### 2021 Budget Community Conversations | Thursday, September 10 Topic: Budget 101

#### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

#### 1. What City services are most important to you at this time?

- All are important, if we are going to do cuts, then the only fair way to do cuts is for every service to have a 10% cut Progressive approach, not across the board. The different circumstances should determine the cuts made for the city services. Prioritize the necessity of city services
- Health and Human Services due to the pandemic
- Fire and Health
- Health
- Library -funded less than other programs
- Affordable Housing
- Parks and Recreation programs for kids are critical due to the pandemic
- Police assist with increased gun violence
- Social Services Youth Development Social work - assist people with fewer resources/make sure they are taken care of
- Continue implementation of CARP energy efficiency
- Housing Insecurity
- · Affordable Housing rent assistance
- General Assistance
- General Assistance
- Downtown development
- Economic development (downtown is empty even pre-COVID)

- Lakefront parks, beaches eroding
- Bird Sanctuary
- Early Childhood involvement with kids before they even go to school
- City Hall downtown
- Beach tokens should be free
- More services in underserved areas ensure Crown has programs for those people (cheaper programing etc)



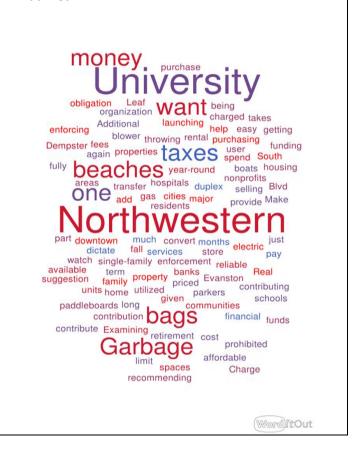
(Word)ItOut

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# 2. What would you like to see changed about the way the City gets money? Are there any new revenue sources we should be pursuing that we are not?

- More user fees (not recommending it, but a suggestion)
- Northwestern University is getting off too easy by not contributing to the City of Evanston. They should be charged more in taxes
- Look at other major schools and their financial contribution to their cities funding.
- Should get more money from Northwestern
   University the cost of city services fall on residents
- Look into making banks, nonprofits, retirement communities, and hospitals pay property taxes
- Look into the downtown organization (Dempster Mile) in how they spend funds given to them by the city
- Make more spaces available to store boats and paddleboards - don't limit to just one rental per family - add other beaches (or areas of beaches part of South Blvd) to provide for launching
- Real estate transfer tax for high priced properties (increase again)
- Charge people to convert a duplex to a single-family home (want to keep more units to help with affordable housing)
- Additional parking for long term parkers
- Leaf blower enforcement gas is prohibited yearround and electric during a few months but no one is enforcing
- Garbage bags for purchase people would watch how much they are throwing away (wouldn't want to keep purchasing more garbage bags)

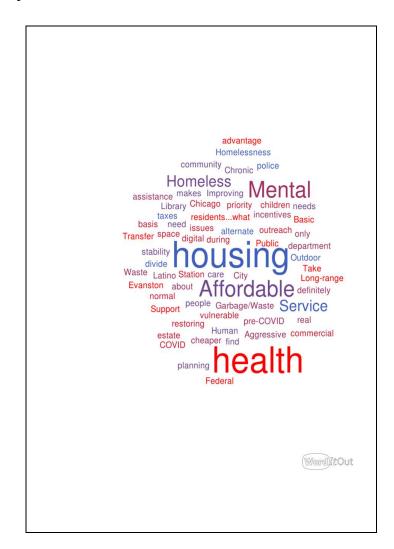
- Northwestern University contributes more in a reliable way, gives a lot but also takes a lot. Have an obligation to contribute more and not dictate where the money goes
- Examining selling of city facilities not being fully utilized



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#### 3. What is an area you would like to see the City spend more money on?

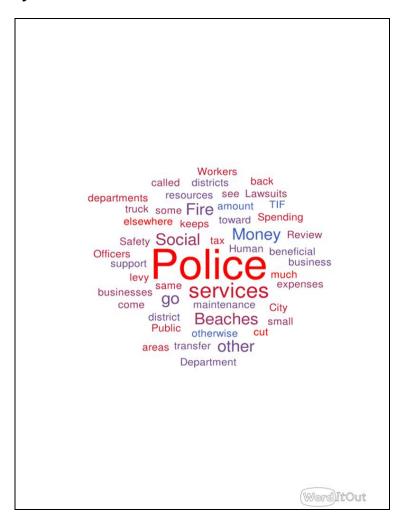
- Affordable Housing need more, cheaper housing
- Homeless why did we only find housing for the homeless during COVID but don't care about them on a normal basis pre-COVID
- Chronic Homelessness mental health assistance
- Garbage/Waste Waste Transfer Station
- Improving the digital divide Chicago model
- An alternate police service model
- Mental health and outreach
- Public health
- Support for the Latino community
- Affordable housing
- Library
- Outdoor space for children
- Affordable housing is definitely a priority for more City spending (Take advantage of Federal spending)
- Mental Health issues and Health and Human Service department
- Basic needs of residents...what makes the people of Evanston vulnerable
- Long-range planning for restoring the stability of commercial real estate taxes.
   Aggressive incentives



