

Emails Received regarding agenda items

CITY OF ALBANY, CALIFORNIA



ALBANY CITY HALL
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CALIFORNIA 94706

Agenda Item
Annual Sugar Sweetened Beverage
Tax Study Session

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 1, 2019

From: [Ruth Konoff](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 9:16:28 PM

Hello Respected Albany City Council Members,
As you gather to review proposed uses for Albany's Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax revenue, I wanted to suggest a possible use for part of the revenue, either in this upcoming cycle or a future funding cycle: Funding small projects to promote and, especially, *protect* breastfeeding in Albany.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the American Academy of Pediatrics both strongly recommend *exclusive* breastfeeding for six months, and continued breastfeeding for at least one year (two years in the case of WHO). Breastfeeding is the normative means of infant feeding, and when parents are unable to meet their breastfeeding goals, the result is poorer health outcomes for both the child (including, among others, increased risk of obesity, illness and death) and the parent (including, among others, increased risk of heart disease, breast cancer, diabetes, and hypertension). In addition, recent research finds breastfeeding is associated with reduced consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages among infants and young children. The link to healthy behaviors and outcomes makes breastfeeding support/protection a perfect use of this source of revenue. [References upon request).

The vast majority of parents of new babies in Alameda county initiate breastfeeding (97% of Alameda County hospital births in 2017): <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/CDPH%20Document%20Library/BFP/BFP-Data-InHospital-Hospitals-2017.pdf> and state that they want to continue to breastfeed (including chestfeed/feed human milk) to their babies. Unfortunately, multiple structural/systemic barriers lead many of them to discontinue before they intended to. Communities play a vital role in supporting families that want to breastfeed. The Alameda County Breastfeeding Coalition (ACBC) has identified improved Workplace Accommodation and improved Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care practices as two ways communities can support breastfeeding families, and has active subcommittees working on these two initiatives. I am co-chair of the ACBC BF-Friendly Child Care subcommittee, and know that licensed child care providers would benefit from both training (provided at no charge by the Coalition) and help securing the few things they need to make their spaces more welcoming and supportive of breastfeeding families (comfortable seating; a way to set up a private place to pump milk if desired; toys, books and artwork that portray breastfeeding in a normative way). According to data provided by Bananas, Albany currently has 11 child care centers and 15 licensed child care homes providing care to over 500 children age five and under. Establishing a formalized program to provide small grants to Albany child care

providers to become more BF-friendly would be one way to support healthy behaviors, and reduce the barriers families face in meeting their own breastfeeding goals.

While I am personally especially interested in supporting child care providers in this area, note that the ACBC also supports helping businesses/employers in Alameda County provide needed accommodations to lactating/nursing parents. Funds to support this would also be valuable.

For further information, please see:

<http://www.acphd.org/acbreastfeeds.aspx>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CFH/DMCAH/Breastfeeding/Pages/default.aspx>

Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support

Breastfeeding <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK52682/>

Please feel free to be in touch if you need further information or references. I look forward to seeing you at the study session on Monday.

Ruth Konoff, OTR/L, IBCLC

Albany, CA

510-882-3141

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From: [Mark Westlye](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: sugar beverage ord.
Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019 12:49:11 PM

I hope you will take active note of the distinction between sugar/sugar enhanced drinks/ juices and diet drinks/juices that contain no sugar, such that the vendors do not pass along their costs by raising prices of these alternatives. If diet drinks continue to cost the same or more than sugar drinks, we reduce what was intended by the regulations.

Mark Westlye
1008 Santa Fe Ave.
Albany

From: [Emily and Rachael](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Sugar tax \$\$
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2019 7:27:34 AM

I'd love to see the proceeds used for literacy - into the school libraries for books & author visits & maybe a sponsored book club or writing group at the high school.

Thanks
R Reiley - Key Route Blvd

Sent from a tiny device. Kindly excuse brevity and typos.

