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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

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Approved by Mayor and Council  
on September 24, 2024.

Date of Meeting: April 9, 2024

The Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson met in study session in the Mayor and Council Chambers in City Hall, 255 West Alameda Street, Tucson, Arizona at 12:05 p.m., on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, all members having been notified of the time and place thereof.

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero  
Vice Mayor Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1)  
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2) (arrived at 12:24 p.m.)  
Council Member Kevin Dahl (Ward 3)  
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)  
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (Ward 5) (electronic attendance)

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

#### ABSENT:

Vacant (Ward 6)

#### STAFF:

Michael J. Ortega, City Manager  
Michael Rankin, City Attorney  
Suzanne Mesich, City Clerk

Mayor Romero announced that Council Member Fimbres was attending the meeting electronically through Microsoft TEAMS.

**(NOTE: Minutes for Study Session are transcribed in verbatim format.)**

### **1. Executive Session – Review of City Attorney and Consideration of Reappointment (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-76**

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0 (Council Member Cunningham absent/excused), to enter into Executive Session as noticed on the agenda.

RECESS: 12:06 p.m.

RECONVENE: 12:58 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

SS/MN04-09-24

(NOTE: Council Member Cunningham arrived at 12:24 p.m.)

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**Mayor Romero:** Item 1 is an executive session, Ms. Clerk.

**Clerk:** Item 1 is an Executive Session: Review of the City Attorney and Consideration of Reappointment and is being held pursuant to ARS Section 38-431.03(A)(1) and (A)(3).

**Mayor Romero:** May I have a motion to go into executive session, please?

**Council Member Fimbres:** So, moved.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There is motion and a second, umm, any discussion on that motion, hearing none. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Romero:** Any against, motion carries. We will be about 45 minutes, umm...we'll be back in 45 minutes. Thank you all.

Executive Session was held from 12:13 p.m. to 12:46 p.m.

(NOTE: Council Member Cunningham departed at 12:46 p.m.)

**Mayor Romero:** Umm...may I have a motion to return to study session? Please.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** So, moved

**Council Member Fimbres:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There's...there's a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Romero:** Any against, motion carries.

**2. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – Review of City Attorney and Consideration of Reappointment (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-77**

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0 (Council Member Cunningham absent/excused), to proceed as discussed in Executive Session and schedule an ordinance for consideration at a regular meeting in May for the reappointment of the City Attorney.

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**Mayor Romero:** Umm, what is the Council's pleasure for item 2?

**Mike Rankin, City Attorney:** Honorable Mayor, based on the discussion in executive session, I believe an appropriate motion would be to move that the Mayor and Council proceed as discussed in executive session and schedule an ordinance for consideration at a regular session in May for the reappointment of the city attorney.

**Council Member Fimbres:** So, moved.

**Mayor Romero:** There is a motion, may I hear a second?

**Council Member Lee:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There's a motion and a second. I highly appreciate that you're making the motion for, for your own reappointment, uhh...Mike, and in...in terms of discussion, I just like to thank you for the many years more than 20, right, more than 20 years. Umm, as our city attorney, all the incredible work you've done, including your work with the elected officials that you've had to serve, and you really are truly a model city attorney and we're very happy that you will continue to work with us the next couple of years. So, with that, any other discussion points?

**Mayor Romero:** Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye

**Mayor Romero:** Any against motion carries, congratulations. Thank you so much.

**5. Discussion regarding Paid Parental Leave for City Employees (City Wide)  
SS/APR09-24-81**

(This item was taken out of order.)

(Note: Council Member Cunningham returned at 1:05 p.m.)

It was moved by Council Member Santa Cruz, duly seconded, and CARRIED by a voice vote of 6 to 0, to direct the City Attorney to prepare an Ordinance amending the provisions of the Tucson Code, Section 22-90(5), to expand the parental leave benefits for employees to 12-weeks.

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**Mayor Romero:** Alrighty, so what I'm going to do. I'm gonna change a couple things around a little bit. I'm going to have; I believe it's Item 5. We're gonna discuss that first. Council Member Santa Cruz and I requested a discussion regarding paid parental leave benefits for city employees and then just to open up, Mayor and Council moved on August 8, 2017, an ordinance to allow

six weeks of paid parental leave. Before 2017, Tucson's Mayor and Council did not pay for parental leave when the ordinance was passed, the City of Tucson was leading in the state in, the region, and most recently in Pima County, Phoenix and the State of Arizona have all passed 12 weeks of paid parental leave policies, and both Council Member Santa Cruz and I felt as though the City of Tucson could not be left behind.

And so, this conversation is said, to talk about if we wish, but to umm hopefully give direction to go back to leading on this issue and joining Pima County, Phoenix and the State of Arizona in having a 12-week paid parental leave policy. So, with that Council Member, if you wanted to add anything to it and umm, and if you need a motion, Mr Ortega, let us know.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Yeah. Thank you, Mayor. I you know, I wanna thank you and Council Member Karen Uhlich at the time for ...umm...leading the way on this back in 2017. Like...you mentioned, now we've been outpaced by Pima County, Phoenix and the State of Arizona who all more recently updated to 12 weeks of paid parental leave policies. As a parent of umm four kids, I know how critical it is to have this...this time, not only to bond with the baby but but to heal and settle into this new normal for...for parents.

And so, it's a...it's an honor to be in a position to make sure that we're taking care of our families here in the City of Tucson. And with that, I do have, I have a motion that we direct the city attorney to prepare an ordinance to amend the provisions of section 22-90, I don't know if I have to say parenthesis 5, of the Tucson Code to expand parental benefits for employees to 12 weeks of paid leave.

**Mayor Romero:** There is a motion on the floor.

**Council Member Fimbres:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There is a motion and a second. Any further discussion?

**Council Member Cunningham:** This is for new, new babies?

**Mayor Romero:** For actually, the...the timing is something that we should talk about, but from hopefully as soon as possible moving forward. And yes, new babies and then it's paid parental. So, that means that, umm, both partners have access to it.

**Council Member Cunningham:** I'm all over this, I've got some...some things we also have situations where families take on another member. We also have situations where families are leaned on by their support system, so a big thing is is that I'm good with that applying to all families, but we probably need to have some, but it maybe need to be a little different for those scenarios, full 12 weeks.

Obviously, if you're taking on a newborn as opposed to your cousins 14-year-old, though, some who have 14-year-olds will argue it's harder. Obviously, we need to have those things considered. So, I...I just wanted to add that piece, but I think it's totally within our core values. I'm 100% on board with this. I just wanted to add that piece in because I know.

**Mayor Romero:** What the nuances will be?

**Council Member Cunningham:** Yeah, well, family dynamics are always changing and just different. So, I think we should adapt to those times too. Let's be leaders, not just, not just keeping up with the Jones'.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Woman Lee.

**Council Member Lee:** Thank you, Mayor, and thank you, Mayor and Council Member Santa Cruz for bringing this item forward. Also, with multiple children, I appreciate the options that we're looking at providing for our employees. When I had my 11-year-old, I had her on a Thursday and I was back at work on Monday and I do not recommend that for anyone, so I'm really happy that we're having this conversation.

I do have some technical questions as we think about implementation of this policy around engagement. You know, I'm the stakeholder person. I'm just curious to the City Manager what the plan is or if conversations have already happened with labor. If this is a change in condition of employment as well as any feedback that the...the labor organizations, as well as our department directors may have in some of our critically staffed offices, because I know in small teams even one person being out for three months can cause an impact to operations.

So, I'd really like to just have some feedback in terms of the overall impact of this decision so we know what risks could present themselves. Having folks out for that long, but again, it's definitely the right direction for us to go and I would just like some more information prior to us actually voting on the language, on the Charter changes, about engaging with labor and any sort of risk that we need to be aware of. So that's all.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Mayor, Council Member Lee, I have not engaged with departments or labor on this. Happy to do that before we bring back the Code amendment, which would be a requirement in order to make this be implemented.

**Mayor Romero:** I... I would... I would like to add a comment on that. You know, I usually am very good about...having conversations with our labor folk. Umm, about anything that I believe will negatively affect either their paycheck, umm, or their rights as employees of the City of Tucson. I...I cannot imagine labor pushing back on adding an additional six weeks of paid leave as a benefit to their working conditions in the City of Tucson. Are you worried about that Council Member?

**Council Member Lee:** No Mayor, just more of a when we make changes to...to benefits, just making sure that folks are engaged in the process. Just since we've had folks not feel like they're engaged in the past, but I agree, I don't know anyone who would complain about that. I don't, I just wanna make sure everyone feels included.

**Mayor Romero:** We do have a Benefits Committee, and I just would...want to make sure that the Benefits Committee, you know, has an opportunity to give feedback. My thought is that we move immediately towards this benefit for employees and so I don't know what the, umm, what the timing is to bring back the change to the ordinance. Could we do it...by the next council meeting, Mr. Rankin?

**Mike Rankin, City Attorney:** Mayor, I don't see why not, because really, it's, so this is already in the Code and the change is just going to be to adjust the number of hours that are available for employees to use as paid leave.

**Mayor Romero:** Yeah. I would, even an email to the Benefits Committee to say, you know, we're...we're moving in this direction. We wanna move as quickly as possible. Let us know if you have any concerns about it or push back on regarding labor folk, I...I cannot imagine umm they would push back on our receiving six weeks of additional paid family leave or a parental leave.

Umm...I think before we close discussing it, this is a really significant move. Umm we...it was a significant move in 2017, when Council Member, at the time, Karin Uhlich and myself...brought it to the table. I was a city employee when I had my first-born Emiliano, and I had zero hours of paid parental leave, and I remember I chose to spend 3 months with my child, even though I did not get paid. And that is something that my husband couldn't afford to do because I had the full responsibility of...of...of caring for myself and that child when I had him.

So, I chose to go unpaid for at least two months and I had to use my vacation and my sick time. And my husband did not have the ability to stay with the family unit and be able to get to know the baby and go through the ups and downs of being a new parent and being able to connect with that child in those important three to six months because he had to work, and we had to pay the bills. And so, this particular movement forward and I...I have to remind everyone, this is not just for the person having the baby, but this is also for the dad. Umm...to be able to spend that really important time connecting with their child for the first 12 weeks. Umm...I really appreciate Mr Ortega, your openness to this and I really believe that we're moving in the right direction. So, with that all those...ohh count, Vice Mayor Dahl.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. Just...just a brief statement of support and thank you to my colleague, Council Member Lane Santa Cruz, and yourself and Karin, the former Council Member Karin Uhlich, for bringing this forward. When my son came into this world the next day, I quit my job because there was just no way that I couldn't not stay home with him, my...my wife had a better paying job. I think in addition to this being a benefit to the new parents, it's a benefit to the City of Tucson and I see it as something that can help us retain quality workers, all in support of it. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Vice Mayor. Any other comments? And then before we close up, significant move towards gender equality in the workplace and paid leave is a vital step to making sure that women are able to stay in the workforce and hopefully now men as well, Vice Mayor Umm, and it really will make a difference in the life of the career and the earnings,

especially of women in our community. So really appreciate it. All those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Romero:** Any against, motion carries. Alrighty. So, we will move back to the scheduled presentations.

**3. Submission of Human Resources Director's Recommended Compensation Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-84**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** We will move on to Item 3. Time has been set aside for the human resources director to submit the recommended Compensation Plan for fiscal year 2025, as required by the Tucson Charter and City Code. Mr. Manager

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor. We have Suzette Yaezenko, Human Resources Director, making a presentation as you outlined. This is a requirement of the City Charter that on an annual basis, recommendations from the HR director are brought to you for consideration. Keep in mind that I believe the last slide in the PowerPoint has the schedule so that you know what the next steps are moving forward. Thank you, Mayor, Suzette.

**Human Resources Director Suzette Yaezenko:** Thank you again for having me today. Umm, honorable Mayor and Council members, I...I do have a short slide to allow opportunity for more discussion or questions that you may have. I'm just going to go through the overview of the changes that we're recommending, but I would like to start with what we've done over the current year to give you a background from a historical perspective.

So, you'll see from the first slide we adopted a \$16.1 million Plan last year as a July 1 and as of July 1, we've been incorporating those...those changes and those changes involved individuals getting salary increases, all commissioned police officers and detectives, sergeants receiving a 5% salary increase. Also, non-permanent employees received an across-the-board salary increase which was very helpful.

Also, all of those red circled employees in July 2022 received an adjustment to baseline to make them whole. And also, we made salary range changes for the fire nonexempt schedules so that those across-the-board changes were in the salary ranges. Again, this was lots of discussion with labor, and we learned a lot from last year. So, we actually incorporated additional methods and conversations this year for our Plan and we'll we'll talk through that a little bit.

The other big, big thing that changed was that we did a new market anchored compensation structure. That was our biggest big change last year and as you imagine, we've had lots of discussion of...of...of that being implemented. It did implement well in July 1st and we made sure anybody that was not at the minimum of those salary ranges of the new compensation

structure was adjusted as of that July 1 date also. Some of amazing results that has happened that I wanted to point out to council is that with that new structure we've had of our 10,000 actions specific to those structural changes.

So, all those compensation changes are title changes for employees that have been in effect with that methodology and that structure behind there. So that's actually really exciting for...for HR and our Class & Comp team. The other great thing that we have been doing since July 1 is working on now, we're at over 30 new career series. It has been a great adventure, working with directors and departments and supervisors on developing that concept of what type of growth we can do. We build it with a career series that could have 1, 2, 3 different positions so that people can see the growth. They may be hired as a 1, but if they stay with the...the city they can see that ability to grow while they're in that same position in the same department. And so that's been really exciting. So, those are brand new career series.

The other part too is we've also done over 100 new classifications in those new titles and...and additional new titles. So, when you're looking at that large class pending, classification list, you're going to see a lot of different new titles that has been developed in again, collaboration with the department and with the directors and the employees to build the right titles so that can then be placing the people in that appropriately. So those are some amazing changes and happy changes that we've seen just from the result of this. We'll see more going forward as we now have a beautiful rhythm with our directors and our departments to see more of that happening to get people in the right positions and building my utopia world would be a career series for every position.

One of the things before we talk about the recommendations is things we learned from last year is that we...we started earlier. So, you'll notice we've been working with the labor groups since early December and January. So we are on a routine, regular monthly meetings more so than sometimes more than monthly, just to keep making sure that people's questions are answered. We do...dedicate the last few months to talking about compensation. We make sure, as you'll notice in the packet, that we've captured their compensation to the best of their request so that we have it so we can review it and look at it and be transparent of what is being requested that maybe we can't. We look at how do we can do parts of it, some of it all of it. Now we're in the future, and so there's been a lot of work there. It's been great.

We've also hired Henry Rios, who's been our new Labor Relations manager, who's been very much 8,10 hours a day working with labor on as, as we're building those relationships and keeping those constant communications in place. Umm, with that said, one of the pieces that we...like to recommend is that you would allow us to incorporate the changes that we have had in place that's in the packet. So, all that work we've done up...this year having that approved, so it's part of the Plan. Second is of course making sure that we have the adjustment to the Mayor and Council per...per the implementation of the voter approved action for December and January, so that we have that now, those changes in place on our schedule. Also adjusting our firefighter recruit schedule C1 to the \$42,486 amount or \$ 20 plus some hourly. Again, our system goes to as many numbers as you want.

And then I'm sorry, go ahead. OK, when they graduate, they're gonna get that bump up. Yes. And so, we've done a lot of work with the fire department, the Chief, the the Labor to make sure that this is something that would be helpful for their recruitment and retention of the new, the new recruits coming in to build those classes to a larger size which we need larger sizes for those, those Academy classes. And then lastly, of course this we would like to recommend to...consider any additional employee compensation changes for further in the year based on the current dates available funding and our projections and our trend economic trends that are at this point right now.

As we go for the next steps so that you know our next steps of the process is we will be having our salary dispute hearing on April 15th. We have given notice today, so they know that employees know that that's the public hearing for the the dispute and then we'll be able to talk about the disputes coming forward. And then if there's any unresolved, we'll ensure to have an opportunity to discuss any unresolved disputes to hopefully get to the place of of implementation and consent item for the compensation plan effective June 30th, because that's how our payroll works so that it can be actual impact can be shown in July.

**Mike Rankin, City Attorney:** And Mayor, just one additional thing. One change that needs to be made, that affects the material that went out and has been provided to the Mayor and Council, and it will be incorporated into the revised schedules as posted on the City's Internet link, so that all the affected employees will be able to see it, but to resolve an outstanding dispute relating to this year's comp plan, we just recently agreed to make changes to the following positions and which will be placed into the new pay grade. And I'm just going to announce them, but it'll be incorporated within the Plan and the relevant schedules online for all city employees to see and they are specifically contract officer, which will be pay grade 107, senior contract officer which will be grade 108, principal contract officer which is Grade 109, procurement manager which is grade 111, and contract administrator will be grade 112. So, these are positions all within one series, and they're all being adjusted accordingly.

**Mayor Romero:** I guess my question Suzette is, first and most importantly, thank you all...all for the incredible work that you're doing. I know that., I mean, it sounds like you love doing this, but it is very, very complicated and I've tried to understand it for the last 16 years I've served on council and the last four is Mayor, but it is complex and and layered, so thank you for the incredible work that you're doing to modernize our compensation system, our human resources system, and so I appreciate all of the work.

And I really do appreciate you all working with labor. Umm, one of the positions that I was hell bent on making sure we had is that of a labor liaison in the Human Resources Office. Umm, because we understand the incredible work that you do as the director, I felt as though we needed that particular position to help negotiate the conversations with human resources. So, it sounds like you are having a great time and at getting things done and and I'm appreciative of...of that as well.

Most importantly, I believe that my, our employees, City of Tucson employees, should understand and know that I, this Mayor and Council, and I will dare speak for my Council colleagues, really care about the most important resource that the City of Tucson has, which is

our employees, our employee family. They're the ones that do the incredible work to service the needs of our residents.

And so, as Mayor, I've been lucky enough to preside over four years of unprecedented investment in our employees, we had never seen the type of investment that this Mayor and Council have...umm put towards both benefits and pay. Umm...just in 2021 alone, we saw more than \$30 million of investment in salaries for our employees. Last year alone, we saw more than \$16 million in pay increases and reclassifications, which are important to be able to offer the opportunity for an incoming employee to go through steps onto a career ladder in the City of Tucson.

