeholder and public engagement	
28	Integrate tree and shade goals in City plans	All relevant City plans incorporate tree and shade goals	
29	Create a Tree Steward Program	Create contracts with non-profit partners to operate program	
30	Support urban forestry career pathways	Design and launch program with non-profit partners	
31	Provide Certified Arborist training	Promote Certified Arborist training to other City Departments and the public	
32	Launch Shade Phoenix campaign	Consult with stakeholders on communications campaign	
33	Create award for innovative shade projects	Develop shade award and identify other recognition opportunities	
34	Commission artists to create public art shade installations	Announce winning artists and install temporary public art projects	
35	Develop neighborhood tree plans	Host 4 workshops	
36	Create and distribute education on trees and shade	Create single packet of 'Shade Phoenix' materials for distribution	

## Summary of Resident Comments by Category

### Comments for additional funding/support of the budget:

- (55) support funding additional resources for refugees.
- (39) support funding for flexible financial assistance.
- (27) support funding for heat initiatives that include heat mitigation, tree planting and shaded bus shelters.
- (20) support funding for continued library services and hours.
- (19) support funding for legal counsel for individuals facing eviction.
- (16) support funding for youth and education programs to include funding allocated to the Jacob Michael Harris Foundation.
- (13) support funding for childcare assistance.
- (12) support funding for free electric public transit.
- (10) support continued funding for Arts & Culture.
- (10) support funding for affordable housing.
- (7) support funding for community legal aid.
- (7) support additional funding to homeless shelters.
- (7) support funding for additional security in city parks that includes additional Park Rangers and monitoring cameras.
- (6) support funding for safety infrastructure at Margaret T. Hance Park.
- (6) support funding to assist with crime prevention in the city that include real-time operations cameras connected to Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Police precincts.
- (5) support funding for a master lease program.
- (4) support funding for a housing trust fund.
- (4) support funding for traffic management solutions.
- (3) support funding for additional Motorcycle Police.
- (3) support funding for Public Safety.
- (3) support funding for services for the disabled homeless population.
- (3) support funding to assist low-income families with food security.

- (3) support funding for additional water fountains.
- (3) support funding for homeless prevention programs.
- (3) support funding for crime prevention measures along the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue light rail corridor.
- (3) support funding for restriping streets.
- (2) support funding for additional crisis vans.
- (2) support funding to decrease fire response times.
- (2) support funding for mental health services.
- (2) support funding for rental assistance.
- (2) support funding for street maintenance in the South & West areas of the city.
- (2) support continued funding to Vision Zero.
- (2) support for HAWK signals.

**Comments for reduced funding/opposition of the budget:**

- (2) oppose the budget process because it lacks transparency and insufficient community involvement.

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 1  
GOELET A. BEUF COMMUNITY CENTER  
MARCH 30, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

Councilwoman Ann O'Brien opened the meeting at 6:06 pm and introduced Spanish interpreter Mario Barajas. Mr. Barajas provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation during the hearing.

Councilwoman O'Brien welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending to provide feedback on the budget process. She noted the importance of maintaining a balanced budget and introduced City Manager Ed Zuercher and Budget and Research Director Aaron Mertz.

Mr. Zuercher welcomed everyone to the first budget hearing of the year and introduced city staff. He noted where to find additional information on the proposed FY 2026-27 Trial Budget, how to leave a comment, and the next steps in the budget process.

A short video on the proposed Trial Budget was played at 6:10 pm.

Councilwoman O'Brien opened the floor for public comment at 6:26 pm.

1. Dolores Raleigh asked if funding is planned for HAWK signals, specifically near 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Eva Street.

Councilwoman O'Brien stated staff will follow up with her after it's researched.

2. Elisha Dunn spoke on the importance of reinstalling an exterior barrier around Telephone Pioneer Park for child safety concerns.

Councilwoman O'Brien stated that she has been made aware of the safety concerns and is currently working with the Parks Department to add another wall.

3. Stephen Verbil did not wish to speak but commented that Public Works Solid Waste Division's refuse and recycling trucks may be beyond their lifespan and maintenance costs may be too high.
4. Stan Bates did not wish to speak but supports fully funding the Police and Fire Departments and filling all Police vacant positions.
5. Gail Morgan did not wish to speak but supports fully funding the Police and Fire Departments.
6. Chris Mehling did not wish to speak but advocated for onsite fire and crash vehicles at Deer Valley Airport to support its growth.

7. Candice Fremouw spoke in support of prioritizing electronic marquees at community centers to easily inform the public on current activities.
8. Dianna Kimling spoke in favor of merging the new fire station with the new police station at the old Fry's Electronics at I-17 and Thunderbird.

Executive Chief Tim Kreis responded that new locations are strategically placed for the greatest positive impact on response times and shifting a planned location will diminish the return on response times.

Councilwoman O'Brien explained she will follow up with Ms. Kimling on additional information to her comment.

Ms. Kimling further asked if the available land within Metrocenter could be used for the new fire station. She also stated that the planned new-build townhomes may bring complications to the community that may not have been fully addressed by the City.

Councilwoman O'Brien responded that she will speak with Ms. Kimling after the meeting.

9. Ms. Raleigh noted that no funding was added for the 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue BRT Corridor and asked when the project will start.

Mr. Zuercher responded that the project is in progress and was not included in the proposed FY 2026-27 Trial Budget because it is not an addition to the budget and is funded by Transportation 2050.

Ms. Raleigh added that the new corridor poses neighborhood traffic concerns.

Councilwoman O'Brien responded that she will follow up with Ms. Raleigh about her concerns.

10. Rajesh Das provided a comment requesting additional pickleball courts at Paseo Highlands Park to maintain growth and demand at the park.
11. Louise Sivils provided a comment requesting to update the exterior building of Cholla Library.

Councilwoman O'Brien thanked everyone for attending and concluded the hearing at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Pietrzykowsky  
Senior Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 4  
STEELE INDIAN SCHOOL PARK, MEMORIAL HALL  
APRIL 1, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

City Manager Ed Zuercher opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. and introduced Spanish-language interpreter Elsie Duarte. Ms. Duarte introduced herself and provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation during the hearing.

Mr. Zuercher noted the importance of City budget hearings, where to find additional information on the proposed 2026-27 Trial Budget, additional ways to provide budget feedback, and next steps in the budget process.

A short video on the proposed Trial Budget was played.

Councilwoman Pastor welcomed residents to the hearing and stated that she was at the meeting to listen to resident input and to advocate for residents.

Mr. Zuercher opened the floor for public comment.

1. Frank Urban advocated for residents with mental and physical disabilities that are experiencing homelessness. He shared his negative experience with police interactions at homeless encampments. He requested more day shelters to support disabled residents experiencing homelessness.
2. Erik Richardson shared his experience at the Safe Outdoor Space (SOS) campus. He requested more shelters such as the Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) and SOS for residents with disabilities.
3. Elizabeth Venable recognized positive procedural changes with the Police Department's handling of residents experiencing homelessness and the City's creation of over 1,600 indoor shelter beds in the past four years. She requested more individualized programming for residents experiencing homelessness and more community surveys to assess the needs of disabled residents.

Mr. Zuercher acknowledged the advocacy of Ms. Venable over many years and the impact it has had on the City's budget.

4. Rhonda Savage thanked the City for keeping shelters open. She advocated for more day shelters and heat respite centers in the downtown Phoenix area. She also requested more bottled water at shelter facilities.

Mr. Zuercher stated that the proposed budget includes \$1.5 million to keep the City's 24/7 heat respite site and three other extended hours cooling centers open.

5. Lee Ellis advocated on behalf of disabled individuals experiencing homelessness at the SOS campus. He stated there were only two handicap

accessible restrooms at the SOS campus and requested additional accessible bathrooms and shower facilities for disabled residents.

Councilwoman Pastor stated she would advocate for two more accessible bathrooms.

6. Tony Harris requested a misting system for the SOS campus to provide heat relief for residents. He shared his negative experience with mold and bacteria contaminated showers in the shelter. He also advocated for more day shelters and heat respite centers.

