



**SPARKS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
PRIORITIZATION OF CITY SERVICES  
December 13, 2010**

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**REPORT TO THE SPARKS MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
SPARKS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
December 13, 2010**

**I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Summary

This year, the Sparks Citizens Advisory Committee (SCAC) through the City Manager was tasked with prioritizing the services that many City residents have come to expect. In order to begin crafting a budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12, the assignment was to be completed by the end of this year.

The SCAC took the assignment seriously and went to work at their monthly meeting in May, hearing from City staff on the City's strategic plan and reviewing the City's annual public attitude survey. In June, the committee heard from the City's finance director who discussed the budget process for local governments and Sparks in particular.

In the months leading up to October, each City department director made a presentation on their department's respective roles and services, along with the challenges they currently face. These departments include Public Works, Police, Fire, Community Development, Parks & Recreation, City Attorney, and Municipal Court. The SCAC would like to take this opportunity to thank every department head for their time and effort in preparing and presenting their information and background on their respective department. Committee members were impressed with the dedication and knowledge of each representative.

During this time, members of the SCAC surveyed their neighbors, friends, and colleagues on their thoughts and opinions of the value and priority of city services. Each member used a different method and questions as part of their research. Some members performed face-to-face written surveys, others communicated using electronic means through their contact lists, some merely gauged feedback through informal conversations with other Sparks residents.

The committee identified about 25 categories based on feedback and survey results. While there is some overlap in categories (e.g.: Public Safety and Police Patrol), the committee felt it was important to maintain the identified categories because residents place a different meaning and value on each.

It is important to remember that the committee's budget priorities reflect responses through the eyes of the average Sparks resident, or to put it another way, citizens who live in the City of Sparks. The categories prioritized reflect the external services that most residents see and experience.

Undoubtedly, each city service is vital in its own right; however, many residents have not had the exposure or opportunity to experience many services the city offers. For instance, while

building and plan inspections are an important service to protect the integrity of city development and ensure the safety of our residents, few surveyed have had the opportunity to experience that particular process. Another example, despite the important role the City's Municipal Court and City Attorney's office has on public safety, few residents have had an experience with either office (though both departments were included as stand-alone categories). Additionally, organizational functions such as human resources and technology support are critical, but were not focused on due to the internal nature of such services.

### Methodology

On Saturday morning, November 13, the SCAC convened in an effort to begin to place a value on the various categories of city services. SCAC members discussed the feedback they had received during their survey process, as well as their own perspectives on the various services and functions the City provides.

Staff issued each SCAC member \$1,000 in \$10 increments (NOTE: 12 SCAC members were present, hence a total of \$12,000 was issued).

Using all the information and feedback they had received over the course of the past several months, each SCAC member was asked to spend the money on various city categories. Each category was noted on a small box, and money was placed inside the boxes. The results of this exercise can be found in Section 2.

On Wednesday, November 17, the SCAC collectively agreed on five key topics under which most of the categories fall. Of the \$11,980 that was allocated (\$20 was unaccounted for), the breakdown is as follows:

- Public Safety = 35.5%
- Public Works = 26.2%
- Parks and Recreation = 21.3%
- Development = 12.0%
- City Attorney/Municipal Court = 5.0%

### Results and Ratings / Brief Explanation of Topics, Categories and Overview

**PUBLIC SAFETY (35.5%)** – Police and Firefighting services and code enforcement.

Public Safety (22.0%) – While this is a broadly stated category as well as a topic, the SCAC generally agreed this category was defined as law enforcement and firefighting services.

Code Enforcement (4.6%) – Compliance with city ordinances along with the general upkeep and appearance of the community is perceived as an important public safety issue.

Police Patrols (4.2%) – Much feedback from SCAC members and residents focused on maintaining or increasing police patrols and police presence in the City.

Fire Prevention (2.4%) – Inspections and programs that help reduce the threat of fires.

Fire Suppression (2.3%) – Generally defined as firefighting and rescue capability during a critical life/safety incident.

**PUBLIC WORKS (26.2%)** – Refers to the maintenance and operation of the city's critical infrastructure, which also helps support the role of public safety.

