

Closed Caption Log, Special Session, 8/27/08

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Mayor wynn: good morning. I'm austin mayor will wynn, and we have a quorum present so at this time I'll call to order the special called meeting of the austin city council. It is wednesday, august 27, 2008, approximately 9:07 a.m. We're here in the city hall council chambers in the city hall building, 301 west 2nd street. We appreciate everyone's flexibility. We have a very full council agenda last thursday and so our idea was to catch up, frankly, mostly on the budget presentations so the public can watch this live today on channel 6 and and our folks will be rebroadcasting this series of presentations several times over the next two weeks as we prepare to approve our next fiscal year budget the week of september 8. In addition to our budget presentati that we'll start with this morning, that I suspect will take an hour or so, we also have one other item on our agenda, and that is executive session discussion regarding austin energy's fuel generation, specifically our continued discussion about austin energy's proposed biomass generating plant, our partnership in a biomass generating plant in east texas. But we'll start with our budget presentations. We're not only going to make up for the budget presentations that we didn't have last thursday, but we're going to go ahead and take up those departments that we otherwise would have presented in tomorrow's normal special -- normal city council meeting, in part because a number of folks want to try to have that be a relatively short city council meeting in the evening for folks who want to watch the convention on television. So with that, I turn it over to the city manager or to leslie router, our chief financial officer.

Thank you, mayor. I believe leslie router, our chief financial officer, has some opening remarks for you today.

Thank you, city manager. This is the last in a series of departmental budget presentations that we have been providing to council during the month of august. We will be looking today primarily at the general fund. We have three assistant city managers who are going to walk you through those presentations. We'll start off with sue edwards and her service group, followed by david lury and finally burt lombrases. And then at the end of the presentation we will wrap up with our next steps and just summarize what the process will be between today and the 8th of september when the proposed budget will be brought to you for adoption. So with that I will turn it over to sue edwards.

Good morning. Mayor, mayor pro tem, council members, city manager, I am sue edwards assistant city manager for three departments, the economic growth and redevelopment services office, neighborhood

planning and zoning -- are the slides on? Thank you. And watershed protection and development review. And I am here this morning to provide you an overview of the proposed budgets for these three departments. With me are Rodney Gonzales from EGRSO, Greg Guernsey with neighborhood planning, Victoria Lee with watershed protection and development review and their supporting staff, all who have worked extremely hard in providing creative ways to structure the budget for this year. The first of the departments that I will be talking about is the economic growth and redevelopment services office. The proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 is \$7.2 million, 75 FTE's and is requesting two additional FTE's, one in support of project management and redevelopment and special projects, the other in small business development program. EGRSO is comprised of four major divisions, economic development and emerging technology, redevelopment and special projects, small business development and cultural arts. The focus of the economic development and emerging technology division is to work with local chambers of commerce and to evaluate companies with respect to incentive requests. This division is responsible for monitoring all economic development agreements to assure that performance criteria are met prior to issuing any payments. They also work with Austin's targeted industries, such as clean industry, digital media, wireless and biotech. In mid July the department, along with the chamber of commerce, hosted a venture capital breakfast in Palo Alto, California, to reach out to venture capital firms to educate them on Austin's ecosystem and to encourage them to invest in Austin. Major initiatives for the upcoming year include a revision of the economic development policy and matrix and the development of a marketing campaign for the emerging technology program. The redevelopment and special projects division currently manages 55 various ongoing projects, including Miller, the second street retail district and the redevelopment of the Seaholm power plant, which will begin construction in 2009. Most recently the division led the request for proposal process for the redevelopment of the green water treatment plant and energy control center sites. Negotiations with the developer have begun with a goal of completing the master development agreement within one year. As with prior budget presentations, I want to take this opportunity to update you on a few projects. The Miller redevelopment project is approaching its fourth year since city council approval. Phase 1 of the retail space is complete and phase 2 is under construction. The goal of creating 10,000 jobs on the Miller site is well under way. By the end of the first quarter of 2009, with the opening of Home Depot, Seton's administrative headquarters and the University of Texas research facility, Miller will have produced approximately 3500 jobs. By the end of September 350 homes will have been built and occupied. Of these, 21% are affordable. And by the spring of 2009 over 400 multifamily units will come on-line and another 300 multifamily units are scheduled for construction beginning in the fall. The second street retail district is making significant progress as well, with 95% of the space leased or in lease development. Soon to be opened retail include Mama Foods, Z Pizza and Curt Furniture. The small business development program located at 1 Texas Center combines a business solution center an on-line PC lab for classroom training and a plan room that provides computer access to public and private construction documents statewide. In addition to the many training classes that are conducted, the small business program hosts an industry-specific conference and a meet the lender event this year. This year the meet the lender event attracted 450 participants and 36 exhibitors, including banks, credit unions and commercial and community lenders. This proposed budget also includes funding for a new training program called Biz Open which will provide an overview of the development process to small business owners furthering the one-on-one assistance offered by the small business development program. Another new, and I think a very interesting