Mr. Zuercher explained that the showers at the SOS campus are cleaned six times per day and shared that the heat respite center at 20 West Jackson will open on May 1st.

7. Monica Barrientos requested a \$2M set aside in the budget for the creation of a Working Families Relief Fund to support the immigrant community.

Councilwoman Pastor stated that she does believe in some form of relief for the immigrant community. She explained the legal requirements that need to be followed for that type of program to be created.

8. Dori Vrenden requested additional funding for day shelters, heat respite centers, and housing. She emphasized the importance of preventative measures to stop the costly and traumatic effects of homelessness.

Mr. Zuercher explained that the City's Manager budget includes a \$20 million allocation of the surplus to address the issue of homelessness. It is in addition to the tens of millions of dollars the Council has already invested in affordable housing and other services she advocated for.

9. David Morgan advocated for assisted living facilities for special needs residents in and around shelters. He requested additional funding for housing assistance for the special needs community, including residents with mental and physical disabilities as well as the elderly.
10. Ginnie Ann Sumner spoke in support of additional funding for Police Department's Real Time Operations Centers (RTOC) and requested more police motorcycle officers and speed feedback signs. She requested that Street Transportation staff work more closely with residents on the installation of speed humps. She also requested more Park Rangers for security and mobile cameras in parks.
11. Tillie McKoy advocated for increased education programs for residents experiencing homelessness. She shared her positive experience with CASS shelter staff and requested that the City keep shelters open.

Mr. Zuercher confirmed that the proposed budget does have funding to keep shelters open.

12. Rahima thanked the Councilwoman for her vote to support the Community Transparency Initiative (CTI). She discussed various challenges facing the migrant community and advocated for \$2 million to be allocated to establish a Working Families Relief Fund.
13. Michele Smith thanked the City for preserving the Del Norte Historic Neighborhood. She also thanked Councilwoman Pastor for standing up for historic neighborhood residents at the Legislature. She spoke in support of the shade initiatives that the City has started and in support of water conservation efforts.
14. Tim Smith spoke about frequent flooding and high volumes of traffic that occur at the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Encanto Boulevard. He advocated for the installation of a traffic circle at the intersection with water harvesting features to conserve rainwater.
15. Sabrina Kernagis proposed that the City adopt a domestic violence code of conduct policy for all City funded organizations, increase investment in trauma informed response teams and survivor advocacy infrastructure, expand prevention programs, and build stronger oversight systems with survivor and community input. She also advocated for the establishment of a \$2 million Working Family Relief Fund.
16. Nicole Rodriguez advocated for increases in Fire Department staffing to reduce response times, more bus shelters throughout the City, increased investment in Vision Zero safety infrastructure (HAWK crossings, roundabouts, speed humps, etc.), and investment in public restrooms.
17. Ben Laughlin supported various aspects of the Trial Budget including investments in childcare, streetlights, programming for teens, and services for unsheltered individuals. He advocated for the establishment of a \$2 million Working Family Relief Fund.
18. Catrina Kohler expressed gratitude to the City and to Councilwoman Pastor for continued support of the arts community. She appreciated that there were no proposed budget cuts for the Office of Arts & Culture. She explained the \$450 million annual economic impact of the arts sector and how it supports 8,000 jobs in the community but represents less than 1% of the City's budget. She advocated for an increase in the budget for the Office of Arts & Culture.
19. Crystal Anderson shared her experience with homelessness and the various challenges she has faced. She expressed gratitude for the support she has received for herself and her dog at various shelters. She advocated for continued funding of shelters to keep them open.
20. Margaret Bauer advocated for more pedestrian safety measures in the area around Steele Indian School Park. She advocated for the City to study traffic patterns in the area and to update signage along 7th Avenue and 7th Street.

She also advocated for more day shelters, shade structures, and water availability for residents.

Mr. Zuercher confirmed that there is budget in the Street Transportation department for more HAWK signals, but acknowledged there was more demand than supply. He also explained the Chilled Drinking Fountain program that provides cold water to residents in multiple City locations.

21. AJ Marsden requested funding to implement the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Safety Corridor Plan. She also advocated for additional bike safety measures such as green paint markings along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue near Christown Mall. She requested an investment in technology for Fire and Police to reduce call service times and advocated for the City to focus on Victim Prevention instead of Crime Prevention.

Mr. Zuercher thanked residents for participating in the hearing.

Councilwoman Pastor thanked residents for attending the hearing and giving a voice to the issues in the community. She stated her support for more funding for the SOS campus and addressed various speakers' concerns about shelter closures. She explained that shelters will not be closing due to the end of American Rescue Plan Act funding because the cost of operating the shelters will now be shifting to the General Fund.

Councilwoman Pastor acknowledged the return on investment associated with funding for the arts. She agreed with the need for implementation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Safety Corridor Plan. She also agreed that technology is a need in the City for first responders and public safety. She explained the importance of water conservation in the City. She confirmed her support for the Community Transparency Initiative and the importance of listening to the community.

Councilwoman Pastor discussed the budget tabloid and requested clarification on funding, including how the funding was categorized. She described the set-asides in the proposed budget and asked whether the proposed \$5 million General Fund set-aside to address childcare affordability was new to the City. Mr. Zuercher confirmed the proposed set-aside was presented as part of the Trial Budget and that it is a new item for the City.

Councilwoman Pastor asked if the proposed \$1.5 million supplemental for Client Services in the Human Services Department fell under the Support for Children, Youth, and Families category and Mr. Zuercher confirmed that it did fall under that category.

Councilwoman Pastor encouraged residents to continue participating in the budget hearing process and adjourned the hearing at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Nguyen  
Senior Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 5  
MARYVALE COMMUNITY CENTER  
APRIL 2, 2026, 6:00PM**

Councilmember Betty Guardado opened the hearing at 6:13 P.M.

She stated the hearing will present options for the proposed fiscal year 2026-27 Trial Budget and summarized her office's recent district efforts and upcoming district developments. Councilmember Guardado also explained the hearing is for community feedback for consideration in the development of next year's budget. She welcomed City Manager Ed Zuercher and Deputy City Manager David Mathews.

Mr. Zuercher made opening remarks and introduced Spanish language interpreter, Florencia Seguezza, who then introduced her co-interpreter, Paulette Castillo. Ms. Seguezza also provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish interpretation during the hearing.

Mr. Zuercher briefly explained the 2026-27 Trial Budget and encouraged attendees to provide comments on the Trial Budget during the hearing. He requested staff play the budget videos in English and Spanish languages.

Councilmember Guardado opened the floor for public comment.

1. Bill Whitmire spoke in favor of more funding for community legal aid and flexible financial assistance and refugee crisis assistance aimed at preventing homelessness and stabilizing housing and food security for low-income individuals and families.
2. Evelynne Rodas Castillo spoke in favor of a right-to-counsel ordinance that ensures court representation for low-income tenants facing eviction. She also expressed support for \$12 million in funding for community legal aid, childcare, and flexible financial assistance and refugee crisis assistance aimed at preventing homelessness and stabilizing housing and food security for low-income individuals and families.
3. Teddy Block spoke in favor of more funding for tree planting and shade structures for heat relief.
4. Katarzyna Jarzabek spoke in favor of more funding for trees to deal with rising heat and for heat relief.

Councilmember Guardado asked staff from the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation to speak with concerned residents at the hearing. She briefly explained the City is working with Arizona's Senate delegation on federal heat-resistance legislation that would designate extreme heat as a declared, major natural disaster.