Road / Signs (5.4%) – This item includes well-maintained roads that are free of snow, ice, and other hazards, along with visible roadway markings and signage.

Storm Drainage / Flood Prevention (5.2%) – This category reflects the necessary infrastructure in place to prevent and reduce neighborhood floods during storm events.

Sewage (4.6%) – Providing a safe and operable water treatment facility (Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility).

Environmental Sustainability (4.3%) – While not all understood the definition of "sustainability", those who recognized it being synonymous with green projects translated it to a dollar savings and preservation of the environment.

Other Infrastructure (3.6%) – Generally defined as well-maintained city roads, sidewalks, curbs, and gutters.

Transportation (1.7%) – This item had a double meaning for many. For some, it meant adequate roadways and associated elements such as lighting; others thought of public transportation and associated facilities.

Street Lights (1.4%) – Operable and appropriate street lighting.

**PARKS & RECREATION (21.3%)** – Opportunities to support our City's quality of life through recreation and leisure activities and attractive venues.

Park System (7.7%) – Refers to the 50-plus parks the City offers for its residents' use for a wide variety of activities. This could include the Marina and Golden Eagle Regional Park.

Recreation Services (6.4%) – Refers to the countless recreation activities the city provides through the Parks & Recreation Department.

City Pools (3.3%) – This item refers to the three city pools, with a focus on the two outdoor pools. Depending on the geographical area of the city, SCAC members had either a strong desire or very little desire to support the City’s outdoor pools.

Trails (1.8%) – Walking and bike trails throughout the city, and the connectivity to/from Sparks throughout Reno and Washoe County.

Marina (1.6%) – Because of this iconic venue, it was a frequent topic of discussion as a city facility to consider supporting.

Golden Eagle Regional Park (.5%) – Similar to the Marina, an important public facility to consider to continue to support.

**DEVELOPMENT (12.0%)** – The City’s role in planning and development, economic development and supporting the local economy.

Victorian Square Development (4.6%) – Many feel it is important to continue to redevelop Victorian Square as the City’s downtown, while others feel the City should discontinue making significant investments in the area. This category also implied to many the importance of this area as a special event venue.

Economic Development (2.8%) – This category represents a broad view of the important role the city can play in kick-starting a fractured economy.

Special Events (2.5%) – Most considered this category as a catalyst to economic development, particularly as it pertains to Victorian Square.

Master Planning (1.8%) – While there is very little education on this topic, a well-developed community is important to residents, with many citing the Sparks Galleria Shopping area as a well thought-out development.

Appropriate Zoning Functions (.3%) – Similar to master planning, residents’ desire to live in a city that has appropriate zoning ordinances.

**OTHER (5.0%)** – Includes the City Legal Services (City Attorney) and Sparks Municipal Court. While most citizens recognized the importance of these two functions, few have had firsthand knowledge of the services provided.

#### Other notable discussions

During the course of this assignment, a few common themes were repeated. This section attempts to capture some of the discussion where there was a strong consensus among SCAC members.

**Revenue opportunities:** In an effort to avoid further city staff layoffs and reduction in services, the SCAC encourages the City Council to look for opportunities to increase fees in order to recover the associated costs of the service. As an example, building permit fees sparked much discussion because the fees were less than other local jurisdictions. SCAC members felt that increasing these rates would not deter development. An option to consider includes raising the property tax to the maximum level set by the State.

**Education and Information:** SCAC members overwhelmingly feel that most residents do not understand what services are provided by the City and how those services are supported by public dollars. During their survey process, most members of the SCAC found themselves providing further background on city programs, services, and initiatives because the interviewee was not informed on key local issues. The SCAC agrees that while this is a common problem for government at all levels, the City should continue to do what it can to provide the necessary and appropriate public information to its citizens. A better-informed citizenry translates to a greater support of and tolerance for fee increases.

**Legislature Grab:** SCAC members have become acutely aware of the possibility of the Nevada Legislature transferring City funds to the state budget. This is a concern. The SCAC is willing to contribute to the dialog or support the City in the appropriate capacity to help ensure the negative impacts of the 2011 legislative session are minimal.