initiative in 2009, is the launching of the small business mapping program. This project involved the creation of an on-line map of small businesses. The purpose of which is to increase the visibility for these businesses through the internet and to leverage their existing marketing efforts. The small business development program has informed over 300 businesses about the project and gathered information on these businesses to embed in the map. The web site will be launched in august and will feature five areas within south 1st street, north loop boulevard, east 11th and 12th streets, east fifth and sixth streets and guadalupe. It is developing a marketing campaign that will kick up in mid-september and there are plans to add three additional areas to the map during the next fiscal year. The culture arts division cluts arts and public place, public arts, the cultural arts contracts in the creative side of music and film. They are responsible for the call for artists and the hanging of the art for the people's art gallery, the art you see in schawl city hall which changes each year in february. I would like to point out that the source of funding for the cultural arts contracts is the hotel tax and it is in addition to the dollars you see in the expenditure budget. The funds available for the cultural arts contracts are 2 million, as compared to 6 million in this year's budget. There are currently 279 cultural contracts. The cultural arts division anticipates that the number of cultural arts contracts will increase by approximately 4% or about 290 contracts this year. The cultural arts division will be assisting with the exceptionally popular first night event. They will work closely with the first night board of directors to create the community call to artists, facilitating public information meetings receiving proposals and hosting selection panel meetings. And finally, in the new fiscal year egrso will also bring to council the implementation of various recommendations coming from the successful community-involved create austin plan. Council, this clues the egrso budget presentation. thank you, ms. edwards. Questions for sue, council? Council member morrison?

Morrison: good morning. I have a couple of questions. In terms of the -- working with the small businesses, i know that the city in the past had worked on I biz districts. I believe there was some involvement. Are we continuing to do that at this point?

We are. It's a very good program, and we think it's very successful, so we will continue to work with them as long as we possibly can.

Morrison: okay. Great. And that, I believe -- is that in conjunction with austin independent business alliance? Are they --

yes. a part of that effort? Which prompted me to wonder if they're also part of the small business mapping effort that you're doing, since they have some hundreds of members.

We have not involved them, although we have talked to them about small businesses, but that particular program has really been an internal city program. We will talk with them, and we get all of our information about small businesses from them. So we do work in conjunction with them. that's great, because I imagine they have a lot of the information that you might need. And then one last question. In terms of the cultural contracts, I think I heard you say that our -- our funding for that will go from 5 something million to 6 something million?

Yes. and that the number of contracts will increase by 4%.

That's correct. so I was curious about the fact that it looks like we're increasing the funding by 20% but the number of contracts by a much smaller percent and I wonder if you could talk about that.

I think I'll ask vincent to come up and answer that question for you.

Mayor, council, city manager, vincent kitchenum the cultural program arts for the economic development and services department. The cultural funding is based on the hotel motel tax and we allocate the revenues on an annual basis through the program. Applications are received and reviewed and we have a matrix based allocation method which utilizes those scores, and the funding is spread throughout the entire programs, which serves potentially up to 300 applicants next year, and so it's not a direct correlation between necessarily the number of organizations who apply and the funding. A number of organizations are also growing in size over the years and as they grow in size their allocation eligibility grows and their awards grow in the process. We have set meeting requests available for all council staff so that we can review the matrix proposed by the arts commission and the funding plan and we're happy to go through that in detail so you can see how all of those changes are played out through the programs. I guess the follow-up question, well, what really prompted me to ask this is I was wondering if -- if the lion's share of the extra revenue is going to the large funders -- fundees, I guess the word would be, or if it's -- if the allocation between the different sizes of organizations is remaining relatively the same.

I believe it's relatively the same. When you look at the plan that the arts commission is recommending, there are increases in all program areas.

Morrison: okay. Thank you. further questions for our economic growth and redevelopment services department? Thank you, sue.

The next proposed budget to be discussed is neighborhood planning and zoning. This department is responsible for ensuring that the built environment reflects our community's values, and vision through comprehensive planning. They accomplish this goal by working with the community and stakeholders in a collaborative manner to create neighborhood plans, stationary plans, a downtown plan and ultimately a comprehensive plan. Their proposed budget, including reimbursements from the capital area metropolitan planning organization, or campo, and reimbursements from cip projects is \$7.1 million. The department is the liaison for campo and the number of employees in the department reflects not only the planning department employees but 15 campo employees. The cost of which the city is reimbursed. I point this out only to emphasize the department's request to fund two ombudsmen positions within the budget. The neighborhoods felt strongly that they should have an advocate and a voice within the city as it relates to land development. In july, mupd hosted a town hall meeting to gather input from the community on the ombudsmen function. Approximately 100 neighborhood representatives attended the meeting. The department compiled the feedback from these representatives and is using the information to develop a job description for the positions. The department functions include the comprehensive planning division, which incorporates neighborhood planning, transportation planning

