



Spending Reductions Coming to Sunnyvale General Fund

By: Russ Melton, Sunnyvale City Councilmember

Sunnyvale friends, I hope that you and your family are safe and well during these challenging times. As the COVID-19 emergency takes its toll, local governments all across the nation are reacting to the budgetary effect of revenue decreases. Sunnyvale is no exception as our General Fund is being impacted. Sunnyvale is going to have to make some budget cuts.

The City Manager is already starting to make reductions. Some are straightforward. For example, the City will have lower PG&E bills due to the closure of the Library and the Community Center. And, expenses for crossing guard services are at zero while our schools are closed.

Other reductions require the City Manager's discretion.

Hiring of temporary summer staff will not take place this year. And, some Public Works and other projects approved in the General Fund budget but not yet started, will be halted.

That brings us to the big issue: The budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21, which

starts on July 1. The City Manager will submit his draft budget to Council in the next week or so. Soon after that, he is expected to release a list of possible spending reductions for Council to consider. Based on reductions made by the City during previous downturns, the list could include things like reduced road paving and maintenance, reduced field

watering at parks, reduced crossing guard services, deferred tree trimming and deferred sidewalk maintenance. Whatever the list, we'll see if it's enough.

City Council is scheduled to meet on Thursday May 21 for our annual Budget Workshop. At that meeting, we'll sort out the list and come up with the plan to tackle the shortfall and balance the budget.

I want to note

that Sunnyvale has ample liquidity and cash reserves to make sure our bills are paid and payroll is met. We also have a rainy-day fund (the "Budget Stabilization Fund") which currently stands at \$46 million. Council may decide to cover some of the shortfall by dipping into reserves,

SUNNYVALE'S GENERAL FUND supports many of the most visible services provided by the City such as police, fire, road maintenance, libraries, and parks and open space maintenance. The General Fund receives the majority of its revenue from taxes, including property, sales and hotel taxes. Accordingly, the state of the regional economy has a direct effect on the General Fund.

For the remaining two months of the current fiscal year, and the 12 months of the fiscal year starting July 1, 2020, the Hotel Tax is forecast at a \$20.4 million shortfall versus budget and the Sales Tax is forecast \$6.9 million shortfall. All other revenue categories wash out to \$0.2 million over budget. The total shortfall to the FY2019/20 and FY2020/21 budgets is \$27.1 million.

but whatever reserves we use today have to be replenished down the road.

The City of Sunnyvale is a service organization. The municipality exists to provide services to our residents and businesses. To accomplish all this, the single most important asset we have is our employees. Sunnyvale employees are incredible and have all done an amazing job reacting to the COVID-19 emergency, keeping essential services running and coming up with creative solutions to innu-

merable challenges that have arisen.

In conclusion, City Council's duty is to ratify a balanced budget before the end of June, and getting there will be a partnership between Council, Staff and the Community. In that regard, my pledge is to keep our residents up to date and to get your feedback on steps necessary to balance the budget. It will be a busy two months! I'll talk to you soon.

In friendship,
Russ Melton

SUNNYVALE IN THE NEWS

Sunnyvale police let the band play on for SoFA Music Festival

Bay Area News Group
– April 28, 2020

www.mercurynews.com/2020/04/28/sunnyvale-police-let-the-band-play-on-for-sofa-music-festival/



Barely Funktional perform. Photo Credit: SoFA MusicFestival



Karen Gissibl displays FoodCycle system.
Photo Credit: City of Sunnyvale

How Homeowners Can Give Food Scraps a Second Life

“Before the [FoodCycle] program was implemented, 8,000 tons of food waste were sent to the landfill each year, according to Karen Gissibl, Sunnyvale’s environmental programs manager. After, it dropped to 4,000 tons ... a 50% diversion rate.”

Wall Street Journal
– April 23, 2020

www.wsj.com/articles/how-homeowners-can-give-food-scraps-a-second-life-11587646855

Sunnyvale to Implement Signal Safety Improvements

ON APRIL 28, the Sunnyvale City Council awarded a \$424,000 contract for the construction and implementation of Advanced Dilemma Zone Detection systems at six signalized intersections throughout the City.

