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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL Study Session Minutes

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Approved by Mayor and Council  
on November 19, 2024.

Date of Meeting: June 4, 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 1:02 p.m., on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, all members having been notified of the time and place thereof.

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Mayor Regina Romero  
Council Member Lane Santa Cruz (Ward 1) (arrived at 1:10 p.m.)  
Council Member Cunningham (Ward 2)  
Vice Mayor Kevin Dahl (Ward 3)  
Council Member Nikki Lee (Ward 4)  
Council Member Richard G. Fimbres (Ward 5) (electronic attendance)  
Council Member Karin Uhlich (Ward 6)

### OFFICIAL MEMBERS

#### ABSENT:

#### STAFF:

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

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

1. **Executive Session — Webner v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20230416 (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-120**
3. **Executive Session – Tucson Electric Power Company’s Application to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Midtown Reliability Project, ACC Docket No. L-00000C-24-0118-00232 (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-124**

(This item was taken out of order.)

**5. Executive Session – Proposed Amendments to the License Agreement between the City of Tucson, the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District and IceArizona AHL Co LLC, d/b/a the Tucson Roadrunners (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-126**

(This item was taken out of order.)

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Council Member Santa Cruz absent/excused), to enter into Executive Session as noticed in the agenda.

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**Mayor Regina Romero:** Ms. Clerk.

**Clerk:** Item 1 is noticed as is Executive Session Webner v. City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20230416 and is being held pursuant to ARS Section 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4). The second executive session is noticed as Item 3 - Tucson Electric Power Company's Application to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Midtown Reliability Project, ACC Docket No. L-00000C-24-0118-00232 and it's being held pursuant to ARS Section 431.03(A)(3). The third executive session is noticed as Item 5 - Proposed Amendments to the License Agreement between the City of Tucson, the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District and IceArizona AHL Co LLC, d/b/a the Tucson Roadrunners and is being held pursuant to ARS Section 38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4).

**Mayor Romero:** Can I have a motion to go into executive session.

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

**Vice Mayor Kevin Dahl:** Second

**Mayor Romero:** I have a motion to go into executive session, motion and a second. Any discussion hearing, none. All those in favor of the motion, please indicate by saying. Aye.

**All (Council Member Lane Santa Cruz absent/excused):** Aye

**Mayor Romero:** Any against? Motion Carries. Ok, hopefully we'll be done in an hour.

RECESS: 1:04 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:10 p.m.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: All present

STAFF: All present

Executive Session was held from 1:08 p.m. to 1:59 p.m.

(Note: Council Member Santa Cruz arrived at 1:10 p.m.)

**Mayor Romero:** We need a motion to return to study session.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** So moved.

**Council Member Fimbres:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There's a motion and a second. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye

**Mayor Romero:** Any opposed, motion carries. What's the Council's pleasure for Item #2.

**2. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session - Webner v City of Tucson, Pima County Superior Court Case No. C20230416 (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-121**

It was moved by Council Member Lee, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to direct the City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, and to settle this personal injury lawsuit for the amount of \$200,000.

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**Mike Rankin, City Attorney:** Honorable Mayor, for this matter, which is the Webner versus City of Tucson, I'd ask for a motion that the Mayor and Council direct the city attorney to proceed as discussed in executive session and to settle this personal injury lawsuit for the amount of \$200,000.

**Council Member Nikki Lee:** So, moved.

**Council Member Fimbres:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There's a motion and a second. Any further discussion on this motion hearing none all those in favor signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye.

**Mayor Romero:** Any against, motion carries. Item 4.

**3. Executive Session – Tucson Electric Power Company's Application to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Midtown Reliability Project, ACC Docket No. L-00000C-24-0118-00232 (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-124**

(This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #1.)

**4. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – Tucson Electric Power Company's Application to the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility for the Midtown Reliability Project, ACC Docket No. L-00000C-24-0118-00232 (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-125**

It was moved by Council Member Fimbres, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to direct the City Manager and City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, including taking any actions that are necessary and appropriate to have the City participate in these proceedings as a party, and to assert and defend our authority to apply our lawful local regulations and requirements, including our undergrounding requirements.

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**Mayor Romero:** What does the Council's pleasure for item 4?

**Mike Rankin, City Attorney:** Honorable Mayor, with respect to the TEP ACC application, I'd ask for a motion that the Mayor and Council direct the city manager and city attorney to proceed as discussed in executive session, including taking any actions that are necessary and appropriate to have the city participate in these proceedings as a party and to assert and defend our authority to apply our low lawful local regulations and requirements, including our undergrounding requirements.

**Mayor Romero:** Can I have a motion please.

**Council Member Fimbres:** So moved.

**Mayor Romero:** There is a motion.

**Council Member Karen Uhlich:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There's a motion and a second. Any further discussion on this motion hearing? None. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye.

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

**5. Executive Session – Proposed Amendments to the License Agreement between the City of Tucson, the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District and IceArizona AHL Co LLC, d/b/a the Tucson Roadrunners (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-126**

(This item was taken out of order and discussed after Item #3.)

**6. Mayor and Council Direction Regarding Executive Session – Proposed Amendments to the License Agreement between the City of Tucson, the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities District and IceArizona AHL Co LLC, d/b/a the Tucson Roadrunners (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-128**

It was moved by Council Member Santa Cruz, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0, to authorize and direct the City Manager and City Attorney to proceed as discussed in Executive Session, and to prepare an amended License Agreement with the Roadrunners that includes the following terms:

- Roadrunner operations, staff, and players shall remain based in Tucson;
- The Roadrunners will play a minimum of 30 games per year in Tucson;
- The Roadrunners will be able to play up to 6 regular season games per year in Tempe;
- The Roadrunners' lease with the City of Tucson for use of the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) Arena shall be extended by one additional year (three years total), with additional annual renewals available.
- In short, the Roadrunners will call Tucson home through at least the 2026-2027 American Hockey League (AHL) season.

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**Mayor Romero:** What does the Council's pleasure for item 6?

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Yes, Mayor, I move that the mayor and Council authorize and direct the city manager and city attorney to proceed as discussed in executive session on to prepare an amended license agreement with the Roadrunners that includes the following terms, Roadrunner operations staff and players shall remain based in Tucson. The Roadrunners will play a minimum of 30 games per year in Tucson. The road runners will be able to play up to six regular season games per year in Tempe. The Roadrunners lease with the city of Tucson for use of the TCC Arena shall be extended by one additional year for three years total with additional annual renewals available. In short, the Roadrunners will call Tucson home through at least the 2026-2027 AHL Season.

**Council Member Paul Cunningham:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** So, there's a motion in a second. Any further discussion on this motion. Hearing none, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye

**Mayor Romero:** Alright, any against, motion carries. Thank you so much, Mr Rankin. Thank you, Council colleagues. We move on to Item #7.

**7. Discussion of Final Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024/25 (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-127**

Discussion was held.

It was moved by Council Member Uhlich, duly seconded, to approve Scenario 1, as presented in the agenda material, which would provide a 1.5% base salary adjustment to all employees, beginning in July.

Discussion continued.

(Note: Council Member Santa Cruz departed at 2:30 p.m.; returned at 2:31 p.m.)

Michael J. Ortega, City Manager, clarified that the motion on the floor would cost approximately \$5.4 Million.

The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0. No further action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** Time has been set aside for a discussion of the final budget for fiscal years 2024-2025. I just want to personally thank City manager Ortega and everyone on the executive leadership team for their collaborative approach and dedication for us to be able to reach a balanced budget while ensuring that we remain on a path of financial stability and strategic growth despite facing significant challenges in the future.