5. Aaron Lopez spoke in favor of more funding for electric public transit to improve air quality, reduce risk and help ensure that residents remain healthy, protected, and able to enjoy a better quality of life.
6. Jessica Bueno spoke in favor of more funding to complete streets in south and west Phoenix, increased tree shade canopies, and 100 percent free, safe, electric public transportation by 2035 for cleaner air. She expressed gratitude for including funding for family and youth programming and parks and recreation programs as well as the 2026-31 Preliminary Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget to improve parks, public transit and street infrastructure in south and west Phoenix.
7. Ariane Redding spoke in favor of a right-to-counsel ordinance that ensures court representation for low-income tenants facing eviction.
8. Andrea Luna Cervantes spoke in favor of funding a right-to-counsel program. She also expressed support for \$12 million in funding for community legal aid, childcare, eviction prevention, and flexible financial assistance and refugee crisis assistance aimed at preventing homelessness and stabilizing housing and food security for low-income individuals and families.
9. Michelle Ashton spoke in favor of funding a right-to-counsel program. She advocated for properly maintaining buildings and better response to concerns about projects the City creates such as affordable housing.
10. Rafael Aviles advocated for increased funding for programs that prevent family evictions and enhance housing security and access to childcare.
11. Magdalena Acosta spoke in favor of more funding for childcare and homelessness prevention.
12. Ariana Garcia spoke in favor of more funding for the Housing Trust Fund and a right-to-counsel program. She also expressed support for \$12 million in funding for community legal aid, childcare, eviction prevention, and flexible financial assistance and refugee crisis assistance aimed at preventing homelessness and stabilizing housing and food security for low-income individuals and families.
13. Michael Nydes spoke in favor of more funding for helping families in need, childcare, rental assistance, preventing evictions and homelessness. He suggested allocating some funds from graffiti management to affordable housing development and urged residents to report graffiti in progress.
14. Jesus Cervantes spoke in favor of allocating more funding to help low-income residents avoid evictions by providing eviction assistance, and affordable childcare.
15. Liliana Santoyo spoke in favor of more funding for affordable housing because she has seen families living in cars. She also expressed support for the

proposed \$12 million in funding for community legal aid, childcare, eviction prevention, and flexible financial assistance and refugee crisis assistance aimed at preventing homelessness and stabilizing housing and food security for low-income individuals and families.

16. Prayukta Meka spoke in favor of additional funding for tree shade and a tree plan, especially in low-income communities.
17. Gustavo Brambila expressed concern about unhoused individuals and more effective alley work around 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Camelback. He expressed support for encouraging homeowners to keep up with home maintenance.
18. Laura Torres spoke in favor of more funding for childcare support, youth and education programs, and healthcare affordability.
19. Leonard Pennock spoke in favor of more funding for proactive homeless prevention, eviction assistance, community legal aid, and flexible financial assistance because he affirmed such programs can help prevent homelessness.
20. Nor Sylva spoke in favor of more funding for shade trees, youth recreational and sports programs, housing programs to help unhoused individuals, and green areas near the downtown/Phoenix Sky Harbor area in District 8. She expressed concerns about the loss of resources that provided shade trees for single mothers in District 8, pool closure, youth employment programs, section 8 housing assistance, and unhoused individuals in parks.
21. Chetana Beegal spoke in favor of investment in electric transportation for a cleaner environment.
22. Sai Sri spoke in favor of increased funding for planting and maintaining more shade trees to help cool the environment and provide heat relief.
23. Marco Marcial expressed appreciation for the responsiveness of Councilmember Guardado for providing speedbumps and 1,500 gates for the district.
24. Tanmayi Muerza submitted a comment card in favor of trees to address air pollution.
25. Elise Mugabe submitted a comment card in favor of more trees.
26. Julian Zepeda submitted a comment card in favor of more measures to reduce extreme heat during the summer and options to make it cooler for walking.
27. Ana Loaiza submitted a comment card in favor of more trees and shade for youth in the south and west side.

28. Jasmin Loaiza submitted a comment card in favor of more shade in neighborhoods and investing in additional youth programs.

Councilmember Guardado stated more trees are needed. She thanked the community for participating and asked the community to keep providing feedback and advocacy.

Councilmember Guardado adjourned the hearing at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Siri  
Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 6  
DEVONSHIRE SENIOR CENTER  
April 6, 2026 at 8:30 AM**

City Manager Ed Zuercher opened the meeting at 8:33 AM with Councilman Kevin Robinson and Budget & Research Department Director Aaron Mertz present.

Mr. Zuercher introduced interpreter Mario Barajas, who introduced himself and co-interpreter Oscar Monroy in English and Spanish.

Councilman Robinson introduced himself and recognized and expressed thanks for the attendance of the eighth-grade students from the Sonoran Science Academy.

Councilman Robinson expressed the hearing as opportunities to see how the City works, how the budget is prepared for the next fiscal year, and for the City Council to obtain public input regarding their priorities, issues of concern and where greater emphasis could be placed. Councilman Robinson encouraged students and residents to make their questions or concerns known during the meeting, and that notes were being taken to reflect those questions and concerns. Councilman Robinson thanked and welcomed those attending and turned the meeting over to Mr. Zuercher.

Mr. Zuercher thanked Councilman Robinson. Mr. Zuercher described his responsibility to present to the City Council and the community a budget proposal for next year to continue existing services and evaluate potential additions based on available funding. Mr. Zuercher indicated the budget video would describe how additional available funds are proposed to be used and indicated the budget pamphlet and [phoenix.gov/budget](http://phoenix.gov/budget) website provide more information.

Mr. Zuercher thanked City staff in attendance, indicating they are available to respond to questions, acknowledged City staff who specifically came to be available to discuss trash pickup after the hearing, and indicated the City was evaluating the amount the City charges for trash pickup.

Mr. Zuercher indicated the hearing was being recorded and streamed on YouTube, asking those speaking to use the microphone, to speak for up to two minutes and to complete a comment card. Mr. Zuercher indicated the video would be played followed by public speakers.

A short video on the proposed Trial Budget was played.

Mr. Mertz opened the floor for public comment.

1. Ginnie Ann Sumner requested more traffic enforcement including more motor officers, street transportation studies of traffic flows into neighborhoods and alternatives to speed humps, traffic flow coordination preventing delays at intersections, a real-time operation center for Mountain View Precinct, and more park rangers, private security, and mobile cameras at City parks.

2. Joseph Dora requested \$400,000 in funding to train veterans service officers, indicating the City provides nothing in its budget specifically for veterans. Mr. Zuercher asked for elaboration about veteran service officers and training. Mr. Dora explained that veteran service officers assist veterans with obtaining benefits to which they are entitled. Mr. Zuercher indicated the City has numerous veteran preferences within its programs, which are not called out.
3. Fatuma Haji asked how the City of Phoenix could keep the City cleaner. Mr. Zuercher asked Samantha Tavares to respond. Ms. Tavares described various services provided by the Solid Waste Division. Mr. Zuercher described the Adopt-A-Street program and that some schools coordinate with neighborhood associations and the Neighborhood Services Department for clean-up opportunities.
4. Karen Kruse expressed thanks for support of the City's library systems, including the budget to expand the Cholla parking lot. Ms. Kruse described Friends of the Public Library support for library services, the historic designation of Acacia neighborhood, the Book Storm Program offering free books to teachers and librarians, an upcoming Wallace and Ladmo Day including a proclamation by the governor, a children's book drive sponsored by KUPD and Fulton Homes, and an event with the Diamondbacks and Avnet.

Councilmember Robinson asked whether any students present had additional questions.

Jason Washington asked how Phoenix will help homeless veterans. Councilman Robinson asked a representative of Office of Homeless Solutions ("OHS") to respond. Margaret Adams indicated OHS partners with other organizations, prioritizes veterans experiencing homelessness for shelter programs, provides City staff into the community to identify unsheltered individuals including veterans and connects veterans with shelters and veteran services for needed specialized support. Mr. Zuercher indicated that veterans have rights to services from the Veterans Administration and the City has staff to help veterans connect to those services. Mr. Zuercher noted the City budget includes \$20 million to continue homeless services, replacing expired federal funding. Ms. Adams added OHS works with the Department of Housing, which administers specialized ("VASH") housing subsidies helping end veteran homelessness and helping veterans retain housing.

Councilmember Robinson called for questions for other students – none responded. Mr. Robinson said he would speak with the students after the hearing.