and spatial analysis, gis and demographics. The current planning division, which includes zoning case management, historic preservation, annexation and code amendment, and the urban design division, which supports the great streets program, the downtown plan and other planning and design projects. Mpsd has a number of goals for the new fiscal year. At the top of the list is a development of a new comprehensive plan. You have heard on several occasions during the last few months that the last comprehensive plan Austin brought forth was in 1979. Not only is it outdated. Because it is outdated we have developed many rules, policies and ordinances that often feel patched together and sometimes at odds with one another. It goes without saying that the process of developing a new comprehensive plan will involve the entire community and will integrate all of the city's growth and development policies into a single document that captures the fundamental vision for the city. It is anticipated that the kick-off for the new comprehensive plan will begin in early 2009 with a two-year goal of completion and final documents in early 2011. Other goals for the new fiscal year, the completion of four neighborhood plans and associated zoning cases, north lamar, georgian acres, windsor road and west austin neighborhood group. Today 40 of the 57 neighborhood plans have been adopted in the urban core. The department will begin the second phase of the downtown plan, which will include the basic framework plan on which district specific plans are overlaid. The budget also includes the development of district specific plans that will identify objectives for each area and prioritize land uses, address transportation and street scape issues and plans for parks and open space. It will assess infrastructure improvements and create development standards for form-based code for the downtown area. The fourth goal is the completion of the east riverside corridor plan. In november of 2007 council selected a nil son and associates as the consultant team to develop a master plan for the east riverside drive corridor from interstate 35 to state highway 71 in the ben white area. Currently the consultant is working with stakeholders to identify a vision for this corridor. The fifth major project for the department addresses stationary planning. Capital metro has identified a station location at highland mall that will be open for service once the light rail line is operational. Based on the redevelopment potential of the surrounding area, staff has identified the highland mall todd for the next stationary planning exercise. And as you're aware this past may you selected roma design group as the consultant for the waller creek master plan. This goal initiates a process that will culminate in a master plan that creates a vision and implementation strategy for the surface development of waller creek for the next 20 years. The commercial design standards became effective in january 2007. Since then staff has been working toward implementing vmu provisions. With the implementation of these standards council instructed staff to begin a one-year assessment, which is currently in process, and involves a variety of stakeholders. The goal is to have the proposed amendments available for council consideration by december of this year. The capital budget provides funding for the great streets program and additional support of the council-approved allocation of 30% of the parking meter revenue collected in the downtown area. To date 49 block phases have been completed, in downtown and an additional 12 block faces are currently under construction. The capital budget also provides funding for the west campus benefits district program. This program meters on street parking spaces and dead indicates the revenue, less city expenses, towards improvement of the sidewalk, curb ramps and bicycle lanes in the neighborhood. Council, this includes the neighborhood planning and zoning presentation. thank you, ms. edwards. Questions for our neighborhood planning and zoning department budget? I think a number of questions have already been asked through our

electronic format and we'll continue to do so, I'm sure. Thank sue.

As we discussed, the neighborhood planning and zoning department is responsible for ensuring that austin's built environment reflects the community's values and preferences. Once these values and preferences are translated into guidelines, rules and ordinances, the watershed protection and development review department becomes responsible for implementing them. There are two major areas of responsibility in the department, the one-stop shop and watershed protection. Over three years ago based on input from customers, employees and other stakeholders, the city combined 13 departments into one location. Currently the one-stop shop and watershed protection departments are in one department, allowing for a seamless integration of the development review process. The department is primarily funded through two sources, the general fund and the drainage utility fund. The one-stop shop receives most of its funding from the general fund and anticipates generating approximately 8 million in fees in 2009. This is a \$900,000 decrease from the fiscal year '09 amended budget of \$19.7 million. In response to the situation, a cost of service study is under way as the department evaluates a possible conversion of the one-stop shop to an enterprise fund. The one-stop shop provides development review, permitting, inspection and right-of-way management. It has the responsibility for coordinating reviews for county, state and federal agencies as well as responding to citizens and neighborhood associations' questions. By the end of the fiscal year the one-stop shop will have issued over 100,000 permits and performed over 200,000 building inspections with over 95% having been inspected within 24 hours. Since october there have been over 6 million hits on their web site indicating both the interest in and the complexity of the development review process. Moving over to the watershed protection side, austin is well-known for its commitment to the environment to the department's work and flood control, erosion control and water quality protection. Watershed protection is responsible for watershed engineering and master planning, environmental resource management and field operations. Some of their success includes completing 237 home buy-outs to move families out of the floodplain, while 1 gallons of pollutants in a variety of areas, maintaining 63 miles of creeks and 75,000 feet of pipelines. The drainage utility fee provides 94% of utilities' proposed revenue. This increase in revenue is mainly due to a projected 8% growth in the drainage fee customer base. The department will conduct a fee study this year and will most likely propose an increase to the drainage fee for implementation in fiscal year 2010. The proposed increase will also include any adjustments resulting from the multifamily differential rate study. The expenditure budget at 3 million is a 1 million decrease from the current approved budget. The department is proposing a reduction of three fte's due to the site change of water treatment 4, plant 4, and increases in program operating costs are offset by a 7% increase in the transfer of the cip. The department plans to 1 million from the drainage utility fund capital improvements project and will maintain a 45 day reserve ending balance. In addition, utility funds will be combined with \$10 million in bond appropriations to construct projects identified in the master plan. This slide highlights a few of the projects that are receiving funding in the fy '09 capital budget. In addition, a portion of the utility funds will be used for the master plan, date abates gis projects and land acquisition. A few of the departmental initiatives for 2009 include the creation and recommendation to council of a pid policy that can be used as a developmental tool and a means to fund supplemental and enhanced utility improvements and services to meet community needs. The evaluation and implementation of a policy related to review and inspection of construction phase, environmental

controls, an update to residential remodel regulations and coordination of the drainage master plan with a comprehensive planning process. Some of the challenges for the department as a whole include the increasing complexity and number of regulations that are created a new set of intricate review standards, with multiple regulatory overlays, all requiring extensive and immediate training of staff. The fact that storm drains are jund sized or nonexistent in urban court areas, an assessment of the capital needs in this area 2 4 billion, in the billion dollar range and thirdly, according to a recent department retirement analysis, 25% of the work force will be eligible for retirement within the next five years and over a third will be eligible within the next seven years. Although there are challenges, this department is proactive in addressing these issues and proposes several recommendations, some of which will be brought back to council for your consideration. Council, this concludes my presentation. thank you, ms. edwards. Questions for sue, council? Then we need a new austin city limits sign, looks like. 400,000 People. Questions for ms. edwards? Thank you, sir.

Thank you. well, i believe our next presentation is our community services departments. Welc mr. lory.