I really appreciate, Mr. Manager, I know that this was your last budget with as a as a city manager of the City of Tucson. Thank you for your dedication um for our financial stability. Thank you so much for listening and finding a way to accommodate the needs of each and every one of my colleagues and I, and I really also appreciate your modifications to reflect additional pay for our employees. Umm...as we move forward, I know that you leave happy with the work that you've done for the City of Tucson and the citizens of Tucson, and you also leave eternal gratitude on my end. And I know that my colleagues feel the same. So, with that, it's your floor.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor, for those kind words. I very much appreciate it. But I will also suggest to you that as much as I appreciate those accolades, it was a team effort and I remind you, sitting at this table nine years ago when we faced a \$30 to \$40 million shortfall and we were, we were a little nervous back then, but it was really the leadership that you all demonstrated, you know, Council Member Uhlich and Council Member Cunningham and and you at that time, Council Member Romero. But it was also the evolution with Council Member Santa Cruz and Council Member Dahl and Council Member Nikki Lee and I...I didn't mean to overlook Council Member Fimbres as well he was part of that original crew, but I think what's important there is that we did this together.

It was not a a city manager or even a staff driven. It was all of us working together and quite frankly, challenging ourselves to think differently about a variety of things. But clearly when you look at our financial position today, you can look back with a lot of pride as the City Council

today and realize that we are on a on a very good trajectory. The challenge, I think is in the future, we've talked about that. I've made some suggestions. I've given you a road map. I've given a road map and, in some suggestions, probably the most the thing I'm the most proud of in that road map is the flexibility that's built in, which is keeping in mind that no one knows what the future holds, but our ability to react quickly is going to be the key. And that will be important not only for information that comes to you, but then your ability to react quickly and hopefully that will be the case.

So, with today's presentation, we'd like to do is give you just a synopsis of the of the final budget Mayor you mentioned its my last budget is actually my last study session and my last Council meeting with you. We have a \$2.30 or \$2.39 billion budget. It is a significant amount of money that comes through here. People don't realize the the sizable investment that we make in the community on an annual basis and and you as the City Council and leadership for this organization and this Community are charged with making sure that those investments are appropriate and make make the best, best bang for the buck makes the best investment and the impact on the Community just a couple of pieces that I think are important and just a summary. The General Fund is what gets a lot of attention.

Most of our attention and by the way we had told Angele to be here at 2:30 because we thought the executive session would be running a little late. So, Mike talked a little faster than I expected. So, thank you Angele for being here, but the general fund is what really gets a lot of attention because that is the money, if you will, that you are entrusted with to provide the specific city Charter required services, law enforcement, fire, roads, parks, those are specifically in that in that pot. So, we have a lot of conversations around that. Unfortunately, this last year and going forward, some of the the legislative decisions that were made have really impacted us very dramatically. And that really is hard. And it stings because those are things that we don't control. It would be one thing if the economy were were not doing well and we were, you know, it was quote outside of our control or anyone's control.

But when you make conscious decisions as a legislative body, like it happened up north, that impact the impact is very directly, you know, \$27 million in this current fiscal year, adding to already difficult times that we have, we have seen because of those decisions. And then on top of that, some of the projections are lower than what we had expected and hoped for the 27 year. You know when you start looking at a \$40 million potential deficit in the future caused outside of this, this table outside of this Community, it really is disheartening. However, we don't have a choice, so we do the best we can, and we come up with ideas and we come up with strategies for addressing us. I will emphasize that the current budget that's in front of you is a balanced budget. I would also say to you it's structurally balanced.

I think that it is important to recognize and celebrate that because it's important to live within our means, always going forward thinking about that long term and looking at what this can mean to us. Not only today, but into the future, however, there's a little asterisk there and that is that for us to be balanced. That means we cannot do not have the resource to address all of the needs that we have within this Community. I think the the as I mentioned to you during other study sessions, we had over \$100 million in requests from the departments, all departments including

some of your areas. Yeah, that in order to fund that, you know, think about that for a minute. We have \$8 million to sprinkle into that.

And so, when you are you're faced with that scarcity of resource to address those needs, it really needs to be highlighted because I think when we, you know walk away and we think that that well we're good because we're balanced. That's awesome, but those needs are still great. And they're going to continue to be great. And so, I encourage you to think about that as we go forward. You know, revenue conversations and even expense conversations and we're talking to our elected officials up north, whether it be in, in Phoenix or even in DC, those are needs that are not going to go away and they're very real in some instances of affecting a lot of what we do as I've done every year for the past nine years.

I want to give you a five-year snapshot. I think it's important, umm, I think you now gotten used to this and to some extent I almost expected. Not it's not all good news, but I will point out a couple of highlights for you. I think the 26 years still has me concerned. I think that the evolution of the conversations at the state legislature and we know with some certainty what that revenue will look like, but that assumes kind of status quo that assumes that there's no other legislation that's...that's added to. This assumes that the economy holds, so just keep your eye on the ball there.

Now I have encouraged you and I've encouraged the staff to make sure that you're having regular check-ins on this because I believe very strongly that you should have a better handle on this in terms of what that number looks like, what those future revenues look like, as well as expenses at the end of this calendar year. And so, there's no magic there that's just when the projections from the state come out. And so that'll give you a thumbnail sketch of what 26 will actually look like. I really and truly hope that I am wrong. I hope that that you come back and say, you know what the numbers are much better than we thought and we're off to the races. If I'm not wrong though, you have time you have money in the bank.

You have time for which to ramp down expenses and ramp down to make sure that you are balanced. In 26 it does not have to be draconian cuts right out of the chute and and that's really a testament to your flexibility caused by your leadership caused by those reserves. So, keeping that in mind, the on the good news side, I think if you look at the longer term, you can see that the projections the curve starts to bend the other way, and you can see that in the 28 and 29 year the curve is actually bending and starting to go back up. So, it will meet it will...it may not meet in 29 it may be in 30, but you will see that that that we'll call it natural growth will continue in a way where you will be...will be OK if you will and it's going to be fine.

But also keep in mind that without external sources of revenue, it's gonna be hard to meet those unmet needs. So, with that, I'm going to turn it over to Anna Rosenberry, CFO, to talk about some of the compensation scenarios that you had requested last time, Anna.

**Anna Rosenberry, Chief Financial Officer/Assistant City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor and Council, as we have been having conversations and bring bringing forward to you the recommended and then tentative budget, we have been talking about how this budget has built into it dollars for additional employee compensation. Then, within the budget that is teed up for

your approval, tonight is a total of \$10.8 million that could be allocated to employee compensation changes. And based on the conversation that we had during the last study session, we had prepared a number of different scenarios or possibilities regarding what to do with that, that compensation amount.

So, the memo includes a discussion of five different scenarios. The first three would allocate a portion of that amount. The last two would allocate all of it. There are descriptions of each of the scenarios included in the memo. I don't know if you'll be wanting to get into the details or of some or all of them, but we are here available to answer any questions that you have about that. Umm, the next steps for the budget tonight we have a public hearing on truth and taxation and the budget itself, as tentatively adopted, and then you will be the plan is to go into the special regular meeting for you to consider adoption of the final budget and we will be back at the next meeting with adoption, consideration of adoption of the property tax levies. So that's short and quick. I know that you'll want to be having some discussion. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you so much, Anna. Thank you, Mr. Manager. Really appreciate you bringing the different scenarios that we request at the last time. Based on that conversation, I just wanted to reiterate to you all to my colleagues and the public that for the past four years this mayor and Council have been aggressive in making sure that our employees are receiving salary adjustments and keep in mind, keep them up to market. Have for many years many of our employees had to work with us. This original crew that still remains at this table that had to go through incredible pain to be able to find solutions for \$30 million holes in our budget.