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#### 4. What is an area you would like to see the City spend less money on?

- Lawsuits
- Beaches cut back on the expenses of the maintenance of the beaches
- Spending too much on police and see if that can go toward other departments and areas of the City. Their resources can be beneficial elsewhere
- Money from police to go to Human Services
- Police (transfer money to other social services) - otherwise if Police keeps same amount could some of the "Police Officers" be Social Workers?
- Fire Department does a fire truck have to come when police is called?
- Public Safety services
- Police
- TIF districts Review tax levy on business district to support small businesses



### 2021 Budget Community Conversations | Wednesday, September 16, Topic: COVID-19 Budget Impacts

#### **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

### 1. Are you satisfied with the City's COVID-19 response so far? If not, how can the City improve?

- Yes (Provided housing for those in need in hotels, but it took some time to ramp up.)
- Yes (Felt that Connections for the Homeless did the bulk of work regarding housing, but kept residents well informed. The City's rent moratorium was a huge lifesaver for small nonprofits)
- Yes.
- Not sure. (Results in Evanston have been better than most. Not sure how much to credit the City, but has no reason to fault the City.)
- Not sure. (Appreciates that public spaces like the lakefront were kept open, which became a safe haven for some Chicagoans. Disappointed about the loss of businesses, and feels the City could be doing more to assist them.)
- Feel like schools are doing more for youth than the City. Would like to see the City improve support for youth and students.
- Yes, satisfied in terms of proposed economic solutions
- Did a great job
- 2021 budget not relevant to COVID
- Empower Health and Human Services to look at more public health issues
- Enable Health and Human Services to work more with police and fire
- Satisfied and very impressed by the City response with COVID-19, especially with the assistance with

the homeless population and the senior facilities to keep the death in those facilities low. • Communication surrounding the pandemic is helpful and consistent. **Empower Communication** Provided Fnable

### 2021 Budget Community Conversations | Wednesday, September 16, Topic: COVID-19 Budget Impacts

#### 2. What services should the City prioritize to respond to COVID-19?

- Continued focus on public health, including a mask mandate, quarantine guidelines, and distributing PPE
- Make masks available at the Library or a more friendly location (not the police station)
- Communicate and coordinate better with Northwestern
- Health department should consider climate impact, pathogens in storm water and its effects on health
- Improve communication would like to see the actions the City has taken so far as it relates to Covid-19 and contract tracing

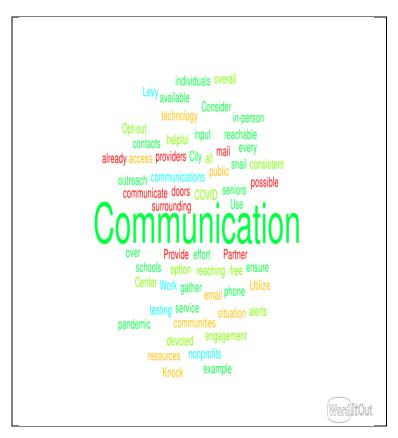




### 2021 Budget Community Conversations | Wednesday, September 16, Topic: COVID-19 Budget Impacts

### 3. How can we ensure the City's COVID-19 response is reaching all communities in Evanston?

- It's not possible to over communicate in this situation. Use every available communications channel
- Utilize more public engagement and in-person outreach to gather input. Need more effort to reach isolated residents. Knock on more doors
- Partner with service providers that already have contacts with those who may not have access to technology. Provide free COVID testing at the Levy Center as an example
- Work with schools and nonprofits more to reach isolated individuals
- Need to ensure City is reaching seniors
- Not all communities are reachable by email.
   Consider snail mail
- Do phone alerts with an option for residents to Opt-out
- Need more resources devoted to communication overall
- Communication surrounding the pandemic is helpful and consistent