Advanced Dilemma Zone Detection systems modify traffic control signal timing to reduce the number of drivers that may have difficulty deciding whether to stop or proceed during a yellow phase so as to reduce rear-end crashes associated with unsafe stopping and angle crashes due to illegally continuing into the intersection during the red phase.

The system uses the speed, location, and length of vehicles to calculate the location of the “dilemma zone” relative

to both vehicle speeds and their intersection approach. The system then reactively adjusts the start time of the yellow phase to coincide with the point when the fewest possible vehicles are in

their respective projected dilemma zone, reducing the risk of an accident.

Russ Melton, Sunnyvale City Councilmember commented, “I am really glad to see technology improvements coming to these six intersections that will make our roadways safer. I am particularly pleased to see two intersections on the Wolfe corridor,

at Evelyn and at Old San Francisco / Reed, get these signal upgrades.”

Funding for the project came in the form of a grant from the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program.

THE SIX INTERSECTIONS where the Advanced Dilemma Zone Detection systems will be installed are:

- Remington Drive and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road
- Almanor Avenue / Ahwanee Avenue and Mathilda Avenue
- Mary Avenue and Fremont Avenue
- Evelyn Avenue and Wolfe Road
- Hollenbeck Avenue / Stelling Road and Homestead Road
- Old San Francisco Road / Reed Avenue and Wolfe Road

CalWater Proposes Rate Freeze

ON APRIL 29, the California Water Service Company announced that it had requested the California Public Utilities Commission to approve a deferral of any rate changes for its water customers, to January 1, 2021. The Company stated the purpose of the rate freeze was to help customers impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

Said Sunnyvale Councilmember Russ Melton, “This is great news from CalWater and something I had advocated them to do on behalf of their Sunnyvale customers, in light of the COVID-19

emergency. I am hopeful that the Public Utilities Commission will approve their request for no water rate increases for the rest of 2020.”

Last month, the City of Sunnyvale announced a similar rate freeze for its water and garbage collection services, until June 30, 2021. About 15% of residences in the south and southeast areas of Sunnyvale get their water from CalWater including the Raynor Park neighborhood and numerous residences on Maria, Bellomo, Gary, Gail, Gavello and Poplar Avenues.



Sunnyvale Councilmember Russ Melton



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B I O G R A P H Y

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

- Sunnyvale City Councilmember, 2017-Present
- Sunnyvale Vice Mayor, 2019
- Sunnyvale Planning Commissioner, 2012-2017; Commission Chair, 2014-2016

EDUCATION

- Masters of Business Administration (MBA), Santa Clara University
- Bachelor of Science (BS), Business Administration, California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Executive Vice President / Chief Operations Officer, National 1st Credit Union, 2009-2011
- Senior Finance Manager, National Semiconductor Corporation, 1995-2009
- Honorably Discharged from United States Navy

PERSONAL

- Sunnyvale resident since 2000
- Native Bay Area resident
- Married; two children in Sunnyvale public schools

Sunnyvale Contact Information

Non-Emergency
Police & Fire 408-730-7100

Abandoned Cars 408-730-7706

Graffiti/
Shopping Carts 408-730-7680

Job Center (NOVA) 408-730-7232

Sewer/
Water/Utilities 408-730-7400

Street Lights/
Sidewalks..... 408-730-7415

Street Trees/Parks 408-730-7506

sunnyvale.ca.gov

Use Access Sunnyvale to make online services requests, report issues or to contact City staff. City staff members monitor requests during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

sunnyvale.dynamics365portals.us

Your Federal Elected Representatives

United States Senator **Dianne Feinstein**
San Francisco Office 415-393-0707

United States Senator **Kamala Harris**
San Francisco Office 415-981-9369

United States Representative **Ro Khanna**
Santa Clara Office 408-436-2720

Your State Elected Representatives

California State Senator **Jerry Hill**
San Mateo Office 650-212-3313

Calif. State Assemblymember **Marc Berman**
Los Altos Office 650-691-2121

Your County Elected Representatives

Santa Clara County Supervisor
Joe Simitian 408-299-5050

Santa Clara County Supervisor
Dave Cortese 408-299-5030