So umm, just wanted to make sure that...that was said. I know that the mayor is going to have a public hearing on the 15th, any previews to that public hearing that should be expecting any, any concerns that have been brought up by employees or employee groups regarding the Compensation Plan?

**Ms. Yaezenko:** Not that I'm aware of. What we've been really good about, I think, it was about four months ago being very transparent on the actions we're working on. So, for example, we have what we call a pending classification list so that anyone in the city can see what classification and compensation's working on. This was a great hit with labor for them to be able to see you as they're having their conversations. So, we've actually worked with them on how to look at the documentation, see if something's missing so that we can be aware quickly if there's a concern.

So, I'm...I'm hoping of course that it that it's going to again whatever we can do to give resources and transparency for our employees so that they can come to us to help them walk through what their concerns are. If there's things we need to find or sitting down with departments on addressing what concerns they bring forward

**Mayor Romero:** And then just one more question, then I'll open it up for...everyone. I want to thank the voters of the City of Tucson for approving a pay increase for ...Mayor and Council. It really has made a huge difference for all of us. Umm and also for the...as we try and fill the Ward 6 vacancy, we see a huge interest coming in so that is really good for democracy. Umm, what I wanted to ask about is that you have listed Mayor and Council salaries in dollar amounts, not yearly annual income. What does it mean? Because I didn't really understand what umm, I think on a...a schedule A you have \$10,062.50 for the mayor and then \$8,050 for the Council colleagues. What does that mean? Because I know. I'm not sure is that a monthly

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, as Suzette is looking through that information, I wanted to point one thing out in your materials, and I believe it's attachment...it's a third attachment. There is a list of comments that we did receive from labor groups, and I think it outlines them pretty clearly in terms of some of their interests and some of their concerns. I suspect we'll hear something similar at the public hearing, so, there's a spreadsheet. It's one of the last things that's in the...in the packet materials. I just wanted to point that out. So that kind of gives you an indication of what we'll probably hear. Thank you, Mayor.

**Ms. Yaezenko:** Yes, and we followed last year's format so that you could see the red line of the changes and that is monthly and we'll...we'll be more...clear on the document going forward.

**Mayor Romero:** Alright, perfect. Any other questions, comments, Council Woman Lee and then Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Member Lee:** Just super briefly, Mayor, because you covered a lot of good stuff already. Suzette, I just want to thank you all so much for your leadership and your...your great collaboration and meeting cadence with labor. I think that's enabled this to be very smooth compared to other years when we've gone into these conversations. And I also just want to thank you for helping. I saw a lot of our organizational challenges because they do run right through HR. I know you worked closely with TPD on the record specialist positions and doing everything possible to help create an environment where we can recruit and retain that talent and that's been a challenge in a lot of areas. So just thank you for enabling so much of our operations through...through your work here. So great job.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Member Cunningham:** Couple of things, Mike on the, on the FY25 expenditure proposal, does that include the delay on the three percenters, that include the 3%?

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor that does include a recommended delay.

**Council Member Cunningham:** That's OK. Just just wanted to make sure. And then we also have a for this fiscal year, does that with the 12 weeks, do we, we don't have a number on how that's gonna affect us yet.

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council Member Cunningham, no, we do not. My expectation is that it will increase our costs to some level based on coverage, which I suspect in the public safety realms will be...on overtime. That, and I don't have a number. It's...it's really a function of how many we expect to see utilize that benefit and keeping in mind we're already covering part of it... it's just going to be the expansion of that.

**Council Member Cunningham:** No, I get it. Uh with the 3%, do we have an idea of whether or not people's actual take home pay will go down or up with the health insurance premiums?

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council Member Cunningham. Because I'm not recommending that I haven't run that number. My suspicion would be that when it gets closer, if you decide to go with my recommendation, when it gets into the December time frame, then you can look at that. But at this point I haven't even gotten into that level of detail.

**Council Member Cunningham:** Ok, alright, those are some of the things that are on my mind with this. I mean, I think we're...we've got to get package. I appreciate where we're...where...where we are. We're just trying to one maintain everybody getting...the same take-home pay and hopefully getting a little extra if we can pull it. But I...I don't wanna be...bankrupt the city doing it, obviously, but I...I think we have some light in the tunnel. And then we're also,

I just want everybody to be in mind that...that 26 projection is early man. And so, we've gotta be...we've gotta be ready and prepared to take some of those steps during the fiscal year next year so that we can see that \$21 million number be reduced. Uh, we can't, failure to plan is preparing to fail, and we know it's coming. We might as well start with our ideas now. That'd be a lot easier than trying to do at the last minute, when we're at the table at this time next year. So those are my thoughts. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Any others. Alrighty, hearing none, this item is for informational purposes only. Thank you, Suzette, for your presentation.

**4. Presentation of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Budget Discussion (City Wide) (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-85**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** We're moving on to Item 4. Time has been set aside for the submission and presentation of the Fiscal Year 2025 Recommended Budget, Mr. Manager.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor and members of the Council, so this is my favorite part of the entirety of my job is to present the budget to you. Umm, there are only a handful of folks that relish this, and I'm one of those. I think it's an important part of what we do in terms of establishing not only financial stability, but it also really speaks to implementation of the policy direction that you give us.

So, what you're going to see today is a structurally balanced budget for FY25 umm...and I...I wanna emphasize that because I think it's important that, you know, at this point based on all that we know, we have a balanced budget for FY25. The concerns that I've brought to you and that we've talked about are, as Council Member Cunningham mentioned, FY26 and FY27. We're going to get into a little bit of that conversation as we go through this, but I want to make sure that you understand, right now today, what is presented to you is a balanced budget for FY25.

I think the the key pieces that you'll find, first and foremost, is when we start talking about the long term and so making decisions today that are going to impact us into the future both in the FY26 and FY27. And if you remember from the previous presentations, we showed how those revenues are expected to dip and yet expenses continue to increase. So, I think it's going to be important that that you keep that in the back of your minds as we're going through this. In addition, you will see that we have scaled back the strategic investments in the investment plan. I'm sorry to report that to you, I wish that weren't the case, but as I presented that to you back in 22, the idea was to give you options and flexibility. And we're having to exercise that. We are not in the position where we have to scale back or cut back on our operations right this second, but we have to be thinking about how we can utilize those funds in the Investment fund, which means some of the strategic investments that we...know are extremely important to you and extremely important as community will no longer be on the table at least for 25.

What I've suggested is that as time goes on, you can revisit that either in 26 or 27, depending on how things go. Staffing and compensation, as you heard, I have built in a placeholder for employee compensation into the budget. I am recommending that that be maintained. That is a commitment I made to you, as well as to the employees, and I'm also suggesting that a decision on that be made in the December time frame. Now keep in mind there's a couple of things that you can consider at that time: 1) you can look at a one time distribution either partially or entirety of the amount that we have set aside, 2) you can look at a partial one time distribution and a base salary adjustment or 3) depending on revenues going forward and projections, you can look at it as a as a base salary adjustment across the board.

The configuration of that, as Council Member Cunningham asked me, has not been identified and has not been thoroughly analyzed, I think that's a conversation that can happen. The reason that I'm suggesting that...that December or even January time frame is twofold: 1) you will at that point know what's going on in 25. So, you will know you're about halfway through the year, so you'll be able to see and pretty much project out through the end of the of FY25. But...but in addition you start to get your revenue projections for 26 in November and December. And so you will then have a better idea of how the 26 budget looks and the magnitude of any challenges that you might have in front of you.

Yeah, I hope that you're able to call me in December and say remember all those catastrophic projections, they were all for not, and we're going to be able to do all these wonderful things. I truly hope that's the case, but it is my responsibility to make sure you know this is what we see today and what we see today is in FY26, we'll be in the deficit and in FY27 will be in further deficit based on revenues. Again, refreshing your memory. Those revenues are a function of state income tax. The flat tax cost is over \$27 million this year alone. We're expecting an equal amount or thereabouts in the subsequent year and keep in mind that is not a one time hit that is an ongoing cost that we have to absorb in our...in our operations and that's difficult because it's nothing that we did or didn't do. It's just the function of folks up north.

I will tell you that because we do have time, you do have money in the bank. You do have some money in reserve. We'll go over that in a minute. You do have the opportunity that if you see in December or in January that things are still difficult in 26 and 27, you can start to gently, if you will, scale back some of the service delivery. Start looking at those reserves. You'll have about at least we're projecting on July 1, about \$142 million. Sounds like a lot of money, but keep in mind our payrolls, about \$17 million every two weeks. So again, looking at this, focusing on that long term, that FY26 and FY27 year and also recognizing that that could have an impact on on service delivery.

Last...thing I wanted to mention is we did have an employee budget town hall, some of your offices were...were present and I know that Council Member Lee was also present. We did get about 1400 comments from employees, so it was really a good opportunity for employees to let us know what they were thinking. There were a variety of different topics that were covered, and that feedback is still being compiled. I do plan to give a little bit of a report tomorrow during my...my employee town hall. We'll be having those discussions. I can tell you that we will incorporate, where we can, the feedback that we got was mostly around compensation and the interest in compensation for employee retention and recruitment.

So, we will be dissecting those comments will provide that in a report in the shout out back to the employees as well as you so that you have a copy of that going forward. Mayor, I'm gonna turn it over to the staff, Angele Ozoemelum and Anna Rosenberry to start the presentation, and then we'll...we'll come back to a questions. Thank you, Mayor.

**Angele Ozoemelum, Business Services Department Director:** Hi, good afternoon, Mayor and Council, we will begin the presentation with an overview of the revenues for fiscal 2025 and we will start with the state income tax, which we know, we expect a drop in 25 and 26. We know that the state implemented a flat income tax policy that has resulted in decreased revenues to the city. So, they...we anticipate a reduction in the states state, the City's shared income tax collections for fiscal 25 and 26.

**Mayor Romero:** Angele, can you, can you umm, tell us approximately how much we're losing because of the state's flat tax.

**Ms. Ozoemelum:** We are losing in 2025, \$27.4 million or 18.9% from fiscal 2024.

**Mayor Romero:** OK. Thank you. Go ahead.

**Ms. Ozoemelum:** In 2026, we ran anticipating collection of \$105.6 million and that's another reduction. Additional reduction from the 2025 projection projected revenues. We continue, we're looking at their business privilege tax. In the recommended budget we...we're looking at a business privilege tax of \$761.4 million as opposed to what we're projecting to collect in FY24 of \$756.5. The overall...I'm sorry, the overall revenue for the General Fund is \$761.4 million as opposed to \$756.5 million but a business privilege tax is targeted at \$318.9 million in FY25, combined with the use tax. That's we're ...we're looking at the increase of slightly 3 to 3.5% in fiscal 25.

The city continues to experience growth of 1% to 4.6% in retail and restaurant sectors and most recently, data shows 13.9% growth in the construct...construction contracting sector. On the primary property tax, we're projecting a tax rate of \$0.43 per \$100 of assets valuation. That's a decrease of .015 cents, and that's due to the decrease in the tort liability. In Fiscal 24 the tort liability claims were \$1.1 million that has been reduced to \$806,000 projected in 2025. The total amount of primary property tax is projected to be \$19.6 million, of which \$18.7 would go into the General Fund and a \$806,000, which we have...represent the tort liability claims will be deposited in the Self Insurance Fund.

Due to a conflict in timing, and let me bring it out of here, due to a conflict in timing, we plan to hold the necessary Truth in Taxation hearing on the same night as the tentative budget adoption which is May 21<sup>st</sup>. For our proposed fees we have new fees that will take effect on July 1, 2024, and that would see an increase in General Fund revenues of \$704,390 and...and the areas or the departments that would be affected positively, that is, through the increase would be parks and recreations and planning and development services. We have provided in this slide an overview of the of the General Fund revenue budget. As you...as I indicated earlier, \$761.4 million in recommended in Fiscal 25 as opposed to a projected \$756.5 in FY24.

We will now look at the expenditure projected expenditures for FY25. We have a budgeted in the the numbers \$808.7 million and that salaries only available for compensation increases and that's as our city manager indicated we recommend delaying decisions until December or January. We have, but we included in the budget \$4.1 million increase to employee and retiree health insurance cost. TSPRS, TSRS we are projecting rate increases for tiers one and two as was discussed with Mayor and Council in previous study sessions. In for PSPRS we are...in...projecting an increase from \$123.9 in FY24 to \$124.6 in FY25.

For the Proposition 407 projects, we plan to bridge the gap in funding for...with federal funds. The use of impact fees when allow...allowable and we are scoping of certain street projects. Here again, we've given you another quick overview of the expenditures for FY25 for the unrestricted general fund, we're looking at a recommended \$757.7 million as opposed to a projected \$733.4 million.

Alright, we're looking at the recommended budget for a few other funds, funds other than the General Fund for a Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF), we're projecting \$65.5 million of expenditures, for the Environmental Services, we're projecting \$71.9 and for Housing and Community Development, we have several sources on the board. We have...looking at \$9.9 million from the General Fund, \$4.5 of one-time funding. We're looking at funding from the Community Development Block Grant, ARPA, the Home Investment Partnership Program and several other programs that that are related to federal grant funding.

**Anna Rosenberry, Assistant City Manager/Chief Financial Officer:** Great, the...next part of our presentation, we did want to come back to the five-year forecast and discuss that with Mayor and Council and the public in in a little bit more detail. I know there's a lot of material and a lot of numbers contained in memorandum, but one of the most significant challenges that we are having this budget year is from developing a balanced budget in the current year and future years in light of that drop in state income tax dollars and so earlier, Director Ozoemelum showed you that chart, that of our declining income tax estimates and this five year forecast shows the implementation of those declining revenues is, as well as a lot of our well, all of our other projections within the General Fund. And I wanted to walk...walk you through a number of important things that we see within this document.

First of all, I wanna focus on that FY25 preliminary proposal column. That is the year that we are developing the budget for. We're doing all this work to adopt the proposed budget for FY25. The first thing that you'll notice is our total estimated revenues and estimated expenditures and we do have a projected operating surplus shown on this schedule of \$3.6 million. that has come about as we've shown you this forecast a number of times earlier this spring that's been much closer to 0 or, you know, kind of a net zero on operating surplus. As we were developing the recommended budget, we continued to work with the transit folks on the transit budget and they were able to achieve some estimated operational savings within the transit budget that we've incorporated into this projection at this point.

So, that's where the positive \$3.6 million, for the most part, comes from. I will tell you that we believe at this point that all of that will almost entirely be consumed because we've received

some additional information from the state, which I'll...which I'll talk about here later in the presentation. But that's where that...that positive number is coming from. We have also included down for FY25. You'll see all of the investment plan items and we've included transit capital at \$4.75 million. That's for the local match on...on transit assets that...that is necessary. You'll notice that we haven't included that local match in future years. That needs to be incorporated into this plan and we're having further conversations with transit folks about what that number should look like. So, I expect that at our next meeting will have more information for you about both of those, both of those items, both the operational savings as well as the needed investment in future years.

If you keep going down the schedule in the FY25 column, you'll see, towards the bottom that we do come into this fiscal year with \$142.4 million of available fund balance. That's our starting point and that is a strong position to be in. That is, the accumulated available fund balance beyond our policy reserve levels that the Mayor and Council has been developing investment plans for and that gives us a lot of flexibility as we navigate the difficulties that we see on the horizon. So that's...that's an...an important fact to know about our financial position. At the end of the fiscal year, if everything were to go according to plan for the recommended FY25 budget, we would end that...the year with \$84.2 million in available fund balance.

Unfortunately, well, fortunately again, it's a balanced budget. We come into the year in a strong position, and we end the year with \$85 million in available fund balance. But as we look at the budgets for FY 26, 27, 28, and 29, we see a number of things. First of all, we do see that we are projecting operating deficits that exceed \$20 million in FY26 and beyond. And we see that bottom line available fund balance quickly diminish to the point that we would be... would be in a negative position at the end of FY27, all of that available fund balance would be consumed between the operating budgets and the investment plan and one-time items on this sheet in a 2-year period. So, while excuse me a three-year period by the end of FY27, 36-month period.

So...so this five-year forecast is an incredibly useful tool for all of us to understand the challenges that we have within budgeting and investment plans. We will continue to update this document umm as we go forward with additional information.

I think...I we have covered most of these points. I think as we have discussed at the table as the city manager mentioned, I think the Mayor has mentioned it already, other Council Members, we strongly believe that we've got the time to be strategizing and making good decisions and good plans going forward so that we can avoid drastic cuts later. We can avoid recommendations of deficit budgets. We don't intend to recommend deficit budgets. We know that we need to bring together packages of solutions that, uh, that move us forward in a more fiscally responsible way and don't drain our cash down to negative positions.

So, the recent information that is not discussed in your packet, but I need to make you aware of again as I...as I said earlier, we were working with mass transit, the transit folks on their budgeted investment plan, they have done work where their operating budget came in at a lower number than we had previously been estimating. We need to get a better understanding of their continuing investment plan items, the local match requirement, so we'll be bringing you more information at our next meeting about that.

We also unfortunately or fortunately, I guess, we received information from the state about all of the shared revenues, not just the income tax piece, but including information about the income tax piece. We are seeing that a number of those revenues in addition to income tax declining from last year's amounts and we received that information on April 4th, basically the day we were, you know, trying to get the packet materials out. So, it wasn't something that we could incorporate it into this memorandum. Staff has gone back and looked at it and estimated that the downward impact we will need to adjust down the revenue estimates in the General Fund by approximately \$3 million and within the HURF Fund by \$400,000 for the coming fiscal year. And so, we as we move toward tentative budget, we'll be bringing materials that show you the impacts of that.

In addition, I wanted to mention that we had released to the Mayor and Council, a list of supplemental requests from departments that we're working to make more understandable and and issue, we will probably reissue the list of supplemental requests organized a little bit differently, where you can very clearly see was the supplemental granted. Did we grant a portion of the the request or or was the request not granted at all? Is it not included in the FY25 budget. So be looking for that information to come from us. It's not entirely different information we're just sorting it and clarifying some of the notes that were attached to that.

