

**SPECIAL JOINT  
HAYWARD CITY  
COUNCIL/HAYWARD  
REDEVELOPMENT  
SUCCESSOR AGENCY/  
HAYWARD HOUSING  
AUTHORITY MEETING**

**JUNE 6, 2023**

**DOCUMENTS RECEIVED  
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# **PUBLIC HEARING ITEM # 20**

**PH 23-022**

**FY 2024 Budget/CIP Public Hearing  
and Adoption**

**From:** [Hayward Community Coalition](#)  
**To:** [List-Mayor-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on PH 23-022 - FY 24 Budget  
**Date:** Sunday, June 4, 2023 9:37:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [HayCoCoa FY 24 Budget Letter.pdf](#)

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**CAUTION:** This is an external email. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

We hope you are well and enjoying your weekend.

Attached is a letter outlining our thoughts on the City's proposed FY 24 Budget. While we understand that a large reworking of the budget is unlikely, we know there is money available to continue to enact substantial positive change within our community.

The points in the attached document are areas we'd like to see investment from the City and areas we believe would most benefit Hayward Residents. These commonsense changes to the budget will yield big results in the coming Fiscal Year and, as such, we will be looking forward to the discussion on the dais with great interest.

We welcome discussion with members of Council and would be happy to elaborate on these issues further with any member of Council who would be interested in doing so. Only together can we make the change necessary to turn Hayward into the city we know its residents deserve.

United,  
Hayward Community Coalition



Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

The members of the Hayward Community Coalition (HayCoCoa) believe that municipal budgets are financial representations of what a city values. To that end, we feel that there are places in the currently proposed FY24 budget that can, and should, be altered to better reflect the values of the community and build upon the forward-thinking work the city has already embarked on to improve and re-imagine public safety in Hayward. We urge the City Council to address the following points in the budget:

### **1. Investing in Prevention & Unarmed Responses**

Given the number of the likely unfillable vacancies in HPD this year, **we urge Council to re-allocate HPD vacancy funds towards expanding mental health, counseling, and other prevention services.** We continue to follow the implementation of the MIHU program and ask that funds continue to be invested towards its implementation and success. We would also be interested in expanding the role YFSB counselors play in our community to help increase student educational outcomes and divert Hayward youth from the criminal legal system.

Additionally, **We also urge Council to underfill any vacant Officer positions with non-armed, Community Safety Officers** to respond to non-emergency/non-violent situations that do not require a sworn Officer's presence. Since CSO training times are shorter than academy training times, implementing an effective CSO program would save taxpayer dollars, allow us to develop talent faster, and have HPD provide better service and response times to our community sooner.

**We continue to stand by our previous demand for Hayward to establish its own Social Services Department** to house many of the preventative and community services currently operating within HPD (many departments across the city collaborate with HPD without needing to be housed within it).

## 2. Continue Funding the Hayward People's Budget

The Hayward People's Budget was one of HayCoCoa's original demands from 2020 and we were incredibly proud to see the initiative generate a new community garden, the development of an independent makerspace, bilingual tutoring for hundreds of students, and more. Over 1,000 residents participated in the voting process and city staff deserve a great deal of credit for their facilitation of this project despite their limited capacity.

However, we believe the Hayward People's Budget has the potential to engage more residents and directly address community needs with the appropriate investment.

**We request the Council find a way to sustainably fund and operate the Hayward People's Budget going forward.** The projects underway represent the dedication and desires of members of the Hayward community and deserve to be continually supported by the City so that individual neighborhoods can continue to build community while developing their own leadership and local character.

## 3. Increase Staffing for Strategic Roadmap Projects.

Only a handful of staff are assigned to develop and move new initiatives forward outside of the day-to-day operations of our city. Limited staff capacity makes it difficult for Hayward to proactively implement new ideas with the quality and attention they deserve. We believe this is a disservice to our staff who are tasked with shouldering more work than is reasonable, and to the residents of Hayward who would benefit from a more responsive City.

**We urge the City Council to increase staffing throughout the City to help bring the Strategic Roadmap projects to fruition.** Additional staffing focused on community and council projects will help ensure that Hayward continues to be a city that is proactive, innovative, and responsive to changing resident needs.

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There is no need to generate new revenue or spend further into our reserves. **The money is already there.** We encourage Council to continue the significant work that emerged from the George Floyd protests and Hayward's subsequent public safety workshops. It is not enough to nod at the idea of social and racial justice, our city must remain committed to seeing it through.

**HayCoCoa**