**Cross Training:** SCAC members recognize that the City has made strides in cross training its employees, particularly in the Public Works Department. The SCAC applauds these efforts and encourages the city to continue to look for opportunities to improve training and education, and having employees serve dual roles were applicable.

#### **Collective Bargaining Agreements:**

The SCAC expressed concern that the negotiation and bargaining process between management and public employee unions is completed in secret. SCAC Members encourage the Sparks Mayor, City Council, and City Manager to be active in the upcoming 2011 legislative session to try and amend any law that is prohibiting their ability to effectively negotiate employee salaries and benefits, and to improve transparency for the taxpayer.

#### Concluding Thoughts

The SCAC appreciates the opportunity to have participated in this worthy assignment during the last several months. It served as an enlightening opportunity for its members, who are now better informed citizens, a goal of the committee. We also appreciate the time and the dedication of the City Manager and staff in keeping us moving forward. We are always available to meet and discuss this report with you personally.

The SCAC recognizes that this information is merely input and feedback to the Mayor and City Council. We hope you find the results useful in your governing and decision making. We are all grateful to live in a wonderful community, and in months to come, confident we will see bright days for one of the most special places to live in Nevada. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Eddie Bonine, Ward 4, Chairman

Lorraine Scherer, Ward 2, Vice Chair

Jack Byrom, Mayoral appointment, Secretary

Kevin Edwards, Ward 1

Nancy Price, Ward 1

Allison Edwards\*, Ward 1

William Williams, Ward 2

David Hansen\*, Ward 2

Dick Daugherty, Ward 3

Charles Johns, Ward 3

Jen Staffeldt\*, Ward 3

Ardena Perry, Ward 4

Alma Uribe\*, Ward 4

Gregory Bishop, Ward 5

Connie Anderson, Ward 5

Jessica South\*, Ward 5

Doug Voelz, Mayoral appointment

Jeanette Ramirez, Mayor appointment

\*Alternate

**Section II: Exercise results on prioritization of city services**

To follow is a single Excel page that computes the final results of the exercise performed by the SCAC on Saturday, November 13. The exercise placed a dollar value on the identified city services. The SCAC later assigned one of five categories (Public Safety, Public Works, Parks & Rec, Development, Other) for each service provided.



**SPARKS CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY SERVICES BUDGET RESOURCES PRIORITIZATION  
Workshop on November 13, 2010 / Meeting on November 17, 2010**

City Service	\$'s Assigned	% of Total	Category	\$'s Assigned by Category	% of Total by Category
Public Safety	\$2,630.00	22.0%	Public Safety		
Code Enforcement	\$550.00	4.6%	Public Safety		
Police Patrols	\$500.00	4.2%	Public Safety		
Fire Prevention	\$300.00	2.4%	Public Safety		
Fire Suppression	\$270.00	2.3%	Public Safety	\$4,250.00	35.5%
Roads/Signs	\$650.00	5.4%	Public Works		
Storm Drainage/Flood Prevention	\$620.00	5.2%	Public Works		
Sewage	\$550.00	4.6%	Public Works		
Environmental Sustainability	\$520.00	4.3%	Public Works		
Other Infrastructure (Roads, Sidewalks, Curb/Gutter)	\$430.00	3.6%	Public Works		
Transportation	\$200.00	1.7%	Public Works	\$2,970.00	24.8%
Parks Systems	\$920.00	7.7%	Parks & Rec		
Recreation Services	\$780.00	6.4%	Parks & Rec		
City Pools	\$390.00	3.3%	Parks & Rec		
Trails	\$210.00	1.8%	Parks & Rec		
Marina	\$190.00	1.6%	Parks & Rec		
Street Lights	\$170.00	1.4%	Parks & Rec		
Golden Eagle Regional Parks	\$60.00	0.5%	Parks & Rec	\$2,720.00	22.7%
Victorian Square Development	\$550.00	4.6%	Development		
Economic Development	\$340.00	2.8%	Development		
Special Events	\$300.00	2.5%	Development		
Master Planning	\$220.00	1.8%	Development		
Appropriate Zoning Functions	\$30.00	0.3%	Development	\$1,440.00	12.0%
Municipal Court Services	\$300.00	2.5%	Other		
City Legal Services	\$300.00	2.5%	Other	\$600.00	5.0%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,980.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		<b>\$ 11,980.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### **Section III: SCAC members comments from resident feedback**

To follow is a short summary of notes recorded during the SCAC workshop on Saturday, November 13 when the committee convened to prioritize city services.