### 2021 Budget Community Conversations | Wednesday, September 16, Topic: COVID-19 Budget Impacts

- 4. Are there any other issues the city should focus on related to COVID-19
  - Mental health; coordinate, promote, and make mental health resources available.
  - Support food and housing need first.
  - Invest more in testing to identify asymptomatic contacts
  - Provide care for those who contract COVID
  - Rise in Crime
  - Unemployment
  - Food insecurity
  - Would like to compare Evanston with our neighboring communities such as Naperville, Skokie, to see how we prioritize our funding around programs and personnel



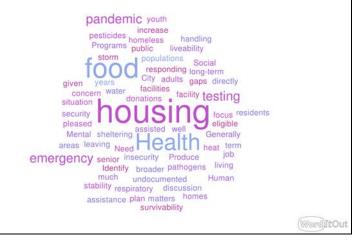


#### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

#### 1. What kinds of City services are most important to you in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Identify areas where there are gaps in food insecurity. There has been a significant increase in use of the Produce mobile. Food security for residents is a concern, as well as housing. Short term, focus on housing people who are homeless, and long-term plan for sheltering and housing
- Health department is competent and doing a good job, but that they are purely responding to what is directly in front of them instead of looking to the future. Do more future planning to prepare for heat events, storm water, respiratory health, food access, pathogens, and pesticides. There needs to be a much broader discussion about liveability and survivability in Evanston for the next ten years. Including food access. More attention needs to be given on food stability
- Housing, specifically emergency housing matters
  the most. There is a lack of emergency housing for
  those who are leaving their bad situation. Need
  more assistance for undocumented folks in
  Evanston. They aren't eligible for the checks that
  most people receive for the pandemic and a lot of
  public services. They are often left to help
  themselves

- More testing sites; pay close attention to assisted living facilities and senior populations;
- Generally pleased with the City's handling of pandemic
- More donations to help people stay in their homes.
- Health and Human Services would be nice if City had its own testing facility
- Programs for youth and adults
- Social services
- Mental Health



#### 2. What can the City do to improve our COVID-19 response increase reach and inclusivity?

- Affordable Housing need to take a serious look at zoning and how that impacts inclusivity and other aspect that impact where people live and can afford to live
- More affordable housing and more accountability for landlords. Housing vouchers must be accessible and must be accepted by property managers. Landlords will refuse to rent to you because you have a voucher
- A lot of this is a resource issue. Having a health officer in Fleetwood-Jourdain would be great.
- Increasing the budget for youth services, advocate victim services, and partnerships with social service organizations.
   Address the root causes reallocating resources from the police department
- Partner with other agencies that are already doing the work





#### 3. What ideas do you have about how the City should continue funding our social services?

- Decrease funding from the police department and reinvesting it in social services. This would address a lot of the core issues. This must be a thoughtful decision
- See what other towns and cities are doing. More research needs to be done. Consider selling off City property
- Defund the police is a concept that is very much circulating. Not wise to try and cut any essential services. Concerned
  about the apparent attraction of taking resources from one department to another. There are always tradeoffs. This
  would need to be done cautiously
- Do not sell the Civic Center. Public land is a commodity that City should hold on to. Short-term solution. Look at departments budgets and consider whether the health department can take a more significant role. Reallocate and deploy police and fire funds differently
- Participatory budgeting on an ongoing basis specific items for the budget
- Reallocating and reimagining resources from the police department
- Look at how services could be provided elsewhere





#### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

- 1) ¿Qué servicios de la ciudad son los más importantes para usted? (What services from the city are the most important to you?)
  - Social services. This is a small part of the city budget currently. Focus on those who lost jobs during the pandemic
  - Resources for people of color. Provide financial support for those who want to start or expand businesses. This would help to hire people who do not have jobs. Also provide job training for communities
  - Rental assistance. If Evanston wants to maintain diversity and multiculturalism they need to help those who
    need help. They contribute to the economy. They need help with utilities
  - Crossing guards. Specifically in high traffic areas
  - Parents have to work and children have to go to school. I wish there was a place to tutor kids in the community.
    That way parents can go to work in peace knowing the students are learning. Even though they said classes
    are starting at school in-person, if students have to return back home [due to a 2nd wave], I would not want
    them to fall behind, like many mothers
  - Scholarships for students. Hispanic students use those scholarships in order to participate in parks and recreation