Councilmember Robinson made announcements concerning Fire Station 13, expanded fire services to reduce response times, and improving fire safety for firefighters as top priorities. Mr. Robinson encouraged paying attention to developments associated with parks and other quality of life issues being addressed by the City.

Councilmember Robinson concluded the hearing at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott B. Greenberg  
Budget & Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 7  
DESERT WEST COMMUNITY CENTER  
APRIL 6, 2026 at 6:00PM**

Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer opened the hearing at 6:00 P.M.

She introduced Spanish language interpreter, Mario Barajas. Mr. Barajas introduced his co-interpreters Oscar Monroy and Elsie Duarte and provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation during the hearing.

Ms. Spencer introduced Councilmember Anna Hernandez.

Councilmember Anna Hernandez welcomed attendees and expressed appreciation for community feedback on the 2026-27 Trial Budget. She also thanked the District 7 team, Ms. Spencer and City staff for attending.

Ms. Spencer briefly explained that resident input on the Trial Budget is important and how residents can provide comments. She provided a summary of the budget approval timeline.

Councilmember Hernandez pointed out that Public Works Department staff were present to answer questions about the proposed solid waste fee increase.

Ms. Spencer asked staff to play the budget videos in English and Spanish languages.

Councilmember Hernandez opened the floor for public comment.

1. Jessica Bueno spoke in favor of increased funding for tree shade canopies, complete streets in south and west Phoenix, and free electric public transportation. She expressed appreciation for including youth, teens and families in the Trial Budget and added that the Capital Improvement Program is a major opportunity to improve parks, public transit, and street infrastructure in west and south Phoenix. She commended the creation of the Council District 7 Budget Fellowship.
2. Nicole Morales spoke in favor of increased funding for shade, shaded bus shelters, bike lanes, support for unsheltered residents and renters, electric public buses, small business support in Maryvale, and trees on city and private property.
3. Magdalena Marin spoke in favor of increased funding for youth programs, school psychologists, and college assistance programs. She also expressed support for more public transportation along McDowell Road and improved parks amenities like those in other cities.

4. Justin Capaz spoke in favor of increased funding to help working families such as programs for affordable housing and healthcare. He recommended a \$20 million working families relief fund that would not have work requirements with protection from federal immigration enforcement.
5. David Portugal spoke in favor of funding for a working families relief fund. He also advocated for funding for affordable youth recreation programs, trees, and free electric public transportation. He recommended future hearing presentations include a pie chart of the proposed Trial Budget.

Mr. Portugal also commended the creation of the Council District 7 Budget Fellowship.

6. Beatriz Rojas Perez spoke in favor of additional funding for shade, trees, and shaded walkways, especially in central, west and south Phoenix.
7. Johana Rojas Perez spoke in favor of increased funding for trees and shaded walkways to provide heat relief.
8. Ben Laughlin spoke in favor of increased funding for childcare and services for unhoused individuals. He also advocated for funding \$1 million for teen programs, with some allocation for the Jacob Michael Harris Foundation, and \$5 million for a flexible crisis relief/legal assistance fund.
9. Monica Barrientos spoke in favor of funding to support immigrants and teen programs, with an allocation to the Jacob Michael Harris Foundation. She also advocated for a right-to-counsel for renters facing eviction and establishing a \$5 million working families relief fund.
10. Reeb Menjivar spoke in favor of funding a \$5 million working families relief fund that would be available to all residents. She also advocated for approving a right-to-counsel ordinance for renters facing eviction.
11. Nancy Lam spoke in favor of funding \$5 million for a working families relief fund, immigrant legal services, and youth programs with an allocation to the Jacob Michael Harris Foundation.
12. Steffi Faircloth spoke in favor of funding a \$5 million working families relief fund.
13. Raul Moreno spoke in favor of funding more trees, shade, shaded bus shelters and pedestrian paths, and free electric public transportation.
14. Hector Gavina spoke in favor of investing in youth health, safety and education.
15. Jason Chavez spoke in favor of increased funding for economic relief for all regardless of immigration status and a \$5 million working families relief fund.

16. Lupe Mora spoke in favor of providing school psychologists. She also advocated for increased funds to help families in need of legal assistance due to federal immigration enforcement.
17. Ana Loaiza submitted a comment card in favor of funding for more shade structures and free electric public transportation.
18. Elizabeth Gavina submitted a comment card in favor of funding a working families relief fund and for more street lighting and cleaner energy in city parks.
19. Sofia Quezada submitted a comment card in favor of additional public transit and accessibility.
20. Esmeralda submitted a comment card in favor of funding greater access to higher education.

Councilmember Hernandez shared that there are additional budget hearings and encouraged attendance.

Ms. Spencer thanked everyone for attending.

Councilmember Hernandez adjourned the hearing at 7:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Genevieve Siri  
Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
SPANISH LANGUAGE  
MARYVALE COMMUNITY CENTER  
APRIL 7, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer opened the meeting at 6:06 p.m. and introduced interpreter Mario Barajas, Councilwoman Anna Hernandez, and Councilwoman Ann O'Brien. Mr. Barajas provided instructions for residents requiring English-language interpretation during the hearing.

Ms. Spencer requested the budget video presentation in Spanish to be played.

City Manager Ed Zuercher and Councilwoman Laura Pastor joined the meeting.

Councilwoman Hernandez opened the floor for public comment.

1. Juana Rita spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million from the City's budget to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of an individual's legal status.
2. Laura Rodriguez spoke in favor of allocating funding to provide financial support for working families who were being affected by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She stated the entire country was experiencing uncertainty, chaos, and disorder, and she urged the City to address the harm caused by the federal administration's actions.
3. Jessica Bueno spoke in opposition to the budget process, stating it lacked transparency and insufficient community involvement in its development.
4. Irma Pacheco stated that the \$1.5 million Human Services one-time funding to provide flexible financial assistance and refugee crisis assistance is insufficient and Council should consider increasing it.
5. Reeb Menjivar spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.
6. Stela Varela spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status. She also requested that part of the funding be used to establish a right-to-counsel program for tenants facing eviction, noting that many renters lacked legal representation and the community has been requesting this protection for more than three years.

7. Juana Elizarraras advocated for an improved transportation system with more shading, the need for housing assistance, and higher wages for low-paying jobs.
8. Esther Moreno did not wish to speak but requested additional security for the community.
9. Berta Rita did not wish to speak but advocated in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.
10. Elizabeth Gavina spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status. She requested support for immigrant families' basic needs regardless of legal status, a right-to-counsel ordinance for tenants facing eviction, increased funding for youth programs, and a reduction in surveillance devices in parks and neighborhoods.
11. Nancy Lam spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.
12. Yollanda Barrera spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.
13. Lupe Mora spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.
14. Maria Mora spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.
15. Angelina Flores spoke in favor of expanded medical assistance, particularly for individuals seeking disability or Social Security support. She also advocated for resources to help women navigate legal processes, such as divorce, and emphasized the importance of respecting the retirement age.
16. Steffi Faircloth spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.

17. Melina Fonseca spoke in favor of allocating \$5 million to a fund designed to support working families experiencing crises, including assistance with housing, economic relief, and migratory processes, regardless of the individual's legal status.
18. Guadalupe Garina did not wish to speak but expressed support for assistance with electric bills and the addition of water stations throughout the City for unhoused residents.

Councilwoman Hernandez adjourned the hearing at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dayana Rosas  
Management Fellow

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 3  
SUNNYSLOPE COMMUNITY CENTER  
APRIL 9, 2026 at 8:30 AM**

Councilwoman Debra Stark opened the meeting at 8:31 am.

Deputy City Manager Alan Stephenson introduced Spanish-language interpreters Elsie Duarte and Oscar Monroy. Ms. Duarte provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation during the hearing.

Councilwoman Stark welcomed everyone to the hearing and informed the audience that there are additional upcoming budget meetings.

Mr. Stephenson briefly explained the options for the public to provide input and get information on the Trial Budget.

A short video on the Trial Budget was played.

Councilwoman Stark requested that closed captions be added to the video and then opened the floor for public comment.