Sparks Citizen Advisory Committee, Workshop 11/13/10

General Discussion:

misinterpretation on how budget is spent; council salaries; vehicles; street lights; parks maintenance; fire/police/public safety; all came back to public safety, citizens want police and fire to be available when called; Parks but not pools; Code enforcement

Bonine

Daughterity why hasn't there been any media coverage about SP3 failure, what is the outcome of the action

Administered survey (2 formats), home owners associations, builders group. Citizens unclear what the city provides. Police/fire; parks; sewer after they understand what they provide

Byrom

Williams all concerned about public safety; however, most were going to vote no on SP3

Mayberry What does Public Safety mean, Police and Fire, possible sewer

representing planning commission, taxes/fees less than charged in Reno and Washoe County; should identify those situations (building permit), and recommend increases

Voelz

No developer makes a decision based on permit cost; decisions are based on marketability, etc.; set fees based on economic need for the city; have citizen group support to negate political

Daughterity

Public Safety number one, but also collective bargaining and benefits to be reviewed for all city personnel, including police/fire; fees charged for a service should cover the cost of the service and should be reviewed annually; continue green efforts even if it costs more now it will save money in the future

Scherer

Cronk discussed raising property taxes by a small amount, believes it an easy way to increase revenue, must be a political reason.

Voelz

Ward 5 pool, Police #1, Fire #2, Public Works #3, Parks #4, Community Development didn't know what it was. Police/Fire adequately staffed since we are losing population. Did not understand how much public works does, traffic signal synchronization, police should be professional and have respect for the citizens, parks are adequate concerned about maintaining the existing parks. If community development did a better job (over building, planning, retail leaving at Legends, Victorian businesses struggling, etc.) it would help; redevelopment downtown. SP3 why wasn't police and fire?

Anderson

A lot of the time spent educating citizens on what a city does. Focused on families in Ward 1, big concern with parks and pools. Rely heavily on fire department. Parks #1, Police#2, Fire #3. They want the park areas to be safe, even after dark. Pools are essential during the summer, a place for the kids to go to keep them out of trouble. Community development role in the city is unclear. Code enforcement and graffiti are a concern.

Edwards

Daughterity If parks are unsafe at night, is the city aware, is it a problem/concern being addressed

graffiti (community appearance) cleanup in public areas, cleaned by the city, help on private property of those in need when possible

Mayberry

Public Safety was number one; citizens are fed up with taxes, they want the spending cut, they don't care where, at all levels, state, city, etc. Citizens feel they have had to cut their personal spending and feel the city should do the same and they do not care where. Although Dick feels some fees should be increased, the people he talked to did not have the same feeling. They want city government to take care of the issues.

Daughterity

Anderson Sales tax is very regressive for those on lower budgets

Bonine

Education is key, once the committee was educated personally, they had more tolerance for fee increases.