But our employees were there for us. Our labor unions worked with us to find solutions to share the pain throughout, and so many employees for a long time had been feeling those effects of not keeping up with a salary. And so, I feel that it is important having the budget in front of us that is a balanced budget. That is, there's money there for our employees to show our employees that we are not going to go back to the days of not seeing any progressive movement in, in their salaries, so umm I I know that one of the options in front of us would be to add just a flat \$1,040 to the base salary of our employees. And I know that your advice and your experience with that particular approach is I know that you don't recommend that because of the possibility of creating much more compression and and I understand that you know I I see it as a equitable way of of adding a certain more percentages to those that make less.

But I also understand the compression issues and that every employee group that comes and speaks to me and my office is concerned about the compression issues as we move forward. So, what I would like to ask my colleagues to consider and possibly make a motion on if you all can consider making a motion on moving scenario one which would be adding a 1.5% base salary adjustment starting in July of this year.

**Council Member Uhlich:** So, moved

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** So, there's a motion and 2nd. Any further discussion on the budget and on the motion? Council Member Uhlich.

**Council Member Uhlich:** Thank you, Mayor and Mr. Manager and Anna and team. I have been studying up right and catching up on all of the work that you all have been doing regarding compensation with our employees and it it, it really has been a very proactive number of years to make great progress on uh. You know, market competition etcetera and I do think that option one is best to make sure that no ground is lost with regard to that or that unevenness or issues start popping up all over that would then need to be attended to with that same kind of intention. And and I agree, I think that we we ought to show our employees that we want to take action now to keep them whole while we tackle budget issues with them moving forward. So I'm...I'm pleased to support scenario #1.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Woman Lee and then Vice Mayor.

**Council Member Lee:** Thank you, Mayor. I think we're, we're probably all thinking. I wish we could do more. Things are getting so expensive. It's so hard to even try to keep up with inflation. I agree that scenario one feels the best to me because we are showing our employees that we want to keep moving, that that needle forward in a sustainable way, one that we can continue on versus a 3%. I do want to...to ask; I know in the either last year or the year before when we continue to have the same cola conversations year after year. I had to ask about the development of some sort of a formula that would address decompression or preventing compression issues that would address the equity piece mayor like you said, if we give a percentage, then the people who make more bring home more than the people that that make less and maybe even something that that you know with this structure with a flat percentage we have some people that are just nailing it out of the park and they're getting the same percentage increases as others who might not be.

So, if there's a way to come up with some sort of a predictable formula that we can use when we get to December and we have the opportunity to reevaluate what we want to do in the future, I think that would be really, really helpful. So, we're not reinventing the wheel year after year and we're able to give some predictability in what we would like to do in the future. But overall, the sooner we can get more money into people's pockets, the better. Just a super quick question for it's more of HR payroll. Does this give them enough time to implement this in workday and everyone can plan for this?

**Ms. Rosenberry:** I thank you, Mayor and Council Members. Umm... yes, we have had conversations with the team when we were asked for these scenarios formally it was, come on are we going to be able to make this happen? And they're confident that we could implement these scenarios beginning with the pay period that starts June 30th.

**Council Member Lee:** Awesome. That's all my questions, Mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Mr. Ortega.

**Mr. Ortega:** I...I wanted to to just touch base a little bit on on what Council Member Lee mentioned. I think it's important that there's a couple of components to it. So, you...you...you talk about two things one is a system where Equitable, umm...conversations can happen around

compensation, particularly at the lower end. I think that that's a fine idea, and I think that's important for us to strive for. The key piece to that is, is there enough money to keep the compression from occurring? So, it doesn't mean it has to have happen linearly, but there has to be enough. If we move the the lower paid employees up to keep the others you know commensurate with that doesn't have to be the same percentage but there needs to be some recognition of that.

The second part of that is the pay for performance, which I think is a a function of the entirety of our system and making sure that we have the metrics in place across all functions and some are much easier to identify and and put put quantitative numbers or quantitative amounts to. But others are very difficult and so I just throw that out to you as something that I definitely think is something we should strive for because that is, in my opinion, the way that we can address some of the issues that you mentioned, Council member. That's all I just want to make sure that.

**Mayor Romero:** Vice Mayor.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. I'm gonna be supporting the adoption of micro tegas last budget last city budget. Unless something extraordinarily happens during the public hearing and we learn that money is no longer good, I'm not exactly sure why, and I also support this compensation scenario, number one, that makes sense to me. I want to point out that I've had some frustrations. It's been great to have the long period of time to deal with elements of the budget, but there was some elements that had the last minute information that made me feel like a rubber stamp and that was asking to vote for committee recommendations that I didn't have enough time to understand how we got there or to have any input on how we got there. So, P-CHIP and economic development grants the list came up with some priorities that didn't reflect what we feel in Ward 3.

But I'm hopeful that we have some time to work out those bugs going forward in the future, and we can start the conversations on those in particular earlier. Mayor, you said it, but I wanna emphasize it. This takes an incredible, extraordinary amount of work and talent and thinking. And Mike and your team, all of you have done extraordinary work for the city and I'm very grateful and thankful.

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

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** I appreciate Councilmember Lee's comments cause I had, you know, similar kind of questions and thoughts, but just to kind of go off of that, can we make sure that as we're talking about a budget shortfall that we don't kind of park, you know, the compression piece that that's something that staff continues to work on so that we continue to have metrics and a plan for how we implement that moving forward because that's what I'm afraid of, that we're all gonna go into like counting every nickel and dime and not continuing to think more long term umm and yeah.

And with that, umm...I remember city manager anytime I talked about something I cared about he would say that I was very passionate. So, then I started telling him he was very passionate about the city budget, but that I really that I really have appreciated being able to look at this

budget and look at it in five-year chunks. It really helps us understand kind of where we're at and where we're going. So, thank you for implementing that into our frameworks and I hope we can just continue to do that and moving forward. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Any others? I'm not seeing Council Member Fimbres, so let's go to Council Member Cunningham and then, umm, if Council Member Fimbres is available or wants to speak, I'll...I'll go to him after.

**Council Member Cunningham:** So, my congratulations, this...this last budget is, it's, umm...definitely above average. Better than adequate? We still have to come up with it's probably gonna look like with the 1.5%. We're gonna come out we're gonna have to come up with \$10 million a year over the next three years as an average as an aggregate, but we can get it through either revenue or cost of winds or a mixture of both probably. But that's actually really doable. That's actually very possible, and it's very comforting to know that. With this budget we passed today, we will not be happy. We shouldn't be it. I mean, there's...there's...anything can happen, and I don't wanna jinx it, but we're probably not gonna be talking about layoffs and furloughs as things get lean for a lot of different jurisdictions around the state.

The other thing we can be confident of is that if there are some shifts in some of the state revenue sharing policy, that was draconian for us in this last year, we'll, we'll have another windfall which will be pretty outstanding. So, umm...congratulations to the team on bringing out a good budget. We're providing um significant different services around the city that other cities aren't, uh. Moreover, we've set ourselves apart in that we have improved our service delivery over the last three years.

Finally, congratulations to the group on the management of the of the prop money...that prop money and parks and roads and public safety has gone a long, long, long way. Congrats to the mayor's office, who's brought in a significant amount of federal money for our social service efforts? And again, that's why we're being able to do all these things in a lot of cities aren't our biggest challenge right now. Quite frankly, is to. We have different groups that are partners, Pima County, RTA, PTSD and the state and sometimes will align. Our needs will align with one of them, but I have yet to see a scenario where the needs of us uh seemed to align all five at the same time and we've gotta get to that point.

