



# Community Forum Results

On January 21, 2012, the City of Bell held a bi-lingual Community Forum as one of many ways it plans to meaningfully involve the community in the goal-setting and budget process for the coming fiscal year (2012-13).

The Forum was attended by about 50 participants. After a welcome from the Mayor and short presentations on the purpose of the forum and overview of the City’s fiscal condition, participants formed small break-out groups to answer the question: “what are the most important, highest priority things for the City to accomplish in the coming year?”

Each group discussed this topic and arrived at a consensus on their group’s “top five” budget priorities. These were “reported-out” to all the participants. Summaries of these results were prepared in English and Spanish. All participants were then given five dots to “vote” on their top priorities. The results of “voting with dots” are summarized on the next page.

## NEXT STEPS

The Council will hold a goal-setting workshop on Saturday, January 28, 2012, where they will develop preliminary budget priorities for 2012-13. In developing priorities, the Council will consider a wide variety of factors, including the progress on the City’s existing work program (see attached), the City’s resource constraints and the Community Forum results.

After the goal-setting workshop, there will be additional opportunities for community involvement and refinement of priorities as the budget process goes forward. It is important to remember that goal-setting is the beginning of the budget process, not the end. Budget adoption will not occur until June 2012, following issuance of the Preliminary Budget and extensive budget workshops and hearings. The following are remaining key dates in the 2012-13 budget process:

When	What
February 22, 2012. <i>Special Budget Workshop</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Budget and Fiscal Policies.</b> Consider fiscal policies that form the foundation for effective financial decision-making.</li> <li>• <b>Five-Year General Fund Fiscal Forecast.</b> Review the City’s long-term fiscal outlook.</li> <li>• <b>Mid-Year Budget Review.</b> Consider the City’s fiscal status at the mid-point of the fiscal year and make appropriation adjustments as needed.</li> </ul>
March 17 or 31, 2012 (To be determined) <i>Special Budget Workshop</i>	<b>Strategic Budget Direction.</b> Conceptually approve budget-balancing framework for 2012-13 and approach to responding to major city goals in the Preliminary Budget; and other budget direction as needed.
May 25, 2012	<b>Preliminary Budget.</b> Receive 2012-13 Preliminary Budget.
June 6, 2012 <i>Special Budget Workshop</i>	<b>Budget Workshop.</b> Review the Preliminary Budget.
June 13, 2012 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	<b>Budget Workshop.</b> Continue to review the Preliminary Budget; respond to questions and request for information from the June 6 workshop
June 27, 2012 <i>Regular Meeting</i>	<b>Budget Adoption.</b> Hold final hearings and adopt the budget.

## Community Forum Results

### Voting with Dots

Budget Priority	"Dot" Votes
1. Maintain/expand local Police Department: community-based, training, personnel (5)	32
2. Review salary structure (including Police)	20
3. Maintain/improve recreation programs: youth, senior programs (4)	15
4. Economic development: better local services, better tax base, tourism, better permitting, attraction and retention of businesses (including large businesses) (5)	14
5. No new taxes (2)	13
6. Maintain/improve neighborhood quality: code enforcement, parking, trash (2)	11
7. Attract high quality staff	10
8. Maintain best possible public safety regardless of City or contract (2)	10
9. Public Works maintenance: streets, street bumps, etc (2)	8
10. Improve customer service: respect, clarity, training, permitting (3)	8
11. Eliminate City Charter	8
12. Pension reform (2)	7
13. Traffic enforcement/traffic safety analysis and implementation (2)	6
14. Revitalize abandoned buildings	4
15. Differentiate long-term vs short-term budget priorities	3
16. Fair taxes (comparable to services) (2)	2
17. Restore City credit/increase reserves	1
18. Restructure staff organization to increase efficiency	1
19. Graffiti abatement (3)	1
20. Increased audits/internal controls	1
21. Hire grant writer	0
22. Share services with other cities	0
23. Transparent budget process	0
24. Reduce vandalism and gang activity	0
25. More oversight of vendors	0

### Notes

1. There were eight tables. The number of tables that identified similar priorities are noted in parenthesis.
2. One table suggested that enhanced citizen involvement and engagement be a priority goal. While this suggestion was not transferred to the master voting list, this goal is already an adopted high priority of the City Council and is being implemented in a number of ways (including as a part of this budget process).
3. All of the ideas generated by the tables have been retained and are available from the City upon request.