Johns	Polled 113 people, had people choose their top 10. Public Safety #1. Citizens felt some services overlapped. Economic development important, cut spending, need job growth; are electeds being paid appropriately, along with city staff; Victorian Square redevelopment; surprised special events was not in the top 5. Felt many lacked a true understanding of economic development.
Ramirez	Finance and Public Works presentations to the disability committee, they did not appreciate it, only 1 person returned surveys; merge fire/police/remsa; eliminate STAR bonds, make developers provide service; they did not feel they really understand enough of what the city does, and didn't feel they could provide educated feedback, and didn't have a desire to learn more
Carey	AGC believed STAR bonds had value when passed, but being misused. Should not be able to relocate a company from a higher established district to a lower tax district. Private businesses not legally required to show where tax dollars are coming from
Byrom	Had to provide education then sorted into tiers. Tier 1: police protection, fire, emergency medical, street lights/traffic issues, sewer/storm drains, code enforcement, courts, youth recreation programs/adult programs, senior citizens programs, road maintenance/traffic congestion, taxes/spending reductions, concern with state taking local tax revenues. Tier 2: Zoning planning/enforcement, master planning, legal, parks, golden eagle, pools, marina, snow removal dust/weed control. Tier 3: flood prevention, off roads, infrastructure projects, development plan processing, cost effective regional services, economic development programs for jobs. But don't charge me for anything.
Scherer	Job sharing, duplication of services in departments, privatization, utilize volunteers, welfare recipients should help out their community, grants for opportunities and funding, how much is the state going to take from the city if they balance their budget.
Perry	1100 people, received 1000 responses; contained educational info. Everyone wants something for free, want services but do not want to pay; concerned with legislature. Did not support SP3 because of fear that funds would end up in Carson City, not that we do not need more police. Need to maintain firm leadership, influence legislature. Supported lower fee process to encourage businesses to locate in Sparks.
Public Safety	What is included in the box?
Bonine	Prioritization of services, establish priorities, responsibility of city to figure out the details.
Anderson	Has five services, departments, rank services and leave it up to the city how to do it.
Johns	Just providing recommendations
Daughterity	Presenting major areas that are important to citizens
Bonine	Outcome of this group exercise to be considered in future planning
Carey	SCAC providing link to citizens for Council; opportunity to provide input. Provide bullet points (3-5) on what is included in each box; Budget is balanced for City of Sparks for this year. Unknowns property tax and legislature for next year, budgets planning to cut for next year. 90% of budget is people. Get a broad ranking of services, then determine top three to five bullets included in each. Direction to cut city wide, first 2 years excluded public safety, not now. Cuts at this point mean people.
Price	Posting on website, would like to see more info, more transparency.
Carey	Address is in report; Info is available
Scherer	How do you get citizens to read the info
Anderson	Police/Fire unions, negotiations, cut backs from them, was it the same as other employees
Carey	Explained status

Perry	Admin/Legislative/Legal supported because it is their responsibility to make the day-to-day decisions. Do not inhibit the ability of city management and electeds to make the right decisions.
Voelz	Salary reductions..was there discussion that layered/proportionate % of decrease be requested based on salary.
Daugherty	Cannot reduce salaries without negotiations; however, the city can lay-off personnel
Carey	Services are affected from less personnel
Daugherty	Equal cuts may not be appropriate (public safety vs. mowing lawns)

#### **Section IV: Individual SCAC member survey results**

To follow are documents that represent how some members of the SCAC conducted their respective research for this project.

As you will see, some of the documentation is more formalized than others. The prioritization project was truly a grass roots effort that gave members of the SCAC the autonomy to develop their own rating system - whether it was hosting a meeting with a small group of neighbors over coffee in one's home or passing out a survey form to neighbors in Sparks, the SCAC members rose to the challenge.

Some members of the SCAC captured their responses in writing, others gauged feedback through one-on-one discussions with their neighbors and residents in Sparks.

Submitted by Jeanette Ramirez

Check only one in each row

City of Sparks Budget Items

	Essential	Need	Fund/ Revenue Increase/ Stability
Legislative		X	
Mayor		X	
City Manager	X		
Administrative		X	
Legal		X	
Finance			
Community Development	X		
Judicial	X		
Education		X	
Police	X	X	
Fire	X		
Public Works	X		
Culture & Recreation			
Community Support		X	
Intergovernmental		X	
Contingency		X	

Comments and/or suggestions to help fill the holes caused by budget cuts. (Example: Use citizen volunteer groups for Parks maintenance): What are you unhappy about within the City of Sparks?