That's kind of my dream is that there's a there's an issue where all five of those partners have the same goal and they're not getting in each other's way, and it doesn't happen as much as it should. So that's kind of what we probably need to work on next year if we can, maybe that's where we'll experience some of those increases in revenue and cost avoidance that we're looking for.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Member Fimbres do you want to add anything?

**Council Member Fimbres:** Hey Madam Mayor, I just wanna thank everybody for coming up with this budget. Good budget, Mike by July. 1...I really appreciate your efforts; Madam Mayor I support going to forward with this initiative.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Council Member Fimbres. Mr. Ortega.

**Mr. Ortega:** Thank you. I just wanted to point out Council Member Cunningham. The assuming that the motion that's on the floor passes that's an ongoing cost of about 5.4 million. So, I think that that that is doable going forward and that would be that would have to be absorbed in the 26 year. It's built in already in our projections and soon there would be some expectation there, so I don't think that your shortfall will get bigger because of that. Just want to make sure you're clear. I don't want you to think that no going to have.

**Council Member Cunningham:** That's what I...all I was saying the gap will get close.

**City Manager Ortega:** It was the closed I anticipated.

**Mayor Romero:** But the the ongoing cost is closer to 5.4 million ongoing. I'm I...I...I really appreciate the incredible work I absolutely enjoy us having this item on the agenda for the time that we have had it because we can iron out some issues and and get to a good place for all of us. I want to reiterate something that you said, Mr Ortega, which is our economy is doing very well and, umm, it is not because of the work that we do here at this table, including the city manager and his team and the mayor and Council that we are seeing budget deficits.

It is squarely the responsibility of the state legislature that chose to pass a flat tax that we are seeing next year more than \$24 million in deficit. Let's just make that very clear. And what that means the \$24 million what that means in services to our community when it comes to providing police and fire services, being able to invest that money back into our parks, invest that money back into our roads that is squarely on the shoulders of the decisions that are being done at the state legislature. Umm.... giving corporations and others that can't afford it uh tax breaks.

Ah, and when people were at the state legislature are seeing that they're cutting taxes, what they're actually doing is cutting services that are needed in cities like Tucson and other towns throughout our state. So, what happens we, the city of Tucson and other towns throughout the state are picking up the the budget deficits that the state legislature is doing, and we have to come up with solutions for the celebration on cutting taxes that is happening up in the state ledge. That is irresponsible and that is absolutely affecting what we can pay our employees, including police officers and firefighters, and the services that we can provide our community, including road repair.

So, although we are in a good place and we all agree that we have a good budget, this is not over and we should be putting the responsibility of those that are creating this whole where they belong, which is the state legislature. Saying that, umm, we are taking strong action to work on the services and the infrastructure and treating our employees with fairness as we move forward to keep him in track as much as we possibly can with market pay. So, thank you, Mr. Manager, for everything that you've done for us the last night.

Just this year in our budget, but the last nine years, I had to create financial stability in our city. We really appreciate it. With that, we have a motion a second on the floor. All those in favor of the motion, please signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye

**Mayor Romero:** Any against? Motion carries. Thank you so much. We move on to, what's next, Item #8.

(Note: Council Member Santa Cruz departed at 2:30 p.m.; returned at 2:31 p.m.)

**8. Compensation Disputes of Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Compensation Plan (City Wide)  
SS/JUN04-24-129**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** Time has been set aside for discussion and consideration of the disputes submitted and response to the human resources director's fiscal year 2025 recommended compensation plan. Mr. Manager.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor. This is the opportunity for the HR director in this case, it's our interim HR director to report to you. This item is on the agenda for this evening. It is on...on the consent agenda I believe, it's item H, will be on the for consideration this evening, so today is just an opt or this afternoon just an opportunity for Anna to give you a quick update.

**Anna Rosenberry, Chief Financial Officer/Assistant City Manager and Interim Human Resources Director:** Thank you, City manager, Mayor and Council. I...this is a pretty brief conversation. We discussed all of these disputes with you at the last session, but wanted to just let you know on the progress that we've made. We have been able to complete the work for dispute #5 the the individual that filed a dispute over that the management coordinator position that is now resolved, and we are continuing to track on the other dispute resolutions that were underway, dispute 1, 2 and 3 as well as #8.

So, we're...we're making progress on the disputes that we were had had, you know job evaluations or reclassifications in progress. And again, the the disputes that were filed by our labor groups have received a written response from us. All of the disputes have received a written response from us.

So, with that, as the city manager indicated tonight, during the regular session as a part of your consent calendar is the consideration of adoption of this fiscal 25 annual compensation plan. And again, the effective date of the plan is June 30th, 2024. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Any questions or comments on this item? Thank you so much Ms. Rosenberry.

**9. Overview of the Final Report for the Transit Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) for Sun Tran, Sun Express, Sun Link, and Sun Shuttle (City Wide)  
SS/JUN04-24-122**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

(Note: Council Member Lee departed at 3:04 p.m.; returned at 3:07 p.m.)

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**Mayor Romero:** Time has been set aside for the Mayor and Council to receive an overview of the comprehensive operational analysis or COA for regional transit purposes. Mr. Manager.

**Michael J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you Mayor, Sam and James will give an update on the COA, and I think this is a conversation we've had before, but this is an update and this is an opportunity for that operational analysis conversation so.

**Sam Credio, Department of Transportation and Mobility Director:** All right. Thank you, Mr. Manager, and good afternoon, Mayor, Members of the Council. Joining me today is James Castaneda, Special Project Manager with the city manager's office and also project manager for the Transit Comprehensive Operational Analysis, or COA. We just handed out a handout of this presentation that will go through rather briefly, although as the title indicates, it's rather comprehensive, so we'll try to be brief and have time for questions.

So, I'd first like to begin with just a little bit of background. Transit agencies typically perform COA's every five to 10 years. Our last COA was completed in January of 2014. So just over 10 years ago, the current COA began way back in October of 2022 and the goal of this COA is to evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of Sun Tran's Sunlink, Sun Shuttle and Sun Express. Now, COAs typically result in service recommendations which directly impact those who ride and use the system.

And so, the project team collectively conducted it, nearly forty public outreach events, including pop-ups, town halls, listening sessions, sessions, and virtual meetings. We began with the framework that was rather straightforward. It was cost and resource neutral approach, but also looking at ways to optimize the network with the resources that we do have available. And with that framework in mind, along with the outreach that we received or the input we received rather during the initial phase of public engagement, well, we developed 5 guiding principles for the COA and they are realign routes to key destinations, high frequency service on key corridors and improve services for underserved communities, extend service hours for all days of the week and add frequency on weekends to connect people to jobs, shopping and recreation.

And again, the result of those guiding principles and the work that our team did is in great detail included in the material for today's item. But in summary, those results are as follows. The plan recommends that we reduce the number of transfer system wide recommends a 52% increase in the total population with access to 15 minute or better service within 1/2-mile walk. It also recommends a 60% increase in the minority population and 41% increase in the low-income population with that same access, the plan also increases evening hours on 11 routes on the weekdays, 22 routes on Saturdays and 19 routes on Sundays, and also recommends an increase in Saturday service by 7% and on Sundays by 18%. So, all that being said, what are the next steps?

Well, the recommendations in the report are implemented in one of two ways, the first being a minor service change which represents a service change that has less than a 25% deviation and either revenue, miles or revenue hours on a route-by-route basis. Those minor service changes can be done administratively. However, we are committed to doing additional public outreach so that way those directly affected no. What those changes entail?

