



BRACING FOR BUDGET CUTS

The City of Monterey is preparing a budget for next year reflecting substantial service reductions. This is in response to the economic recession that has reduced hotel and sales tax revenues. The City would face a projected deficit that has recently been revised to \$7 million in an anticipated \$62 million General Fund operating budget, if no changes were made.

Budget cuts may include closing the Library one day a week, reducing operating hours at all Community Centers, including the Senior Center and the Youth Center, and suspending many special events. Maintenance of parks, trees and streets is likely to happen less frequently. Non-essential construction projects are on hold. Print publications, such as this newsletter and the Recreation Department's *Activities Guide* may be only available online. Fewer City employees are expected to be on staff to provide services. "We are making the transition to a smaller workforce, which is the only way to structurally balance the City's budget in the long run," said City Manager Fred Meurer. Employees account for 74% of the General Fund budget.

An extensive public engagement process has included informational budget presentations to employees, Boards and Commissions, and neighborhood groups from November through February. Feedback on budget reduction proposals for next year was gathered at two public forums in March. Now, the City Manager's Office and the Finance Department are analyzing the revised budget projections along with suggestions from residents, businesses and employees, and preparing a final budget recommendation. That recommendation will be brought to the City Council in May. Following public hearings on the budget, the City Council will have the final say in adopting reductions in next year's budget.

FOCUS Future

For 25 years, *City Focus* has brought news and information about the City of Monterey into local homes and businesses. Given the new economic realities, this issue of *City Focus* is slimmed down in print but available as a full publication online at monterey.org/efocus on the City's website. Printing and mailing costs for *City Focus* are under review, and it is highly likely that this newsletter will only be available online next year. The City is exploring ways to make some printed copies of the online *City Focus* available at the Library and Community Centers.

The City Council must approve any change to publication of *City Focus*.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Balancing This Year's Budget

The City of Monterey is working on bridging a \$4 million gap between revenues and expenditures for the current fiscal year (through June 30th). The City decided to:

- Freeze capital projects that were not public safety, public health or essential maintenance (\$1.3 million savings)
- Freeze 26 vacant positions (\$770,000 savings)
- Reduce the set-aside for the Economic Uncertainty Reserve (\$400,000 saving)
- Ask for employee concessions, such as furloughs.

How big is the City's projected deficit for fiscal year 2009-10?

The Finance Department now projects a \$7 million deficit for next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. That number was revised upward in April as Finance received new information on the revenue declines they are seeing due to the recession. This is what we estimate for the moment and only considers the next fiscal year. Beyond that, we may experience further challenges; we just do not have the means to estimate with certainty beyond next year.

What caused the deficits?

A worldwide recession has lowered the revenues the City normally gets from hotel and sales taxes, as well as other sources of income. Less money coming in means the City can't afford to do all of the things it had planned, and so it needs to reduce expenditures just like our citizens would do at home.

The City started this fiscal year on July 1, 2008 with a balanced budget and a caution about a slowing economy. The Finance Department continually monitors

economic activity related to hotels, businesses and local attractions in order to track declines in tourism and retail sales. Those declines led Finance to revise its revenue estimates in late November, early January, mid February and April. Finance revised this year's deficit from \$3 to \$4 million.

Why not use the City's reserve for economic uncertainty to fix the deficit?

We don't know how long or how deep the current recession will be. The prudent strategy is to hold onto the \$5.8 million in reserves we currently have, until we have a better understanding of the problem and know that use of our reserves will have a positive effect. The last thing we want to do is avoid confronting the challenge, have our reserves run out, and then still be faced with the challenge and no reserves. Given the size of next year's projected deficit, our reserves would run out very soon. That being said, we are using some of the money we put into the reserve for economic uncertainty this year as part of the solution to this year's deficit.

Budget Suggestions Welcome

Hundreds of budget-related suggestions from residents, businesses, and employees are posted on the City's website at monterey.org/budget/budgetnews.html along with responses from the City Manager's Office. There's also an interactive discussion on the City Manager's Budget blog at montereycitymanager.blogspot.com. It's worth checking them out. It's also not too late to offer your comments and ideas on the web or by e-mail at suggest@ci.monterey.ca.us or phone at 646-3799.

HELP SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY

The City is dedicated to responding to your needs for services. This annual survey is designed to gather your feedback and comments. Please take a few minutes to let us know how you feel. When you have finished, tear out this questionnaire, fold it in thirds so the [return address to the City Manager](#) on the other side is visible, seal it with tape and drop it in the mail. The city has prepaid the postage. We appreciate your responding by June 15, 2009. Thank you.