The next slide that I have for you. I wanted to just talk a bit about our public and employee engagement that has happened on the budget because we've done a lot more than we've done in the last past couple of years. We had numerous in-person, budget town halls around the city. Thank you very much to all of you and your staff members that attended when you, when you could, we had a lot of interaction from members of the public. We also had one of those events virtually which was well attended, as well as the employee budget town hall that the city manager discussed through all of these town halls, we have been talking about a community survey that we have open right now that we are gathering community feedback about, budget prioritization.

The Community survey continues to be open for a few more days. We...we will be closing the survey this Sunday at 5:00 PM. If you go to the City's [webpagetucsonaz.gov](http://webpagetucsonaz.gov) and type in budget engagement survey, it'll take you right to it. It's also listed in the news items. You can navigate to the survey, and we'll be sharing the results of that survey with the Mayor and Council when we come back on April 25th.

**Mr. Ortega:** So, Mayor, I just want to highlight a couple things that Angele and Anna mentioned. The first thing you've heard me reference \$40 million deficit. Can you go back to four? I wanted to show you where that comes from so that it's crystal clear and everybody's mind where we're at.

So, if you look at this graphic, you can see that in 2024, which is the current year, we're at \$144 million by FY26 that...that revenue, the urban revenue sharing number will drop to \$105 million. So that's a 39 better than \$39 million drop. There is no way for us to absorb that and operations, we have to, you know, be smart about how our...our reserves are. But when...when you hear me talk about that, that's what I'm referring to. OK, so this is a graphic that shows you

the...the FY24 what we're projecting through the end of this year. While we've been told from the state for FY25 and then what we've been told from the state for FY26.

Now, you can see that in FY27 and beyond it starts to grow gradually. I believe it's between the two and 3% growth that's projected, but that's that's the problem right there. OK. Can we go to 7 now? I wanted to...to make sure that that we spent just a couple minutes talking about that last item, the Proposition 407. The reason that that that I wanna make sure that you all are are engaged in that is because that's the promise to the voter. So, when we went to 407 and we had cost estimates, those cost estimates are now much greater than what we had anticipated. But we've made that commitment at this table that we will deliver. And so, the strategies that you heard from Angele from Anna to include the use of impact fees, the use of other federal monies that we will scrounge and scrape to make sure that we can deliver that.

But that will require a check in every year to make sure that we're still OK and that we don't need to put additional dollars to that just to refresh your memory. Two years ago, we put \$22 million aside for just this purpose. So, we have that built in already and that is going to help us and...and give us some bias some time. But I wanted to point that out because that's extremely important. that we all understand that we will deliver, but there will be a function or will be a function of our ability to...to gather additional dollars. And again, having an annual check-in, can you go to slide 10 please?

So, one of the things that you might scratch your head and say, how can we go from \$142 million down to basically zero or or less and just a couple years. So, keep in mind Mayor, that when you started the conversation about the \$150 million investment plan that included \$90 million for public safety and then additional dollars for streets, those are required expenditures, so we don't have a choice there. Those are things that we did as a part of Prop 411. We made sure that those are maintained. So, if you look at those two lines, the one that says collector streets program and then the one further down says public safety, those lines are maintained because of that. So, we have no flexibility there. We have to make sure that those are are funded and then obviously those are dollars that we're going to come directly out of this pot.

So, when we talk about the use of those that fund balance, we want to make sure that it's clear that was a very deliberate effort by the Mayor and Council to put our investment to shore up both the public safety folks as well as those collector streets as a part of our Prop 411. And I think it's important that that you remember that says we go through this, those are non-negotiable. Those have to be kept in there because we promised that to the voter again, Prop. 411 and we...will...we will deliver. OK, Mayor, so I'll turn it back over to Anna and to go over the next steps and then we'll open up to questions Mayor, thank you.

**Ms. Rosenberry:** So next steps on our process. We got a lot of steps; we're really articulating them out here for you now. Umm, we have a number of study sessions, so between now and June 4th, when we recommend adoption of the final budget, every study session we have penciled in an opportunity to have a discussion about budget so that you know that that's available and to talk to us about how this is developing and changes that should be incorporated.

So, on April 25th we'll have a discussion about the recommended budget and study session. On May 7th, we'll be discussing how the tentative budget should...should look, knowing that on the 21st we are gonna ask for the adoption of the tentative budget. The May 7th also is scheduled for a public hearing on the recommended budget, where you'll...you'll offer the public an opportunity to make official comment on the FY25 budget.

Again May 21st will be discussion and study study session. We will have the public hearing for truth and taxation as well as the tentative budget with the adoption of the tentative budget. And adoption of the tentative budget sets, the ceiling for expenditures, anything we do after that as we proceed into final budget adoption, the expenditure number cannot be higher than what was set at tentative budget. Then...then the following meeting on June 4th will be a discussion of final budget, adoption and study session, and then the public hearing on the final budget and adoption of the final budget in your regular meeting as you break into special session for that and then we will come back on July 9th for the adoption of the tax levy.

So that is the presentation that we have for you and we're available for any questions that you might have.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you so much, Mr. Manager, Anna and Angele, thank you for the incredible work that you all do. Umm, we've been discussing the budget for, I believe we started in January. So, you've informed us well, you've been able to, we've been able to talk through some of the investments that we must do, the promises to the voters. That includes investments in public safety, \$90 million that we, on top of their regular budget umm it includes, I believe, \$5 million a year for collector streets plus \$10 million to \$15 million of HURF and General Fund for collector streets, ummm...and on top of the 411 funds that are being invested as promised by voters, really appreciated. I...I guess my comments are we we wanna make sure that the public is on the same page that we are all in. Umm the budget, the budget for 2025, as presented by you is balanced, correct.

**Mr. Ortega:** That's correct, Mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Umm, big concern that I have is how the state flat tax is affecting our budgeting. Umm, when I see the presentation and I see the revenues coming in, it seems like the revenues and the economy is very, very healthy. So, for me, as I see the business privilege tax growing by 4% this year, other local taxes growing by 8% this year, a state shared sales taxes even are growing by 4.2%. Umm, you know all of these numbers show growth in the economy, the state shared flat income tax is, basically decreasing by almost 19% as I see at 18.9%. Have we had discussions with our state legislators about that impact on cities and towns in southern Arizona and throughout the state?

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, so this is a conversation that has been going on for at least a year, if not a year and a half now, where we have made our concerns actually aware, made aware of, made their legislators aware of them. I will tell you that the difficulty is and and hats off to Angele and her team for actually seeing the drop in this fiscal year as dramatic because it was actually twice if you remember originally were looking at this, it was only going to be half this year and half next year and Angele caught the fact that it's actually the full amount. Most cities had not caught

that. Now that they are seeing at, they understand the severity of these cuts. So, we have all been voicing them. Unfortunately, I don't see the political will to make any change at this point.

**Mayor Romero:** Umm, you also said Anna that it's not just the income tax that are declining, the report issued by the State April 4th, you say that you've noticed other revenue declining. Does that include the corporate tax revenue?

**Ms. Rosenberry:** So, in the information that the State gave us and and again we'll include it in the...in the materials for you for our next meeting. It's...they're estimating decreases in their vehicle license tax in HURF, umm in the State income tax, they do not get into a detailed discussion about the mix between individual and corporate taxes in these materials. I went looking for it. You know more of an explanation. You all have been asking us to figure out, you know, what is happening here. They they do not give an explanation, umm just a projection that you know, next year we'll see an additional reduction of approximately 10%, which...

**Mayor Romero:** In the work that you're doing, I know that you're doing a lot of work to figure out what's happening with state shared revenue. Is there a possibility of drilling down a little bit more in terms of what is decreasing? Umm, because I believe in previous conversations, we had mentioned decline in corporate taxes as well and that the impact of the flat tax was creating more of that...that deficit that we're seeing for this year, and then next...next fiscal year.

So, I really like to see some detail and if the State can provide umm the explanations as to why these revenues are declining because the economy is booming and our sales taxes that are being produced here in the city of Tucson is they're growing incredibly. And so, we've gotta be able to find the...the impact of the flat tax and any corporate taxes, anything else that is any other policies adopted by the state legislature that are affecting income and state shared income returning to the pockets of the Tucson taxpayer. That's important so that we can talk to our delegation, our Southern Arizona delegation, so that they can start pushing back on these policies that are really affecting cities, state legislature many times says well, we're cutting taxes.

But the way that it's affecting cities and towns throughout the state, it's really cutting the investment being done...in our cities and towns throughout Arizona. It is affecting the possibility of us being able to provide the services that Tucsonans rely on. That's police and fire service, that is transportation and transit services. We are going to then because of the flat tax because of the policy decisions being done by the state legislature, we in turn as residents have to and as Mayor and Council have to make very hard decisions that can affect the quality of life of our community.

As you, we continue talking about FY25, which the budget you presented to us is FY25 is balanced, FY26, as we move forward, umm, when you talk about salary increases, usually when we have the funds, we want to make sure that we're providing pay increase is to our employees. When you talk about a 3% across the board, which you say you want to institute, but maybe in December or January. If we were to, umm possibly vote to institute starting in July, how does that affect our budget going into 26?

**Mr. Ortega:** So, Mayor, if...if you all decided to allocate the dollars that we've set aside for compensation in July, it basically takes any flexibility away from you. And what I'm trying to do is suggest to you that given those uncertainties in 2026 and quite frankly in the rest of 2025, but in 2026 and in 2027, you need to be able to reserve that flexibility. And I think doing it in December or January would be better from that perspective. I can tell you that if you and...and the number I believe was about \$8.7 million for salaries. If you add ERE's to that, it's probably in the \$12 to \$12.5 million range. That's all funds. The General Fund is about \$8 million of that. So just keep that in the back of your mind that we're not talking about just the General Fund, it's all funds.

And you did hear, Anna mentioned that the new numbers from the State scaled back that \$400,000 from HURF, that is significant, that's a very significant impact because we've had to scale back already in that in that area. But again, going back to your your question, my recommendation is just based on the uncertainty, and you see that in the in the flat tax and in the in the state. It is built into the budget. So, the money is there umm but it is not a given that it will be there going forward into 2026 and 2027. That's the concern I have with it.

**Mayor Romero:** Umm, I think Council Member Fimbres and I are the, maybe Council Member Cunningham to some point, umm, are the Council colleagues that have been here through a previous recession and a part of the work that we all did, Mayor and Council, city manager, employees and labor unions did at that time was really sit down and talk and we went through very, very difficult years, \$40 million, \$50 million per year of budget deficits and the only way that we didn't do mass layoffs is because of the ingenuity and innovation that all of us brought to the table.

So, as we prepare for possible tough years ahead, I really want to make sure that our employees and labor unions have a seat at the table in these conversations. Umm many of the policies that we instituted back in 2008, 2009, 2010, came from suggestions made by employees and labor folk. And I want to be able to enter into the next few fiscal years that could possibly be very financially tough where their voices on the table.

So, Mr. Manager, I'd really like to encourage you and to start these conversations, even including the the question mark about the 3% uh increase in salary and whether it happens in July or whether it happens in January. Those are things that I believe those decisions can be best achieved by bringing people together, sitting down and being innovative and smart about how we move forward. So, I would...I would suggest that we do that. Any questions, comments from colleagues? Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Member Cunningham:** So, we've been down this road and...and as the mayor pointed out, both...both Council Member Fimbres and I and the Mayor remember the \$170 million deficit we had in 2011. Uhh...and it was...it was accompanied by a we didn't...we did not deliver service in the medians for two years. We literally just didn't fix them. We neglected the roads for four years and because we couldn't...because we couldn't, all of our HURF money was swept by the state and we literally still are trying to repair those potholes 10 years, 15 years later.

One of the things that happened in that time is that we did not want to lay people off, so we ended up doing furloughs and our entire workforce took pay cuts. We've been through this, and I remember being brand new and being a big fat know it all and thinking I could...I could handle it all and watching Shirley Scott magnificently let people know the realities of what was going on because she had been through a downturn and that's what we're facing. That's...that's just what we are facing. That's the reality of it. Girls and boys, ladies and gentlemen, so let's talk about a couple of things that concern me right now. One is...is that a lot of people have asked questions about spending down the fund balance, some of that is ARPA that we have to spend down, correct, that we have to spend down?

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council Member Cunningham, as I mentioned, a good chunk of that is actually our Prop 411 truth and taxation money. So those are the public safety funds as well as that collector street program.

**Council Member Cunningham:** So, it...so basically the money that we're spending down into the General Fund is money that we're supposed to spend down and it was strategized. I just want to make sure people understand that because I think there were some misconceptions out there that that was ongoing money. It's not. Two, this year we are projected at 3.6 with the cushion, and that 3.6 cushion...that 3.6 cushion projected takes into the idea that we're going to delay the 3% umm compensation increase until December, is that correct?

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council Member Cunningham, I've budgeted the full amount for conversation in December.

**Council Member Cunningham:** OK, right, that's what I figured more importantly, umm we saw some fee increases coming in this fiscal year. We've programmed fee increases into 2026, but what do we have for our 2026 projection of that \$21 million, are there places where we've talked about fee increases, but we haven't done them yet? Did we have a phase two for, I can't remember if we did, on parks and rec and on uhh...I know we have, we're talking about a phase two for PDSO. Do we have those? Those aren't programmed into that \$21 million, Is that the 21.152?

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council Member Cunningham, some of them are, most of them are not only because as we get closer to that, we'll...have a better beat on what the fees generate in 2025 to give us an informed revenue projection for 2026. We'll know...we'll know as it gets closer, then we'll start building all of those.

**Council Member Cunningham:** And...and that's a good. That's OK. That's actually a good thing because it gives us, it gives us stuff to work with that we can kind of talk about. And this is what I think we need to understand. We're not the only jurisdiction going through this. We have different jurisdictions, different universities. I can't name any that signified. Ask crisis right now off the top of my head, but we have different situations around the country and around the Community, even around the state where different cities are are facing incredible deficits with the drop off of ARPA, with the drop off of federal and with what most experts are are continuing on a downturn, I wanna I wanna point out a couple things.

One is is that the median household income and the Tucson metropolitan area in the last decade is increased from 43,000 to \$64,000 a year. I'd also point out that we bought them down in 2013 to about 430,000 people punching paychecks in the in the Tucson Metropolitan District, we've added 50,000 jobs since then. So again, there's always ups and downs and we're always trying to stay ahead of the curve. One of the things I'll...I want things to think about is opportunities. There's only two ways we can come through with the balance budget. We can do it through cost avoidance, and we can do it through revenue increases. I think fees and things of that nature help us, whether we institute what kind of fees, how we do them can probably get us there. It's not gonna close the \$21 million gap. You can never do that for people. You can't jam them up and increase fees 30% all of a sudden because you think you should.

Two, I think one of the things that's a big topic that really we really haven't talked about because we've had so many different distractions to council over the last month or two, three months and that is that we passed a sales tax date and I think we should probably talk Turkey right now because we're going to run out of time if we don't about what that sales tax revenue, what that sales tax referral could look like. I think it's a definitely an opportunity to really augment some of the places where we are. Our service delivery is is good and I stand by the folks we have working every day, but the bottom line is is that we always have equipment needs and capital needs and right now a lot of social work needs in this community for Community Safety and Wellness.

So, I think what that tax looks likes, we should probably be talking about in the next two weeks, so we can bring it back and that would be a discussion about public safety, fire, police, but also Community Wellness and Safety, those are our social workers on the ground. I think that's the three-legged stool that creates a social welfare system and net that we need and that may or may not help us with the budget. Now there's some pieces to that and caveats and nuances that can kind of put us in a rut.

So, I wanna be very careful on how we word it and what we do, but I think we wanna we...we can...we're running out of time, so if we don't get it going, that's gonna hurt us. I think one of the elephants in the room that people aren't talking about is whether or not RTA Next fails, that will, that could make this situation a lot more...scary than it is right now. Right now, it seems pretty manageable, but guess what, come May, that's out of our hands. And if we can't get something that's good for the city, we're not gonna support it anyway. So, we've got to be aware of that.

On the revenue projections, are we using JBLCs, are we using the, that's the legislative budget folks in the state. Do we have our own kind of second guessing or how we're doing locally, are they...are they just giving us the trends or is George Hammond shop giving us some different trends? How are we doing on the on those revenue projections for 2026? Because I'm betting there might be some inconsistencies. Anybody talked to George?

**Ms. Ozoemelum:** I know initially we reached out to George Hammond. Yeah, George Hammond, we were working with him to develop some assumptions and projections for the city. I will piggyback on that and and...and...and follow up on that rather to see where we are with that. But we did we we were in conversation with him.

**Council Member Cunningham:** So, I've gone back and forth with George over the years on different things. Professor Hammond and he, but he is one thing that I can say, he acts with integrity on how he tries to make his projections. So, let's see what he's getting, whether or not it's jiving with the JLBC projections, and see if he sees something that we're not seeing, because there may be an opportunity there. Last thing on HURF. Are we using all of our HURF just for roads, long term maintenance and pothole stuff or are we putting that into augment 407 stuff, I mean, 411 stuff.

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council Member Cunningham, all of the above only as it relates to the statutory requirement to utilize HURF. So, we can use HURF for a variety of different improvements, but right now we have our hands full with pothole fixing., maintenance erodes those kinds of things, so there is no capacity for additional anything out of HURF. And as you heard, there's actually a scale back in this year of what we were projecting. So, it's...it's been a challenge for us.

**Council Member Cunningham:** I totally understand and last sorry to take all this time, Madam Mayor. Umm, I wanna talk about this really quick. I've spoken to most of the department heads of my colleagues about it. I'll be bringing a memo in the next month. I wanna talk about our procurement, our procurement procedures. I think they're they're they're good and solid and I think they're they all are well founded on the best practices. But I think in different agencies and different municipalities around the country, some of those practices have started to get in people's way and we're sometimes not getting the best value for what we invest.

And so, I think we'll have an opportunity some for for some costs of wins. I think over the next couple years, if we can, if we can experience some of the cost avoidance in the work I just mentioned and get some of the investment, we're not really going to see this deficit in 2026 if we're careful and we do that, we implement these things over the next year during 2025. I don't want to wait till 2026 to kind of put them into place.

