



April 24, 2014

Dear Friend:

Last month we wrote to you about National City's ongoing budget challenges. As we stated previously, we are working to get as many community perspectives on these issues as possible and wanted to share with you some of the results from a recent professional opinion research survey to determine community service priorities.

This survey conducted by the highly respected opinion research firm of Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates found that a large majority of our residents want to maintain local services like the City's own Police and Fire Departments. Other key priorities include:

- Preventing cuts to police, fire and 9-1-1 response services
- Supporting senior and youth programs, including anti-gang and drug prevention and a range of recreation services
- Preventing cuts to library services
- Maintaining code and neighborhood service programs such as graffiti removal
- Maintaining the City's financial viability

In 2006 the City forecasted a \$6.7 Million deficit due in large part to the millions of dollars the State has taken from the City. Among other cost-saving actions, City departmental budgets were cut 20% across the board, scores of positions were frozen and 17 police officer and firefighter positions were eliminated.

To restore services, including police and fire staffing, National City voters passed a local funding measure, Proposition D, to address the ongoing Sacramento money takeaways and other fiscal challenges. Proposition D is set to expire and if it is not extended, our Three Year Operating Plan forecasts significant cuts in public safety and other vital City services, including contracting with the County for these services rather than maintaining our own local police and fire departments.

We will keep you updated as we continue to engage the community about this important issue and evaluate the City's options. For additional information, visit the City's website at www.nationalcityca.gov or contact City Manager Leslie Deese directly at 619-336-4242.

Sincerely,

Leslie Deese
City Manager

Frank Parra
Director of
Emergency Services

Manuel Rodriguez
Police Chief

Office of the City Manager

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