How do you rate:

Excellent
Above Average
Average
Below Average
Poor

CITY APPEARANCE

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ City beach maintenance
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ City medians, greenbelts and street trees
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ City park maintenance
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ City street cleanliness
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ City street conditions
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Cleanliness of the City as a whole

CITY GOVERNMENT

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Code/zoning regulation enforcement
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Considers/listens to citizen comments/input
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Efforts to preserve historic resources
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Efforts to preserve parks/open space
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Efforts to keep pollutants out of the Bay
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Information value of *City Focus* newsletter
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Information value of City Web site
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Information value of City TV programs
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Keeping you informed about City services, events and issues
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Opportunities to participate in City decision-making process

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Availability of parking in business districts
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Availability of pedestrian walkways/areas
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Bicycle lanes
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Bus service (operated by Monterey-Salinas Transit)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Fire services
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Garbage collection/recycling
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Harbor/Marina services
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Library services
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Police services
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Programs for children (preschool to elementary)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Programs for youth (middle/junior high school)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Programs for teens (high school)
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Programs for adults
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Services for senior adults
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Vehicle traffic enforcement
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ WAVE shuttle service
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Overall City services

How do you rate:

Excellent
Above Average
Average
Below Average
Poor

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Cleanliness in your neighborhood
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Neighborhood police patrol
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Neighborhood street conditions
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Safety of your neighborhood

YOUR BUSINESS DISTRICT

- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Cleanliness in your business district
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Business district police patrol
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Business district street conditions
- ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Safety of your business district

Serious concern
Somewhat of a concern
No concern

NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC ISSUES

- ☐ ☐ ☐ Congestion in your neighborhood
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Parking in your neighborhood
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Speeding vehicles in your neighborhood
- ☐ ☐ ☐ Walkways (crosswalks, sidewalks)

SAFETY ISSUES

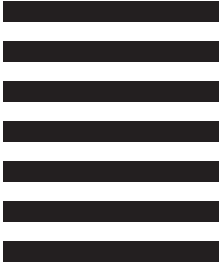
Are there places that you do not feel safe at night?

- ☐ Cannery Row
- ☐ City beaches
- ☐ City parks
- ☐ Coastal/Rec Trail: El Estero to Seaside
- ☐ Coastal/Rec Trail: Wharf to Aquarium
- ☐ Community Centers
- ☐ Del Monte Shopping Center
- ☐ Downtown Monterey
- ☐ Fisherman's Wharf/Harbor/Marina
- ☐ Lighthouse Avenue business district
- ☐ North Fremont Avenue business district
- ☐ Other _____

Comments are welcome on the following page



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If there are additional comments that you would like to make or if there are other topics you think should be addressed in future surveys, please write them below. Thank you for taking the time to participate!

When you have finished, please tear this page out, fold it in thirds so the address above shows on the outside and put it in the mail. The city has prepaid the postage. We appreciate you responding by June 15, 2009. Thank you.

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STATS SHOW CRIME DROP

By Paula Johnson, MPD

A review of 2008 crime statistics revealed some rather encouraging trends in our City. Virtually every crime had a marked decrease from the previous year. The overall drop was over 18%!

The Monterey Police Department is encouraged by these trends and will do our best to see that they continue. It is possible we will see an upswing, particularly in property crimes, as often in times of economic uncertainty we see thefts of all kinds increase. The Police Department is prepared to respond should such an increase occur and will continue to do our best at keeping Monterey the safe city that it is.

Crime	2008	2007	#Change	% Change
Homicide / Manslaughter	0	0	0	N/C
Rape	9	12	-3	-25.00%
Robbery	36	34	2	5.88%
Aggravated Assault*	61	61	0	0.00%
Residential Burglary	79	105	-26	-24.76%
Commercial Burglary	85	113	-28	-24.78%
Vehicle Burglary	187	305	-118	-38.69%
All other Larceny	621	657	-36	-5.48%
Auto Theft	48	90	-42	-46.67%
Total	1,126	1,377	-251	-18.23%
● *Does not include domestic assault				

COMMUNITY POLICING UPDATE

Community Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) is a proven method to address long-term community concerns. The Police Department has added a unique twist to this philosophy by dividing the City into 20 *Community Policing Areas* (CPA's), with a supervisor, two officers, and a professional staff member assigned to each area. These teams serve as the face of the department to those in their CPA, acting as their point of contact regarding crime and quality of life issues, and focusing on developing long-term solutions to problems. Due to the success of the COPPS program, the Police Department created a full time supervisor position and unit to oversee the citywide COPPS initiative.

In addition, the *Community Action Team* (CAT) has been moved into the COPPS office as has the Public Education Officer and Monterey Volunteers in Policing. This is a unique opportunity to keep our momentum and spread the word throughout the City as to the benefits of the COPPS philosophy.