The other thing I'll say is that we have a \$94 million assigned fund balance of ARPA. It's already been assigned. I know we're gonna talk about it. I don't know whether or not we're going to be able to have some of that, at least give us the opportunity for cost avoidance this year and shore up what we carry over. But I think that opportunity will be there anyway. That's kind of my little spiel today about the budget. I think again our team did an amazing job. I can't, I look at other budgets around the state and the City of Tucson is just in such a good spot right now. We've just got to kind of be vigilant on how we carry over into 2026 budget, that \$21 million, \$22 million deficit scares me, and I really want to make sure that this ballclub, this team, is in the right spot, making those decisions. So that's it and I'll yield.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Council Member Lee.

**Council Member Lee:** Thank you, Mayor. I will not be quite as windy as Paul is today, but all good stuff Paul. So, first of all, to the City Manager and to your office, I just want to congratulate you on all the work you did for the town halls and the employee town hall was amazing. It was great to see so many people engaged and learning about the process and where we're headed. So, just amazing work on that front.

As Council Member Cunningham alluded to, we're really in a spot where we either have to bring in more money or we have to spend less, right. It's really just that simple. And so, what I'm hoping to see is more visibility around, as you say, Mr. City Manager, the...the knobs, we can turn the policy decisions that we can make heading into these times where we're gonna be facing deficits, making that visible. You know, I noticed, I was curious, umm, I think we talked about this before, but on the Fair Free transit item, for example, that disappears from the investment plan, can you remind me where that went for the future years?

**Mr. Ortega:** I'm sorry. Are you talking about the fair free.

**Council Member Lee:** Yeah, the 13th.

**Mr. Ortega:** So, Mayor, Council Member Lee, that's actually built into the FY26 forecast. So, if you look at the expenditure line that goes from 757 to 789, part of that is the \$13 million. So, I basically had taken it from below the line to above the line.

**Council Member Lee:** OK, I think if possible it at least to me, it's helpful to keep those decisions visible and in front of us and where the...I mean instead of it hiding in the total and expenditures budget that way we can see where we do have policy decision, keep capacity to start to make some changes moving into the future as we're going to be depleting our...our savings to continue to keep the lights on. I think that will be helpful and any other policy decisions that we do have the ability to make, I think would be helpful to start making those visible, so we can start thinking about, as the mayor said, some of these tough decisions that we're gonna have to be making.

So that's one part and the last part I just want to touch on a little bit on the supplementals. Thank you for looking at that list and trying to help me decode what some of the categories meant on that list. You know, I know that there's a sentiment that we're gonna really great spot, but there's also a lot of need that our department directors have expressed that...they feel they need to successfully deliver on their missions as individual departments. Just picking one out of the mix so we get, we get a 15-page spreadsheet on kind of line items. Here's what the department asked for, here's a dollar amount, are we doing it or not?

And there's not much context behind those numbers. So, usually I have to put on my detective hat. No, no, all the respect to TPD, but I have to play my own detective and figure out kind of what, what is the intention behind this and what is the impact if we don't fund these particular items? One of the things looking that I know not to call out Chief Ryan, but we talked about for several years is the need to maintain our ISO Class 1 rating and in kind of peeling back the layers and understanding what we need to start doing in the next couple of years to position ourselves do not lose that rating. There's real impact, so I believe it's about \$300.00 per household per, per residential, home or commercial property increase in property taxes, if our rating drops. I have no memory, I...I know we have about 540,000 Tucsonans; I have no idea how many households we have, but OK.

Well, I completely lowballed it and said 100,000 where I know we're not 5 to a house here, but even at 100,000 properties in the City of Tucson, we're looking at \$30 million transfer of cost essentially to our homeowners and property owners, commercial residential, what have you to offset the cost if we lose that rating. So if we spend a couple million dollars over the next few years to bring that ladder company, recommission that ladder company and staff it, we can avoid passing \$30 million or \$60 million, if there's 200,000 households on to the residents of the City of Tucson.

So, although we might not have the money in this budget, although it looks like it's just gonna progressively worse over time, I would really like to see, you know, plans for things where our departments have said we need this and here's the risk if we don't, and here's maybe what we can do this year to try to get us ready to avoid those impacts that may surface. So, that's all I have to say for today, Mayor, thanks for the time.

**Mayor Romero:** Just let me say it's perfect timing because we're out of we're about out of time. So, a little bit of time for you.

**Mr. Ortega:** Thank you, Mayor. So just...just in summary then, I think, umm, Council Member Lee's points are spot on in that when you look at the supplementals and I'm glad that you asked for it actually kind of leave it asked for it. And by the way, we do have all the backups, so if you have any questions, we can send you reams and reams of paper. But I think it's important when you add up all of those 15 pages, but over 100 million in needs, we're funding between 8 and 10 million or five and eight million. So, that kind of gives you the perspective of yes, we're balanced, but our needs are so much greater and and you know, Council Member Lee picked out one aspect of it.

You can go through and pick up many others as well, and so I think that it's important that we message, yes, we are balanced, but we have tremendous needs that are not being funded or will not be funded or at least not recommended to be funded in the current year. Thank you, Mayor, for the time. Our next study session will be more conversation. In the meantime, I do ask if you have thoughts and ideas or questions, please let us know, the team and I are available. We'll bring back and answer some of your questions at the next meeting. We'll go from there. Thank you, Mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Absolutely. Thank you so much. Really appreciate the work and thank you to the colleagues for the questions and I agree that we have opportunities of meeting umm to...to ask more questions to again and make sure that the budget presented is is good, is good for all of us. We move on to Item #6.

**6. Discussion of Proposed Development Services, Park Tucson and Parks and Recreation Rate and Fees (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-78**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** Time has been reserved for Mayor and Council to discuss the proposed rate and fee increases for the Planning and Development Services Department, the Department of Transportation and Mobility, the Tucson Fire Department, Park Tucson and Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Manager.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor. And I do have the the team up here and I'll quickly turn it over to them. Just refreshing your memory. This is, I believe, at least a second, maybe even third time, that you've heard about. This started really with last year's budget and now this has come into fruition with some of the actions that we're asking to take this evening. So, who's going to go first? You're up, Kristina is.

**Kristina Swallow, Planning and Development Services Department Director:** Honorable Mayor, Members of the Council, thank you for having us to discuss this again. As you may recall, in January you voted to announce notice of intent to adjust fees for Park Tucson, Parks and Rec and Planning and Development Services. Since that period, we have conducted jointly 6 in person town halls, one in each ward and two virtual town halls. Independently, we've also had significant stakeholder engagement with our independent stakeholders.

Since that time, there is a public hearing scheduled for this evening. Since that time, however, Planning and Development Services has found an inconsistency in our fees and determine that we need a new amended notice of intent for later this evening at the regular session. At that time, if approved for notice of intent, we will engage our stakeholders again for 60 days and we will come back for a public hearing in June for an effective date of July 1 as originally proposed. And if you don't have any questions for me, I'll pass it off to Lara.

**Lara Hamwey, Parks and Recreation Department Director:** Umm. Good afternoon, Honorable Mayor and Council Members. So, we did participate, as Kristina said, and that the various town hall meetings. The only feedback that we got back that we then reflected on our recommendation for the public hearing and was noticed in advertised was adjusting the recommendation to do a free access to neighborhood centers, reducing it to just free access for youth. There were some points that came up from, sorry, from members of the public about the concern of allowing unrestricted adult access into a center.

When we were highlighting the fact that we liked the idea of removing a fee for youth to provide them a safe place to go after school, some of the comments did cite specifically the impact of a homeless individual coming in and how that would impact the operations of a neighborhood center when we're trying to provide a safe place for kids. So, we did go ahead and make that amendment on our recommendation for the public hearing. So happy to answer any questions.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Member Cunningham

**Council Member Cunningham:** My main question is about our league fees, because you didn't see this coming. Again, so I'm gonna recommend and I wanna say it publicly so that a lot of the Little League presidents and coaches know me. They know I reached out to them, and very hands on with it. Bottom line is, is that we need to give notice now that if you're going to reserve fields where you're claiming you've got 900 kids in your program and you only have 400, then

you can't have open fields every night. It's not fair to the other leagues who wanna rent fields. I...I think that there are board members at both RSL Soccer club, at Wildcats Football club, most of the ones operating on the east side, but even the ones outside of my ward at Rincon Little League who has the highest number of kids of all the little leagues, they're out in Nikki's area and Sunnyside Little League are in Richard's area.

All of them agree that we should, we can probably set up a program where the number of kids you bid on gives you the number of field hours you get per week, and you can pass that cost on even if it's like 3 bucks for the season extra per kid, it definitely will help us with leagues and teams and clubs that overstate the number of kids they have participating, and that's one of the things that other jurisdictions are doing, but we're running into that problem, where uhh fields are in a premium, and then you find somebody blocks out the entire season, and then you get calls, well, there's nobody on the field tonight and my team needed a place to practice. And so that's kind of what we run...we run into this for a long time, and we had our...like Super Pow Wow we have every year, it's really good, it's very interactive and helps them kind of barter, but at the end of the day, we run into this, this same thing every year.

So that's the one piece. I think there's an opportunity for some revenue increase in in that as well. I also think there's an opportunity that we can actually save fields and block them even with the new different strains of grass we've been...we've been experimenting with. It's really hard to keep grass green year-round in Tucson. Those Bermuda streams just are...are the Oklahoma State experiment did OK, but it didn't do what I thought it was going to do. So, I won and a loss because it outperformed, I think the TIF TUF as far as cleaning up sooner, but it really didn't hold up to some of the weeds that we thought it would.

So, the bottom line is, is that I want us to be able to: A) give our fields a rest once a week, maybe even sometimes twice a week, and B) also be able to hold at least accountable, who overstate the number of kids they have participating. I can say this being a member of a couple little, my kid being in Little League and my other kid being in Tucson Wildcats last year, Tucson Wildcats is not overstating their numbers. There was like 700 kids out there every night, but the bottom line is, is that's, I think a strategy we can employ and I want to start that conversation now so when we go into 26, which is being described today as Armageddon kind as a theme, but it isn't, it's something that we can do, but we'll have that tool in our toolbox for next year.

As far as your fees, my only input for PDS is that we talked about those phases. And when you implement that second phase, I want it...I want to kind of do it all at once so that we can program that into the 2026 budget and have a clear cut of when we're having the same budget discussion next year, we have a clear-cut understanding of where we need to be, so that's my input. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Council Member Santa Cruz.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Yes. So, I was curious about the the turnout at these events and I'm assuming right, parks, transportation, development services, all held them together. So curious about the turn out at the different ones.

**Ms. Hamwey:** Sure, I'm happy too, Madam Mayor and Council Member Santa Cruz. We had 2 virtual meetings, which were probably the better attended meetings of I think 11 and 10 respectively. And then our in-person meetings were a challenge, maybe less than a handful at all of them. But that's also why we recognize that we needed to do different strategies for us to reach out to our user groups.

Parks and Rec has Active Net and so for all those users that were going to be directly impacted by the fee changes that we were calling out. That's why we were doing direct mail directly to them as well as all of our social media. And the one thing I failed to mention is that we had an online response form which had 36 written in comments from people that they could do, that was actively on the website from the launch of the notice of intent.

**Ms. Swallow:** We also had three group discussions with our Tucson Stakeholder, Development Services stakeholder groups, independently with met with MPA, with Sabha, with Tucson Association of Realtors then Metro Chamber and others. So, we had multiple, probably eight additional meetings outside of the plan town halls.

**Sam Credio, Department of Transportation and Mobility Director:** And Mayor, Council Member Santa Cruz, I'll just add to that we also held a special stakeholder meeting for downtown parkers, understanding that that is the bulk of where parking is impacted. We held it at two different times for people that are working downtown or visiting downtown to be able to stop by and ask questions.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** So, Lara, to your points about adjusting your, your recommendations, how many people shared a concern umm, about adult use of the neighborhood centers?

**Ms. Hamwey:** Madam Mayor, Council Member Santa Cruz. So, we did have 3/2 verbal and one written comment, and they were very consistent, wanted to focus on youth and cited specific concerns around staff and kids having to kind of interact or interface with homeless who may decide to use the free access with the centers as a safety concern.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Well, I'm...I'm surprised that three comments would change the the recommendation that you originally had for the neighborhood centers to make them more freely open to the public. Especially, I think, you know, engaging young people is a good and important start, but I think it can also reduce family participation and also allowing...for seniors or, you know, other folks to use that space. I am curious City Attorney if creating a policy that specifically targets or...or creates a situation where we're not trying to be inclusive of unsheltered folks, if that's something that we like, would we not get into some civil rights violation of making policies based on keeping the group of people out.

**Mike Rankin, City Attorney:** Council Member Santa Cruz, Mayor and Council, there are certainly some constitutional limitations that apply, and in fact are going to be examined by the United States Supreme Court and the Grants Pass case, and we're monitoring how the Court will handle that case and what the decision will mean for local regulations.

I can tell you that fundamentally the the acts that the City of Tucson has engaged in thus far in, in its regulatory provisions that we've adopted and or even presented to the Mayor and Council for consideration have always been careful not to criminalize the condition of being homeless. And really, that's the fundamental standard right now, but we will certainly in...in light of whatever the Supreme Court does and the pending litigation, examine any of our existing not just laws but and augments of policy that have the effect of law.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** I mean, does I...I would not wanna move forward with trying to isolate a group of people from using our neighborhood centers. If anything, I think part of our conversations with transit and the buses has been like how can we address the behavior? That's the challenge, that's not acceptable, and all of our public spaces and implementing those within our neighborhood centers and making sure we're holding people accountable, then saying, then preemptively saying we don't want, you know, adult people in the neighborhood centers because it's gonna attract unsheltered people.

**Mayor Romero:** Any other questions out there? Alright, so before I give the mic to Council Member Cunningham, I have I...I have heard of experiences by different resident users of our...our recreation centers and even I've heard of library concerns. I...I think that in order to reach a place where we are not denying or or closing off on the usage of our recreation centers for everyone. Sometimes it's multi generational families that come to use our spaces, is there a way that we can monitor and because I've...I've heard the stories I...I've heard the stories of people coming in, umm specifically adults coming in using the restroom, restrooms and smoking fentanyl in the restrooms and then making it unsafe for the kids that are hanging out in our recreations. I've...I've heard it, so there have been situations where this does happen. Is there a step that we can take before we make the decision of not charging only children and youth. In terms of the safety.

**Ms. Hamwey:** Madam Mayor, I can tell you right now at some of our centers and our pools, we do go through that very experience right now. Some locations we've added security on site which has come at a cost to help us to mitigate and manage. I don't know if that's a realistic suit...solution to apply to every single center. I would say that we could also just not eliminate fees at neighborhood centers and lead to leave us at status quo. I mean, that's certainly another option. And I would also then have to defer to Mr. Rankin because we have publicly advertised that recommendation. But at the moment that's the only solution that we have done at two locations where we've had a lot of problems, but it has a fiscal impact.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Member Cunningham:** Well, first of all, I...I think that again with seniors and with youth, it's pretty easy to...to make you know to handle that part, I think on the behavior piece, I think that's also something that goes into. But I think we're missing an opportunity. This is that damn Duncan social worker brain I got. Where if folks are coming to our community centers, that's an opportunity for Sarah's team to engage them.

So, I...I just wanna see how, if we're gonna figure out how to thread this needle, it sounds like it we're in quite a conundrum. I know that we had a significant issue last week at Udall Park with

the same problem. And so, I agree. Like what we have to figure something out, but I think there's a lot of nuances to it. Like, what's that person doing and what physical and mental condition are they in? How much stuff do they have with them? And there's a whole bunch of different...like variables that go into what happens right there on site that's making the folks around them either feel uncomfortable or the other pieces.

And this is again another reality that we face is that we have a significant number of folks that are in that situation and part of their part of the...part of the reason they got there is because they are not, they've had to register or other thing other factors like that and so as a result, people draw conclusions on all the people who show up. And so, we've gotta...be really careful about how we go about this. I think there's an opportunity to figure out how we can uh get people to engage, but I don't know if that should block us from doing the \$1.00. I mean, it's a dollar and more importantly, I think there's an opportunity where the Ward offices could furnish free passes if needed.

So maybe we can do something where we...we have free passes available. I mean, I've always said it costs more to collect the dollar than it does to...to actually charge the dollar. So, we have to just be able to eyeball the situation and be able to make decisions on the fly for each case. But I agree that blanketing one group, that's kind of bad mojo for us.

**Mayor Romero:** Vice Mayor.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. And thanks to all three of you. I...it...it's we've delayed raising our permit fees. I think in all three cases these are very much worth it, especially in the development services where you're providing a lot more services because there's a lot of permits going out. And umm, I'm gonna be supporting these. This has been an interesting discussion, and we'll have another opportunity after the hearing, I wanna have some time to think about it and I appreciate everybody's opinion about it at this point. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** I agree. I just have a question about the...you mentioned Ms. Hamway, the that we advertised the...the fee increases in this way, so we advertise youth for free youth and children for free and adults we continue to charge,

**Ms. Hamwey:** Madam Mayor, the advertisement says neighborhood Center for free for youth free...free admission for youth. That's specifically how it is cited.

**Mayor Romero:** OK. Does it include children and seniors?

**Ms. Hamwey:** It just says youth at this time.

**Mayor Romero:** Alrighty any other questions? All right, Mr. Credio, you wanna talk about Park Tucson?

**(NOTE: Council Member Santa Cruz departed at 2:20 p.m. and returned at 2:24 p.m.)**

**(NOTE: Council Member Cunningham departed at 2:26 p.m. and returned at 2:31 p.m.)**

**Mr. Credio:** I thought I might skate, but under the radar. No, thank you, Mayor, for the opportunity. Like my colleagues, we attended several of the in-person outreach events together, and then as I just mentioned previously, we did hold a special downtown parkers stakeholder meeting along with the virtual online outreach. I've outlined for you in previous material, the rather modest increase for parking that we are proposing on...on this evening's public hearing, I do think they're long overdue and it's still allows...us to remain competitive amongst some of the other competition out there, such as Pima County and the University of Arizona.