1. Monica Barrientos requested to dedicate \$5 million in the budget for the creation of a Working Families Relief Fund to support the immigrant community. She supports the additional funding provided in the trial budget for teen prevention programs and advocates for adding more funds to these programs. She also advocated for the City to pass a right-to-counsel ordinance for residents facing eviction.
2. Chris Locke congratulated the City on the improved services for heat relief and addressing homelessness. She spoke about disability issues and how it relates to homelessness.
3. Teresa Hill spoke about the amount of traffic accidents and crime on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She does not want any cuts to the Police budget and supports more crisis vans and mental health community assistance. She requested the use of comprehensive pavement maintenance in place of crack seal treatments.
4. Ginnie Ann Sumner spoke in support of additional funding for traffic management; park rangers, private security guards, and mobile cameras in parks; and the Office of Homeless Solutions Trial Budget request.
5. Lisa Bell spoke in support of additional funding to provide benefits for the refugee population.
6. Nancy Lam spoke about immigration enforcement concerns and requests an additional \$5 million to provide working families with legal representation in

immigration hearings, housing, food, and health care. She requested an additional \$1 million in funding for youth.

7. Justin Capaz spoke in support of additional funding for the relief of working families.
8. Adriana Garcia Maxmiliano spoke in support of the Children, Youth, and Families section of the budget and requests additional funding for those programs. She additionally requested speed mitigation measures along Mountain View Road.
9. Ben Laughlin supported various aspects of the Trial Budget including investments in childcare, programming for teens, and services for unsheltered individuals. He advocated adding an additional \$5 million to the Children, Youth, and Families section of the budget, and \$500,000 in teen prevention programs.

Councilwoman Stark provided closing remarks and adjourned the hearing at 9:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Heidinger  
Senior Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
SPANISH LANGUAGE  
SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CENTER  
APRIL 9, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

Assistant City Manager Ginger Spencer opened the meeting at 6:17 p.m. and introduced City Manager Ed Zuercher and Councilmember Anna Hernandez. Ms. Spencer introduced interpreter Elsie Duarte, who provided instructions for residents requiring English-language interpretation during the hearing.

Councilmember Hernandez thanked City employees and residents who have attended community budget hearings. She stated it is important for residents to communicate how they want City funds to be spent and indicated her office will continue to gather public feedback and ideas throughout this process.

Councilmember Hernandez requested the budget video to be played in Spanish.

Councilmember Hernandez indicated no public comments were submitted and adjourned the hearing at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Klich-Corbin  
Budget & Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COMMUNITYWIDE  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
APRIL 11, 2026 at 10:30 A.M.**

City Manager Ed Zuercher opened the meeting at 10:32 a.m. with Mayor Kate Gallego, Vice Mayor Hodge Washington, Councilwoman Ann O'Brien, Councilwoman Anna Hernandez, Councilwoman Laura Pastor, Councilwoman Debra Stark, Deputy City Manager Amber Williamson, and Budget and Research Director Aaron Mertz present. Mayor Gallego, Councilwoman Pastor, and Councilwoman Stark attended the meeting virtually.

Mr. Zuercher introduced Spanish-language interpreter Elsie Duarte. Ms. Duarte provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation during the hearing.

Mayor Gallego explained the importance of residents speaking at the budget hearings. Vice Mayor Hodge Washington thanked residents for taking the time to attend the meeting. Councilwoman Stark expressed her interest in hearing from residents. Councilwoman Pastor encouraged residents to speak at the hearing. Councilwoman O'Brien thanked staff for their work on the budget throughout the year. Councilwoman Hernandez mentioned this is an opportunity for residents to share their opinion. She highlighted the strong fiscal position the City of Phoenix is in thanks to staff.

Ms. Williamson thanked residents for speaking. She noted where to find information on the proposed 2026-27 Trial Budget, how to provide budget feedback, and next steps in the budget process.

A short video on the proposed Trial Budget was played.

Ms. Williamson opened the floor for public comment.

1. Alyse Hammonds spoke in favor of funding the Human Services Department for working families who may need assistance with rising costs of living. She noted that although some families may not be in an emergency situation, they may still need support with inflation and healthcare. She also spoke in opposition to a zero-dollar budget for the Office of Arts and Culture and the Public Works Department.

Mr. Mertz explained the items that have zero dollars allocated means the costs have already been covered in the department's existing budget.

The Councilmembers present made closing remarks and Mr. Zuercher adjourned the hearing at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecilia Alcantar  
Management Fellow

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2 & 3  
PARADISE VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER  
APRIL 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

City Manager Ed Zuercher opened the meeting at 6:00 pm and introduced Spanish-language interpreter Elsie Duarte. Ms. Duarte provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation during the hearing.

Mr. Zuercher introduced Councilmember Debra Starks and Councilmember Jim Waring, who provided opening remarks.

Mr. Zuercher noted where to find additional information on the proposed 2026-27 Trial Budget, how to leave a comment, and the next steps in the budget process.

A short video on the proposed Trial Budget was played.

Mr. Zuercher opened the floor for public comment.

1. Teresa Hill advocated to add transponders to fire emergency vehicles at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, and supports additional funding to continue decreasing fire response times. Ms. Hill requested to find other funding sources to decrease the proposed Solid Waste rate increases. She also requested periodic events to assist residents with resources for homeless solutions and eviction assistance. Ms. Hill supports the City's proposed plan related to medical treatment in parks.

Mr. Zuercher stated staff are currently pursuing transponders for fire vehicles at Sky Harbor. He also clarified on the proposed Solid Waste rates and inflation rates used. Mr. Zuercher added that the City currently has a 5-year plan for the Fire Department to expand services by building new stations and adding new positions.

2. Karen Kruse spoke in favor of library funding and services, and supports the parking lot expansion at Cholla Library. She also requested additional soccer fields across the City.

Mr. Zuercher provided closing remarks and noted that the next budget meeting will be held on May 5.

Councilmember Starks and Councilmember Waring adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susannah Pietrzykowsky  
Senior Budget and Research Analyst

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
COUNCIL DISTRICT 8  
SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
APRIL 15, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Deputy City Manager Alan Stephenson opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. and introduced interpreter Elsie Duarte and Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington. Ms. Duarte provided instructions for residents requiring English-language interpretation during the hearing.

Mr. Stephenson requested the budget video presentation to be played.

Vice Mayor Hodge Washington opened the floor for public comment.

1. Ginnie Ann Sumner requested funding to be allocated to neighborhood traffic solutions and resources for parks. Ms. Sumner expressed support for motorcycle police officers and further requested funding be set aside for an Office of Homeless Solutions representative to be present with medical providers and feeders permitted in parks.
2. Angela Florez spoke in favor of allocating extra funding to resources for the unsheltered community, heat mitigation, reliable public transit, and affordable housing.
3. Kristi McCann advocated for \$5 million to be set aside for childcare, \$1.5 million for flexible emergency financial assistance, \$1.5 million for heat relief, \$12.9 million for homeless services continuity with shelter operations, and the continuation of \$6.6 million toward the Housing Trust Fund. She also spoke in support of \$2.5 million toward the Master Lease program. She advocated for HeadStart to be expanded into schools without pre-kindergarten and additional funding for Community Action Officers.
4. Irma Pacheco requested additional shade, improved landscaping, more trees along 7th Ave, 7th Street, Broadway, and Southern and funding allocated to working families with higher electricity and water bills in South Phoenix.
5. Darren Jerick requested funding for the Right to Counsel program.
6. Andrea Luna Cervantes requested funding for the Right to Counsel program. She also requested an increase in funding from \$7 million to \$12 million for flexible financial assistance, refugee-crisis support and childcare; an increase to \$3 million for the Master Lease program; and infrastructure improvements near 7th Avenue and Grant, including sidewalks, lighting, and traffic-safety measures for both housed and unhoused neighbors.
7. Sky requested that additional funding be allocated to the Right to Counsel program, flexible financial assistance, Housing Trust Fund, Master Lease program and childcare.