From: [Anne Hsu](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Fwd: Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax Expenditure Program
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019 7:48:32 AM
Attachments: [SSB comments for sign on-final.docx](#)
[ATT00001.htm](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: Immi Song <drimmisong@isongorthodontics.com>
Date: March 23, 2019 at 7:11:21 PM PDT
To: Anne Hsu <AHsu@albanyca.org>
Subject: **Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax Expenditure Program**

Hello Anne,

Unfortunately I am not able to attend the study session on Monday April 1st since I work until 7:30pm on Mondays. I am very sorry to miss this meeting. However, I have attached the comments that Ben Feldman and other stakeholders have come up with previously regarding the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax Expenditure Program. I hope this will be helpful.

Warm regards,

Immi Song

This email was seamlessly encrypted for your privacy and security by Paubox
<https://www.paubox.com>

Sent from my iPhone

To: Albany City Council

Re: Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax Expenditure Study Session

Albany has long been a town that values health, community, education and equity. And a town that is willing to commit resources to build the type of place that we want to live. Through the passage Measure O1, the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax, we once again have this opportunity to put our values into action.

While Measure O1 could not specifically designate what the tax would fund, the City Council resolution placing the tax on the ballot does provide some direction as to the intent of the measure. The resolution by city council to place the measure on the ballot identified the problem at hand: “there is overwhelming evidence of the link between the consumption of sugary drinks and the incidence of diabetes, obesity, and tooth decay.”

“The problem is especially acute with children in California. From 1989 to 2008, the percentage of children consuming sugary drinks increased from 79% to 91%.”

“hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent in an ongoing massive marketing campaign, which particularly targets children and people of color.” And city council made clear its intent with the measure in the following statement: **“the purpose of this Ordinance is to diminish the human and economic costs of diseases associated with the consumption of sugary drinks.”**

Given the stated purpose of the campaign, funds be used to combat diet related illness associated with soda consumption and priority should go to efforts that directly seek to reduce soda consumption. There should be a focus among vulnerable populations most targeted by soda advertising and most at risk of diet related disease including young people and low-income Albany residents. We recommend focusing on more effective and sustainable environmental change approaches rather just one on one education, for example school gardens. Projects that generate employment, particularly of vulnerable youth should also be valued.

To achieve these goals, we the undersigned endorse the Social and Economic Justice Commission recommendations for Year 1:

1. Nutritional education with a focus on healthy drinks for all age levels from adult through pre-school.
2. Increased accessibility of healthy drinks

Specifically, Year 1 funding should focus on efforts that can be implemented quickly and that do not commit City funds to a single project indefinitely, such as:

1. Contractual relationships for nutrition education at school assemblies or youth led event based education. Examples include The Bigger Picture School Assembly (<http://youthspeaks.org/thebiggerpicture/book-us/>) and For Thirst, Water First (<https://ecologycenter.org/yea/for-thirst-water-first>)

2. One-time allocations particularly for infrastructure (such as water fountains, filling stations and water bottles), possibly including funds to place visually interesting fountains in additional school or community locations.

The city would also be wise to use some of Year 1 funds to establish baseline health/soda consumption data to be used for evaluation.

Beyond Year 1, priority activities remain:

- Nutrition education (including cooking and gardening).
- Water station installation/maintenance at schools and parks
 - e.g. Albany High School water filling station

Other possible activities that could be considered depending on funds and needs:

- School meals (funding to support quality sourcing and free/reduced meals)
- Parks and rec for and support for low income rec activities
- Fund the Albany Farmers' Market including CalFresh-EBT and Market Match to support low income shoppers
- Gill Tract Farm-distribution of produce to low income/needy residents
- YMCA Diabetes Prevention Program
- Homeless meal support
- Senior Nutrition Support
- SSB outreach to businesses, particularly about pricing – for example, training and paying someone to go door to door to Albany businesses selling SSBs and educate them and that they can help prevent diabetes by passing the tax through to fully and only to unhealthy sugary drinks.

Thank you for your time and your efforts to prioritize the health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Ben Feldman, Albany Resident and Food and Agriculture Professional

Margie Marks, Albany Resident and Social and Economic Justice Commission Member*

Lynn Silver, MD, MPH, FAAP, Senior Advisor, Public Health Institute*

Dr. Immi Song, DDS, I Song Orthodontics

Patricia Low, Albany Resident and former AUSD School Board Member*

Liz Maker, Albany Resident and Lead Evaluator, Alameda County Public Health Dept, CAPE Unit*

Gill Tract Farm

* for informational purposes only and does not constitute an organizational endorsement

From: [Karen Holzmeister](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [Karen Holzmeister](#)
Subject: Soda tax discussion on April 1
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2019 8:10:52 PM

Dear Council members:

Please consider as part of your 2019- 2020 budget deliberations the use of soda tax money specifically for senior programs at the Albany Senior Center.