I did look over our 34 written comments and there was really nothing that stood out to me as being an outlier or anything concerning. Obviously, people don't like to pay more for something, but overall, I think the the feedback was OK in terms of parking. So, happy...to answer any specific questions related to parking. Thank you, Mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Anyone have any questions or comments? Excellent, because we're out of time. Umm and of course, we still have some time to ask questions offline. Thank you all so much for the presentation. I'm going to ask us to take a 5-minute break and then come back. I think I see a lot of thank you, uh grins. So, I'm going to take a 5-minute break and then come back and we're going to talk about Item 7, which is RTA. Thank you.

RECESS: 2:48 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:00 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

**7. Continued Discussion and Direction on RTA Next Plan Development (City Wide)  
SS/APR09-24-82**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** Alrighty, let's go back into session. We are moving on to Item #7. This time has been scheduled for a continued discussion on the development of the RTA Next Plan, Mr. Manager.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Mayor, Members of the Council, so this is really a placeholder. Mayor did represent us at the RTA Board meeting last week. There was a lot of discussion. We've...since we met last had two Technical Management Committee meetings. TMC umm, I will tell you that the ultimate outcome of the TMC meetings and it was probably about close to 6 to 7 hours of deliberation was a vote where the City of Tucson members of, voted against the proposal or the the recommendation and that was simplistically based on a very different a percentage that would be allocated that we could count on for the City of Tucson. After looking at all the numbers, it looked like our share would have been about 45%.

The mayor did make it very clear that that was unacceptable during the meeting of the RTA Board, there was a lot of discussion and...and back and forth. I...I won't say understanding because if there was understanding, we want to have that kind of a vote. But there was certainly a lot of dialogue. I think what is continuing to be a challenge for us is development of a plan that the City of Tucson can stand behind and demonstrate to the voters of Tucson that the return on investment is there. You saw the numbers that we put together. The demonstrators show that about 65%, 62 to 65% of our revenue is generated in the region.

So, when you do those numbers and simplistically that percentage is what the City of Tucson generates. The arguments are that folks from other jurisdictions and the unincorporated areas shop in Tucson, that's fine, they also use the infrastructure that's fine too, but again, it's really a function of being able to show and demonstrate the value to the voter.

The last thing I'll leave you with on that is if you remember, we had asked that the University of Arizona update their calculations and their analysis. They did that, and it translated into about \$125 million more revenue. The revenue then was recommended to be used for debt service and for the contingency, both of which we support. I think that it's good business to be looking at contingency and also debt service for the program as a whole. But when it comes to the expense of additional projects, it's it becomes problematic.

So, with that, I do know that the chair of the RTA Board did call another meeting. I have no other information to give you at this time. I suspect that there'll be a lot of conversation between now and when the RTA Board meets. Again. I have not received notice of the TMC meeting. Again, I don't know that we will know anything on this topic until something is more concrete that's put on the table. So, with that, I'll turn it over to Sam. Do you have anything to add to that?

**Sam Credio, Department of Transportation and Mobility Director:** Thank you, Mr. Manager, Mayor, Members of the Council, only thing that I would add is...is we did have a discussion about how that excess revenue might be potentially used and while we continue to maintain the position that pavement rehabilitation has to be part of the conversation. And there was not an appetite to include that in the plan that was moved forward by the TMC, which we did not vote in support of. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Sam, can you talk a little bit about the discussion we had at the table at the RTA regarding Grant Rd? Umm...and any projects that are scheduled to start and, in that discussion, please.

**Mr. Credio:** Yes, Mayor would be happy too. So, at the RTA Board meeting, there was an agenda item to discuss, specifically Grant Road, Phases 5 and 6. I'll give you just a quick recap on where we're at with that project. Back in January of 2023, when we were at 60% design level, we had made a request to the RTA to begin the right of way acquisition process. It's a very lengthy process that will take at least a couple of years, probably longer, and is also preventing us from being able to move forward with utility relocation until that right of way acquisition begins.

At that time, we were denied the request to initiate an IGA for right of way acquisition. Since that time, we have made several more requests and continue to be denied umm...being able to move forward with the right of way acquisition. So that was the basis for the conversation at the RTA Board meeting last week. We're currently at 90% design plans and essentially can't move very much further until we begin the right of way property acquisition process.

During that discussion with the RTA Board, there was conversation about there not being enough budget capacity in the RTA's budget to move that request forward. There was some conversation about \$188 million fund balance that we are going to ask for additional clarification on which of those projects are being programmed moving forward. And we are also looking at many of our remaining projects in the program in terms of project delivery for the 2006 RTA plan. Thank you, Mayor.

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, I just wanted to add to that in the sense that when you look at what we've been asking for on the continuation of...of Grant Road 5 and 6, the...the answer and the response and I think you heard it again at the RTA Board meeting is, as long as investments have been started on that corridor that checks the box for having delivered to the voter what was promised. That seems very difficult for me when we as a...as an organization and entity proud ourselves and our delivery and fully delivering the program not being cute with language on...on how that works. That causes me concern because ultimately if we don't start that, we know we're not going to finish it within a reasonable time frame.

And then now, with concerns about the revenues, are we ever going to be able to start it? And if that does happen, then what does that mean in terms of the deferral, you know, into RTA Next and...and all sorts of questions, so that...that caused me great concern and continues to cause me concern. I wanted to voice it to you because I think it's important that as folks are asking you about that, that there's clarity that we have asked. We're ready to start at acquiring right of way compressing the time frame, but we have not been able to get authorization. I'm hopeful that when the RTA Board meets again, they will give us give direction to the staff to give us our IGA so we can continue to move forward with that.

But I wanted to just hone in on that because I think it seems to be a little bit of a nuance, but it's extremely important as we're talking about voter delivery and voter promises. Thank you, Mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** And, I was going to add that I requested that item on the RTA Board because we have the City of Tucson has been struggling to get, umm, the staff at the RTA to approve expenditures, to acquire land, to be able to finish Grant Road. And as I travel East and West on Grant Rd, we all have seen the need. And so it is not because the City of Tucson doesn't want to continue fixing and constructing and adding capacity uhh...to Grant Rd, it is because the RTA staff have...umm really prevented us from moving forward when we have 90% engineering done...umm and the staff is not getting the funds necessary to purchase right of way, it really is standing in the way of progress.

So, I requested that item we had a conversation about it, and we've requested that this item come back to the RTA Board so that we can make a decision as to where we go next with that

particular project. Any questions on the commentary, Council Member Cunningham and then Vice Mayor?

**Council Member Cunningham:** So, I wanna I just wanna make this really clear because I think it's so important that we say it over and over again. I had a conversation with the Manager about this very recently and the bottom line is...is that Tucson's needs are different than our outlying cities. We don't need to build a bunch of new roads; we need to modernize and make our current roads better. Period. If you are a person who lives in the city limits, if you live in midtown, if you live south side, if you live live east of Wilmot, if you live out in Rita Ranch or in Civano, you're not sitting there going, oh my God, we need another road right there. That's not what you're saying. You're saying, OH man, this road's pretty nice, or this road is in need of some maintenance, I hope we can get it soon and that's what we want.

That's would be...that would probably ideally be like 90% of our funds in this RTA iteration, like for real. That's really what we want. And here's the issue that I think the RTA needs to know for their own self-preservation. If they don't have that type of a language on the ballot, it isn't gonna pass? I mean, we've gotta be really clear about this. I'm...I mean, help us, help me. I feel like Jerry Maguire right now. I mean, look, help you help me. It's not that hard, so I think we want them to hear this loud and clear and the bottom line is, is that so what if we're investing in transit? So, what if we're investing in bike paths? We're going to be able to resurface some of those streets, too. That's so important for us, and it isn't...it is not just I know that there's a...one of the things I'm getting feedback on this there's some statute that says they can't use it for maintenance, and so I...I think that's totally accurate.

Well, this is not maintenance, this is the modernization of existing roads. It's to make sure the lanes can be wider or narrower. It's to make sure that the sidewalks can be shored up. It's to make sure that we have both biking and pedestrian paths, and with that comes a resurfacing of the street. There's...all these pieces to it, but it's not very hard to be able to interpret what needs to be done and in Tucson, we need our current roads made better. We don't need to build new roads and that's why this RTA discussion is at it, it a stalemate. And if we're not careful, it's going to affect this entire region long term.

So, I...I know that the Mayor has been saying this to them for the last two years for OK, well, you know, I was going with two but OK, but let's again, I think there's a point where we could...this is kind of my suggestion right now. I'd like to host a reception for us and the members of the RTA right in our conference room where we all can talk to them at once so that maybe we can be heard. Those are my thoughts

**Mayor Romero:** and I think the saying is help me help you. Help me help you, Vice Mayor.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. And thank you for correcting my colleague. Umm, I am tired of complaining about the RTA but it seems I have to do it every single time Grant Road is on my ward, it's in Ward 6. Umm...businesses, residents, people who use Grant Road have been waiting 30 years for this section to be improved. This is the tail end. I live in this donut hole Ward 3's offices in this donut hole and it's time for that to be finished, these delays seem crazy to me and it reflects on the quality of the management that we're getting at RTA. Someone who

doesn't report to us very well, who makes up things. And I call for for his removal before we can go forward.

I cannot support a future RTA with this sort of management representing us because it does not represent the needs or the people of the City of Tucson and it doesn't represent the future. It represents the way outsiders of...of...of our valley and those needs can and should be met, but not at the expense and at the expense of the residents of the City of Tucson. I'm just outraged. In addition to the Grant Road thing, I still have not heard anything good about federal funds that are available to decarbonize transportation in Pima County going to any projects that result in decarbonization. What I've heard is that it's going to fill in gaps for staff at PAG and RTA and...and that's outrageous. I like Paul's idea let's get him face to face and have them explain themselves. Thank you, Mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you. Any others, Council Woman.

**Council Member Lee:** I guess I...I just have kind of a question on where...where do we go from here. Obviously, hearing that the plan on the table only funded 45% for City of Tucson and we generate 62 to 65% of the revenue is obviously a no go for us. Mr. Manager, I know you said you weren't sure when the next meeting is. Is that for TMC or just the next RTA meeting for the mayor in general?

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor Council, Member Lee, the TMC. So, I...I have not heard anything on TMC. I believe the the RTA Board is in meeting in May. I don't remember the date exactly, but I know we are meeting in May.

**Mayor Romero:** Umm, there is no scheduled meeting of TMC?

**Mr. Ortega:** No, at this point there is not that I'm aware of.

**Council Member Lee:** I guess to count the to Vice Mayor Dahl's point, I mean where...what we should be talking about right now so that the mayor can go in in May because we've been talking in circles for years and years. Mayor, you have been fighting the good fight for years and years, and it just feels like we're going in circles. So, what...what can we be doing between now and then to be productive?

**Mr. Ortega:** So, Mayor, Council Member Lee and I wanted to also touch on something that Council Member Cunningham mentioned with regard to maintenance. So yes, we had heard that it was not allowed, but there has been a subsequent at least conversation around capital maintenance and that's why I have been very focused on using language capital rehabilitation.

So, we're basically rehabilitating some of the roadways versus, you know, fog seal or chip seal. It's a much deeper and potentially even a reconstruction. So, we did get a read that that is something that can be included. The key is it's currently not, and so in order for us to have a conversation going forward, something needs to be included there. And the reason that that's important is not necessarily the dollar amount but having that in the program so that if additional revenues are found or...or we get them over the the course of the 20 years that RTA Board then

can allocate dollars, additional dollars to that line item. So, it has to be in the program in order for dollars to be put there.

So, that is something that...that...that's out there. With regard to Council Woman Lee's question as far as what do we do, I think the mayor was pretty clear at the last meeting, there was no vote taken and the chair, General Maxwell, asked all of the Members to come back with what they...I believe he called them non-negotiables or their bottom lines or something I forget exactly, but in essence the ball is in their court. And so, I think, at this point it will be up to the RTA Board members to come to the table with something and really address the challenge. That's pretty obvious and pretty clear that was articulated by the Mayor

**Mayor Romero:** And Councilwoman I...I...I just wanted to add to the discussion. For the past four years, this Mayor and Council have had discussion as to what our bottom line is. Uh, we passed a move Tucson's Strategic Plan where we spend thousands of hours of staff time getting the input and engaging the community, Tucsonans as to what they wanted to see. One of the reasons we did Move Tucson is to know where we need to go as a community based on the input of Tucsonans.

And so, we created a Plan that we submitted to the RTA Board, umm, and the RTA staff and we basically have been ignored. The the most recent uhh...Technical Management Committee motion was worse than all of the programs that they've shown us. Umm...as you said, we create anywhere from 60 to 63% of the revenue in the region. The last proposal that passed, by the way, and it passed without the support of TMC Members of the City of Tucson, only assured us around 45% of the revenue where...where we create about 60%.

Let's just be, you know fair, 60%. One of our bottom line...ask is we know we create about 60 to 63% of the revenue, we would happy with 55%. So, we're putting something on the table. Our...our residents have said that they want investment in transit. Umm, the the last proposal removes investment from transit. Our residents have said that they want us to maintain our roads and to make them complete streets. In other words, modernize them, making make sure that we have transit capacity, bike and pedestrian safety, umm, capital maintenance is not included in the last proposal. We said we don't have expansive, uh projects, so we're going to take less in the...in the named projects, but put more in the categoricals which does that, you know, complete streets investment.

It removed \$50 million additionally from the categoricals. So, in all of the asks that the City of Tucson and this Mayor and Council have asked the RTA Board we regressed. Umm...so, next meeting, we will come back and I put our bottom line at the table at our last meeting and we asked other jurisdictions to bring their bottom line. Can we get to a...a program and a proposal that will be the best return on investment for the investment that Tucsonans put in terms of revenue. I don't know...I don't know, but but all of the things that we've talked about at this table we've put at that table and said this... these are our non negotiables and we haven't been able to get there in four years. Umm Council Member Santa Cruz, did you wanna add?

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** I guess I'm just curious, there's still trying to recalculate the projected revenue.

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council member Santa Cruz, know they actually received a report from the university.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** OK, they did and and so I guess what we're at is there has not been any discussion of what will be done with the additional revenue.

**Mr. Ortega:** Mayor, Council member Santa Cruz, no they're actually has and the group recommended that...that those additional dollars go, I'll say predominantly to the contingency fund because it was zero there, and also the debt service and increasing the debt service an amount. So most all of that money went to that. There was I believe \$20 million or \$25 million left from the original, we'll call it extra revenue that was generated by that calculation.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** So in that, that's where we're still at the 45%?

**Mr. Ortega:** that's correct. OK, that's correct.

**Mayor Romero:** Umm. So, there's no decisions made, but umm...regarding the input to the jurisdictional colleagues at the RTA, there is always an opportunity for my colleagues to come to the, and any other, you know, audience member, resident of the City of Tucson, come to the RTA Board meetings and PAG meetings to give your input. Umm, and hopefully what we can...we can move forward in a positive way.

So, we've we're out of time. So, we're...we're gonna move on to Item 8. Before I move on to Item 8, I've been told that in a representative Alma Hernandez is here. Really appreciate it. I haven't, there she is I thank you so much Representative Hernandez for being here and I know that Representative Consuelo Hernandez was here as well. I appreciate you being here and happy that you're witnessing the work of...of Mayor and Council. With that, we're gonna move on to Item 8.

**8. Discussion and Direction Relating to Fare-Free Transit for Sun Tran, Sun Link, and Sun Van (City Wide) (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-83**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** Item 8 has been set aside for Mayor Council to continue the discussion on Fare Free Transit and to provide direction as appropriate. Mr. Manager.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor. This is a follow up to the conversation we had a bit ago where you asked us to come back. Sam Credio is here, and we'll go over the detail of what he has discovered since our last discussion, Sam.

**Sam Credio, Department of Transportation and Mobility Director:** Thank you, Mr. Manager, and good afternoon again, Mayor, Members of the Council. I do have a presentation

that has been handed out to you and I will go through this and there will be time for questions afterwards. But you're also welcome to jump in if something sparks your interest as I go through this. So just as a refresher, back on March 5th, we had a continued conversation about Fare Free Transit and during that conversation you all requested that we return back to you with a few very specific items.

First, you know that there was a letter writing, email writing campaign with public comments regarding Fare Free Transit. So, we did provide a summary of the themes of comments that we heard during that...that campaign. We will also provide an update and overview of the Prepandemic fare structure, past sales and funding partnerships and then a summary of some of the funding options that we have explored through this process and also responding very directly to some other questions that were brought up during the study session on March 5th.

So, moving on to a summary of the public comments that we heard in...in and also received emails this morning and I pretty much looked at almost every single one of them. Here were some of the themes that we heard from those emails we received. The...the themes were increased in critical access to education and employment is something that Fare Free Transit provides. It provides a trust of and support for city government toward racial and economic justice, prevents further harm to our most vulnerable community members, transit is an economic driver that it meets the unprecedented needs of those experiencing cycles of poverty, it encourages more ridership as you all saw when I presented that at the last meeting, and it also supports our climate future.

And moving on to the next slide here, I'm going to spend just a little bit of time on this slide, and this is our pre pandemic fare structure. I do have some green boxes on the the slide on the screen there that aren't on your handout because I do want to spend a little bit of time going through this and and call out some areas specifically.

First, I want to note that the full fare, cash fare was \$1.75. I know that I've received that question before from...from some of you. There was a stored value discount. So, you may remember that there was a SunGo card that you could store value on and so in order to incentivize the use of the SunGo card, there was a bit of a discount instead of just paying a cash fare on the bus. We do have an Economy Fare Program, which is what those green boxes on the screen demonstrate. And I'm going to return to that in just a moment.

There was an Express Fare, so the express bus is actually already charged a premium fare which was \$2.35. The next box down are up charges for that express service. So, if you had bought a full fare on the fixed route and then transferred to an express bus, there was an upcharge. Same for the economy fare and also for Sun Shuttle deviated and Dollar Ride services, which actually were only in Green Valley and Sahuarita.

In terms of our Sun Van program there was a base fare for Sun Van as well. The regular fare was \$3.20. Umm...that is for the FTA required a three-quarter mile buffer complementary paratransit service around a fixed route. So that's required by FTA law. However, the City also provides an optional service outside that requirement, and that full fare value was \$6 for a one way trip. And then moving on over to the right-hand column. These are all of our period passes and so you can see that we have anything from a day pass all the way down to an annual pass and they did

increase in value based on the duration of the pass. We also have our college semester and annual passes that are shown there as well. The college semester pass for UA and Pima Community College was \$192.00 and the annual pass was \$480.