8. Adriana Garcia advocated for additional funding to be allocated to the Master Lease program, flexible financial assistance, refugee crisis support and Housing Trust Fund. She also advocated for expansion of the eviction legal services through the Right to Counsel ordinance. Furthermore, she requested that these programs be structured as low-barrier, minimizing administrative hurdles.
9. Jessica Bueno advocated for a participatory budget and budget transparency as it relates to the General Fund, Enterprise Fund and Capital Improvement Project Funds. She also urged the Council to explore a transit bond to build out Bus Rapid Transit and Light Rail.
10. Callie Gregory did not wish to speak but favored increasing funding to neighborhood services for the homeless community.
11. Dylan Sage Knostomon did not wish to speak but opposed the current \$800 million allocated to the Phoenix Police Department and advocated for the funding to be allocated to other community programs.

Vice Mayor Hodge Washington stated she will continue to advocate for affordable housing and the Housing Trust Fund. She thanked City staff for the work being done.

Vice Mayor Hodge Washington adjourned the hearing at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Taniya Williams  
Management Fellow

**SUMMARY MINUTES  
COMMUNITY BUDGET HEARING  
CITYWIDE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
APRIL 16, 2026 at 6:00 PM**

City Manager Ed Zuercher opened the meeting at 6:03 pm. Mr. Zuercher introduced Spanish interpreter Mario Barajas. Mr. Barajas introduced himself and Elise Duarte, both of whom he said would provide interpretation services for the hearing. He provided instructions for residents requiring Spanish-language interpretation.

Mr. Zuercher explained the purpose of the budget hearing, introduced Vice Mayor Kesha Hodge Washington, and informed the audience that Councilwoman Debra Stark was attending virtually.

Vice Mayor Hodge Washington spoke about the importance of public input on the budget and thanked those in attendance and City staff.

Councilwoman Stark spoke about the importance of public input on the budget.

Mr. Zuercher then introduced Deputy City Manager Amber Williamson.

Ms. Williamson briefly explained the options on how to get information on the Trial Budget and how to speak at the budget hearing.

A short video on the Trial Budget was played at 6:07 pm.

Mr. Zuercher opened the floor for public comment at 6:15 pm.

1. Jessica Bueno spoke about the need to make the budget process more transparent. She also spoke in favor of increased funding to address potential disruptions caused by light rail construction in Maryvale.
2. Emily Sanchez spoke in favor of adding more green spaces to address the dangers of extreme heat.
3. Julian Zepeda spoke in favor of free electric public transit to make the City safer and cleaner.
4. Andrea Luna Cervantes spoke in support of assistance to struggling working families. She requested a right-to-counsel ordinance be passed, a \$5 million increase to the flexible financial assistance budget, and to increase the master lease pilot program budget to \$3 million.
5. Sasha Robinson advocated for fencing to be installed along a state-owned property in her neighborhood to address crime and homeless issues.

6. Adriana Garcia Maximiliano spoke in support of the Children, Youth, and Families section of the budget and requested \$5 million in additional funding for the flexible financial assistance budget.
7. Ana Loaiza spoke about the positive impact of youth involvement at public hearings.
8. Noellee Lewis spoke in favor of providing legal representation during eviction court proceedings and additional water fountains for the homeless.
9. Knor Silva advocated for more shade trees. She spoke about her concerns with homeless people in alleys and empty lots in her neighborhood. She advocated for more youth programs.
10. Connie Phillips spoke about refugee resettlement programs. She advocated a \$3 million increase to set-aside funding or refugee resettlement assistance.
11. Devaughn Robinson spoke in favor of additional funding for refugee resettlement assistance.
12. Mastaani spoke in favor of a \$3 million increase in refugee resettlement assistance.
13. Kevin Groman spoke in support of funding for refugee resettlement support programs.
14. Oleksander S. spoke about the challenges of finding stable employment as a refugee and requested an increase in funding for refugee resettlement assistance programs.
15. Immaculee F. spoke about the challenges of being a refugee.
16. Lajoie M. spoke of the challenges of finding employment as a refugee and requested an increase in the budget for refugee assistance.
17. Aziz B.'s testimony was read, which described the experiences of being a refugee while having cancer and being unable to receive SNAP benefits.
18. Naomi B. advocated an increase to the refugee resettlement assistance budget.
19. John Niyaonzima spoke about the struggles of affording rent and advocated to increase the refugee assistance budget from \$1.5 million to \$4.5 million.
20. Sade Omidiji spoke about the need for additional resources for refugees and requested an additional \$3 million in the budget for the refugee assistance programs.

21. Cynthia Graber advocated \$2.5 million to fund real-time camera monitoring to prevent crime. She also requested \$150,000 to analyze and review the release of repeat criminal offenders along the 19<sup>th</sup> avenue corridor between Camelback Road and Dunlap Avenue.
22. Suzanne Day spoke in support of setting aside funds for maintenance and expansion of protected bicycle lanes. She also requested that motor vehicle speed limits be enforced and reduced on streets with bicycle lanes.
23. Bill Whitmire spoke about housing affordability and advocated additional funding for the housing trust fund. He requested \$12 million in funding for community legal services, flexible financial assistance, refugee services, and a right-to-counsel program. He spoke against the Parks medical and food distribution ordinance being considered by the City Council.
24. Anne Ender requested funding to conduct research into Phoenix Police staffing issues. She asked where the \$1 million for Community Transparency Initiative legal services is located in the budget. She requested a \$150,000 to fund an analysis of the release of repeat criminal offenders along the 19<sup>th</sup> avenue corridor and additional funding for real-time camera monitoring.
25. Melody Moss advocated fencing to be installed along a state-owned property in her neighborhood to address crime and homeless issues.
26. Mary Kaech spoke about issues facing the refugee community. She requested additional funding of \$3 million to be added to the budget to address these problems.
27. Elise Mugabe spoke about the dangers of extreme heat and about the need to have more trees and shade in the City. She also spoke in favor of implementing affordable or free electric public transportation.

Mr. Zuercher thanked everyone for attending and City staff. He provided information on the next steps in the budgeting process.

Vice Mayor Hodge Washington expressed her gratitude to all the residents who attended and spoke at the budget hearing.

Councilwoman Stark thanked those who spoke at the budget hearing and thanked City staff.

Mr. Zuercher concluded the hearing at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Heidinger  
Senior Budget and Research Analyst

**VOICEMAIL, ELECTRONIC, AND WRITTEN BUDGET COMMENTS  
March 1, 2026 – May 7, 2026, AND SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS**

Emails

1. Leanna Lonski sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
2. Lisa Nathan sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
3. Judy Whitehouse sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
4. Robin Cusick sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
5. Mary Ann Maher sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
6. Monica Goddard sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
7. Mary Lee sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
8. Wayne Turner sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
9. Barbara Fenzi sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
10. Andrew Miller sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
11. Catherine Colbert sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
12. Robbie Bhattarai sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
13. Lois Flynn sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
14. MaryAnn Johnson sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
15. Ivy Gerbis sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
16. Wendy Waither sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
17. Elizabeth Douglas sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
18. Sharon Denny sent an email in support of continued funding to the library.
19. Zaneta Alexander sent an email in support of funding to assist residents with housing.
20. Destyn Letcher sent an email in support of funding to the Historic Preservation Office.
21. Susan Nasrazadani sent an email in support of funding for Office of Arts & Culture.
22. Jake Williams sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.
23. Goerge (Kip) Sudduth sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.
24. Heidi Dauphin sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.