Cross Train Staff  
 Consider Tax Increase .25%  
 Continue to educate Community Regarding  
 Dept's & Budgets to get buy in/input on  
 outcomes.  
 Put hold on all Raises

Check only one in each row

City of Sparks Budget Items

	Essential	Need	Fund/ Revenue Increase/ Stability
Legislative		X	work w/ mgv
Mayor			eliminate
City Manager	X		raise 4% to pay cut
Administrative		X	flex hrs or part time
Legal	X		
Finance	X	<del>X</del>	
Community Development		<del>X</del>	close
Judicial	X		
Education		X	ask parents to pay like
Police	X		use seniors
Fire	X		fire - ↓ vehicles
Public Works	X		
Culture & Recreation		<del>X</del>	close
Community Support			close
Intergovernmental		X	part sale
Contingency		X	close

Comments and/or suggestions to help fill the holes caused by budget cuts. (Example: Use citizen volunteer groups for Parks maintenance): What are you unhappy about within the City of Sparks?

- pooling staff by cross training
- is great idea for all depts
- taxes like ITC #5
- consider merge of fire & police <sup>with county</sup>
- \* include ITC #1 - cross train & pool staff
- put snow plow on all city trucks
- get rid of STAR2 bonds
- ask/ demand developers provide infrastructure like parks, roads, schools
- let city staff use farms
- open windows = ↓ use of AC & heat; personal accountability
- run out like private business



**Check only one in each row**

**City of Sparks Budget Items**

- Legislative
- Mayor
- City Manager
- Administrative
- Legal
- Finance
- Community Development
- Judicial
- Education
- Police
- Fire
- Public Works
- Culture & Recreation
- Community Support
- Intergovernmental
- Contingency

Essential	Need	Fund/ Revenue Increase/ Stability
	✓	
	✓	
✓		
	✓	
✓		
✓		
	✓	
✓		
	✓	
✓		
✓		
	✓	
	✓	
	✓	
	✓	

Comments and/or suggestions to help fill the holes caused by budget cuts. (Example: Use citizen volunteer groups for Parks maintenance): What are you unhappy about within the City of Sparks?

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Item	Category	Selections Made Per Category	% of Total	Top 10 Priorities
1	Special Events	39	0.035	
2	Economic Development	74	0.065	3
3	Roads/signs	42	0.037	10
4	Public Safety	105	0.093	1
5	Police Patrols	79	0.070	2
6	Fire Suppression	40	0.035	
7	Fire Prevention awareness	23	0.020	
8	Victorian Square Development	69	0.061	4
9	Parks Systems	41	0.036	
10	Trails	33	0.029	
11	Recreation Services	59	0.052	6
12	Marina	66	0.058	5
13	City Pools	34	0.030	
14	Golden Eagle Regional Park	35	0.031	
15	Transportation (road maintenance, improvements)	40	0.035	
16	Other Infrastructure (street lighting, sidewalks, curb gutter, TMWRF)	38	0.034	
17	Environmental Sustainability	28	0.025	
18	Master Planning	29	0.026	
19	Storm Drainage/Flood Prevention	47	0.042	9
20	Code Enforcement	55	0.049	7
21	Appropriate Zoning functions	36	0.032	
22	City Legal Services	52	0.046	8
23	Municipal Court Services	29	0.03	
24	Streetlights	37	0.03	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1130 *</b>	<b>100%</b>	

\* Each participant selected top 10 priorities (113 Sparks Citizens = 1,130 total selections)

BY CHARLES JOHNS, WARD3

Notes: Education and job growth brought up many times. I was advised some categories have overlap (16/24: 3/15)

# City of Sparks: Catagories of City Services to Prioritize

**Select 10 Catagories**

Special Events	
Economic Development	
Roads/signs	
Public Safety	
Police Patrols	
Fire Suppression	
Fire Prevention awareness	
Victorian Square Development	
Parks Systems	
Trails	
Recreation Services	
Marina	
City Pools	
Golden Eagle Regional Park	
Transportation (road maintenance, improvements)	
Other Infrastructure (street lighting, sidewalks, curb gutter, TMWRF)	
Environmental Sustainability	
Master Planning	
Storm Drainage/Flood Prevention	
Code Enforcement	
Appropriate Zoning functions	
City Legal Services	
Municipal Court Services	
Streetlights	

*Charles Johns survey*

## Mayberry, Adam

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Submitted by Ardena Perry

**From:** ardena perry [mailto:ardenal1985@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 01, 2010 1:27 PM

**To:** Mayberry, Adam

**Subject: FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS**

Preliminaries on the prioritization of the city's parks budget.

