

**Peninsula Community Planning Board**  
**Draft Committee Testimony (one minute time limit)**

Mr. Mayor, Councilmembers and Independent Budget Analyst

**The Peninsula Community Planning Board cautiously supports the proposed budget** as we see no additional fees or taxes within it. However, with recently hired high-paid employees, we are concerned about the final budget since millions in new funding from trash fees, parking and fee increases still require so many cuts. We are also concerned about the severe cuts to libraries, the arts and youth programs and hope additional personnel savings can be found to lessen the pain.

San Diegans continue to struggle with a rising cost of living due to high housing, utility, grocery, transportation and health care costs that has substantially stressed household budgets. This was exacerbated by recent city-imposed parking and trash collection fees.

PCPB believes that the steadily increasing cost of city government should not be borne solely on the backs of taxpayers but be borne equitably between the city staff and residents.

The city can take further steps to address the long-term budget structural deficit and restore sustainability including::

- Review all staff wages, overtime, and fringe benefits including pensions, to reduce compensation to more sustainable levels.
- Conduct more fiscally sustainable labor negotiations.

PCPB recognizes and appreciates the steps Mayor Gloria has taken in the budget to reduce some high-cost middle management compensation and discretionary city programs, but it can go further. We suggest at least some partial restoration of some arts, culture, and youth programs to be funded from further staff, compensation, and benefit reductions. **You should not impose further tax and fee increases on an already overburdened citizenry.**

**Therefore, we cautiously support the proposed 2027 budget with the previous caveats.**