I'm david lury, acting city manager over city services, which includes the health and human services, the parks and library and the parks and recreation department and with me today are the dructers of those respective departments, shanna jones, who is the acting director of health and human services, brenda branch, who is the director of libraries and stuart strong, who is the acting director of the parks and recreation department. And as we were putting together our budget presentation and thinking a bit about the commonality, if you will of these departments and the overall theme, what we identified was a vision that we feel that we feel these departments are very much committed to, and that vision is a thriving community achieving its full potential through a population that is healthy, self-reliant and productive, in the investment of literacy and lifelong learning and knowledge through the libraries and the investment in wellness and in fitness and preserving our natural environment through the parks and recreation department, in the investment in preventing disease, promoting wellness, focusing on health promotion in our community through our health and human services department, as well as our basic needs and other support services through the investment in social services, all contribute to this overall vision, and we believe potentially, by investing early on in these prevention-focused activities, results in fewer costs, fewer problems downstream that have to do with chronic diseases in our community, having to access health care in a crisis mode and challenges related to poverty and unemployment and individuals in our population who are not thriving and benefiting from all of what we have to offer in our community. So we very much view this as our quality of life focus for the city of austin. Starting with the health and human services department, the mission is to work in partnership with the community to promote health, safety and well-being. We've been engaged in this in a lot of ways, through our animal services program, the work we did around disease control efforts when we were operating a very large shelter at our convention center for evacuees from hurricane katrina and the work we do around wellness and fitness, for example, what's depicted here is the kids marathon program. The health and human services department has a wide array of services and activities. The role again is to promote community-wide wellness, to prevent disease and protect our community from infectious diseases, environmental threats and epidemics. And again, this is a population-based focus, not individual personal health care, which is provided for primarily for low income people through our health care district. But again, public health is focused on protecting the population in total. And again, you'll see

here some examples of those activities, immunizations, disease surveillance, our refuse yu je clinic, inspection food. And also social services focusing on basic needs, youth services, work force development, mental health and services for the homeless. Just to give you sort of a picture of the overall scope and volume of activity in our supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, we have over 31,000 individuals enrolled in that program on a monthly basis. We provide 46,000 immunizations to young people and adults in our community. We have this past year over 12,000 visits to our sexually transmitted disease clinic, and we regulate over 4,000 food establishments. We've done a lot of outreach relative to educating the community about preventive disease and particular pandemic flew in recent years and over 56,000 clients are served through our contracted social service agencies and over 5,000 people had access to screening, health education and preventive services through our annual hispanic health festival. Accomplishments for the department this past year, austin achieved the gold level for cardiovascular disease. This award was presented by the texas council on cardiovascular disease and stroke, and we gained this recognition because of the very intense efforts we have around education and prevention related to heart disease. The good work that's being done within the school district in terms of prevention health education are also knew traditional foods, and -- nutritional foods and the fact we have a strong smoking ordinance related to secondhand smoke and smoking being prohibited in public places. Our office of vital records for the 6th year in a row has been awarded the five-star exemplary award and this is related to the overall effectiveness of that program, and we are one of five cities that was awarded a mission orange partnership by the american society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, which is focused on responsible pet ownership, controlling the animal population in our community and reducing intake to our shelter and ultimately the need to euthanize animals. We expanded our immunization program to include adults as well as children, and we've taken our community health initiative, our preventive screening services out of our fixed facilities in the community and put those on mobile units to get into neighborhoods to be more effective in reaching populations in need of these screening and preventive services. And finally in recent years we've greatly enhanced our public health preparedness and disease surveillance activities in the department, largely with the support of the federal funding for emergency preparedness, and we use these assets to do training, we've expanded our staff as it relates to disease surveillance, we exercise these resources on a regular basis, and, in fact, we use these resources on a daily basis as we manage and control potential outbreaks in our community. The budget for the health department is 4477 million full-time equivalents. I think the important point about this particular slide to note is that 28% of this budget is grant funded. We're very much reliant on grant funds. I mentioned the preparedness funding, the federal funding for the nutrition program for women, infants and children. We also have some funding related to hiv prevention, but my point here simply is that a number of the core functions within our health and human services department are funded by outside sources and in some respects that's a vulnerability for that system. I can go on to the budget highlights. In this proposed budget we are including an increase in the social services investment, a little over \$400,000, which is about a 3 1/2 percent increase to the social services account. As you're well aware we're doing a lot of work in looking at priority needs within social services and it is our intent to utilize this initial increase in funding as an opportunity to work with the community and develop a process that will provide for you some objective criteria in terms of how we would recommend investing those funds. The social service grants are on a calendar year, so this would be