Our group consists of approximately 1100 registered voters 700 of whom reside in incorporated various cities Sparks I e-mailed a copy of the prioritization list along with the information that I have received through research, and many years on this committee. Approximately 600 to 700 Spark's voters have responded.

The provided information on the funding as these entities currently exist and are funded. Based on that information the following results were received. Legislative/Sparks city Council was considered essential

The mayor was considered essential

Administrative considered essential.

Legal was considered a need

Finance was considered a need,

Community Development was considered a need,

Judicial was considered a need.

Police were considered a need

Buyer was considered a need

Education was considered a need

Public Works was considered essential

Culture and recreation, Community support, Intergovernmental, and Contingency were considered needs of lowest priority in this economic situation.

Approximately 85% considered legislative /counsel, mayor, city manager administrative and legal to be the highest priority items. The salaries for these positions are determined on a percentile based on Washoe County salaries of comparable positions., therefore, not optional.

On police and fire funding, 90% feel the police can receive their funding through the initiative ballot; that way the community could show that police are a priority. Since there is currently a venue in place to fund the police department; the consensus of 90% of the responders felt funding for Public Works should take precedence over the police department.

Public Works has funded partially through the general fund, and through various enterprise funds, meaning there is less fluidity in their ability to move funds about.

Only 9% of the respondents, felt the fire department should receive further funding from the city of Sparks, beyond the contract agreement..

Finance, Community development, Judicial, Education, or considered a need but not a priority at this time, we need volunteers to step up to the plate assisting with parks and recreation programs.

Details to follow Ardena.

Submitted by Connie Anderson  
(From here and beyond)

**WARD 5**

	<b>RANK</b>					
<b><u>SERVICES</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>
<b>POLICE</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>12</b>
<b>FIRE</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PARKS AND RECREATION</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>
<b><u>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b><u>12</u></b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>60</b>

**Comments from the survey of city services – Ward 5**

**The questions too involved. Too much in each question**

**Questions are too involved. Hard to answer. In #5, building permits and code enforcement needs to be enforced better.**

**Mr. Mayor: Don't change our City name. Train our police to be professional not the disrespected bunch we have now! Traffic signals are not taken seriously – no traffic control, etc. No knowledge of laws . Would help to train a little respect also.**

**But if Community Development did a better job it would help all the other areas. In 2010 we should not have to pick. This is America. We should be better than this.**

**Merge the Fire Dept. with Reno FD and Truckee Meadows Fire Dept. We're a small region – it will work.**

**SPARKS PRIORITY SURVEY OF CITY SERVICES  
WARD 5**

**SERVICES**

**RANK**

**1. Police**

Patrol; crime - non-crime related calls; emergency & non-emergency dispatch; cooperation with other agencies; work permits and records division; community outreach to schools, etc.

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**2. Fire**

Residential, commercial and other fire calls; inspections, investigations, prevention; education; medical calls; fire hydrant inspections; cooperation with other fire agencies; community outreach to schools, etc.

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**3. Public Works**

Maintenance and reconstruction of roadways; traffic signals – operation & synchronization; street cuts, street markings & signs; sewer/storm drains/ effluent – inspection, maintenance and repair; snow removal; capital projects – utilities, buildings and parks; TMWRF – water reclamation, effluent generation, operation and maintenance and lab testing

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**4. Parks and Recreation**

Park and facility construction and maintenance; recreation programs; activities and events for public; recycling; development and maintenance of marina park

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**5. Community Development**

Long range and current planning and development in accordance with the Sparks master plan and other plans as required; building permits; code enforcement, and economic development

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**COMMENTS**

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**COMMENTS**

SEE BACK

MR MAYOR! Dont CHANGE our City NAME  
TRAIN our police to Be PROFESSIONAL NOT  
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TRAFFIC SITUATIONS OUR NOT TAKEN SERIOUS NO  
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