The 2nd way that the COA recommendations can be implemented is through a major service change and that is described as outlined in the city of Tucson's Title 6 policy, which this mayor and Council approved back in 2022, represents a 25% or greater deviation and revenue miles or revenue hours on a route by route basis and those service changes require additional public outreach, a public hearing and ultimately approval by the mayor and Council. And if you would indulge me for just a moment, I will provide an example of each of those type of service changes.

The first is a realignment of the eastern end of Route 3. The deviation on Stella Road to Camino Seco and Escalante is recommended for elimination as part of the...the service recommendations. A portion of this will actually be picked up by another route, Route 37, and this service would continue to serve both Pima Community College campuses at the East and West End. Now a major service change is an example is the one done to Route 2 in public gardens and Route 29 on Valencia, and this realigns the end points from Laos Transit Center for both of those routes to the Banner University Medical Center. South Route 29 would pick up the section of Route 2 along Irvington Road, and we would also recommend the realignment of Route 29 to connect the Tucson Spectrum and PCC Desert Vista.

Again, this sort of major service change over require outreach, a public hearing, and couldn't be initiated until mayor and Council approved it. And lastly, I just want to talk a little bit about the additional considerations and lessons learned through this process. First, I'd like to start with transit centers. The project team did analyze the effectiveness of transit access scuse ME transit centers within the existing transit system and some of the key findings were that the three major transit centers, Ronstadt, Laos, and Tohono are all vital support facilities to the network, mainly some of the feedback we got is that they are in strategic locations and they also provide layover amenities both to operators and passengers, such as bathrooms and drinking fountains. They're also highly utilized by the public.

We also identified that there are several areas of infrastructure needs across the system that includes improvement to our bus stops, including shade and landscaping, but also improvement to traffic signal locations that can provide a more safe and effective way for our our buses to operate in the...the transit system. Also, public engagement. So, the last time I came before mayor and Council, we heard a lot of feedback from the public regarding the draft Service plan.

During our second round of public engagement, there were bold changes recommended that included the elimination or discontinuation of portions of routes 1, 3, and 5, and through that public outreach we had an opportunity to learn that while those changes made sense from a system optimization perspective, it directed people very a personally and in an impactful way. And so, we went back we pivoted and came up with a new Service plan that addressed those concerns.

And so that was a lesson learned for us that we have to make sure to keep in mind those who these changes could impact. Next I just want to mention that the Tucson Rapid Transit project is ongoing and that was considered as part of the COA in terms of some of the service recommendations that are being proposed, there are a host of service recommendations on Stone Ave, but we would not recommend implementing any of the any of those until we're further along on the bus rapid transit project and have an understanding of how that will play into the transit system.

Lastly, we received a lot of questions. Why was Sun van not included in the COA? A paratransit COA is a standalone study and project by itself. I'm happy to report that with our transit management contractor, RATP Dev, we have kicked off a pair of transit COA. We've concluded our first round of public outreach are doing our data analysis and as that project is moves further along, I expect to bring back to Mayor and Council some recommendations on that came out of that COA. So, when wrapping up, we're not seeking any action today. This is merely an opportunity to present to you the findings of the final COA. I do want to note that these service recommendations were made in a data driven method and a community informed and many of these service recommendations are not going to be implemented overnight. They're going to take several years. In fact, some require the completion of other projects, such as the BRT or the 22nd St Bridge project.

Lastly, I just want to take a moment to acknowledge James Castaneda and his whole team at Sun Tran, where the countless hours of outreach and work that went into this comprehensive operational analysis. I also wanna mention that many hours of commitment to the public. I want to thank the public for their input and participation in this plan because I truly believe it reflects the needs of our community for our transit system. With that, mayor, we'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you so much, Mr. Credio. Really...really appreciate the work of Mr. Castaneda, his staff, the public engagement piece is one of the most important ones we can do with COA's. And I love that you've added the lessons learned. I know that we had had previous conversations about how transit centers were a form of transit use. That was a little bit antiquated, so it's interesting for me to learn that they are very much a piece of the services that we provide as a community that are still working.

I guess for me my question is about how can we...if the transit centers are still a good idea to continue at using in our Community, how can we reactivate those centers to make sure that we are, I'm possibly using any land to add housing, affordable housing and density. How can we reuse those spaces as we move forward? And I know that there's similar questions that are coming from other of my colleagues, but any additional plot put to that.

**Mr. Credio:** Yes, Mayor. Thank you for that question. So, you're...you're right. And we did take a really hard look at the transit centers. They are in fact some of these transit centers are legacy transit centers from routes that were developed many...many years ago. But as you mentioned, there could be an opportunity and while I I don't have all the answers, I do think that the the intersection between a public transit and housing is an important one. And there are likely grants that are out there. There're likely programs that we can partner to look for ways to have some

sort of equitable transit-oriented development. I do expect later this year we will bring to you some policy recommendations related to our northeastward planning policy study and there are some strategies included in that. And then in the short term, just looking for ways that we can reactivate the transit centers and also look for federal grants to improve and invest in our transit Centers for the time being to make sure that they are a pleasant experience for our operators.

**Mayor Romero:** And then umm...related, but not related. What is the current Sun Tran and our transit system? Ridership. Umm numbers. If you have any to share, are they getting better and recovering from...from the pandemic? What can you share about that?

**Mr. Credio:** Thank you, Mayor, for that question. James saved the day here because he pulled up some ridership data. So, I can give you an update on Sun Tran annual ridership by fiscal year at the end of fiscal year 2023, we were at 14.6 million rides. We expect that to be at least the same or likely higher at the end of this fiscal year. And then for some link ridership at the end of that same fiscal year, we were at 1.6 million rides almost 1.7 million rides. And then for Sun van, we were just shy of half a million rides.

**Mayor Romero:** Compared to other years or previous years, those are growing numbers.

**Mr. Credio:** Yes, Mayor. Apologize left that part out. Yes. So, in looking at at some of the ridership graphs, and we'd be happy to send these out after the Council meeting. So you have these at your fingertips is that we are seeing a sharp incline in ridership from the the bottoming out that we had during COVID. In fact, our systems are seeing ridership increase much faster than other systems across the country, and we know that Sun link is experiencing historic ridership levels that we've never seen before.

**Mayor Romero:** OK, because I've heard and about that nobody rides our bus. So, I just wanted to see some numbers. So, any of my colleagues have any questions, Vice Mayor and then Council Member Uhlich and then Council Member Santa Cruz.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you. Congratulations on the outreach and response to the public engagement. We got a lot of complaints with the original on some specific routes and the fact that that you pivoted that the plan pivoted was wonderful. One question of clarification. Umm, the difference between below 25% above 25% minor major is on revenue hours and revenue miles. We don't have any revenue. Their fair free.

**Mr. Credio:** Mayor, Vice Mayor Dahl. So that is a term that's used for the service that is directly related to giving rides. So, for example, when a bus leaves the garage and there's no rides being given, that's not considered a revenue hour, a revenue mile. Those might be considered deadhead miles or deadhead hours, so it's...it's...it's a...it's a transit term that's related to the service being delivered.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thanks for the explanation.

**Mayor Romero:** Council Member Uhlich and then Council member Santa Cruz.

**Council Member Uhlich:** Thank you and thank you for this this excellent data and report. Appreciate it very much. You mentioned that the changes that are recommended that some would be near near term, some may be out quite a number of years or be related to other system changes. Is there any way we can tease out or categorize these recommendations, even if it's near-term midterm long term, just to let the public know and forgive him I miss that in the report, but I I think that as people pay attention to this, they're gonna wonder when is my route going to change so thoughts on that?

