



**COUNCIL PRESIDENT TODD GLORIA
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 6, 2014
TO: Honorable Councilmembers
FROM: Council President Todd Gloria
Chair, Budget & Government Efficiency Committee
SUBJECT: Call for Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Priorities

As I continue chairing the City Council's Budget and Government Efficiency Committee, I look forward to working with each of you to deliver a balanced and responsible budget to our citizens.

Charter § 265(b)(14) requires the Mayor to propose a budget to the City Council and the public by April 15 of each year. The City Council will then hold a series of public hearings prior to adopting or modifying the budget and returning it to the Mayor. Before the start of that process, the City Council will formally adopt, by resolution, its budgetary priorities for submission to the Mayor.

As we begin the Fiscal Year 2015 budget process, I encourage us to be cautious and again keep an eye toward fiscal restraint. It is essential that we maintain and protect core City services provided to our citizens, while developing additional long term solutions to address the projected deficit outlined in the most recent Five-Year Financial Outlook.

In order to facilitate the Council's adoption of recommendations for the Mayor to consider, **I ask that each Councilmember submit a list of budget priorities to Independent Budget Analyst Andrea Tevlin no later than the close of business on Friday, January 17, 2014.**

Your response to this request will allow the IBA to develop a report that will ultimately guide the development of the Council's Budget Priorities Resolution. A draft Budget Priorities Resolution will be considered by the Committee on January 29 and ultimately be voted upon by the City Council on February 4.

I ask that we all keep in mind the additional detail that was made available in this year's Five-Year Financial Outlook, as well as the IBA's review of this important document. This report is much more user friendly, comprehensive, and above all, transparent, which we hope will be very helpful in writing these Budget Priority Memos. Please include the same level of detail outlined in these reports, and reference specific dollar amounts where provided. In addition, please include information on priorities that may not have been included in the Outlook or IBA analysis. In particular, prioritization of federal, state, and local mandates, and specifically our public safety dollars, will be critical to making the tough spending decisions necessary for implementing a balanced budget.

The [City's Budget Policy](#) should also be kept in mind; for any proposed service restorations, please identify corresponding funding sources and uses. Potential new revenue sources are also encouraged; implementation of holistic, long-term remedies is favored over short-term funding sources to fund ongoing expenses. We have a lot of hard work and difficult decision-making ahead of us as we move through the process. I have great confidence that we will join together to continue to strengthen the fiscal integrity in our City.

I look forward to working with you, the management team, and our neighbors to develop a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2015, and I urge us all to consider these critical issues as we consider policy commitments throughout the year.

Again, please submit your priorities to the IBA by close of business on Friday, January 17, 2014. Please send your memos directly to the IBA. DO NOT mass distribute or copy your Council colleagues on your correspondence at this time. You may also feel free to contact my Committee Consultant, Jessica Lawrence, at (619) 236-7787 about the requested memorandum and/or any matter concerning the Committee.

TG:jl

Electronic references:

1. Fiscal Year 2015 – 2019 Five-Year Financial Outlook; http://www.sandiego.gov/fm/pdf/fy15_5year.pdf
2. IBA's Review of the Interim Mayor's Financial Outlook for FY 2015 – 2019; <http://www.sandiego.gov/iba/reports/reports13.shtml>
3. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Process Key Dates; <http://www.sandiego.gov/iba/pdf/fy2015.pdf>
4. City's Budget Policy; <http://www.sandiego.gov/fm/pdf/BudgetPolicy.pdf>

cc: Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Scott Chadwick, Chief Operating Officer
Mary Lewis, Chief Financial Officer