effective january 1. We'll be bringing back to you some recommendations on that. We also are proposing a new food handler certification program. We have one now for food managers, but we think it's really important that we focus more training and education for food handlers, and we have some additional resources dedicated to that that will be offset by revenues generated by that new program. And some of the cost drivers associated with health and human services department, a number of our contracts, particularly our shelter contracts, have built-in cost increases, and we will be including those as we renew those contracts going forward, and of course the general work force investment increases that you observed related to all departments, related to pay for performs, reclassifications and also minimum wage in our programs focused on youth, summer youth program and so forth. Some inflationary costs related to the animal services program, and again, fuel and maintenance cost increases and also some contractual costs associated with our spay neuter services provided by pet. Cost containment efforts within the health department include freezing a position, which is a medical records position, some reductions in contractual and materials cost and shifting some costs from our immunization program to a grant. Challenges and opportunities for the health and human services department. I mentioned the social services strategic planning that we're going to be working through over the next six months to a year, looking at what are the priority needs within our community, where are the gaps, what should be the strategies and priorities in terms of addressing those gaps, and I think most importantly doing that in partnership with other funding entities in our community that are focused on social services, most specifically travis county and united way. Our new animal shelter, which we are proceeding with the design plans, is a great opportunity for us. We're very excited about the potential that that's going to offer. We're also in concert with that effort doing a lot of work in terms of outreach in the community, off-site adoptions and so forth, to complement the services that will be available at that new center. Sustainability, we reference as a challenge, and again that comes back to the point that I was stressing in terms of our heavy reliance on grant funding for our core public health services and the challenge of sustaining those efforts over time. And then finally continuing to focus on disparities in terms of health status within our community, although we enjoy an overall status of positive health within our community, when you look at health indicators, there are, in fact, disparities behind or within those indicators, many of which focus on the socioeconomic conditions or status of populations within our community. And again, focusing on our overall theme, we want to achieve a level of opportunity in which everyone in our community is achieving the greatest potential they can in terms of their health status and potential, and that's a big part of our focus here. Mayor, that concludes health and human services. thank you, mr. lurey. Questions for david, council? I'll just comment, the photograph, and david touched on it briefly, on his cover page, the marathon kids program, this year we -- we crossed the 50,000 kid count, over 50,000 kids in austin, k through 5, sign up next week in their public schools and private schools and home schoolers, to run -- to vow to run a marathon, 26 miles over 26 weeks, a mile a week, beginning in september. The kids, you know, sign a contract, they're given a log, on one side is the mileage log, a little pie charts they put on their refrigerator. There's math skills tracking their mileage. On the other side is their fuel log where they agree to eat fruits and vegetables during the course of the week. It is a remarkable program, so I encourage parents who are watching at home, beginning next week, throughout all of our school systems, public and private, your k through fifth grade child will have a chance to sign up for marathon kids. It's a free program thanks to the sponsorship by whole foods and a few others. The kids get a great t-shirt. The governor or I will put a medal around their neck in february

when they complete the marathon. It's a remarkable program and I'm proud to see that the city of austin hhs department continuing to promote that kind of activity, prevention particularly, with our children. So thanks for the plug, david.

Thank you, mayor mayor. It's a great program and i think that the habits children develop in terms of the physical activity and nutrition associated with this program are habits they carry on throughout their lives and very beneficial.

Mayor wynn: great. So again, questions for david regarding our hhs departments? Again, a number of questions have already been asked electronically and I'm sure this will inspire a few others over the next two weeks. Okay.

Moving on to the libraries. The mission is to provide a wide range of information services to enrich the lives of all members of our community, and this is just sort of an overall snapshot of our library system. We have 20 branch libraries. The john henry falk central library, the austin history center, very high volume of activity, which continues to increase every year. 6 Million items circulated 5 million visits annually to our libraries. 7 Million visits to the austin public library web pages, and 122,000 people attending 5200 programs on an annual basis. Our library is very much respected and recognized nationally for a lot of innovative and progressive programs. One is the wired for youth program, which is excellence in library services for young adults. This is one of the top 25 youth-related programs that are recognized nationally by the american library association. Another is the second chance books, which has been recognized by the texas library association, and this is a program at the gardner betts juvenile justice center providing outreach library services. Authors can come to visit, assist these young people in gaining access to these resources. And again focused on lifelong learning and youth development. We have expanded our immigrant centers by two, now having in place a total of eight library locations where we have multi-linguistic tesse and english as a second language training and support and basically assisting immigrants as they transition into our community. And also associated with that is the expanded talk time program, which uses volunteers to assist new english-speaking individuals in a safe environment to practice english, and again acclimate themselves to our community in their environment and provide them with additional support and assistance as needed. The library budget is a 3 million, a little over 352 full-time equivalents, and as you can see, the combination of public services provided through the libraries along with our materials management represent the bulk of that budget. We also generate \$729,000 in revenues, primarily through fines, which is \$636,000. Budget highlights within the library is a focus on improving the safety, the cleanliness and the quality of services within our library system, and we're proposing to reallocate \$420,000 in funding for security, custodial and maintenance services and also included in this total is \$100,000 for books and materials. I know we talked about this previously in the work session, some of the terminology we've heard from staff is concern about an unsafe, unsanitary environment in which to work. I've also had feedback from our community, from our patrons, and I think it's important to emphasize here that this recommendation is not so much about trying to balance the budget or deal with a reduction in resources. This is a reallocation or redirection of resources to address a significant need and concern within our library system. And also I believe sort of represents the challenge in terms of quantity versus quality. Over the years we've tried very hard to sustain all of our services, all of our locations, the full complement of hours of service and as a result

