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## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT BUDGET ANALYST REPORT

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**Date Issued:** January 15, 2009

**IBA Report Number:** 09-3

**Budget and Finance Committee Date:** January 21, 2009

**Item Number:** 2

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# Update on Community Budget and Finance Committee Meetings

At the first meeting of the new Budget and Finance Committee on January 7, 2009, the IBA reviewed the FY 2010 Legislative Budget Process and Calendar. We also discussed how the previous City Council had developed its Budget Priorities Resolutions for the past three years as part of the change to the Strong Mayor/Strong Council form of government. Questions were raised and discussion ensued around the following:

- Is there a more effective means in which to convey Council priorities to the Mayor?
- Is there a way that the public could be engaged in the discussion of budget priorities in advance of the Mayor developing his budget?

Chairman Tony Young expressed his strong desire for the Budget and Finance Committee to host a series of community meetings with the Mayor's Office during the month of February to discuss the City's budget challenges with residents. The IBA and Council members discussed various ways to effectively involve residents at these meetings in a process to prioritize City services, so that results could be compiled and utilized by the Mayor and the Council throughout the budget process. There was discussion and consensus that earlier community input in the budget process would be a more effective way to influence the budget during its development, and increase chances that it would reflect community service priorities.

### Proposed Community Meeting Schedule

Since the January 7 meeting, Chairman Tony Young has worked with Committee members to identify additional committee meeting times for these early budget hearings. The meetings have been established as shown in the following table, and the Council will be asked to amend the 2009 Legislative Calendar accordingly on Monday, January 27, 2009.

<b>Proposed Dates</b>	<b>Times</b>
Friday, January 30, 2009	2 pm -5 pm
Wednesday, February 4, 2009	6 pm -8 pm <i>(replaces morning meeting that day)</i>
Saturday, February 14, 2009	9 am - Noon
Saturday, February 21, 2009	9 am -Noon
Thursday, February 26, 2009	6 pm -8 pm

Specific locations are being identified, working with the appropriate Council offices.

### Proposed Community Meeting Format

The community meeting format being contemplated includes introductory remarks by the Mayor or his executive staff, Chairman Young and other members of the Committee as well as an overview of the City's current budget challenges, along with a citizen input session and citizen participation in a survey with a focus on prioritization of City services. We also propose putting this survey on the City's website to reach a greater audience.

Survey instruments are in the preliminary drafting stages and more input is welcomed from Committee members and Mayoral staff. Attached for your review are some preliminary questions and formatting options. Attachment 1 sample survey takes the approach of ranking key services within each department. The sample survey in Attachment 2 takes a different approach of ranking and evaluating a range of services across the City spectrum.

### Revised Legislative Budget Calendar

We have revised the FY 2010 Budget Process Key Dates (Attachment 3) to reflect the community hearings proposed for the month of February as well as to add key dates relative to negotiations with City labor organizations as requested by Councilmember

DeMaio. We added Monday, January 12, 2009 as the beginning of the labor negotiations process and Wednesday, April 15, 2009 as the date by which the Council shall introduce a Salary Ordinance per City Charter. Monday, June 15, 2009 was also added as the date by which the Council must hold two public hearings to consider the Mayor's budget and pass a resolution to either approve or modify, also as required by the City Charter.

**[SIGNED]**

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Attachments:

- 1) "San Diego Speaks" Survey – Ranking Department Services - *Draft*
- 2) "San Diego Speaks" Survey – Prioritizing City Services - *Draft*
- 3) Revised FY 2010 Budget Process Key Dates