Residents over age 50, As well as senior center program participants, can join with other adult and children who use and benefit from the water fountains and exercise programs funded by the tax in the last couple of years.

However, seniors over age 55 - who make up approximately 17% of our community residents – can benefit from soda tax subsidies designated specifically for the center.

Here are some potential programs:

For the last decade, the senior center has had a 22-seater bus which takes us on weekly walks and hikes throughout the bay area. The program is entitled “Walk, talk and be healthy.” The bus is always full, and generally has a waiting list. The walks and hikes range from easy to very difficult, and give seniors with varying mobility levels the chance to exercise at different flatland and Hill or mountain areas in the bay area counties. The bus trips also give seniors a chance to socialize, which is good for their mental health, and to share ideas on other programs or activities to get them out of their homes and moving.

We pay the fee for the bus program, as do participants using the bus for day trips which average about once a week. The bus is also used to take seniors, who do not have cars or can no longer drive, shopping. There could be other programs, for which the bus could be used and could use subsidies. At some point we might need a new bus, given its use, and that expenditure would also have to be considered by the City Council.

Seniors also might benefit from “hands-on” programs, including blood pressure checks and podiatry services, as other centers provide. In Emeryville, the fire department sends representatives every month to the senior center to take blood pressures. Perhaps that is something our fire department could do. If so, some of the money from the soda tax could subsidize its time in operations in coming to the senior center. Another suggestion: the soda tax could subsidize some of the costs of obtaining a podiatrist to come to the center. Seniors who do not have routine foot care included in their health plans could pay a co-pay.

The Friends of Albany Seniors organization, FOAS, to which I belong, always is looking at ways - in addition to dues- to raise money to subsidize senior center programs and expenditures. Many of us, myself included, work on the annual white elephant sale, which this year is the last Saturday in April. It gives us a chance for weeks or months, depending on our assignment, to be on our feet sorting and packing items, setting up and sharing ideas and meeting the general public on sale day. FOAS also has several other fundraising events during the year, in which I participate as a volunteer or attendee. So I am not asking the Council to use tax dollars for programs for which I am not willing to work or support myself. I am sure the council members are happy that there are volunteers at the center who are willing to work in many different venues to raise money for Center expenditures, and you would want to support us with all those fundraising endeavors. That is why I, and I’m sure many other seniors, would appreciate your consideration of specific soda tax funding for our center.

I hope to be at the April 1 work session of the council to voice support for specific funding for the senior center.

Karen Holzmeister
820 Cerrito St.
Albany, CA 94706
Albany resident for 59 years

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elizabeth Friedman Branoff](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Sugary beverages tax fund
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2019 2:15:42 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am an Albany resident and ask that all proceeds from the sugary beverages tax go to the local public schools. They are all over-crowded, have basic needs to be funded and are facing general budget cuts.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Friedman Branoff
724 Curtis Street
Albany, CA 94706

From: [Wendy Stephens](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: How to spend soda tax money
Date: Friday, March 29, 2019 6:53:24 PM

Dear Council:

Many local streets lack painted crosswalks and many drivers don't slow down or stop if pedestrians cross Masonic from Garfield, for example.

Intersections without painted crosswalks are treated like second class intersections and 'get no respect'.

Please paint crosswalks at every Albany intersection. If there is inadequate funds, please prioritize by density of traffic.

Wendy Stephens, Albany homeowner since 1978.

Uat

From: [Shirley Jowell](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Re: Sugar tax
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 3:55:36 PM

Unfortunately I am unable to come tonight but really want to be involved in this decision. Please keep me in the loop if possible. Thank you

Sent from my iPad

> On Mar 29, 2019, at 9:41 AM, Shirley Jowell <sajowell@icloud.com> wrote:
>
> Help the low income and homeless. Albany provides sufficiently for the rest of us
>
> Sent from my iPhone