

# Citizen Budget Deliberation

## *Talking Points*

### **What**

*Four public meetings where citizens will discuss and choose from several categories of budget-balancing options (generated by the City Administration) that will be presented to Council in June for consideration in developing the “policy budget” which guides the administration’s budget-drafting process*

### **Who**

The process is lead by a coalition of civic organizations and citizen leaders in partnership with the City Administration

All City residents are invited to participate with the goal of including all citizen voices, especially those who often feel left out of the political process

### **Why**

The City faces a \$50 million budget crisis, and communities, like families, should solve problems together

Citizens deserve an early voice in *setting budget priorities* instead of being limited to two minutes of testimony at the end of the budget process

City Council will make better choices if citizens first make tough choices about the City services they will pay for, rather than just saying “no” to cuts they don’t want

### **How**

Budget-balancing options will be created by the City Administration

Citizens will deliberate in small groups to ensure everyone speaks and is heard

Results will indicate which options had consensus, where roadblocks occurred, and how citizens resolved them

### **Where**

Meetings will likely be held in Westwood, Avondale, Madisonville, and Evanston.

### **When**

The tentative meeting dates are April 20 & 28, May 8 & 26