**James Castaneda, Transit Service Manager:** Honorable Mayor, Council Member Uhlich, thank you for that question. So included in the report there is a phasing that we have suggested for the different routes that would be impacted. We would also want to coordinate heavily with Sun Trans, so any changes you would see on the street would be in line with the Sun Tran operator bid schedules. So, we want to make sure that as we're doing any of these proposed changes that we would A let the public know far in advance. I wouldn't anticipate any of these changes even happening in this calendar year. Likely that would spill into calendar 2025 and also, we would want to phase them so that we are maintaining that cost and resource neutral approach. So just being very thoughtful about how we're combining or how we're phasing those routes in tandem with each other throughout that process.

**Council Member Uhlich:** Thank you. And I apologize can do you know, which maybe you could just write down here, which slides show the phasing cause. I for some reason I'm not finding it, so thank you so much though, and I think even that general sense it is really helpful for us to be able to share. Thank you so much.

**Mr. Castaneda:** Of course.

**Mayor Romero:** Lane Santa Cruz.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** I'll...I'll ping you back from Council Member Uhlich. I think it's always helpful for us if there was like an infographic or something that we could share on our newsletters or you know, just have it like visually, very accessible to to understand how we're phasing in these changes. I wanted to thank you know Sam and James and all your staff for all your work on this plan. I similarly to Vice Mayor Dahl felt the same after that first round of outreach and input. I thought it was you. Had your work cut out for you and I had no idea what you were gonna come back to the table with, so I feel I'm very hopeful that we're moving. You know in a positive direction and that we still have a lot of work, you know, to do, to continue to improve our...our transit system.

I know that I still wanna north south route west of the freeway because that's something that's lacking the connection that's lacking for us on the West side. But that's, you know, we'll, we'll keep doing that work because I understand that none of this had extra funding, right? It had to stay within the budget that we have for transit. Just a couple of thoughts. I'm you know, I'm happy to see the frequency and span improvements, especially with the new routes with service until midnight. But we have 43% of writers who want more frequent service, and so I know that we're only able to to limit that to to certain routes.

But we know that we've seen how free transit has reduced household transportation costs, has speed up boarding times, encourage more people to use it, and that we know that the most successful transit programs are those that also prioritize improve service and frequency. So, I think we need to continue having the conversations about having a dedicated funding for transit. I know, mayor we've been talking at the RTA impact about how important transit is. They don't seem to think that that's an important investment, but I think in spite of how those conversations kind of play out, I think we need to continue to explore a a funding mechanism so not only can we do better free transit, but we can do these service improvements that are needed and that are gonna attract more of our community to to use our public transportation system.

Umm, I think you know, just going off of what you're saying, mayor and the transit centers opportunities, I don't, I don't know how we we start that do we you know do we have to later have a study session item to discuss that and start exploring ways that we can this older infrastructure that we have that's part of our transit system can we yeah just reimagine it to meet the needs that we have right now that's not just transit but it is also housing could also be a hub for some of our small businesses just the way. To activate it. I know when I've talked to Sam, I say that maybe Tohono Todai umm should be at the mall the transit center should be at the mall, and that's where the stop should be. Cause do you want places where people are at you know, so just, you know, things to consider? I don't know. Maybe we bring that back as a as a study session item, just so that we don't lose track of it. Umm, but just, you know.

Thank you. I know we also have work on the shelters, the bus shelters. Maybe this doesn't quite um address that, but I think it's another important piece in our transit system that we gotta keep moving on. Thank you.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Council member. Any others, Council Member Cunningham.

**Council Member Cunningham:** So, I'm really anxious to see about the COA for Sun Van and that's probably going to have a bigger impact on what how we friend this overall discussion for transit with me. That being said, we've got a couple of adjustments in Ward 2. I'm actually on board with both of them. I think that the one in 3-4 swap probably makes a lot of sense. It looks like we're going to be able to optimize some efficiency there. So, I...I just want to make sure we've got the right feedback. I'm pretty sure most of most of the the stakeholders in that area are pretty much on board. We...we...we got some information from our office, so we were happy with that.

Also, the split on Wilmot never made sense to me down 8 anyway, so that's fine. We still have the 5th St route going right at Wilmot then, so that's gonna cover it anyway. So that probably makes a lot of sense we were we had two, we had two routes going on the same route, the two routes going on the same street both ways. So, I'm glad we figured that out. That was that was I that's kind of been going on since I was in high school, and I would actually take that bus to school. So, I'm glad we made those adjustments. Other than that, I think we're on the right track. I'm not sure about the nine extensions yet. We'll see kind of how it pans out. I think when I think what we're gonna find is that as we go, as we go farther and farther south on Kolb, we're gonna see some of that, that ridership decrease in the summer months and maybe we might wanna think

about how we can make that route seasonal, because it during from...from Memorial Day to Labor Day, nobody's using it.

But that doesn't mean no ones using it all the time. It means it's because Santa Rita is not in Jteds, not in PCC has a very limited classes at that time, so those are some pieces we can probably look at. Other than that, I really appreciate the work it looks like they did a really good job in understanding and presenting and will take some baby steps and we, you know, this is an ongoing thing. This isn't really a every year this isn't every five years thing. This is a constant adjustment piece. I'd really like to see in our next piece, I'd like us to audit some of our steps. Umm I've I've harped on this before and it always gets convoluted to what I'm trying to say and that is that we get we have this discussion about you have to be at least 1/4 mile from each stop, which means that if you have a stop every half mile, you're technically 1/4 mile from at least one stop.

Well, I don't want to have a stop every half mile. I think that's too far apart, but there are places where we have within a one-mile area, we've like 5 stops and that probably doesn't help our efficiency. And we have two stops that are three uncovered stops in a stretch of, say, 3500 feet. Well, we could have one stop that's covered and nice and you know has extra amenities and little extra room and that could probably be a better situation. I know that folks are worried about how far they got to walk, but once you get out there on a...on a five-stop mile, everything's, you know, 300 yards are less apart, if that. So, we probably have a much better opportunity to take a look at how we space that out in the perfect world if we have three stops between each intersection and stop, near and around each intersection, we're golden. Everything, everybody, no one will ever have to walk more than 1000 feet to a stop, and that's a good rule of thumb for us to have.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Council Member Cunningham. Any other comments? Questions on this item. Mr. Credio, do you need any action from Mayor and Council for this?

**Mr. Credio:** No Mayor, there's no action needed on this item today.

**Mayor Romero:** Alrighty. Thank you so much and I'll just give you the floor.

**Mr. Credio:** Yeah. Thank you very much, Mayor. So, before we conclude this item, this is gonna be my last chance to sit next to Mike at a study session table. I wanna take a moment to just thank you, Mike for all the time and attention you've given me both personally and professionally. Thank you for your time and and service to the City of Tucson. I'm sad that this is our last chance sitting together, but I am happy for the next chapter of your life or so. Thank you again.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you so much, Sam. Thank you so much, Mr. Castaneda. Really appreciate the presentation. Wonderful. Umm...outcome and product and we look forward to additional additional work on your end. Mr Credio, or I would really like to know when would be most appropriate to have the conversation about our transit centers and any federal opportunities when you said federal opportunities, my ears perked up. Uh, so that we could align ourselves as a city and to be able to build much more affordability and transit-oriented

development. Very good. Thank you so much. Thank you for your kind words to our manager. Alrighty. So, we move on to item 10.

**10. Mayor and Council Consideration and Adoption of the City of Tucson's "Heat Action Roadmap" (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-123**

Discussion was held.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Dahl, duly seconded, to accept the Heat Action Roadmap as presented in the agenda material.

Discussion continued.

The motion was carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0. No further action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** Time has been set aside for Mayor and Council to discuss the City's Heat Action Road Map and give direction to staff, and this is before our Chief Resilience Officer starts. I...I just want to open up and introduce the item and just say how happy I am that we have in front of us that he'd action room map. Umm, because it really is our next step in implementing the Tucson resilient together or climate action plan in order to improve community resilience. The implementation of Tucson resilient together requires developing a comprehensive urban heat mitigation strategy and implementation plan, and that is what we have in front of us.