I would like to circle back now to the economy fares, which are outlined in the green boxes on the screen, because I do want to talk a little bit about our economy fare program. There was an opportunity pre-pandemic to come down to 35 W. Alameda and you could sign up for our economy fare program and you would receive a SunGo card and ID and that would allow you access to these economy fares beginning with the base fare of \$0.75. There was that upcharge for the express service, similar to the full fare option, there is an economy fare for Sun Van and for a one-way trip in the required zone was \$1.60.

For optional service it was \$4 and then we also had economy fares for the 30-day pass which was \$22.50. And then, I do want to note two others that are actually not part of the economy fair program, but we're special fares that we had, one was discounted one day tickets for nonprofit agencies only, which was \$2.45. And we use to work with nonprofits during that time to to sell those passes to them. And then you may recall that we had the Summer Go Youth Pass program, which was for during summer vacation for youth ages 6 to 18 only and that was \$45.00.

And then lastly, one that I remember that's not reflected in this table is the 20 for 25 program where if somebody loaded \$20 worth of value on their SunGo card, they actually received \$25 worth of rides and that was an incentive program we had to use so folks would want to ride the system and receive a little bit of a discount there.

So, moving on to the next slide here, these are just our past sales and I believe we've shared this information with you before and I wanted to come back to this because it gives you a sense of who was buying passes pre-pandemic. The very first line is a bit of a not misleading, but it I need it to provide some explanation. Sun Tran, partnered with Fry's Food as a pass through. And that was a location where people could go and actually load value on their SunGo cards. And so that's why it looks that we sold \$1,000,000 worth of passes at Fry's Food locations. Again, that was just a pass through and a partnership that we had with Fry's Food.

But really what I want to point to is the two largest path sales were first TUSD which was \$879,298.00 in pass sales nearly \$900,000 and then the University of Arizona, which was just shy of \$840,000 for that full year. Again, a little bit of excellent explanation there. The UA subsidized about half the cost of the passes to their students, and so half of that cost is allocated to the students that paid it and the other half was contributed by the UA at approximately \$419,000. And then you can see we we sort of rolled up many of the other pass sales otherwise it's this would be really long.

I do want to draw your attention to one other, which is Raytheon, that sold about 40 or bought about \$42,696.00 worth of pass sales that fiscal year. That was for their employees to ride the bus. They also, on top of that, funded the Express route, which was the 201X and you can see that, umm...I want to just make a quick note on this presentation. That value on the screen there is for FY22, the actual FY19, just so we're comparing apples to apples here was \$155,762.00.

And so, all of that rolled up, we sold about \$4.4 million worth of pass sales that last fiscal year...that last full fiscal year.

And lastly, I'm almost done here, I promise, we are getting to the funding options that were presented in the material. We also went over these funding options with the transit stakeholder group, and so I will move through these rather quickly. The transportation utility fee was the first option that we looked at. This is a mechanism that can potentially fund municipal transportation needs as a utility for which users of the system pay a fee based on their use of the system. We did find that based on our review of the ARS, there would likely not be an allowance to use this for transit service. So, we can...did not consider this as a viable option. The Public Utility Tax (PUT) is a tax which is levied uniformly to all utility ratepayers based on utility charges, and this is one that we actually do have in place right now.

The Mayor and Council does have the have the capacity to increase the PUT. It's currently set at 6% and any increase to this rate would position the city amongst the highest PUT imposition in the State of Arizona. It is considered a regressive tax, so any increase in this tax would...would have the greatest impact to fixed and low-income households. And lastly, Tucson Code §19-1000(C) requires any franchise payments from the utility to be credited toward the PUT. So, we listed this as a maybe, it certainly is an option, but we there would be some issues we want to work through before recommending this option.

And then three others just rounding this conversation out impact fees, we've talked about this before at the last Council meeting on this, the current ARS does prohibit the ability of municipalities to use impact fees for public transit. Special taxing districts are not an option because transit is not an authorized use of these special taxing districts. And then lastly, access agreements, which we've talked about before, these are those public private partnerships where we can enter into an agreement with a potential private entity on a funding a portion of the transit. You see that we've demonstrated that with Raytheon. So, this is definitely a viable option, and one that we have been exploring through these conversations.

And as I wrap up here, there was a question specifically about rental car tax. Umm...the Arizona Constitution does prohibit the City of Tucson from imposing a citywide tax on rental cars. Pima County can impose this tax. It does act as the Sports Authority district, and so all collections would have to be related to county sports facilities use. And then the hotel motel surcharge, which I think we've talked at great length at this table before. The City of Tucson currently imposes this a hotel tax, transient rental tax at 6% and an additional hotel motel surcharge which is \$4 per night. The Mayor and Council can increase both the transit rental, transient rental tax as well as a hotel motel surcharge. Any increase to the transient rental tax, which is currently a 6% would be...must be used for the promotion of tourism and then any increase to the hotel motel surcharge does have the flexibility to be used for any general fund purchase.

Just to give you context about \$1.00 per night collects approximately \$2, million. And then this is my last slide. I promise, there was a question about LTAF which stands for Local Transportation Assistance Fund. We had to dig deep into our history files to pull this out. This is a prior to FY2012, there were two funding mechanisms for LTAF, LTAF one which was non-Powerball receipts and LTAF 2 which were Powerball receipts. We found that from 2007,

excuse me, FY2007 through FY2011, the City of Tucson received over \$10.7 million and the combination of both of those funding sources. But during the 2011 legislative session, this was repealed and leaving the City of Tucson and many other jurisdictions at a significant loss.

Maricopa County did reestablish funding through a claim filed against the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, however, and additionally, this mayor and council back in November 14, 2012, voted unanimously to seek to reinstate these funding...this funding from the state, however, those efforts were never materialized. The state was never...did never reinstate these funds for transit. That was my last slide, and I know I went over that quickly, so I'm happy to answer any questions. Thank you, mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Sam. Umm, so Maricopa County has reestablished LTAF funding?

**Mr. Credio:** On that and I was reading through that, that's my understanding and I wanna dig into that a little bit more to find out exactly where that funding is going.

**Mayor Romero:** I think it would be wonderful for the City of Tucson, whatever we need to do to reestablish that LTAF funding. I was first elected in 2007, so I recall very well those funds, LTAF Funds coming to the City of Tucson and being used for transit. And it really helped our general fund tremendously. So, I mean, do we have to file a claim against ADEQ? Maybe we find out how Maricopa County did it, and we ask our state legislators to help us figure out a way to bring those monies back to the City of Tucson and our regional transit system. Any comments or questions on this? Council Woman Lee, and then, Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Woman Lee:** Thank you, Mayor, and thank you, Sam, for a great presentation, very thorough and thanks for helping us remember what the system was like 4 years ago prior to COVID, because I lost a lot of that information in my brain over the past four years. Umm, you know, I...I know 100% that the fare free experience is...is wonderful. I've seen a lot of stories. Mayor, your newsletter was full of great stories of people who have benefited from it. I absolutely hate driving in Tucson and being able to jump on the bus is a wonderful experience.

You know, the challenge is coming off the heels of our budget conversation. I'm really concerned about an ongoing \$13 million decrease in revenue that we could be bringing in if we were able to find a solution of addressing the very real need for our low-income or no income riders through programs or working with partners like nonprofits that can offer free passes to folks. And so, I...I just feel strongly that at some point later this year, we're probably gonna have to consider what we need to start doing to position yourself to have the option to look at specific services that we may need to start charging for.

Umm...Sam, is there any way you could remind us, kind of just in general, I know we're...we're looking at the \$13 million year after year, but what is the total operating budget for the entire system?

**Mr. Credio:** Thank you, Mayor, Council Member Lee. Generally speaking, the entire mass transit system, SunTran, SunVan SunLink and our Transit Services division is about \$100 million just to to keep round numbers.

**Council Member Lee:** And where...where are the funding sources for the \$100 million?

**Mr. Credio:** Yes, great question. So, a majority of the funding source of that \$100 million does come from the General Fund. We do have money that comes through our advertising contract both with the bus wraps and the bus stops. We do receive federal grants for a portion of that, it's about 20% of the total budget. We then also receive a fair amount of money from the RTA Plan for service on nights and weekends and frequency. That's to the tune of about \$15 million total, but the largest source of the funding for mass transit is a General Fund.

**Council Member Lee:** OK. Thank you, Sam. So, the City of Tucson is absolutely investing heavily in... in transit services. I know this is a value and a priority of ours and so I thought that was helpful to see the whole picture. It's easy to get stuck on the fare number, but there's a lot of investment happening behind the scenes to maintain. Thank you, Sam for spelling out the partnership, especially the passes that was really interesting to me.

I know we've talked about partnerships, especially to TUSD and the UA, and I understand Sam, maybe you can help me understand this a little more. I believe that some of the challenges with our partners coming on board is that there is no fare structure in place, meaning there is no opportunity to exchange value for something because we haven't placed a value on the passes? Is that something that you've heard or is that sound like an impediment to getting some of the partners to the table?

**Mr. Credio:** Yes, Mayor, Council Member Lee, the conversations that have occurred at the transit stakeholder group, specifically with our partners at Pima Community College, the UA and TUSD, have been some concerns about uh...demonstrating that the investment they'd be making directly impacts and...and is a direct benefit to their students. Particularly Pima Community College has said that they are concerned about the legality of being able to contribute to the transit system without demonstrating that direct benefit.

**Council Member Lee:** OK. Thank you for helping me understand that a little bit more Sam. And lastly, you know, just I would...I feel comfortable saying at a certain point later this year, Mayor, I would probably like to if...if my colleagues are open to it entertained, there were at what we've seen in the budget that has unfolded over the next several months and potentially revisit the conversation. Sam, can you remind us again on the timeline? So obviously nothing we're gonna do is gonna change everything overnight. What would we look at in terms of if...if we're sitting here a year from now looking at the next fiscal year budget and we have to make some changes, how much time do we have to go through this entire process?

**Mr. Credio:** Thank you for that question. Mayor, Council Member Lee, the timeline that we laid out for you is about six months. I think we could probably shorten that if we needed to. The steps that in are included in the returning to any sort of fare collection, whatever that may look like, includes the Title 6 analysis, which we talked at great lengths about last time as well as preparing our equipment, our operator...training our operators and making sure that there's a robust marketing campaign so everyone knows what that would look like. So, it's about a three to six month ramp up inclusive of all those steps.

**Council Member Lee:** OK. Thank you, Sam. That's my only question to me. I know not everyone is of the same mindset and that's totally good. I just wanted to to get some questions answered.

**Mayor Romero:** I have a feeling that we're gonna continue talking about budget way after we approve our budget this year. So, I think we're gonna work on, umm, and I think that it's the best approach, right, to continue working on the budget for the following fiscal year. Council Member Cunningham and then Council Member Santa Cruz.

**Council Member Cunningham:** Couple things. One is...is that we're gonna (sigh) be in a situation where we're gonna be faced with questions about cutting service and I don't wanna be in that. That's actually,...I have a core value that we should have free transit. People should be able to get where they want to get. One, I don't want to bankrupt the city to do it, but more importantly, I don't wanna cut service. So that's part of it. I've talked about route efficiencies before. Again, we don't need six stops between two stop lights that are a mile long. That isn't what the federal statute says. I pushed back on staff about that.

If we are 900 feet from 1 intersection, 900 feet from the other intersection, either way in 2600, feet in the middle, they're less than 1/4 mile, but there's less than 1000 feet between stops. We can probably get to less than 1000 feet between stops pretty easily. We're totally in line with what's...what's expected. I'd say right now we should take action that if indeed we have some avenue to claim for the LTAF, we should probably direct the city attorney to put that on study session when...when appropriate. I don't know if I need that in form of a motion. I think that the clerk can take that discussion point and she sees the unanimous agreement around the table with everybody going like this.

Finally, I've talked more and more about the discussion about paratransit. So, my big advocacy piece here is about paratransit. Umm, we've talked about keeping free, if we keep free...free transit, we can't have a premium pay paratransit. I don't think that's tax might not be true. I've talked to some of the folks in your shop and talk we when we had our discussion about paratransit in Ward 2 last week. My thought is... is that I've really liked to take a look at what those statutes actually say about paratransit. I mean, I'm...I'm happy about offering...I'm happy to offer free paratransit as is, but if folks are able to come up with 7-10 bucks so they can get point to point and be where they need to be in an hour rather than three, I think we should go for that.

So that's a big piece to it. An hour is not a lot to ask. Remember, in paratransit, boarding and unboarding can take as many as much as 12 to 15 minutes compared to other folks. We've got to keep that in mind, and we got to take care of our folks, our paratransit riders. It's not that much in the big \$100 million budget. Finally, I think probably I can see us really having to have this discussion again in September once we get the budget passed, if we're able to get the budget passed, I'm not...I don't wanna like....I think we will....I don't want to freak you out, but I...you know, but I think this is a good time, we'll be able to take a look at our numbers. We'll be able to kind of flesh out the discussion. We'll actually have a Ward 6 Council Member, God willing. So those are some some of the things that we probably need to do before we carry this any farther

today. But hey, the LTAF piece is a really big piece, and I'd like to have that information if we could bring this back in September. Those are my thoughts off the top of my head.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Council Member, Council Member Santa Cruz.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Thank you, Sam and City Manager for putting this presentation together and you know kind of giving us a umm...umm a little history lesson about what was happening prior to the pandemic.

I think it's a waste of time to continue to have this conversation about whether or not we charge fares when we know that they contribute less than 10% of the cost of our transit system. And like you said, Sam, umm...a big chunk of that. Funding is coming from our...our General Fund and I think that this Mayor and Council and previous Mayor and Councils have invested in valued public transportation as something that is needed in our community. I think in the long run we...we're at, I feel like we're at the same place. So, we're talking about, yes, how do we in the short-term shore up that 10% and can we look at these other funding opportunities but in the long run, if we want to continue to do service improvements, pay for additional routes and frequency, we're gonna need a funding mechanism for our transit system. And so, that was part of that long term. I asked that we had of this Transit Task Force to help us come up with that. I'm and I think that...that's gonna also be ongoing conversations that we need to do because I don't think that returning to third collection is gonna solve our short- or long-term budgetary goals, but it will have a negative impact on our ridership.

And just because we're shoring up \$13 million into that fare piece or just into our transit system doesn't mean that we would actually be collecting that amount of money. I feel that, uh, a free fares is a service improvement on that has been celebrated by many of our bus riders who have written to share how it has improved the efficiency, the ease of writing, the timeliness of the bus by eliminating the time and stress it takes to collect fares. Umm... Fare Free Transit is a crucial tenant of the prosperity initiative that we, as a City of Tucson, Pima County, recently adopted our commitment to access for all to equality transportation system is at the base of creating an equitable mobility across our city and a game changer for many of our families.

I know Mayor that you recently shared that AARP also wrote in support of us continuing to be fair free. I know that we need to continue working and asking our community to work with Pima County and our other jurisdictions to help and in supporting with...with funding revenues and mechanisms to allow for this to continue. And I think along with our state and our federal government, who can also afford to invest in our Tucson community. I think that the investment in public transit can work hand in hand with some of our sports facilities and our tour...our tourism, because if we're able to collect these revenues, people can get to sporting events, they can, you know, see and experience the city. I feel that we yeah, we can continue having these conversations with our county, our school districts, but I think going back and forth on whether or not we should have theirs is just we're just going in circles here.

**Mayor Romero:** Vice Mayor

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor, and thanks for the presentation, pretty robust. I agree with Council Member Santa Cruz, Fare Free Transit is such a useful public utility on so many levels. But I also recognize the legitimate concern that my other colleagues have pointed out about our budget. I think September might be a little too soon because when I looked at these options, I saw state legislature, state legislature, state legislature and in November we might have a seat change.

So, I...I would propose that it would be after the next election that we revisit this with it, which isn't too far past September unless things get really bad really quick, looking at earlier. One question and...and this is probably a legal question, the...and I'm not suggesting that this would be a great mechanism, but the transient rental tax on hotel/motels, currently at 6%, has to be above that has to be used for the promotion of tourism. I think free transit is a great promotion for tourism. I know of several people who have visited me, who are wonderfully amazed at how easily they could get around town, and I think we should be promoting it to...to people come to Tucson or thinking of coming to Tucson. So that's a question for an answer for another day. Umm, but again, thank you for the presentation and I...I propose we continue forward and then maybe revisit this in November.

**Mayor Romero:** And then just for the benefit of the public, we aren't...we are not making any decisions right now in terms of turning back on Fare Free Transit. As a matter of fact, the city manager has presented us a budget that includes Fare Free Transit up until June of 2025. Umm, yes, absolutely we have to continue looking at the possibilities of how we continue funding Fare Free Transit. I believe that it is an absolute service both for residents and visitors alike. I like the information provided in the memo. Thank you, Councilman Lee, for asking for all this information, so, we can discuss, umm, you know, and I wanna make sure that I call attention to LTAF. Although I think we all agreed that we want to see where we can go with that. Umm, we've been asking for a long time about LTAF funding and why it's not coming back to cities and towns throughout Arizona.

I think there's an opportunity to continue talking about hotel/motel surcharge. I know that we are using some funds in the current hotel/motel surcharge that are going to transit right now. Umm...also, I think we can pursue additional access agreement...agreements with private businesses. We've done that with Raytheon. I believe, Sam, that we are pursuing, one with Amazon for them to provide access to their workers directly to their... to their places of work and academic partners.

You know, previously academic partners were adding additional funds to the the fares within the City of Tucson. It's very upsetting that are academic partners, everyone from UA to Pima College to TUSD and other school districts asked for numbers. The City of Tucson provided them numbers of riders that their institutions had in our systems and not just students, but faculty and staff. And even though the numbers proved that those institutions are beneficiaries of our transit system, they failed to see the value of coming to the table to partner with the City of Tucson on continuing, you know to...to provide a service for our community that makes not only economic sense but also makes environmental sense.