- 2) ¿Qué tipo de servicios cree que faltan en la comunidad hispanohablante de Evanston? (What types of services are missing in the Latino community in Evanston?)
  - A mentoring program, not just for youth, but that would help. A program where they could engage with our kids and meet them where they are at. We need a 3rd person to help, outside of the family unit that can help. I have not been able to do this within the family unit.
  - A lot of services are offered by the city, but they are not accessible to Spanish speaking communities. Are you reaching all community members? Collecting information from participants and assuring that participation is a representation of the diversity of the city. We need more services to the Hispanic community.
  - Social services are the most important. We spend a lot of money on the police. I would like to see some of those services transferred to social services as mentioned in the previous comments. What practices are you using that are culturally competent for the Latino community? As an example, is there a community psychologist that can help the Latino community as an individual or family unit?
  - All the links for assistance for community services are hard to navigate and are not in Spanish. In addition, technology is a barrier. Those services should be front and center on the City' webpage. There should be a

- concerted effort by the city departments to proactively outreach to the Latino community. Specifically, senior services and youth areas. They are not reaching where Latinos naturally gather.
- The Latino community doesn't necessarily congregate in specific neighborhoods or spaces. But that's why partnerships are important. The school districts touch so many of our Latino families. Yet they don't have a strong liaison in the city. We don't have that in the city. We have so much talent in Evanston who know services, schools, communities, and there should be an effort for the city to hire local talent. They know how to navigate the city; we need to hire them. In the city, they tend to hire people who already have connections with the City. Whether it's someone they know, has a reference in the City.
- When you get a ticket or citation in the city, there are no judges that are bilingual. The majority of Latinos struggle with English. They deserve the possibility of being to speak to a judge and fight for issues. If they speak with a judge that doesn't speak Spanish, you can't fight for yourself. I think of senior citizens who can't fight for themselves and defend themselves in this situation.

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accessible communities youth
                 representation effort
                                          like
                         important bilingual Social
                               navigate speaking
            school program assuring possibility
                                                      assistance
     police
                 issues mentoring engage Latinos
                                                  connections
         most
       schools addition
                                                   diversity
                       themselves
                                     see mentioned
    citation Iot
                citizens
                   money example see spend reaching offered
                                              offered
                             being many
                                         participants just
      families strong yourself
                                situation
          concerted meet specific
neighborhoods someone necessarily outside Yet people senior
                             judges Specifically departments
speak areas
                         information culturally
                                     congregate majority
     struggle gather _
                                      hard proactively
            talent local transferred
                                            deserve
                    psychologist comments
               Whether competent
                                          links
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- 3) ¿Qué partes del presupuesto de la Ciudad son más importantes para usted? (What part of the city budget is most important to you?)
  - It's important that that city continues its resiliency work. If we want to see this from the lens of the Spanish
    speaking community the most affected are these people. Help people learn about how to insulate houses etc.
    are important to mitigate climate change especially for our most vulnerable
  - Social services and I agree with [the previous comment] that resilience and climate change work is important. I
    understand that COVID has caused a lot of changes. It's important to think about how to recover. How do we
    help our small businesses owners and entrepreneurs who are Latino? Perhaps a cooperative. There are
    examples in Spain and Jackson Mississippi with a focus on urban farming that focus on a sustainable
    economy
  - I participate in Minority Women in Evanston based businesses. I saw the Evanston report on minority owned businesses. It's not very useful--it's very vague. They don't categorize by type of minority or how to improve the community

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Vulnerable mitigate lot
businesses economy urban
COVID minority-owned resilience
sustainable
services previous
Women vague small saw
lens Women entrepreneurs
Jackson Minority farming report comment
community
want Latino learn useful
houses
work think owners
insulate cooperative
based participate
```

#### 4. What kinds of services do you feel are lacking in the Evanston Community?

- Roads and sidewalks are dilapidated. People are walking more, but our sidewalks need resurfacing.
- An expansion of the Youth and Young Adult Division. Murders and heavy crime were significantly decreased under Kevin Brown. This department needs more leeway and funding to scale up their services. This could augment law enforcement.
- Very limited action on climate action commitment. There is a plan but there is very little action being taken. Need a
  new officer in charge of climate impacts. Need to be stricter on developers. We need to insist on more affordable
  housing. Say no to developers who aren't willing to meet criteria.
- Climate action should come into every consideration and decision that the City makes. Larger consideration should be placed on housing and how it effects the environment. Less driving etc. Connection between affordable housing and climate. Rental assistance is a great need. People who work in Evanston should be able to live in Evanston.
- The City talks a lot about diversity, but the way it is now is that people of color are moving out. If we want to see more diversity, we need to make housing more affordable for everybody.
- Housing