Feel free to contact Sergeant Frank Russo at 646-3806 or frusso@ci.monterey.ca.us if you have any questions about the COPPS philosophy or the Department's Volunteer program. To learn more about the COPPS program visit monterey.org/mpd and click on the Community Policing Initiative link.

TIPS FOR BETTER HEALTH

by Monterey Sports Center Fitness Manager William F. Rothschild

With spring and recreational opportunities calling us to step out and get fit, it's time to review some great tips for maintaining a fit lifestyle.

- **Be active.** Try to get at least 30 minutes of vigorous activity in every day. Brisk walks, jogs, swim, drop-in basketball, exercise equipment at a moderate pace, circuit training – all count as vigorous activity.
- **Lose weight.** If you walk just over a mile every day for a year and keep your diet the same, you could drop 14 pounds by this time next year.
- **Reduce stress.** Daily exercise reduces stress. Your blood pressure will go down. You'll feel better about yourself. During stressful times in our life, the best medicine is usually exercise.
- **Cross training works.** Avoid doing the same routine every day. Add a little variety with a change in pace. Consider circuit training to boost your metabolism and increase your strength and your endurance.
- **Small bouts add up.** So you can't fit 30 minutes into your busy day? Break it up. Take a brisk walk for ten minutes before work, do a quick walk during the lunch hour and jump rope, cycle or take a hike for 10 more in the evening. There...you got your 30 minutes and it works just as well.
- **Buy shoes.** Don't keep putting on the sneakers you wore in high school gym class. Good shoes will help prevent many avoidable injuries. Buy local and get good advice from a good shoe salesperson. Bring your old shoes and they can tell you what replacement shoes will work best for you based on the wear patterns. You don't drive around in old, worn-out tires do you?
- **Walk, don't ride.** Playing golf is a great way to reduce stress. Do yourself a favor – walk the 18 holes, burn about 500 calories and have fun losing weight.
- **Don't lean.** When using a Stairmaster, stepper, treadmill, bike or other cardio-training machine, stay upright. If you need to hold the rails to maintain balance, go for it, but do so lightly. People leaning on the rails or hanging onto the treadmill display are cheating themselves of a quality workout and creating stress that can lead to injury.
- **There's gold in them there hills.** Hills are great. You burn far more calories both uphill and downhill than you do on flat terrain. If you are using a treadmill, try for a 6% grade or higher. You'll burn far more calories in far less time.
- **Take the stairs.** People who use stairs improve their overall fitness compared to elevator users by as much as 15%. On average, you can burn 18 calories every minute.
- **Traveling?** When you are on the road and exercise time is hard to find, get at least one day in to maintain your fitness. Even one day a week can maintain your gains.
- **Check with your doc.** If you haven't been active for a while, please take the time to see your physician for a checkup. It's always a good idea to start slowly to avoid injury and work with a trainer to be sure you are doing the right exercises safely.



The Monterey Sports Center has certified personal trainers on staff to help you with your exercise program. Whether you are looking to lose weight, regain health, improve fitness, increase strength or get ready for your first 10k, our expert staff is a good place to start with your program.

Dealing with the Homeless



Homelessness is a complex social problem that impacts our community and others across the country. There are no easy solutions, as the causes of homelessness are multi-faceted and frequently outside the control of

government agencies. The Police Department does have a role in dealing with people, including the homeless, when their activities are unlawful or otherwise impact the health and safety of our community while being mindful that homelessness in and of itself is not a crime.

Homeless people seek the same essentials as everyone else, the most important of these being water, food, shelter, clothing, and a source of income. Locations that provide access to these basics will attract homeless persons. The Police Department is addressing the homeless issue in our community but cannot resolve the issue alone. By following the simple steps outlined above, each of us can do our part to reduce the impacts homelessness has on our quality of life.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Education Office at 646-3819 or the Community Policing team assigned to your neighborhood or business district. Their contact information can be found on our website

monterey.org/mpd/our_communities/meeting_schedule.html.

If you know your Area, click on it for contact information. If you are unsure which Community Policing Area oversees where you live or work, click on the “Find your CPA” in the middle of the page to view a map.

How to avoid problems with the homeless:

Do not offer food or money. If you feel obligated to donate money, contact a local charity group that assists the homeless.

Avoid confrontation, maintain your distance and be cautious when dealing with strangers.

Do not permit anyone to camp or loiter on your property. Contact the Police Department if this is occurring on your property.

Do not allow anyone to store shopping carts, bedding, or personal belongings on your property.

Restrict access to overhangs, alcoves or other areas protected from inclement weather

Lock or remove handles from water spigots to discourage unauthorized use.