Umm, we needed to make this plan help us be more efficient and really direct us to strategy. Put together a strategy as to where we're going and as much as we are working as a community, as a, as a city, and even sometimes as a region to mitigate the effects of climate change. We, which we are seeing right now in front of us just this week, we will see whether that's over 105-degree heat. And so for me, bringing this item right now is really important because we will be, we will absolutely understand where we're going this summer and what we need to do as a community to protect our most vulnerable residents as, as you all know, those hit first and worst by climate change and a city that's getting hotter and harder, our most vulnerable residents, seniors, children, low income communities, those communities that are already living with.

Umm...with illnesses that are exacerbated by...by heat, so we need to make sure that we are adapting as well, right. They're mitigating on one hand and that we're adapting as a community that we know what steps we need to take to adapt and to be prepared, umm, we need to make sure that we're protecting water, wildlife, our beautiful desert. I'm are people in our economy and so this particular head action road map really takes us to where we need to...to be and it's important to make sure that we that we implemented. So, Tucson's heat risk is projected to increase, and last year alone, Pima County reported 173 heat related deaths. 40 of those occurring indoors and 60% of those in occurring outdoors. Each one of those deaths were highly prevented, preventable, and one of the reasons why we're hopefully going to approve the ordinance to protect workers within City of Tucson and those workers that are contracted through companies that work through Tucson is to make sure that we're taking simple

approaches to protecting their lives. And so, looking forward to the presentation, I really appreciate the expedited nature of the work that has been done to get us to today. Mr. Manager, if you'd like to open up the item, looking forward to the presentation.

**Michel J. Ortega, City Manager:** Thank you, Mayor. I think you...you really outlined the thoughts here. I mean, this is an opportunity for us to lead in the space, an area that is important and not only important for our employees, but really important for the entirety of the Community to set the example. With that, I'd like to turn it over to our Chief Resiliency Officer Fatima Luna.

**Fatima Luna, Chief Resiliency Officer:** Thank you, Manager, Honorable Mayor, Members of the Council. Thank you for the opportunity to present that heat action road map and also for your consideration for adoption. So, the heat action, as you mentioned, Mayor is an implementation step of Tucson Resilient Together and to be specific, it's action CR 2.1 in the Community resilience category, which commits the city to creating a heat mitigation strategy and an implementation plan. And so, the heat action, was also highlighted in your recently adopted heat resolution a couple weeks ago. And so just to provide you with the high-level overview, the road map has three main goals and 10 strategies and 61 actions that collectively aim to increase or heat extreme heat management and mitigation actions within the city, so that we can increase our collective resilience, us a community.

And so, the road map was developed with input from about 250 community members from across sectors and...and it also incorporates best practices from other cities and also academia. And so, the real kickoff of these road map started in February. So, four months ago, with the southern Arizona Heat Planning Summit that the City of Tucson posted in partnerships with the University of Arizona and the Pima County Health Department. And so at this summit, emergency managers leaver union representatives like medical practitioners, workers, community members, nonprofit members all participated in broad, like different perspectives at the shape these rope maps.

So essentially, that Summit is a backbone of the road map. We also held a or did a follow up of the Summit with the stakeholder conversation in April where the preliminary results were presented in additional input ask collected. We also partner with the Commission on Climate, Energy and sustainability to collect input from the general community at a public event. Last well, last month, so it's June, last month in May. And so additionally, we got a lot of input from like the climate Action Team, Departments, Mayor and council offices, and we posted the strategies also in the climate Action hub where we collected additional input from the community at large and we receive formal input from like the renowned heat expert professor lacked in his team and they evaluated the road map with using specific criteria to assess how plants incorporate resilience, heat resilience in communities and all of these input best practices and best practices directly inform the heat action.

And we did not do it. We did not do this alone. I wanna thank take a moment to recognize the mayor's office Eric Garcia, the ward offices, the Managers Office, the Climate Commission, the Climate action team, like all the departments in the multi-jurisdictional Joint Heat action team and the many participants that provided input throughout the process.

And finally, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the core team Steven Addison, Leslie Ethan, they all supported greatly in provided doing research, providing the background, reviewing the document. But I especially want to recognize Karina Martinez, who is here in the audience. Karina is a PhD candidate at the University of Arizona and a heat emerging leader. Karina and I work for weeks after hours on weekends and holidays to ensure that we have a road map that we are all proud of.

So, Mayor and Council, you provided a policy direction to...to build heat resilience in our community and these road map just does just that. So, Mayor and Council my ask today is that you consider adopting the City of Tucson's Heat Action Road Map and that we include progress updates on the quarterly updates for Tucson, resilient together.

So, as you mentioned, Mayor, later this week we would be hitting temperatures of up to 110 degrees and this work cannot be more pertinent. These road map provides a strategic framework to manage and mitigate heat and our urban core. It aligns short term solutions and builds capacity for long term resilience, and it would set us in the right path to work across sectors to protect people and cooler city. And so, with that, I am happy to answer any questions that you might have.

**Mayor Romero:** So, any questions but umm...Ms. Luna, You do.... You need a motion to approve umm or to accept the road map.

**Ms. Luna:** Yes

**Mayor Romero:** So, may I have a motion to accept?

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** So, moved.

**Council Member Lee:** Second.

**Mayor Romero:** There's a motion and a second, and now we can have discussion and questions. Vice Mayor.

**Vice Mayor Dahl:** Thank you, Mayor. And...and thank you and your office, Fatima and your team, for bringing forth this really timely item and for bringing it forth at the beginning of summer. I understand your urgency and I know that you worked overtime because I got emails from you, and I appreciate that extra work because it you're showing the same urgency that I feel in my gut that this is an incredible health emergency. I also appreciate that you're doing this in collaboration with so many partners at university, especially Hema County, and they're discussing a similar ordinance today. They may have already passed it, and they have the authority to deal with heat, health issues, even more so than us, and I think it makes sense for us to partner down the line. Thanks for involving the Union, so I know that you had discussions with the unions and their input was...was brought into this.

Frankly, this is a road map for what might have to be a superhighway at some point. It's...it's... it's an important first step, but it really is a first step and it's something that I'm sure we'll all be paying attention to. What's the climate continues to heat up? Thank you. Again, great work.

**Mayor Romero:** Any others? Council Member Santa Cruz”

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Also, great work Mayor and Fatima and the rest of the team for getting this together, especially as we're starting summer. I know that we're moving with the cooling centers and all that and trying to just normalize the responsibility. We all have as a community to keep each other safe. I was curious about the outdoor desk. Did that was that mostly unsheltered people who experiencing heat?

**Ms. Luna:** Yes. I...I do believe that is the case, and there's also a correlation with a substance use.

**Mayor Romero:** Numbers that I was provided by the public, Pima County Public Health Department, umm correlation between temperature and urgent care and emergency room visits are very high. Uh the deaths disproportionately affected males, who accounted for about 78% of the deceased. \So that's a little bit of the information I have and...and 60% of those were outdoor deaths, umm, many unsheltered and many outside workers.

**Council Member Santa Cruz:** Yeah, and I'm...and I'm...and I'm curious if like is there any...any information from the Pima County Health Department of like if you see somebody in distress or what you know what to do in those situations or how to help, umm, just wondering if we're also kind of taking that or like proactive approach?