So again, the conversation continues and I just wanna make sure that the public is aware that we are not making a decision to rollback to the previous fares before but, that this...this conversation will continue. I did share a lot of stories in my newsletter this past Friday. My staff jumped on the Streetcar and then jumped into buses and then back to the streetcar and interviewed more than 25 people that use our transit system and it's everyone from tourists. Umm, you know, I've heard from many small businesses within our downtown connected to the streetcar. How much our tourists love to jump in and move around and not have to move their cars and figure out parking, from students at TUSD, we spoke with a teacher that was teaching TUSD students life skills. And they had a group of more than 30 students, teaching them how to use our transit system and how to solve real-world applications and valuable social skills.

You know, we had a room from UA students to Pima College students to regular Tucson residents. Umm...that told us we should be making it easier for the public to use our public transit system and you know that it's not just low-income riders that take advantage of what we've been doing and so (sigh) lots of good stuff to continue our discussion on. Thank you for the information and hopefully we can agendaize an item on further study of how Maricopa County, you know, through ADEQ is receiving back and those LTAF funds. So, and let's talk about when we do that. Thank you, Sam. Really appreciate it. Thank you all for the input on this.

Umm...we go on to an update on our Climate Action Plan, Item 9.

**9. Update and Discussion on Tucson Resilient Together, the City of Tucson's Climate Action and Adaption Plan (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-79**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** This item is a quarterly update on the Tucson Resilient Together implementation progress. Mr. Manager.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor. This is our...our 4th quarterly update. You had adopted the Implementation plan back in April of 2023. Now we've since done 3 quarterly updates and reports, and this is our 4th. So, with that, I'll turn it over to, Fatima.

**Fatima Luna, Chief Resilience Officer:** Honorable Mayor, Members of the Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with the 4th quarterly update on Tucson Resilient Together (TRT) implementation.

So, I will be sharing the updates on TRT, and Nicole is gonna provide updates on the Urban Forestry Program. And so, in the materials we share a progress report attachment A that details all all of the climate work that department, city departments, and the Climate Action Team (CAT) have implemented during the reporting period. And so I will...I group all of those in five categories. And so, the first is that the city of Tucson continues to be a leader on climate action. I want to congratulate Mayor Romero, for being recognized by the Arizona for Environmental

Excellence Awards for her leadership. Congratulations, Mayor. Tucson Resilient together, our plan also received the award of distinction for climate action solutions and Tucson Water received the Chris Cordian Award in the site development category. So, these awards are really a testament of the city of Tucson and its leadership on climate, so that we are recognized statewide, so congratulations on that.

Second, the city of Tucson and departments continue to secure grant funding for climate related actions and implementation work. So, \$3.8 million were awarded from the Reconnecting Comunidades Communities and Neighborhoods, and WIFA water conservation grants. And so in addition, the city has submitted and is waiting to hear back from several grant applications that amount to about \$180 million for climate related work.

This takes me to my third update category, which is our collective or collaborative efforts with external partners. So, we partner with Pima County and other regional partners to submit a large proposal for EPA's climate pollution reduction grant and as the city, we submitted 5 projects that amount to over \$136 million. I...I want to recognize Carlos de la Torre and his team, Michael, Cantanzaro, Frank Bonillas, Tammy Smith, Jamie Galayda from Tucson Water for helping us develop these projects. And I also of course, want to recognize Pima County and all the partners for all the work that went into submitting the proposal by April 1st, only a month after we submitted phase one. And so very grateful for that work.

We also work with the Primavera Foundation and other partners to submit a \$20 million proposal for EPA's Community Change Grant. And so, this grant is more community driven and uhh...with a tier...3 tier investment approach. So, starting at the healthy home, so looking at inside, outside repairs and water energy efficiencies followed by the healthy neighborhoods. So just looking at community scale, GIS and shaded bus stops, umm, so a network of shaded bus stops and then at the healthy community level we are gonna look at resilient huts, both planning and implementation.

So, these two proposals together, actually the community change, can also has a very strong workforce development component as one of the cross-cutting strategies in all the components as well as education and outreach. So again, thanking city staff who supported with this, Blue Baldwin and her team from Tucson Water, Monica Landgrave and Mackenzie Wintermore for DTM, Steven Addison, Leslie Ethan, Jeremiah, so...so many city staff really contribute to making these two proposals happen. And so, if we get these funding, these two proposals will advance not only the climate actions for city operations, but also community wide, which I think is critical because that's where we struggle a little bit more and you know, going into people's homes and making these upgrades, it's something that will benefit the community at large.

And then 4th our team continues to engage engaged with Tucsonans as we are implementing Tucson Resilient Together. So, during this reporting period, we participated in several community events that are listed in the progress report, including showing up to or Tucson Resilient Together Community Partner to events like this outside worker assemblia that happens quarterly as well as hosting a well attended online climate action stakeholder conversation in a very successful heat planning summit.

So, I want to share a little bit about the Heat summit. So, we, the City of Tucson, in collaboration with the University of Arizona, the Pima County Health Department, we hosted the first ever Southern Arizona Heat Planning Summit. And so over 110 representatives, representatives from various sectors participated, and they included public health professional professionals, emergency managers, urban planners, utility operators, first responders, university researchers and community members. And so, they all brought very unique expertise and lived experiences. And so, we also worked with the University of Arizona, specifically Lathe Kit and Mona Aurora, and they're wonderful graduate students who help us in a very quick turnaround. Look at the data that came out of the summit and gather cross cutting high level recommendations that we were able to provide to the Governor's office and they we received a confirmation that those seven recommendations were embedded in the governor's office, heat preparedness, Extreme Heat Preparedness Plan that was released March 1st. So, that was very successful because in essence that plan could translate into funding into the future. So, making sure that Southern Arizona voices were represented in that step, the state level plan was important for us.

In moving forward, we are actually taking a deeper dive into that data that we collected at the heat summit because essentially that's what's going to inform our own city heat preparedness, mitigation and response plan. And so, my...our goal is to have a heat plan, a draft by at least by the end of this month and we want to socialize it with you next month and so that it would be ready before the summer, so end of May. Along with that, Mayor and Council, you asked us to work and heat protection ordinance. So, we are also working on that and in parallel lines. So, we're hoping to bring those back to you before the summer and our fifth update is or Urban Forestry Program, Nicole.

**Nicole Gillett, Environmental Manager:** Hello everyone I know it's been a long day so thanks for sticking with us. You guys have some details in your memo on updates on the program and also, I've been meeting with each of the ward offices subtly on implementation updates. So, I'm going to focus on some exciting upcoming things, and I would like to work with all of you on moving forward.

So first I'm here to announce that 2025 is the year of the tree. I am accepting more creative names if anyone would like to submit some, umm.... but that's really going to be our first big outreach push that was identified in our action plan as a priority, so that's also gonna be a chance to align all of our city communications that are currently regarding trees. So, thank you're brushing bulky flyers, or if you get volunteer opportunities, we tend to have, you know, very much department by department language. And we're going to be working to put together consistent outreach materials and things that all of our departments can use so that everything is consistent information. And then also, of course, many exciting opportunities and events. So I'll look forward to working with all of you on a very exciting year for Trees 2025.

And then second, now that we really have our foundation sort of underneath our feet for the Urban Forestry Program, one thing that was identified is the number one top priority in the action plan was actually tree protection. So, we're looking at the condition of our current urban forest and canopy and finding ways to work to both preserve and protect really our existing benefits that trees give us. I'm exploring a lot of different options and have actually already

discussed this with a couple of the ward offices, but really looked to mayor and council for your suggestions on how to move this forward. This could include things like what updates policy changes, but we really do need to be focusing on our current canopy, which is of course under increasing threat every year from climate change, and of course, human daily behavior. So, looking at some of those options and look forward to that conversation continuing here.

And then lastly, a crossover action with Tucson Resilient Together is the electrification of our tool sets. And so that brings of course, not only carbon reductions for our city, but is also a huge health benefit to our staff. And so, we are looking at rolling across, rolling that out across all of our departments and some of our departments are already working as we are replacing old tools at choosing electric ones. So, we're looking at policy options for that and also additional funding. And those are my three exciting updates. Thanks everyone.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Fatima and Nicole, really appreciate the update umm... and really appreciate the work that Fatima and your team, all of the work that...that is being done. Just for clarification, the City of Tucson was, umm, given honor in Arizona Forward for Environmental Excellence Award, in Tucson Resilient Together and also in Tucson's Water Sharp Facility. So, all of us, Mayor and Council and the entire City of Tucson were honored in that event. I was and there to celebrate with City of Tucson staff. I was honored with another four mayors by the Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Award for the unwavering leadership that five mayors in Arizona display in terms of climate action. So, we were individually recognized, but also the City of Tucson and Mayor and Council were given recognition for...for the incredible work that we're all doing.

Umm...I heard the Heat Summit was incredible, really appreciate you all continuing to engage the community. My question is, how does the continued engagement look like and what's the next round of engagement?

**Ms. Luna:** Thank you for the question, Mayor. So yes, we already have set dates for the stakeholder conversations. The next one will be in person, so we're gonna alternate between and online and then in in-person. The next one would be in June and then the following in November, so for this year. But in, in addition to those, asset stakeholder conversations, again, I'm showing up to our TRT Community Partners, events, umm...and staying them or continue to keep them engaged, providing updates, but also more than anything, identifying potential opportunities for grant collaboration.

For instance, the Southside Worker Center was a partner, in the community changed grant. So, we're hoping to not only, umm...you know some of the projects that we're identifying in TRT planning that actually become pilot projects for implementation as we look forward to finding. So that's one of the things that we're doing identify and funding opportunities with community partners. We also have monthly Tucson Resilient Together updates in our newsletter, so I'll encourage...I continue to encourage all the folks that I talked to to sign up for those because they in turn provide information on other events. We are showing up to tree planting events to clean ups and those are really good spaces to just stay connected with the community and listen to the needs and all suggestions as we do good things...as we do like you know as we plant trees and so that's a good way to stay engaged. In our last stakeholder conversation, that was one of the

questions that we asked, like the community. How would you like to stay engaged? And so, they provided, we did an exercise and they provided some really good suggestions, like having focus conversations on the five areas of the TRT plan. And so that's what we're gonna look into or like having cafecitos or show up at parks to do this kind of engagement work. And so, we're looking at like the recommendations to influence our next stakeholder meeting. Let's see, yeah, and so, you know, we continuously meet with the community at large at their request to talk about potential project collaborations as part of like that constituency work that we do.

And so, through that, we also learned about opportunities for funding or even for increase engagement capacity. For instance, the CCES or the Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability, they they have offered to support in community engagement, and we are having discussions on showing up to some of the events that we...we were invited. So, tabling, it's also one of the strategies that we're implementing now. So, we move forward because there's a lot of events that are happening with a lot of people congregating, so that's an easy way for us to keep the community informed of what we're doing.

**Mayor Romero:** Then one last question, because I know we're pressed for time, are there any policy updates that we need to make on our green fleet policy to expand EV infrastructure such as charging stations? I know that we are umm...putting big umm...vehicle replacement orders in and you know, just want to see if there's anything that we can do on our end to make sure that we are ordering EV vehicles.

**Ms. Luna:** Thank you for the question, Mayor. So yes, so recently there was a...a large order and so that order that ended up being like asked people did go through the fleet policy steps. So, first of all, making sure that EV options what was like the first recommendation and so...umm...so the fleet policy has been in place for...for a year now. And in that whole time, the only order, so this one that I'm talking about, that was gas vehicles went through the entire process of looking at all the options EV's. If that didn't happen, hybrids and that didn't happen, like looking at low emissions. But at this point, the recommendation was made to put the gas order because there were no other options and so the manufacturers really, you know, we're very limited in these these were vehicles that needed to be on the ground for, you know, the police in in interceptor utility.

And so, it was a function of making sure that the the Police Department still has those operational vehicles that were that needed to be replaced while following the steps in the policy. So unfortunately, and there's occasions where like the month supply issues, manufacturing issues come into place, but the policy was used correctly in terms of going through every step and getting approval from like the director to move forward with that order. Yeah.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you. Fatima. Any other comments or questions? Vice Mayor.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. Thank you for this presentation. Two of my favorite departments. Umm...thank you for working on all the electrification of landscaping equipment. I think there's no other thing more annoying than a gas blower at 6:00 AM in your neighborhood and why the heck are you blowing stuff off of gravel when it can provide mulch habitat for insects and it helps the trees and the shrubs that are growing above it. If you're on a sidewalk, use

a broom, right. I've recently changed from my gas lawn mower and weed whacker because I take care of a short urban wash that this... this winter had a lot of weeds and I noticed the benefit of lower noise, umm...and ease of and because I am charging the battery on solar, it's being powered by the sun. I think we need to do that in Tucson as an example and then think about ordinances for encouraging it elsewhere. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Member Santa Cruz. And then we're gonna unfortunately have to continue on to the next item.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Well, first of all, I wanna say congratulations on this first year of implementing the Tucson Resilient Together Action Plan. I was curious about when we think we'll hear back on the EPA grants on climate pollution and any other grants that you'll have applied for.

**Ms. Luna:** We're hoping soon. But it is the federal government. So, we we keep checking, we'll, we'll keep you updated on those.

**Mayor Romero:** It's very exciting to know that we're applying. I mean, we are ready to apply for the infrastructure reduction money. So, I... I do wanna share that, umm...EPA and other departments really used Tucson as a model city. Umm...and really talk about Tucson being ready for moving to a no to low emission city. So, with that, thank you all. As always, we can follow up with Fatima and Nicole online. Thank you. Alrighty. So we are now moving on to Item 10.

**10. Discussion regarding Consideration of a Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza (City Wide and Outside City) SS/APR09-24-80**

Discussion was held.

It was moved by Council Member Lee, duly seconded, that as a Governing Body, they choose not to schedule or move forward with any resolution, and instead leave room for each of them to express and advocate their own positions if and when they see fit.

Discussion continued.

The motion was CARRIED by a voice vote of 5 to 1 (Council Member Santa Cruz dissenting)

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**Mayor Romero:** Council Member Santa Cruz requested a discussion about whether the Mayor and Council would consider a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Umm...over the past few months it has been clear that our community as well as I and I know all of you, have been rocked by what we are bombarded with daily. The horrific actions and images of war in the Middle East. We have been hearing from community members for months on all sides of this very, very complex issue and I want you to know I have heard you.

I too feel... I too feel the pain we are all experiencing, and I too am heartbroken over the carnage and the people who are living in too often dying in Israel and Gaza. I know that the people in Tucson value all lives, Israeli and Palestinian. I know that we all believe too many lives have our...already been lost and living in a war-torn area with lack of access to food, water and medical care is even more devastating. We cannot ignore the troubling rise of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, hate and violence that has surfaced among the complexities and turmoil stemming from the Israel Gaza conflict.

This remains a stark reminder of how events on the other side of the world cast shadows and reach our own streets and communities. It is crucial for us as a unified and compassionate community, to stand firmly against hate in all of its forms. We cannot allow political conflicts to sow seeds of Division amongst us or become a pretext for hostility towards anyone. As your mayor, I want to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to the safety, dignity and rights of all people. So, with that, I know that a lot of people are here to listen to this conversation. And I would hope that all of us umm...listen, umm and I know that this is a touchy, touchy complex issue, so let's let's have respect amongst each other both on this side of the dais and in the audience. With that Council Member Santa Cruz.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Alright, thank you, Mayor, for opening it up and on setting this item up. I requested that we have a discussion regarding the question of whether the Mayor Council would consider a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza because our community since December 2023 has been coming to cut of the audience imploring for said resolution. This is Mayor and Council has been at a standstill on how to move on this request, especially when we started receiving pushback that even a discussion on such resolution was anti-Semitic. This further created a chilling effect, and my experience was that colleagues on the Council were at a loss for how to move forward. I want to thank Council Member Cunningham for bringing me into a meeting at his word to office with childhood friends and his team, members of his cultural, spiritual Jewish community to discuss how we could come together on this issue and move a resolution forward.

My understanding at the moment is that there is an agreement on this front and not sure if we can that we can get there. I've also met with concerned members of our community of all faiths, including Jewish people and Palestinian Americans, who are pleading for us to do our part to call for a ceasefire. They stress that the Jewish community, much like our our Latino, Latina community, is not a monolith and that we cannot let one group speak on behalf of our Jewish people in our city. This this issue is important and been part of my upbringing and my political formation. I've shared in the past that I grew up in an evangelical household. That was pro-Israel. My parents were part of the group in the early 90s or evangelical pastors were being taken to Israel for two week trips on talking about the importance of the State of Israel. And in my upbringing, it was umm...people from Israel were the chosen people and people that were from Muslim descent were not. In created a lot of conflict, even in my own...my own upbringing.

Before I was an Mexican American studies major, I was a philosophy, religious studies major, and my focus was on Judaic studies. I can say that it was taking a course at the UA on the feminist interpretation of the Hebrew text that made me confront that I no longer believe in the Judeo Christian God, and that my parents had adopted and converted into an oral tradition that

wasn't ours as colonized Indigenous people of this continent, umm...I always took issue with thinking that one spiritual cultural beliefs were more right than somebody else's. In college, I also had the opportunity to be a fellow with humanity and action where you took American and European fellows umm...to countries that had umm...had an internment camps and and talked about the Holocaust and the impact that that continued to have in those communities and how when we say never again, it's never again for...for everybody, not just one specific group of people.

So why is this relevant to discuss at Mayor and Council and premiering Councils to take a stance on a federal and international issue that impacts our residents and that members in our community have come to us as their first front facing level of government, where we also share these constituencies with our...our federal delegation. Umm...they've come to us because we've taken stances on immigration, on abortion, on climate action, even when we don't always have a direct legislative authority over them. I think it's...it's the opinion of the International Court of Justice that what is happening in Palestine is a genocide. The numbers are grossly tilted toward asymmetrical debt and casualties, and millions are facing starvation.

We have Palestinian, Arab and Muslim members of the Tucson community who are gravely affected by their families, overseas and the national uptick in hate crimes disproportionately against Arab and Muslim communities. The attack on the Arab boy in Illinois and the student at the University of Vermont as two of the most publicized. I think it would appear tone deaf for this Mayor and Council to not take up this topic as a discussion, as our constituents have been bringing this up for over four months and we are obligated to publicly have a conversation about where we each stand. It's about sending a clear message to our congressional delegation that we have a community that is concerned.