have really stretched the resources and the support to the point where we are now experiencing significant quality issues associated with those services. I would also point out that the austin library commission has endorsed the city manager's recommendation as it relates to this budget, and they have also reinforced their emphasis on priorities for the library system, including our collections, our books, our materials, sort of the core function of what we do, but also that the quality, the safety, the cleanliness of our libraries be addressed. So in that context they have endorsed this recommendation. The way this would be implemented is a closure of the branch libraries, alternating thursdays and fridays with branches pairing up, those branches that are in close proximity. We've done this successfully in past years, and that would generate the necessary savings in order to add maintenance, custodial and security personnel to address this concern within the library system. We also have on schedule two new branches to be expanded and opened during the fiscal year. That includes the north village branch library, which will -- includes an additional 225,000 and four fte's in this budget and the newly constructed twin oaks branch library, which includes an additional \$107,000 and four fte's. Finally the major cost driver for the libraries is personnel-related, similar to what we have seen in other departments throughout the city. Cost containment strategies for the libraries, reduction in travel and training, freezing one position that's related to purchasing and specifically related to periodicals and a reduction in the periodicals budget, but this is focused on periodicals that we have available on-line, so we anticipate minimal impact associated with that. Some of the challenges and opportunities, of course we're very excited that the community has endorsed moving forward with a new central library, but that's also coupled with the challenge, in terms of matching the available resources with the scope and the expectations of our city and related to peer cities in terms of what you would typically expect to find in a new central library. So as we proceed with that project and get more solid information in terms of costs and so forth, we'll be working with that and keeping you updated in terms of what our potential is there. Likewise, associated great opportunities, the wonderful partnership we have with the austin library foundation, the commitment that the foundation has made to provide some matching support relative to creating an endowment for operating expenses, and also their commitment to a potential fundraising campaign for some building enhancements associated with the new downtown library. And again, the ongoing challenge for us is the reinvestment in quality. We've made a very strong commitment to our materials, our collections, to sustaining investments there over time hopefully increasing those investments. But again, as you compare our library system in terms collections, our staffing, so forth with peer cities we're still lagging behind so over time we'd like to see a continued effort to improve that. Mayor, that concludes my comments on the libraries. thank you, david. Questions regarding the library summary? We've had a lot of discussion about this already this year. Thank you, mr. lurie.

Okay. Moving on to the parks and recreation department. The purpose of the parks and recreation department is to provide, protect and preserve a park system that promotes recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the austin community. We're blessed to have a very comprehensive parks system within the city of austin. We're often referred to as a city within a park. We have over 16,000 acres of land, 206 parks. We have 48 public pools, five public golf courses, 20 recreation centers and three senior centers, four museums and two art centers, a botanical garden, and we also maintain over 2,000 miles of street rights of way and blind corners from trees and brush, and we operate five cemeteries within the city of austin. Some of the activities, and just to kind of give you a sense of the

volume of activity related to our park system, we have approximately 206,000 participant hours in our adult sports program, over 1 million swimmers visiting our 48 public pools throughout the city, 850,000 participant hours in our senior programs, and 235,000 rounds of golf played on our golf courses. this past year the parks and recreation department successfully achieved national accreditation from the commission for accreditation of parks and recreation agencies. We are one of 73 parks and recreation agencies in the country that have achieved this accreditation. It speaks very highly of the commitment of our staff, the quality of our parks and the quality of services that are provided there, and we want to make sure that we sustain that status overtime and continue to improve. We've also received a lone star programming award from the texas recreation and parks society, and this is for innovative recreation program, and the department has been recognized for its p 3, which is play, pride and prosper program, which is a youth summer program. And our trail of lights continues to enjoy national recognition. This past year we had over 400,000 people attending our trail of lights. The parks and recreation department budget is 3570 million full-time equivalents, and this pie chart depicts our sources of funding, and I think what's significant to recognize here is that the general fund is about 64% of the budget, and we have a number of enterprise funds and enterprise opportunities and activities within the department that do generate revenue. And this is something that i know the department is going to be continuing to focus on and look for even more and additional creative ways to create partnerships to provide support for our work within the parks and recreation department. In terms of the use of funds, this pie chart i think just really clearly indicates the broad range of activities and services that we have within -- within our parks and recreation department. a big part of our department, of course, is our facilities, and we have a major investment in capital improvement capital projects, and we have included in this proposed budget \$22 million for capital improvement projects and some of the highlights 3 for facility pool, improvements and renovations, \$4 million for parkland acquisition, and 2 1/2 million dollars for the zilker park improvements, which will be accomplished with resources from the austin city limits festival investment, and that will focus on irrigation and grading at zilker park. Our cost drivers, again, consistent with other departments, the work force investment costs continue to increase there related to pay for performance, health insurance, minimum wage and fuel, fleet fuel and maintenance costs are very significant within our parks and recreation department. This budget includes fuel costs at an increase of 33% and maintenance costs increasing 10%. Cost containment strategies within the parks and recreation department. This department is contributing significantly in terms of cost containment. We have built into this budget a vacancy savings of \$968,000 over and above what is just ongoing vacancy savings. This would result in freezing 24 vacant positions. I would point out that 15 of these 24 are part of the '08 savings plan. So in a sense, some of the impact of this is already in place. There are a number of maintenance positions that are included in this group. This is certainly not something that we would want to continue over time, because over time we think there would be an impact in terms of quality. Part of what happens here is postponing some types of maintenance and activities that in the short-term might not be that vebl but long-term we would not want to continue if we could avoid that. Also in terms of cost containment strategies, the -- we've gone through and scrubbed this budget and contraction commodities have been reduced and we've reallocated some of our costs where we have the opportunity to apply them to other accounts like parkland dedication fund and our trust and agency accounts, and this is also an ongoing strategy that we implemented as part of our savings plan for '08 and we continue into '09. As far as opportunities and challenges, the city council back in '07 approved 2

million for short-term improvements at the barton springs pool, and also direct the staff to move forward with a barton springs pool master plan, which we have done, and it has been presented to a number of boards and commissions and will come back to you probably in october for your review and consideration. So we're proceeding with the short-term investments, but you'll see a number of long-term recommendations as part of that plan. We have three facilities that will be opened in fiscal year '08-09. The dickinson museum, our new austin tennis center and new bmx skate park, a great opportunity for us also is the bond projects, excuse me, that have been approved at a level of 85 million, and are focused primarily on improvements of parks facilities and acquisitions. And then finally I think a challenge here that relates to parks and recreation, which I touched on earlier, is sustainability, but maybe sustainability in a sense of balancing again quality and quantity, and sort of aligning our investments in terms of facilities to match up with the investments in maintenance and staffing and programming so that they are consistent with one another and in balance. And mayor, that concludes my presentation on the parks and recreation department thank you, mr. lurey. Questions for david, council, regarding our parks and recreation department budget? Thank you, david.