**CITY OF BELL**

**STATUS OF PRIORITY OBJECTIVES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL ON  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011**

At the City Council meeting of September 14, 2011, the Council directed the interim Chief Administrative Officer to pursue priority objectives for the 2011-12 Fiscal Year. The following table summarizes the status of these objectives as of January 23, 2012

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Status</b>
Prevent or minimize further tax increases for general obligation bond debt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GO Bond Workout Plan approved by Council on 12/14/11</li> <li>• Plan to be implemented by end of March-2012</li> <li>• Plan will avoid significant increase in 2012 GO Bond Levy</li> </ul>
Request proposals for transit, public works and engineering services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New City Engineer selected on 12/13/11</li> <li>• Community meeting on Transit held Jan. 4, 2012</li> <li>• Transit RFP approved by Council January 11, 2012.</li> <li>• Public Works maintenance services RFP under development</li> <li>• Selected graffiti removal contractor January 11, 2012.</li> </ul>
Eliminate or reduce supplemental retirement plan for miscellaneous employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under review by City Attorney's Office</li> <li>• Complicated plan with many legal considerations</li> </ul>
Disposition of solid waste contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro bono consultant retained</li> <li>• RFP for Solid Waste Recycling Consulting Services</li> <li>• RFP under development</li> <li>• Community meeting scheduled for February 8, 2012</li> <li>• RFP scheduled to be issued in March</li> </ul>
Improve communication with the public and availability of city documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed a bilingual City Council meeting summary posted on the website following Council meetings</li> <li>• Began a master email distribution list to disseminate information to the public</li> <li>• Identified three potential vendors for a new City of Bell website and developed key modules for use on the site. Quotes from vendors due by Feb. 1</li> </ul>
Ensure quality cost effective police services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim Chief hired in October</li> <li>• Department assessment underway</li> <li>• Report to Council in February</li> </ul>

Develop sound human resource policies and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro bono consultant hired</li> <li>• Policies in development</li> <li>• CPS HR retained for Class/Comp study</li> <li>• Target completion date by March 1</li> </ul>
Begin negotiations with the Bell POA (Police Officers Association) and Bell Police Management Association on new MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiator retained</li> <li>• First meeting with POA first Council closed session held January 11.</li> </ul>
Review contracts and purchasing/procurement procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts reviewed and amended with a variety of vendors e.g., extended tree trimming contract at a lower cost; retained new CDBG consultant.</li> <li>• Purchasing/procurement procedures are under development; anticipate presenting draft to the Council in March, 2012</li> </ul>
Provide leadership and direction to the City's community development and community services functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim Community Development and Community Services Directors appointed</li> </ul>
Broaden Council and community understanding of the City's finances. Design a budget process that is transparent and encourages public participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council adoption of process and schedule for 2012-13 Budget</li> <li>• Council approval of civic engagement and goal setting process for 2012-13</li> <li>• Community session on City finances held on January 19, 2012</li> <li>• Community priorities workshop held on January 21, 2012</li> <li>• Council goal setting workshop scheduled for January 28, 2012</li> </ul>
City Council development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council work session on managing effective meetings held on October 19, 2011</li> <li>• Councilmembers attended League of California New Mayors and Councilmembers Academy January 18-20, 2012</li> </ul>
Recruitment of permanent Chief Administrative Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peckham &amp; McKenney selected to conduct CAO recruitment on December 13, 2011</li> <li>• Recruitment profile developed after meetings with Councilmembers, employees and a community input session</li> <li>• Target start date for permanent CAO June 1, 2012</li> </ul>

In addition to progress on priority objectives the City has accomplished a number of things, small and large, of interest to the community and organization, including:

## Update on 2011-12 Objectives

January 23, 2012

- Approved CUPs for Fresh and Easy and Shoe City
- Approved the Muslim Community Center
- Adopted a moratorium on recycling facilities
- Successful events for Halloween and Christmas
- Reorganization of the finance and administrative services functions
- Addressed a wide range of legal issues facing the City
- Changed the glass doors on City Hall and the Police Department
- New desks and workstations (from Meyers Nave)
- Improved property management of the mobile home parks and rental units
- Prepared informational report for the Council on transit funding
- Recognized and developed the City workforce through regular staff meetings, presentation of “brown bag” lunch training sessions on a variety of topics and the employee holiday lunch