

# Statement on FY2027 Budget Vote

Yesterday, City Council approved the FY2027 Budget after months of difficult conversations and even harder choices.

I want to thank all the residents that spent time engaging and making your voices heard throughout this budget process. Your voice does matter.

As I said during yesterday's Council meeting: even in a deficit, we cannot lose our moral compass.

I'm proud this budget restores **Arts and Culture**, protects **Library and Parks & Recreation** services in historically under-resourced communities, preserves the **Youth Drop-In Centers** and **No Shots Fired** funding, and secures **\$2 million** for **storm channel clearing**, a major investment in long-overdue infrastructure for our communities.

Equity cannot just be something we talk about. It needs to shape our decisions and investments.

I am disappointed that Flock ALPR funding remained in the budget. Throughout this process, I made it clear that we should not prioritize millions to a contractor willing to cross ethical lines, share data, and one with reliability concerns, especially while **libraries** and **recreation centers** faced reductions.



# Statement on FY2027 Budget Vote Continued...

As a direct result of their business practices and concerns about misuse, Flock has been rejected or canceled by over 60 cities nationwide. Our residents **deserve investments** that **strengthen community**, not surveillance. It is unfortunate, and telling, that five of my colleagues do not agree.

I will continue pushing for **transparency, accountability**, and making sure public dollars reflect the values and priorities of all the residents we serve.

There is still work ahead to address the structural deficit and strengthen public trust.

And to District 4, my home: everything I do in this role comes back to one question; **what is in the best interest of our community**. I will continue fighting to make sure our neighborhoods receive the investment, opportunity, and attention they deserve.

- Henry L. Foster III,  
June 10, 2026

