



# Council District 1

Dr. Sukh Kaur

## FAQ from District 1 Budget Town Hall

### Public Works Department:

**Q: Will there be any changes to the infrastructure budget, and will these funds be used towards neighborhoods?**

A: Nothing is planned to be reduced in the infrastructure budget in the proposed FY 2026 budget. However, the Public Works Department is being split into two departments for better service delivery: the Capital Delivery Department, which will focus on bond-related projects, and the Public Works Department, which will focus on streets, sidewalks, traffic, and drainage maintenance. Approximately \$10 million per month will be spent on streets and sidewalks citywide, \$3.4 million toward seven new traffic signals, and \$1 million for pedestrian safety improvements. Our office is also working on improving safe passageways to schools within a ¼-mile radius, and \$500,000 is committed in this year's budget to complete the sidewalk assessment index to support repair, maintenance, and construction planning for the future.

### Capital Delivery Department:

**Q: How will the new Capital Delivery team support coordination of street closures that have affected our small business community?**

A: The City strategically split the Public Works Department into two departments in order to better support the delivery of bond-related projects. One of the main focuses of this new department will be developing better partnerships within our community and listening to and utilizing feedback for better planning. The goal is to strategically overcommunicate on projects and work to address concerns, ensuring that project gets done without affecting businesses.

### Neighborhood and Housing Services:

**Q: How is the City improving rental assistance, especially for our senior community?**

A: Rental assistance is one of the highest-demanded services in our community, and the City remains committed to maintaining its financial commitment to this program with no decline in service in this upcoming budget year. The rental assistance portal opens every second Wednesday between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

### 311

**Q: If I'm not satisfied with the closure of a submitted 311 request, how can I get more information about the reasoning or potentially a second review of the case?**

A: If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your case or would like more information on the reasoning behind your case closure, you're encouraged to call 311, as staff can read the notes

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on your case to provide clarity, or request escalation if necessary. For many concerns, it's helpful if multiple constituents share the concern, as City staff utilize reporting data in evaluating community needs.

### **Department of Human Services (DHS):**

#### **Q: Why is the City creating a Homeless Services and Strategy Department?**

A: Beginning October 1, the Homeless Services and Strategy Department will begin its task of working solely to improve local homelessness concerns. This includes expanding housing options, overseeing the low-barrier shelter, and coordinating with our homeless outreach partners.

#### **Q: Why do we continue to increase abatements?**

A: There are a number of reasons for continued encampments and addressing those core causes while continuing to develop support for individuals facing homelessness is an ongoing process. However, the need for abatements is related to the impact of trash buildup, which can create environmental hazards. In addition to removing trash, the homeless outreach team also works directly with those affected by offering services.

#### **Q: Has funding been allocated for the construction of the Kenwood Community Center?**

A: Yes, \$1.5 million has been allocated in this upcoming fiscal year, with a total budgeted amount of \$9 million for completion by summer 2027.

#### **Q: How do we support our unhoused neighbors more in terms of ID recovery and limiting the number of tickets issued to residents?**

A: Several programs in the community focus on ID recovery, which has long been an issue for the unsheltered population and has taken on greater urgency this year. DHS outreach teams connect clients to the SAPD HOPE team, Corazon, CAM, Haven for Hope, and St. Mary's Law School, which all provide ID recovery services. This has been a focus of the continuum of care to restore birth certificates, Social Security cards, and Texas DPS identification cards.

With respect to tickets, DHS has partnerships with the District Attorney's Office, Municipal Court, and a County Court to dismiss misdemeanor charges in exchange for completing a housing-focused service track. Growing this initiative is a focus of the community and the new Homeless Services and Strategies Department.

### **General Fund:**

#### **Q: How has the City responded to the projected FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget deficit?**

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A: To balance the budget, we took a hard look at our current spending, making reductions with minimal impact to essential services, moving eligible operating expenses to the capital budget, and increasing fees and fines to add new revenue.

### **Transportation Department:**

**Q: When will we see progress on the Bike Network Plan, specifically on McCullough Avenue where requests have been consistent?**

A: There is currently a feasibility study being conducted for McCullough Avenue bike lanes. However, some notable findings will likely require more significant improvements before safe bike lanes can be added. This will be reviewed for potential inclusion in the next Bond cycle.

**Q: Are quick-build solutions eventually replaced by permanent solutions?**

A: If piloted quick-build solutions prove to be effective and impactful, then yes, the intent is to replace with more permanent solutions.

### **Center City Development Operations (CCDO):**

**Q: What is the status of the HVAC repair for the Farmers Market area of Market Square?**

A: City Council approved the contract with the general contractor on August 21, 2025. The major HVAC components (chillers and air handlers) are in the process of being ordered, with a roughly 30-week manufacturing lead time. Prior to Council award, CCDO engaged the Farmers Market tenants and provided them the opportunity to share when would be the least impactful time to complete the five-month project. The tenants circulated a petition that resulted in a clear majority of tenants preferring September 2026 through January 2027.

### **Parks and Recreation Department:**

**Q: What Parks programming is going to be cut?**

A: After reviewing programming attendance for each location, only those classes that had no attendance will be eliminated. The Department will shift its focus to high-turnout programming, services, and events.

### **Sustainability:**

**Q: What is the Cool Streets Program?**

A: To combat the impact of extreme heat in our urban neighborhoods, the City of San Antonio began testing the use of cool pavement in 2021. Cool pavement is a water-based asphalt treatment that reflects more sunlight and absorbs less heat, thereby reducing spikes in

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temperature at night. It's safe to use, contains no harmful chemicals, enhances the life of the pavement, and is compatible with traditional asphalt. Research conducted by the University of Texas at San Antonio has shown that cool pavement can reduce surface temperatures by six to 12 degrees. Deployment of cool pavement, along with other heat-reducing measures, are being focused in our Cool Neighborhood zones in Districts 2, 3, and 5.

## **Arts and Culture Department:**

### **Q: How will the budget deficit affect the Arts and Culture Department?**

A: The Arts and Culture Department is supported through our Hotel and Occupancy Tax (HOT). These funds are a restricted form of revenue, reserved for specific uses like the facilities, arts and culture, and historic preservation. Therefore, deficits in the General Fund do not impact the Arts and Culture Department's budget in this upcoming year.

## **San Antonio Police Department (SAPD):**

### **Q: What are the additions to and goals for the Police Department in this upcoming budget?**

A: There will be 25 new police officers and 28 new supervisory positions added to SAPD in the upcoming budget, and the vacant Parks Police and Airport Police positions will be absorbed into SAPD. The goal for patrol officers is to achieve a ratio of 60% of their time spent on proactive policing and community engagement.