25. Christen Carns sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.
26. Claire Warden sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.
27. David Adams sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.
28. Christine Lester sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.
29. Jaye Nelson sent an email in support of funding for the Office of Arts & Culture.
30. Elena Martinovici sent an email in support of funding for mosquito fogging.
31. Teresa Hill sent an email in support of funding for crisis vans, mental health community assistance and additional security at homeless shelters.
32. Mary Kaech sent an email in support of funding for a relief fund for refugee and immigrant families.
33. Carrie Vaughn sent an email in support of funding for a relief fund for refugee and immigrant families.
34. Wendy Schultz sent an email in support of funding for a relief fund for refugee and immigrant families.
35. LeAnn Allgood sent an email in support of funding for a relief fund for refugee and immigrant families.
36. Helen Ryan sent an email in support of funding for a relief fund for refugee and immigrant families.
37. Robert Sarussi sent an email in support of additional funding for safety infrastructure at Hance Park to include additional Park Rangers.
38. Margaret Dietrich sent an email in support of additional funding for safety infrastructure at Hance Park to include additional Park Rangers.
39. Brian Kruckenberg sent an email in support of additional funding for safety infrastructure at Hance Park to include additional Park Rangers.
40. Heather Fahay sent an email in support of additional funding for safety infrastructure at Hance Park to include additional Park Rangers.
41. Chris Genung sent an email in support of additional funding for safety infrastructure at Hance Park to include additional Park Rangers.
42. Krystian Sosinski sent an email in support of additional funding for safety infrastructure at Hance Park to include additional Park Rangers.
43. Suzie Colace sent an email in support of additional funding to create more family friendly wellness activities in South Phoenix, specifically an indoor walking path and additional toddler classes offered by the Park Department.

44. John Walker sent an email in support of additional funding to continue to make the streets safer for cyclists.
45. Jeremy Maldonado sent an email in support of additional funding to the Parks Department to maintain and clean up the hiking trails.
46. Jennifer Flores sent an email and letter in support of funding for HAWK Traffic Signals for Camelback and 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Ms. Flores would also like to see the city committed to funding for safety designs and active cameras monitoring the transit route along the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor that isn't strictly tied to police precincts due to staffing. She would also like to see blighted and chronic problem properties on the path of the light rail be cleaned up or demolished before construction on the new light rail extension begins. Ms. Flores would also like to see the Office of Homeless Solutions (OHS) and the Phoenix Police Department separate their reporting in zip code 85015. The letter is attached.
47. Cynthia Graber sent an email in support of the city setting aside \$150,000 in the FY2026-27 budget to fund an independent study on judicial release practices affecting repeat offenders along the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor. Ms. Graber also supports allocating funding to expand real-time operations capability connected to Community Safety Partnership (CSP) along the light rail corridor to strengthen safety, improve response times and protect residents who depend on public transportation.
48. Christina Focht sent an email in support of comprehensive traffic safety infrastructure for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridors. Ms. Focht would also like the city to demolish nuisance properties, add monitored surveillance that ties to Mountain View precinct and stop relocating high-risk populations into existing Community Safety Plan corridors, specifically the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor. She would also like to request the city use capital funds to correct severe heat, right-of-way (ROW) and public safety infrastructure gaps along the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor.
49. AJ M sent an email in support of funding for the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor safety project, green painted poles for bike rider safety at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Osborn to Bethany Home Road, updated technology for first responders and crime prevention programs.
50. Michelle Perkins sent an email in support of funding for speed hump installation, additional streets lights and police technology, specifically cameras and plate readers, along 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Interstate 17, from Orangewood to Glendale Avenues.
51. Marie Galletti sent an email in support of funding to maintain existing low-water trees as well as plant thousands more trees to beautify the City of Phoenix.
52. Leisa McDonald with the Matthew House emailed a letter in support of additional funding for refugee and immigrant families. The Letter is attached.

## Voicemails

There have been no budget comments left through voicemail.

## **Social media statistics from March 1 to May 7, 2026:**

Statistic totals are from City of PHX Facebook (English/Spanish), Twitter (English/Spanish), Instagram and Nextdoor:

- 59 Posts
- 51,435 Impressions
- 336 Engagements
- Flowpage (Trial Budget)
- 257 Pageviews

14 City of Phoenix YouTube

- 1,401
- 17 Likes

## **Advertising statistics from March 19 to May 7, 2026:**

Statistic totals are from Cox Media advertising for online ads, streaming ads, and television ads (English/Spanish):

- 595,138 Impressions (display and streaming)

Respectfully submitted,

Kari Lambert  
Administrative Assistant II

**Dear Mayor Gallego, City Manager, and City Council,**

As you finalize the trial budget, I strongly urge you to allocate capital funding to the Street Transportation Department for Right-of-Way (ROW) engineered shade infrastructure along the 19th Avenue corridor. Do not forget the dangerous intersections at 15th Ave & W Camelback and 17th Ave & W Camelback, which experience traffic and pedestrian accidents and fatalities. While temporary cooling centers are vital, our neighborhood requires long-term infrastructure to remain livable and economically vibrant.

The 2008 light rail expansion replaced our mature shade canopy with a massive footprint of concrete and asphalt. Today, these intersections are severe micro-heat islands, making the daily transit experience grueling—and often dangerous—for riders including **senior citizens, the disabled, and school aged children** during our hottest months.

Therefore, I am specifically requesting budget priority to engineer concrete tree wells, curb bump-outs, and enhanced traffic calming and safety measures along N 19th Ave (3000 to 7000 blocks, Zip Code 85015):

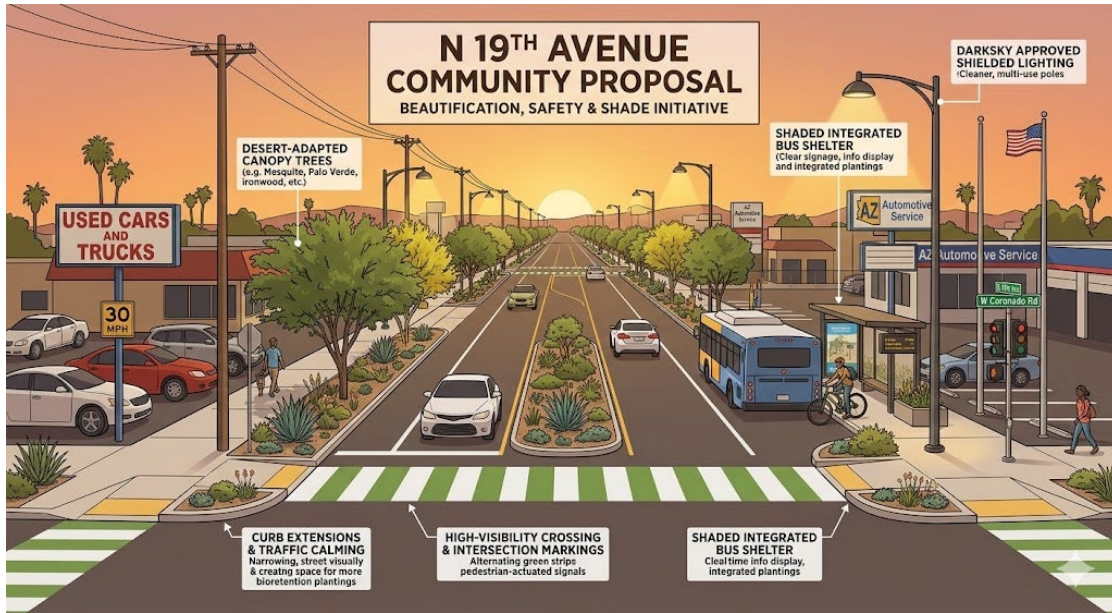
- **Expanded Desert Canopy:** Installation of desert-adapted shade trees (such as Desert Willows) to reduce the urban heat island effect.
- **Enhanced Median Plantings:** Native landscaping to improve air quality and safety without obscuring traffic, bike, or pedestrian visibility.
- **Community Assets:** Support for mixed-use owner-occupied developments and community hubs—Community-Centered Food Hub, a new Phoenix International District senior center, and indoor recreational space—while strictly protecting the Pierson Garden that sits adjacent to the 19th Ave & W Camelback Park & Ride.
- **Cultural Identity:** Inclusion of culturally representative public art and signage for the International District to celebrate our history and foster economic growth.
- **Safe Transit Nodes:** Integration of HAWK pedestrian crossing signals, [DarkSky \[darksky.org\]](https://darksky.org) approved upgraded lighting, and high-visibility intersection markings at key light rail and bus stops. By implementing standards from this globally recognized organization headquartered in Arizona, we ensure safe, multi-modal access for all residents while effectively eliminating light trespass and reducing glare in the surrounding neighborhood.