Thank you. looks like the next series of departments will be our public safety service groups. Welcome art lumbreraa.

Thank you, bert lumbreras, public safety service group. This morning I'll present all of your public safety service departments, and mayor, if I may, I'm going to essentially go over all the departments and then just ask for questions at the end, we can certainly take them as they come. So the departments that I'm going to be presenting today are going to be fire, police, emergency management services, office of emergency management and municipal court. Let me start with the austin fire and rescue. As you know the austin fire and rescue department is comprised of a number of major divisions. It includes operations, aircraft fire fighting rescue, communications, medical operations, emergency prevention, professional standards, community outreach, special operations and support services. Combining all these divisions aid in accomplishing the department's mission of preserving life and property. To go over some of the accomplishments and certainly this department has a long list of accomplishments, some roadside ones, in 2008 we graduated the first set of students, 13 seniors, from our lbj fire academy. This was quite an accomplishment. This was an intensive two-year curriculum. It's the first of its kind in austin, and it provided the students not only with hands-on information like the pictures that you see there where they're climbing the wall, but it also gave them all the necessary information that they needed to take the state certified firefighter and emt exam at the end of the program. We're very excited about that program for the future. We also received an \$88,000 grant from the department of homeland security. We were able to demonstrate a very strong need to install smoke alarms in the homes of many of our low income elderly residents. We had a strong partnership with some groups, particularly meals on wheels and more, a merry group and the council a on aging and we were able to reach out to 2500 homes, so we were very excited about that program as well. In addition we -- we -- dawn became the first female in the austin fire department to be pointed to division chief. This is a big one for us, and currently chief clopton is serving as acting assistant chief. In terms of the budget facts for afd, the department is comprised -- or the budget total is comprised of 2 million of which about 97% is for personnel costs. To give you somewhat of a breakdown of that, or essentially some of the things we'll be doing, is we'll continue to fill critical vacancies due to attrition. We recently started an academy with

35 cadets that are going to be involved in the 6 month program. We expect to have a second academy sometimes next year, and that will coincide with the avery ranch, davis springs fire station. This proposed budget also includes \$78,000 in capital funds for critical response equipment and also the replacement of a flash over chamber that will be used for training. In addition we're going to continue the women's facility improvement project to give you some history or some background with that, the fire department has been working since about 1999 to provide separate locker, shower and restroom facilities for women in our older fire stations. This council-led initiative has resulted in the completion of interior remodeling for six stations. We have five additional stations that are currently at various stages of construction, and then we have the design of the final 7 stations that should be completed here in september. So we're pretty close. The million dollars that we've included in this proposed budget will fund the improvements for these seven stations. Afd plans to purchase five pumpers in fiscal year '09. They're going to be moving to a slightly smaller version of the pumpers. They'll be much more maneuverable. As a matter of fact, these pumpers are going to be a whole lot easier to get into our apparatus bay at some of our older stations, because that certainly is a challenge. And so they'll fit in the apparatus base, even some of our stations. So even though they're smaller units they're certainly not short on equipment. They're still going to be able to carry the 750 gallons of water in an internal tank and will carry all of the standard fire fighting equipment that is required. In terms of proposed savings in revenues. Afd has been able to identify about \$650,000 in fiscal year '09. One big component of that is a delay in the construction of the avery ranch davis springs fire station. Essentially what it has allowed the department to do is defer the hiring of the cadets at that station until later next spring. This is about 350,000. We also have vacancy savings that we evaluate pretty much on a regular basis, and this And it provided the students not only with hands-on information like the pictures that you see there where they're climbing the wall, but it also gave them all the necessary information that they needed to take the state certified firefighter and emt exam at the end of the program. We're very excited about that program for the future. We also received an \$88,000 grant from the department of homeland security. We were able to demonstrate a very strong need to install smoke alarms in the homes of many of our low income elderly residents. We had a strong partnership with some groups, particularly meals on wheels and more, a merry group and the council a on aging and we were able to reach out to 2500 homes, so we were very excited about that program as well. In addition we -- we -- dawn became the first female in the austin fire department to be pointed to division chief. This is a big one for us, and currently chief clopton is serving as acting assistant chief. In terms of the budget facts for afd, the department is comprised -- or the budget total is comprised of 2 million of which about 97% is for personnel costs. To give you somewhat of a breakdown of that, or essentially some of the things we'll be doing, is we'll continue to fill critical vacancies due to attrition. We recently started an academy with 35 cadets that are going to be involved in the 6 month program. We expect to have a second academy sometimes next year, and that will coincide with the avery ranch, davis springs fire station. This proposed budget also includes \$78,000 in capital funds for critical response equipment and also the replacement of a flash over chamber that will be used for training. In addition we're going to continue the women's facility improvement project to give you some history or some background with that, the fire department has been working since about 1999 to provide separate locker, shower and restroom facilities for women in our older fire stations. This council-led initiative has resulted in the completion of interior remodeling for six stations. We have five additional stations that are currently at various stages

