

# Overview of the City Council's Performance-Based Budgets

## The Goal of Performance-Based Budgets

While traditional budgets simply describe where money is being spent, performance-based budgets connect measures of program performance to the costs of programs. By aligning program results with program costs, Council members and the public can see where taxpayer money is being spent and what outcomes are being achieved through that spending. The ultimate goal of our performance-based budgets is to focus budgeting on the results and outcomes of programs, which will enable Council members to make better informed decisions about where the City should be directing its resources.

## Contents of the Performance Based Budgets

**Program Description.** The budgets contain a description of each agency's programs. The descriptions supply an overview of the program's services and may also provide information about the program's mission. The sources of information for these descriptions include budget documents, the Mayor's Management Report, and agency websites.

**Financial Information.** Included in the budget of each program is spending and funding data. This data comes from the City's Financial Management System which houses the City's financial information. For each program, spending is broken into two categories: Personal Services and Other than Personal Services. Personal Services refers to spending on personnel (except for fringe benefit costs, which the City does not budget for at the program level). The Other than Personal Services category covers all other types of spending, such as contracts, office supplies, and equipment. Program funding is divided into seven categories: City Funds, State, Federal – Other, Federal- Community Development, Other Categorical, Capital- IFA, and Intra City. These categories refer to the different revenue sources that fund agency programs.

**Performance Measures.** The performance measures in the budgets are predominantly taken from the Mayor's Management Report. Additional sources of this information include agency websites and agency District Resource Statements. The measures that are included in the documents have been selected in order to give Council members and the public insight into how well each program is accomplishing its goals. To that end, the performance data in these budgets are typically focused on program outcomes and measurements of program efficiency and service quality. However, for some programs, no performance measures were available to report.