This project supports the City's Vision Zero commitment and addresses a critical Heat Equity gap for transit riders, including school age children, who suffer from extreme exposure in this corridor. Investing in these "cool corridor" improvements now will provide a clear economic return through increased walkability, ridership, and improved local property values.

Thank you for your commitment to a cooler, safer, and more walkable Phoenix.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Flores, Resident, Westown Amended Neighborhood Association

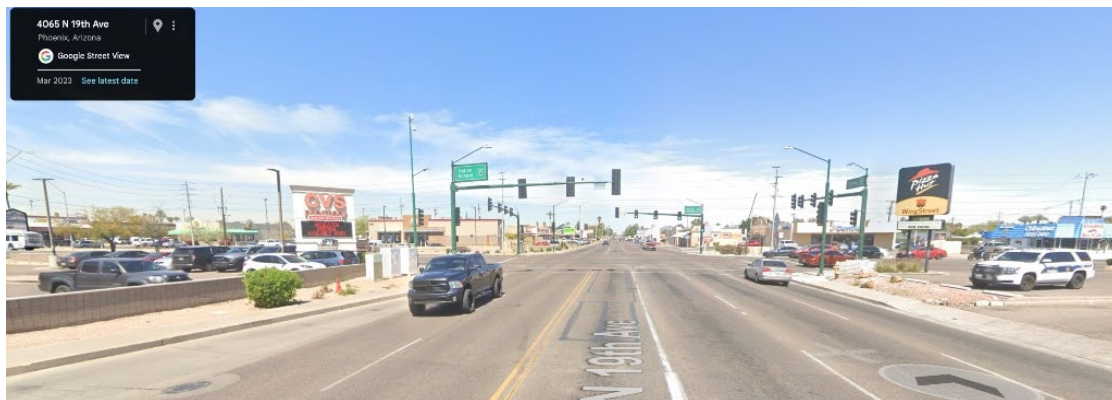


## Current State

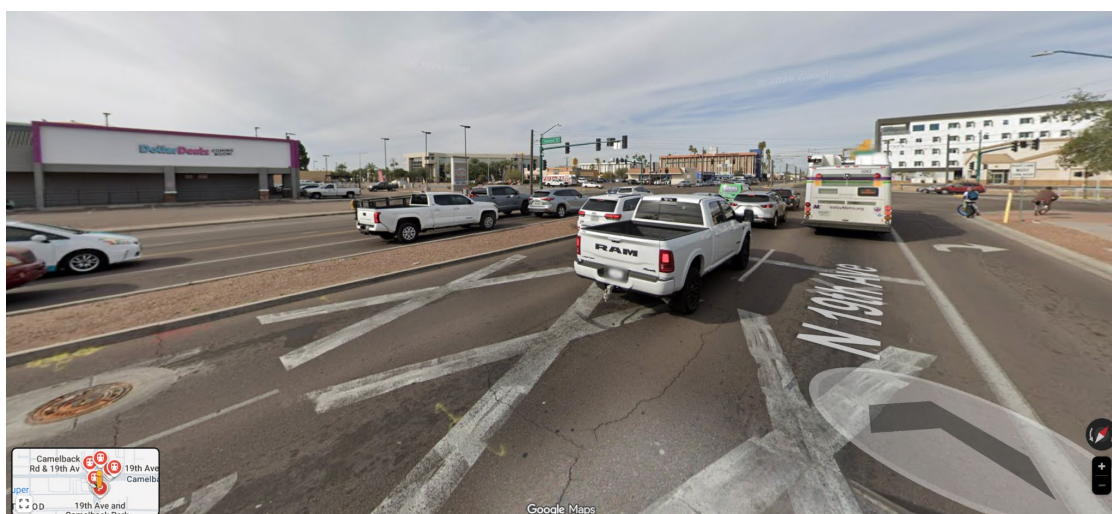
19th Ave & W Campbell

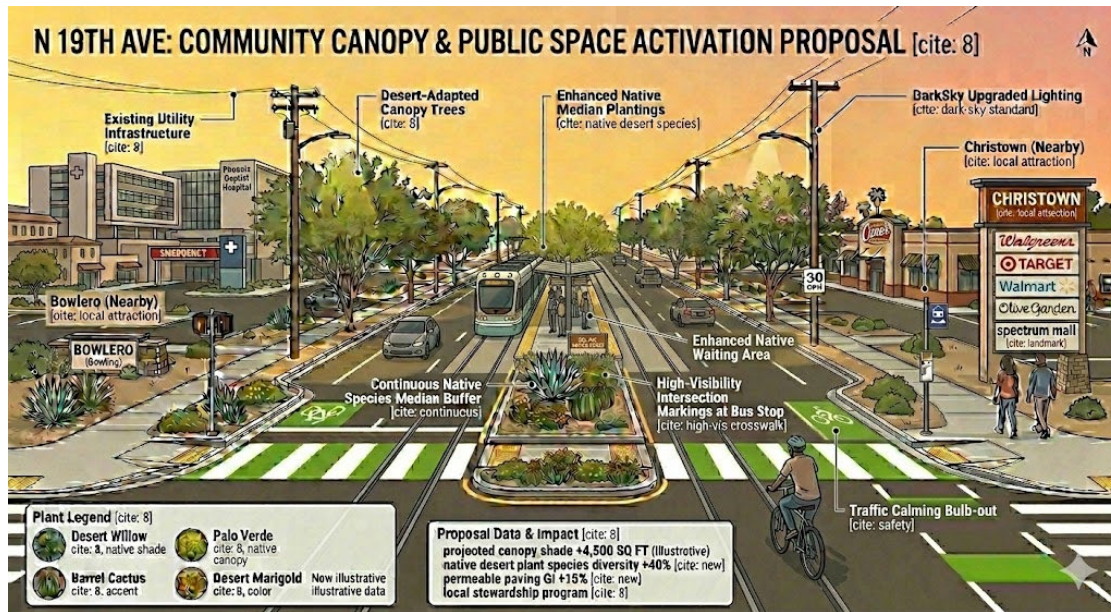


# 19th Ave & W Indian School Road



# 19th Ave & W Camelback Road







# MATTHEW HOUSE

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April 14, 2026

Honorable Mayor and Phoenix Council Members,

My name is Leisa McDonald and I am the Executive Director of Matthew House AZ Inc, a local nonprofit organization working with the refugee and immigrant community. Our organization partners with local resettlement agencies and community organizations to providing housing support, employment support and education for newly arrived refugee and immigrant families. While our primary focus is on families in the East Valley, we work with families across the city of Phoenix, particularly those in Ahwatukee and areas around the airport and north of Tempe.

I'm writing today to ask for increased investment in Client Services on behalf of these communities. As we work with refugee and immigrant community members, we are reminded of the challenges they face coming to the United States. They work hard to contribute to our cities and desire to have lives that are secure, stable and meaningful. Since 2022, this has become more and more challenging with rental costs rising and everyday expenses increasing. Additionally, many have lost their food stamp and AHCCCS benefits due to increased paperwork requirements or simply not having a green card yet with the process on pause.

Families are struggling to make ends meet and need resources to help them navigate changes to policies that impact their daily lives. Increasing funding that focuses on flexibility of how funds can be used to best support families along with the case management required to help families navigate policies and institutions is critical for these families to succeed.

Our organization launched in 2021 and we have witnessed firsthand the increasing challenges families are facing. They left untenable circumstances in their home countries only to be faced with support services being removed before they are fully stabilized in the U.S. Our families desire to be good neighbors, contribute to their communities, but they face barriers and need support to do so. Additional funding for these support services can ensure success for all of our communities.

Kind Regards,

Leisa McDonald  
Executive Director

Matthew House AZ Inc

[lmcdonald@matthewhouseaz.org](mailto:lmcdonald@matthewhouseaz.org)