

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING 8/25/11

My name is Stuart Hersh, and like most in Austin, I rent.

We are experiencing what veterans of the budget process call "September Surprise". It happens when the weather is hotter than expected and utility revenue is higher than projected. This money eventually makes its way to the General Fund or the Sustainability fund.

Please use some of this revenue to raise the Housing Trust Fund to \$1,000,000 as recommended by the Community Development Commission as part of its Action Plan recommendations in July.

Please use the fees generated by building permits for the purposes for which they were intended, receiving required inspections timely. The performance standard should be in by 7, out by 4. This means that you hire inspection staff in alignment with building permit revenue raised so that every inspection requested by 7am is performed by 4pm the same working day. You really need to hire another solar inspector, because it often takes more than a week to get an inspection of completed work.

Thank you for your consideration.