

**Comments on Draft 2020-2021 Work Plan**

Submitted by Committee Member: Anne Benker

May 5, 2021

For Agenda Item 6.2

I am sorry that I was not able to attend this meeting, but will watch the taping upon my return to town on 5/10

Thank you to Judy Kerr for providing the draft work plan.

I also want to express thanks to all past and present public servants (and helpers) for their work in keeping our City financially healthy and solvent. Albany residents are fortunate, and we should consider ourselves such. While there are challenges and plenty of work to do, their efforts will only assist us in facing these future challenges.

I understand that there are a handful of budgetary concerns on the horizon. And, while the more concerning ones are, I believe, 3-8 years out, it would behoove us to keep these items in sight as existing revenue streams are improved, and new revenue streams are developed. I suggest we include a "Status Report of Budget Challenges," as an ongoing item, in our plan, and report out on such.

Another possible add. "Development of Existing and/or New Revenue Streams." Are there other things we could be doing internally, or more locally to enhance revenue streams? What can be done beyond attendance at the California League of Cities meeting? Grants?

I would also like to request small edits to the some of verbiage on the draft plan. I believe it important to acknowledge what is already being done, and how we can enhance these efforts. As an example.... Our first bullet item states: "Sound and Transparent Management of City Financial Resources." I'd like the committee to instead consider this verbiage:

""[Maintain] Sound and [Increase] Transparent Management of City Financial Resources." Another one: "[Continue to] Assure [That] Rates of Revenue are Kept Current...." I know this is a matter of semantics, but semantics are important, especially when you talk about money. I would like us to tout what is true, thereby creating a positive base for our future work.

Thank for your attention.

Anne Benker

Member, City of Albany

Financial Advisory Committee