I'm aware that some of our Council colleagues and offices are uncomfortable having this discussion publicly and have expressed interest in tabling this discussion, indefinitely, and that is within their purview. But I feel that it is a disservice to our community that has elected as elected to have difficult conversations and take positions even when they're deemed controversial. I have observed that there is a fear of backlash from extremist individuals and groups who are running a campaign fueled by fear and intimidation tactics and somehow equate calling for a ceasefire as anti-Semitism. Countless other city councils are hesitant to entertain resolutions calling for an immediate ceasefire, arguing that foreign policy is outside of the purview of city councils and that municipalities policymaking cannot affect global issues.

Sadly, I believe this argument has become one more tactic to move the goal posts instead of pushing back on outside pressure. These issues directly affect our constituents. The increase in Islamophobia, anti Arab discrimination and anti-Semitism in the wars we represent as a direct result of Israel's war on Gaza, should impact our...our decision to take a stance and support an immediate ceasefire, while the US and Israel find themselves increasingly isolated and their reluctance to embrace the ceasefire. Seventy U.S. cities have passed resolutions on the Israel/Gaza war, with the majority calling for a ceasefire.

Of them, 48 cities have gone further, specifically, calling out Israel's bombardment on Gaza and calling for an end to the bloodshed. Our international community and the United Nations have

also clearly expressed the need for an immediate ceasefire and unfettered flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza. One thing we can agree on is that hate has no place, like you mentioned Mayor here, which includes our Muslim and Palestinian American community as well as our Jewish community. Let's stop mistake calling for an end to genocide umm as umm....as...as anti-Semitic increases in hate crimes are happening everywhere on for both their Muslim and...and Jewish communities. Umm...and it's not just because of ceasefire is past. I think there is a danger of equating criticisms of the Israeli Government as anti-Semitic. This leads to a fascist manipulation of the Holocaust, with strategic accusations that current calls for a ceasefire as anti-Semitic.

This is allowing for a genocidal war to continue without accountability. We are enabling and mainstreaming narratives that favor of vocal faction a far-right pro-Israel Jewish stakeholders over Palestinians. My hope is that this governing body can embrace that Jewish and Palestinian lives matter equally. And even though there is a need to decolonize or settler colonial states, this is ongoing work and at least we can do in this moment is move forward with an immediate ceasefire resolution and relay this to President Biden and our federal delegation. With that, I want to hear from my colleagues that drafting a ceasefire resolution is something we can move forward with or if it's a nonstarter and if so, what can we move forward as a governing body?

**Mayor Romero:** So, this is an opportunity please, please, please...umm we are discussing, and I I need to be able to have the discussion free of interruptions. Umm, my colleagues, umm...Council Woman Lee.

**Council Member Lee:** Thank you, Mayor. First of all, I...I just wanna take a moment to acknowledge everyone who is taking time to come out to call to the audience over all of these months, who have written opinion pieces, who have called us, who have sent in emails. I just want to acknowledge your humanity and seeing things that you feel inspired to take action on and to have your voices heard. So, I first wanted just to acknowledge everyone who has come out. OK, sorry someone was on a phone call for anyone watching. So again, thank you all for your advocacy and for your presence and having your voices heard for the past five months,

I have listened intently to everything that has been said in these council chambers. I've read as many of the emails as possible. We've literally gotten thousands of emails on both sides of this conversation. I've consumed as much of your thoughts and feelings and impressions about this topic for the past five months. Umm...and I've...I've always listened for that commonality and and as my colleagues have already said, you know, not wanting hate in our community and wanting peace is the one constant thread that does surface across everyone who's involved in this conversation. You know, we all have our own backgrounds and our lived experiences that inform our decisions and shape our opinions, and that is absolutely true for myself and my colleagues. I in my adult life spent multiple years living and working in war zones and areas of active conflict. So, I don't have a shortage of opinions about this, and I'm not afraid to have a conversation about it.

What I...what I am concerned about is the lack of a unified voice in this from the community, from our lived experiences and Mayor ,as Mayor and Council members, I don't personally believe that we should try to come up with a single position or statement that attempts to speak

for all of us as Mayor and Council because of our own individual differences and thoughts on this matter. This matter is complicated, nuanced and quite divisive, potentially. For any one statement to capture our individual views as a mayor and council. Each of us has the ability to express our position on this issue as our own individual Council offices and platforms provide. I think we should recognize and empower that rather than try to put forward a resolution that attempts to speak for all of us as a governing body.

So, with that, I move that we as a governing body, choose not to schedule or move forward with any resolution, and we instead leave room for each of us to express an advocate our own positions if and or as we see fit. That's the motion

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There is a motion and a second; continued discussion. Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Member Cunningham:** This was very...I struggled with this issue from the outset, uh each week, my thoughts on it changed. If you would have asked me on October 8th what I was thinking, I would have said that... I would have said some things I would have regretted. And if you ask me in before Christmas what I was thinking, probably would have said some things I would have regretted.

What I didn't want was to be forced into thinking one way or the other because at the end of the day, there's three things that are absolutely true in this situation. Number one is our community is divided over it and that's what affects the city and #2 is that October 7th was a horrible thing and and the hostage needed to come home that's pretty consensus. Everybody I talked to, no matter what side you're on. Third thing, I think that everybody agrees to is that IDF needs to stop killing civilians and those are all things that people agree with.

Those were the only three things that we actually have consensus on. Everything else is nuanced. Umm...there's some discussions about Zionism being a failure and and all that. Well when...when you say that to me my Jewish brain and my Jewish upbringing says so, basically what you're doing is apologizing for the Holocaust. I'm not saying that... that's what actually what you're doing, but that's what it sounds like when you say that Zionism is a failure to me. That's what you're saying. Now you can try to convince me otherwise and I've tried to listen to people, I've tried to bring people together. The one thing that I failed to do, and I failed as a leader, was I failed to bring actual Tucsonans, who used to live in Palestine and actual Tucsonans, who used to live in Israel together. What I do know is that in September, my mom was...went to like a festival where Palestinian and Gazian youth, along with Israeli youth, we're doing performance and things like that together. We were, so we we were getting there.

I remember when Rabin was assassinated, it was actually the day of my sister's bar mitzvah. And I thought we were so close. Every single part of me wants a peaceful Israel. And every single part of me wants all those different things that...that go but I'm also really disappointed in Israel right now. They had opportunities to back up and with the aid workers getting killed, and I don't know how, as a...as someone with a military background, I don't know how you can run a

missile strike campaign in a small area of 140 square miles, I just don't. So, I go back and forth with what do we do because our community is divided, and I can't get anybody to give. So, I'm OK with saying what you're saying as long as we say for now, I think we should have dialogue. I think we still need to bring people into the room. I still think there's light at the end of this tunnel. I still think there's a way to do a resolution. I just want that one piece to say for now until we can at least bring some folks into the room and actually bring people into talking. We started, we kind of stalled a couple things, got said a couple things didn't get said, but we're leaders, we lead and at some point, we're gonna have to take a stand here.

Now, whether or not I support the President trying to move aid in, we've gotta support our Congressional delegation. We've gotta do those things, but until we get some type of unified platitude for Tucson, then we're not representing Tucson, right, and we're not unified right now. We are totally apart. And I think it starts with listening. I think it starts with people getting out of their comfort zone a little bit. I think it starts with bringing people into a room that they normally wouldn't be in the same room with. I think if we can get that started, maybe we can do something that's meaningful instead of making a statement for the sake of making a statement. I said all the things that are universally consensus right now. But there's all kinds of different nuances about ohh existence in two state solutions and this and that, and uh, the OR just ending Israel. There're all those different things that are noise, so for me I'd ask one thing and that is that we make this for now and allow this community to meet and confer about this topic. And I don't know how we're gonna do it. I think it's gonna take a in incredible effort between the leaders of both communities, but sometimes you got to put faith in people. So I wanna put my faith there and that today is what I have to say.

**Mayor Romero:** Any others? Vice Mayor.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. I just want to echo what you said, Mayor, and just say Ditto, basically, which I often do after the mayor speaks. Umm and not repeat my concern for what's happening there. The helplessness I feel as someone who's worked for peace since I was in high school. Umm, but I know that whatever action is taken by City Council today will not have any impact on the situation in Gaza, tomorrow there will be just as bad stuff. The 100 cities that have signed didn't move the needle, and we won't move the needle one way or the other.

But I do know that what action is taking today will have an impact on the Tucson Community and Paul, I...I think you hit it on the on the head, this is not the place for this to be resolved. The communities of interest need to work together, and if there's things that we can do to...to help that I'm all for that. But taking a specific action that will piss off some group of people is...is not the thing to do to help people come together. I've been elected to represent the entire community, and so my best judgment is that now is not the time for us to to pass a resolution that directs federal action in this area. I think that's best for our city and I will support the motion is seconded that my colleague, Councilwoman Nikki Lee, has put forward. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Umm Council Member Fimbres I don't know if you wanted to jump in here.

**Council Member Fimbres:** There's in the literature, it's our national elected official's matter. Considering the concerns moving forward on that I support...I support Lane and I support Nikki. So, I don't think...I have been hearing from everybody in the Community saying it's not our call. Everybody go to the lives being lost over there. It's tragic.

**Mayor Romero:** Umm. Thank you, Council Member Fimbres. Umm...Council members Santa Cruz I appreciate you bringing this conversation to this table because it seemed like a there is really, umm...no end in terms of the needs of our community. Our community was asking us to take a stand, and so I appreciate being able to sit down and hear from all of us and and I mean, we have been hearing for the last, I believe, four months, umm...or maybe a little bit more from the Community. And I also recognize the urgency of the moment. The crisis at hand has serious consequences for Palestinians and the Jewish community.

And it's so layered and so complex that as Council Member Cunningham and Council Woman Lee have said, there are things that we all agree on. Umm...that this crisis needs to come to an end, that innocent people are suffering, children, women. I'm committed to supporting our community and responding in a way that helps unite us to reconcile us, that centers the compassion that we have and have always had as Tucsonans. Umm...I don't see the Mayor and Council taking a position on this issue as doing much.

What I do see taking a position on this issue with the resolution is, hurting people, right? There are people that have lived experiences that I don't understand, or that I tried to empathize with. But it's a different story, it's different promise, its different feelings, its different experiences, just like I have my different experiences and memories that trigger me. So, I cannot say people are wrong for feeling that if a Mayor and Council takes a stand on a ceasefire resolution that it won't trigger them, based on their history, I cannot say that's wrong. I might not understand it, but I cannot say that's wrong. The same as I can't say it's wrong for others to want Mayor and Council to take an immediate stance on something that is, terrible.

So, I don't see as the Mayor of this City, umm...us taking a position will solve anything right now. I agree that we should continue working to come together and be unified. I believe that Tucsonans have that, we all have that for compassionate. People understanding people. So, what I plan to do is I don't think that the nuances of writing a resolution, umm...the complexity of it, I don't think we can get there right now. So, I will be supporting the motion. But I do plan to write to President Biden, Vice President Harris, to our Congressional Delegates, our Senators Sinema Kelly, our Representatives, Grijalva and Ciscomani. They need to know that Tucsonans are hurting, we're concerned and that we want to resolution to the conflict. They more than us, can help make that happen. They need to know that we need there to be an end to the violence and we need them to work towards enduring peace.

So, any additional comments? Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

**Council Members Lee, Cunningham, Fimbres, Vice Mayor Dahl:** Aye.

**Mayor Romero:** Any against?

**Council Member Santa Cruze:** Nay.

**Mayor Romero:** Alrighty. Umm, Council member Cunningham. OK. Alrighty, we move on to Item 11.

Ohh, the motion passed 5...4 to 1, 1 against. 5 to one yes 5 to one.

**11. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide)  
SS/APR09-24-73**

Information and updates were provided by Timothy Thomure, Deputy City Manager, who fielded and answered questions.

Discussion ensued; no formal action was taken.

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Mayor Romero: Item 11. Time has been set aside for Mayor and Council to receive an update on state and national legislation and regional committees. Mr. Thomure.

**Timothy Thomure, Deputy City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor and Members of the Council. There is a quick update on the IGR manager position. We are down to our finalists and we're actually just having one last round of conversations before we make a final decision on somebody to bring forward as the new IGR Manager.

Both Congress and the State legislators returned to work after recent breaks, and President Biden sign the final minibus appropriations bill on March 23rd. There's a full breakdown on that funding package in your federal update we sent out yesterday, but I'd like to highlight that the Homeland Security SSP funding was included at a funding level of \$650 million, which is the shelter and services programmer SSP. This is good, but it is \$150 million decrease from last fiscal year where it was \$800 million. The funds will be transferred and and flow through FEMA, as you know, Pima County is the region's recipient for SSP funding. The County has yet to receive notice of an award unless it's come within the last day or so, but they're expecting it this week. Important to note that operations that Casa Alitas have continued as normal, eliminating the current need for a street release plan. So, we we got through that OK.

On the State side, umm...important deadlines for the State Legislative session Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, last day for consideration of bills and conference committees. And in theory, Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> would be the adjournment. But we're still really on the front end of the budget negotiations. Umm, the Finance Advisory Committee will meet and discuss the economic forecast forecast on April 11<sup>th</sup>, which may influence that as well. We expect to see a wide-ranging impacts as the state reconciles the roughly \$2 billion deficit over the next two years. That's on top of the impacts we talked about earlier in the budget.

I mentioned we just passed around the bill tracking spreadsheet. We sent it out yesterday, but they're they're all there for you to consider. And finally, we'd like to make note of Governor Hobbs action yesterday to veto HB 2843. This bill would have expanded the scope of the state's defensive premises law, granting property owners the right to shoot trespassers, to quote the governor, governor said that the bill sets a dangerous precedent. And thank you to our Mayor for speaking out against the bill. That's what I have for today, Mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Mr. Thomure. I...I also wanted to thank Governor Hobbs for her veto of HB 2843 uhh...the defense, the defense of premises law. It, umm...it was horrible. Umm...anti-immigrant and racist period. Also, sorry to announce that today the Arizona Supreme Court overturned the decision made by the Arizona Court of Appeals, which means that we have returned to the 1864 near total abortion ban in the State of Arizona. Umm, there is no exception for incest or rape and makes performing an abortion punishable by a two to four year prison sentence.

While we are waiting for the exact implications of this decision to be determined, Attorney General Mayes, Governor Hobbs and County Attorney Conover have all pledged to continue to work towards restoring access to abortion for Arizonans. We also have an initiative that seems to have all of its signature going to to the ballot in November. Umm...as a matter of fact, Governor Hobbs is calling for the state legislature to repeal the 1864 law as quickly as possible. And we we...will see, I think we we need umm, legal minds to interpret the what the Supreme Court handed us over today and and we we will see the implications.

What I do know is that Mayor and Council, this Mayor and Council have been clear about our stance supporting the right of people to access to abortion services and reproductive health care. Umm...I encourage our legislative delegation to support the Governor's efforts and do everything they possibly can, uhh...to support the governor and the repeal of the 1864 law. And I know that we passed an ordinance asking our chief of police to prioritize, umm...crime, uh and focus on the work that our police officers have generally done in the City of Tucson.

So, this Mayor and Council have pledged that it is important for us and for people to keep their rights, umm. And so, I...I don't know if anyone wants to add to that, Mr. Rankin, umm...I don't know if you've had the opportunity to look at what the Supreme Court handed down, but this Mayor and Council and other mayor and councils for many decades have maintained that we believe in access to abortion and reproductive health care services.

**Mike Rankin, City Attorney:** Mayor, I've had a chance to look at the decision, but not really to analyze it. I do know that the Supreme Court, Arizona Supreme Court, did extend a short period of stay of enforcement of the old law, the near total ban law, for a couple of weeks while the case gets remanded, meaning sent back down to the trial court because there are constitutional arguments relating to that civil war era law that can and may now be raised in the trial court.

So, I think you're still gonna see a lot of moving parts with respect to this issue, even in this case. And as you already referenced, there's the ballot measure that's already making its way to the ballot, I believe for November.

**Mayor Romero:** Vice Mayor.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. It's ironic that my latest issue of the Arizona Historical Journal arrived in my mailbox today with an article entitled "We Are Simply Fighting for our Own Rights", women's advocate Doctor Rosa Goodrich Boido in early 20th century Arizona. She was the first woman doctor in Arizona. She was arrested and jailed for performing an abortion where male doctors who had been arrested for performing abortions did not get prosecuted. Umm, sad, beginning to this horrible law that has to be repealed and can't wait for the November vote.

**Mayor Romero:** Council member Santa Cruz.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Yeah. I umm I'm also devastated by the courts ruling today that puts the lives of countless Arizonans at risk and robs us of our most basic right, the right to make decisions, our own decisions about our own bodies, free from government interference. Arizona families deserve the freedom to make their own decisions about pregnancy and abortion, and to revert to a near total ban that was put into place during the Civil War before Arizona was even a state is not aligned with how the majority of Arizonans feel. I guess no...no matter how folks feel about abortion, I think most Arizonans agree that it's a deeply personal decision that's left to patients and their families and their medical providers and not politicians.

So, I think now more than ever we need to do that hard work and making sure that Arizonans decide and not politicians of how we have control over our own lives and our own healthcare. And yeah, I'm looking forward to putting in that work and I'm having more education about what this umm...court decision means.

**Mayor Romero:** Alrighty, Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Member Cunningham:** I only have one word. You can quote me on this to the Supreme Court. That word is "seriously" the question mark, quotes.

**Mayor Romero:** Alrighty, if there are no other questions, comments, we move on to Item 12.

**12. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-74**

No items were identified.

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**Mayor Romero:** Does anyone have any items to remove from the consent agenda? Hearing none, we'll move on to Item 13.

**13. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/APR09-24-75**


No items were identified.

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**Mayor Romero:** Does anyone have any items for future agendas? Hearing none, study session is adjourned. The regular session begins at 5:30 PM. The next study session will be Thursday, April 25th, 2024. Thank you so much everyone.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:53 p.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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CITY CLERK

#### CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned, have read the foregoing transcript of the study session meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson, Arizona, held on the 9th day of April 2024, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.

  
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DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM:rj:yl