**Ms. Luna:** Yeah. So, we have been working meeting almost weekly, I would say with the county, the in the Health Department of as part of the join he'd action team. We have subgroups for coordinating around like cooling centers, but also like a communication strategy, and that's part of it. We also have data on 911 heat related calls and have mapped those and so we're gonna use that data approach this summer to distribute heat relief kits. And so those will be mainly for like the shelter folks looking at where those numbers are high in making sure that you know we provide immediate relief to some. But as part of that communication campaign is informing people what the resources are, how they can find them, what's available to them and also yeah. And...and just essentially what the resources are in finding them.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you. Any other comments or questions almost said Council Member Ortega. I'm not starting a rumor here.

**Mr. Ortega:** I have a great Council Member. Thank you, Thank you, Mayor. I just in my hastiness to respond to Fatima. The item is on the agenda for tonight. I think the conversation here is good. I think you could show support by voting on the motion, but just keep in mind the actual road map is on the agenda for tonight's item H. So, I just wanted to point that out. Thank you, mayor.

**Mayor Romero:** Thank you, Mr. Ortega. Alrighty umm...we have a motion and a second, we can vote on it twice, right? We're...we're very proud of it and...and what we're doing to add to move on this still three times. Let's do it. So, all those in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

**All:** Aye

**Mayor Romero:** Any opposed, motion carries. Thank you so much Ms. Luna for your hard work and your climate action team to be able to get this to us in record time. And I personally want to thank my community engagement advisor, Eddie Garcia, for his work and diligence and being part of the conversations and making sure that we engaged our labor folk, that work with that or that representative visuals that work outside. So thank you all. Wonderfully done. Thank you. Great. So, we move on to item 11.

**11. Updates on State and National Legislation and Regional Committees (City Wide)  
SS/JUN04-24-117**

Discussion was held; no formal action was taken.

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**Mayor Romero:** Time has been set aside for the Mayor and Council to receive an update on state and national legislation and regional committees.

**Tim M. Thomure, Deputy City Manager:** Good afternoon, Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council. This is the state and federal update. We have reached 144th day of the legislative session in Arizona, and but our work is not done yet up there today, the governor so far assigned 197 bills and vetoed 58. We're at the point where there's still a couple bills in motion and we're focused on the budget. We will most likely not see a budget until the end of the month, even though negotiations between the governor and the legislature have begun in earnest and note that a new budget must be approved by the end of the fiscal year.

By June 30th, a few bills we have been tracking for you have been signed by the governor since my last report, HB2130. The child enticement bill that you opposed was indeed signed into law. As we're to zoning bills, HB2720 concerning a US and HB2721 known as the middle housing bill, those are bills that we know that they've been passed and signed into law. We will be assessing how we achieve a compliance here in Tucson, noting that we already comply in many ways with...with these types of efforts, we'll just make sure that we're...we're...we're compliant with the new state legislation, state laws and you do have a copy of the bill checking sheet in front of you for any additional updates on the federal side as Congress engages in the FY20 25 appropriations process, they are also gradually announcing their selections for congressional congressionally directed spending projects.

As you know, we work closely with the delegation to try to secure direct funded for the City of Tucson. We are grateful for Representatives Grijalva, Ciscomani, and Gallego for supporting, sponsoring, and supporting some of the City of Tucson priorities for this year's submissions and

additions. Senators Kelly and Sinema, are gradually rolling out announcements by funding program on the projects here, supporting which we anticipate will include projects for the city as well. We'll give you a comprehensive update on all the city sponsored projects that are moving through the system. Once we get that full list, we expect by the end of the week, as early as the end of the week, we'll know the full...full schedule. It's important to note that that's the beginning of a long and arduous treacherous process, so it's a victory to get into the bill. It's an even better victory to make it all the way through it. When the president signs a bill at the end of the day that'll...that'll play out through the end of this year.

Umm...and you can see a complete list of the projects that each representative or Senator has supported on their websites as they're updated with that. This is my last update as Andres Cano starts with the City next Monday, and I have a new job also.

**Mayor Romero:** A couple of couple of updates, one not so good. The other one really good. So, let's start with the not so good so that we can end on the very good. Unfortunately, HCR2060 passed umm...the House and Senate and sets us on a path to put a very similar build and the text that the text has built as before on the ballot. Umm this was...this passed on party lines, and it is, in my opinion, anger, dangerous and anti-immigrant. It promotes hate and profiling and creates fear, mistrust and places in unfair burden on our police officers and Police Department here in Tucson and throughout the state. And it really distracts from trying to find solutions to...to immigration concerns in this country and adjudicates this responsibility to States and worse yet to police departments throughout the state and umm, we are unfortunately I will have to take that up as it goes directly to the ballot. And that's exactly what Republicans in the state legislature wanted. They wanted to veto proof this legislation, so that is unfortunate, but that is something that we're going to have to confront come November on the good news, I want to share that the City of Tucson again received a low-income housing tax credit at three projects in the City of Tucson were allocated credits as well as a project under the Tohono O'odham nation.

Importantly, the Housing Community Development Department applied for and receive credits for Sugar Hill on Stone, which is phase two of our Choice Neighborhoods implementation grant, housing strategy. Sugar Hill on Stone is on 1910 N Stone Ave in Ward 3 bordering Ward 1 city of Tucson, HCD will construct 66 units of affordable housing for low-income individuals and families. And this project includes replacement housing for Tucson House residents and is being designed with Tucson House families and mine. So really good news that HCD will continue building affordable units in our city. Very excited to hear that there are others. Three others, or two others that are also receiving funds for low-income housing.

So that's good news and good news that Mr. Andres Cano will take the seat in front of us at our next meeting to...to give us an update. So not that you were doing a bad job Tim. Anything else? Oh, Richard Fimbres, Council Member Fimbres, you have your hand up.

**Council Member Fimbres:** Can you hear me now?

**Mr. Ortega:** You're muted.

**Mayor Romero:** There you go, yes sure, we can hear you.

**Council Member Fimbres:** Do we know if the postal service on Silverbell is going to be closed? Also, President Biden made an administrative directive today, do you know what it is about?

**Mr. Thomure:** Honorable Mayor, Members of the Council, we've not heard anything affecting that operation.

**Council Member Fimbres:** Ok, also we need to send a letter to the new Mexican President, Madam Mayor, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo just became the first female ever to be in history, Mexican President.

**Mayor Romero:** Yeah. Thank you. And that's an international news so we'll go to international um action. Yeah, first time in the history of Mexico, a woman becomes president. Jewish descent so really exciting, exciting news. And you know our...our relationship to Mexico is close. We have cultural ties, economic ties and familial ties. It's an important accomplishment that Mexico reached, and hopefully we'll, as the United States will follow in their footsteps. But looking forward to you know, continue our work with...with the Mexican government as we do here. So, thank you for reminding us of that's also on the good news column. Anything else? Alrighty, so I thank you, Tim. We'll move on to Item 12.

**12. Mayor and Council Discussion of Regular Agenda (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-118**

No items were discussed.

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**Mayor Romero:** Does anyone have items to remove from the consent agenda? Hearing none, Item #13.

**13. Mayor and Council Discussion of Future Agendas (City Wide) SS/JUN04-24-119**

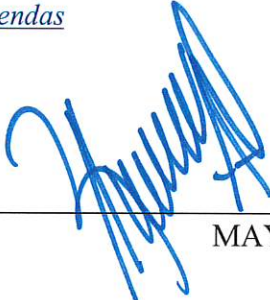
No items were identified for future agendas.

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**Mayor Romero:** Does anyone have any items for future agendas? OK, you're none as well. Study session is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT: 3:34 p.m.

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MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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#### 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 4th day of June 2024, and do hereby certify that it is an accurate transcription.

  
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DEPUTY CITY CLERK

SM:rj:yl