Lock your garbage receptacles and clean up waste.

Lock or turn off exterior power outlets.

Lock gates after hours.

Install exterior lighting and utilize motion-activated fixtures after hours.

Trim back landscaping and foliage to eliminate hiding places.

Do not allow food and beverage deliveries to sit out unattended.



A Gardener's Paradise

Monterey is a gardener's paradise. Our mild climate allows us to grow plants from all over the world. Many plants are blooming in our City landscapes throughout the year. Some of the most beautiful and unusual are in the Protea family. All South African natives, the Protea has very large thistle-like flower; Leucadendrons exhibit multicolored leaves and bright colorful bracts; and Leucospermum display colorful upside-down spider shaped flowers. All seem to be fairly easy to grow, require little water, and thrive in some of our toughest conditions.

If you are a native plant enthusiast, check out our newly-planted demonstration garden at the Monterey Library upstairs terrace. You should also take a look at the landscape above San Carlos Beach featuring "No Mow" turf. "No Mow" is a fine fescue blend about a year old that has not seen a mower yet. It also has very low water requirements.

Both native and non-natives grow better in a good soil mixture. Incorporate green compost, fibrous mulch, or organic fertilizer to stimulate the soil. Use drip or low volume spray nozzles to get the water where plants can utilize it.

The New Plans & Public Works Department

In early 2008, the City Council merged the Community Development and Public Works Departments into one – the Department of Plans and Public Works. This Department consists of seven distinct divisions: Administration (budgeting, fleet, solid waste, and recycling management), Maintenance (parks, streets, forestry), Traffic Engineering, Capital Projects, Inspection Services, General Services (building maintenance and Presidio), and Planning, Engineering, and Environmental Compliance.

The Division of Planning, Engineering, and Environmental Compliance (PEEC) is a multi-disciplinary group that coordinates the following functions: planning, engineering, code compliance, housing programs, property management, storm water management, environmental compliance, water, transportation planning, sustainability, and surveying. PEEC staff members coordinate the Architectural Review Committee, Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission, and Neighborhood Improvement Committee. A member of the PEEC staff also acts as the City's Zoning Administrator.

The transition within PEEC as well as the larger Department has been very successful. Department staff appear to better understand a wider variety of functions and can better coordinate between different disciplines to serve the needs of the citizens.

Library Honors

The Library received news that it has been voted by readers of the *Monterey County Weekly* as "**Best Library in Monterey County**". The announcement was a bright spot in the midst of discouraging budgetary times while checkouts are up by 24% and public computer use is at an all-time high. The Library staff certainly appreciates this acknowledgment from the community.

Recreation & Community Services Summer/Fall 2009 Activities Guide

By Recreation Supervisor Shannon Beltran

Check out what's going on at your community center or the Monterey Sports Center by visiting monterey.org/rec or call 646-3866 for details. We offer arts and crafts classes, friendly after-school and school break programs, exercise and fitness opportunities, educational workshops and much more.

Start planning to fill your calendar with activities for this summer and fall with the Summer/Fall 2009 Activities Guide (good thru November) that's available now. Registration for Monterey Sports Center programs began Thursday, April 30th. For all other programs, priority registration for City residents began May 4 and general registration begins May 11 in person or online at monterey.org/rec *Online registration requires prior activation.*

Mark your calendars to sign up for summer camps, field sports and ongoing classes and programs. Guides are available online, at the Recreation & Community Services Main Office (546 Dutra St.), Community Centers, Library and Sports Center.

Monterey on YouTube

Monterey's *YouTube* page has 25 videos to entice and encourage people to visit our City and experience what Monterey has to offer. These short videos cover a huge variety of subjects from our rich historical background, to Farmer's Market, hiking trails, tall ship visits, and lots more. There's something for everyone in Monterey, and *YouTube* is helping us tell our story to a worldwide audience.

Check out the City of Monterey YouTube page at youtube.com/cityofmonterey

Events

The City will hold its annual **July 4th** parade and lawn party this summer. The parade starts at 9 a.m. on Alvarado Street and the lawn party runs from 11 – 5. The fireworks display was cancelled this year for budget and public safety reasons.



Resources

The City's website contains a vast array of information for residents, businesses and visitors.

The latest budget news is available at monterey.org/budget/budgetnews.html

Join the budget discussion on the City Manager's Budget Blog at montereycitymanager.blogspot.com/

Daily updates on the H1N1 flu from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) are right on the home page monterey.org/

You'll also find lots of videos on the Monterey Channel web page at monterey.org/tv/ or by clicking on the Monterey Channel logo.

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OR FIND MORE VIDEOS ON



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