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they're replacing their support vehicles and they are purchasing alternative fuel vehicles. To give you some idea, currently 67 of our 107 support vehicles are alternative fuel power. In addition, all of our afd apparatus are now biodiesel. For those -- we also have some employees that drive to and from work. They commute by bicycle. We have telework, alternative work hours, and even four-day workweeks, currently are several options we're utilizing. With that what I'd like to do, mayor, is to move on to discuss the budget for the austin-travis county community emergency medical services. The department of the emergency medical services is the primary provider for medical rescue within not only the city but also the county. Its duty is its mission, which is to provide life, improve health and promote safety. The makeup of the department is that it has 464 fte's to provide service to all of austin-travis county. The staffing is organized into not only operations, support, professional practices and standards, building services, support services, and the office of the medical examiner. -- Or medical director, excuse me. Accomplishments, ems like afd has also won many awards throughout the year. The department was awarded the american heart association and best practices awards, both in 2005 and 2006. In 2006 the institute of medicine, deemed atcems is a model for others to emulate. In addition the 911 communication center was awarded the medical priority dispatch center of excellence in 2000 and then again in 2006. Ems proposed budget will see 2 million in revenues. These revenues will come mainly from patient billing, which makes up about 8 million, and then we also receive an additional 9 million from an interlocal agreement with the county. Ems will also have 44 million in expenditures, 7 million will go towards employees' salaries and benefit costs. The remaining will be used for expenditures like fleet, and medical supplies. Also note that ems projects that they will respond to about 123,000 calls in the next year. This is about a 5% increase from our most current estimates of '07 and '08. In terms of savings. Many departments, ems was able to find savings within their budget to help close the budget gap. In total they were able to achieve about \$950,000 in savings. This included ten ems cadet positions. These positions are for an early hire program created in 2006 in partnership with the austin community college. Let me know -- and let me be very clear that these ten positions are what we would term as non-paramedic positions. These positions were designated for a training program and certainly do not affect the recruitment and the academy that we have for our regular paramedic goeses. Positions. This is paramedic. Ems would freeze two paramedic slots. Also let me stress that these vacancies will not impact service delivery, performance and ongoing recruitment. As a matter of fact, we're going to continue to recruit paramedics, we're filling vacancies that occur through natural attrition. We have slated for our next training academy, and it's scheduled for october of this year. In terms of challenges and opportunity, we -- ems receives many challenges. Here are some of those. We're going to be carefully assessing response time performance with the challenge of continuous growth and call volume and the need for new resources. Fleet assets are very large. They're complex. They create challenges to maintain adequately and effectively. However ems has been challenged to look for opportunities to obtain vehicles that are much smaller but also just as effective for meeting our service call loads. In addition we also feel that it's necessary to develop a deployment strategy. There's got to be a balance between both what the city and the -- between both city and county growth and how we can link the two areas into one system, especially when you have the challenge of population growth increases. Rapid response in the downtown area is one piece that is going to be a big focus in our deployment strategy analysis, and based on that analysis once we come up with some definitive conclusions, then -- then we'll be able to focus our resources needed to address that type of response.

So I know that Ernie and his staff are working hard on that. In addition we've been exploring downtown rapid response options, looking at all sorts of different alternatives, like motorcycles, gator units, bicycle response, quick response units, that would be housed downtown, and all sorts of other considerations. We also have a need for equipment resources for training and education throughout the system. There is a need for on the field training and new additional training resources for our cadets and paramedics. They'll be working hard to remedy that. In addition the practice of medicine is ever changing. There is need for continuously training our staff when new methods are going to aid our patients, so we'll be looking for a variety of opportunities to meet those needs. And lastly, EMS is going to -- EMS feels that community integration is certainly key to overall public health. Similarly, what David Lurey and his folks are doing, you know -- what EMS does is they respond to what they would consider a lot of preventable calls for service. They feel that that would be better served -- it would better serve the community if there was more injury prevention and public education outreach, and so we're going to be working very closely with many of our stakeholders and our partners on that. Now, with that I'm going to move to the Austin Police Department. As you know, the Austin Police Department enforces law around the city with the utmost priority of keeping the citizens and the visitors of Austin safe. Some of the divisions within the department include property crimes, offender apprehension, violent crimes, highway enforcement, strategic planning, internal affairs and special ops. Homeland defense. Also, there are nine area commands strategically placed around Austin to aid in achieving the goal of becoming the safest city in the United States. To mention some of accomplishments, most recently, the 100 Club of Central Texas recognized 23 of our officers in four categories, which included outstanding first responder, lifetime achievement award, outstanding team, and officer of the year. Very proud of that. And completed a department-wide reorganization plan in the effort to increase the department's versatility, and enable the department to adapt to shifting crime trends. Some of the components of that is enhanced traffic enforcement, increased frequency of shift rotations among officers, and centralization of specialized units. In addition, APD saw increased efficiencies with the creation of a watch commander, development of a risk management section and an increased focus on expanding youth services and we'll talk a little bit more about that. In addition, the newly formed police activities program participated in a statewide boxing program in San Antonio and they won five gold medals and a silver medal. Did a great job. In addition East Austin community presented the East Area Command district representatives with an award called the East Austin Community Ordinance Award in May of this year. APD also initiated traffic safety improvements and increased enforcement with initiatives such as Home for the Holidays and the community awareness initiative. Staff for -- or what we would refer to as computer statistics in the new program is a new program that APD recently implemented in July of this year. Just to kind of give you some idea of what this is or what this does, agencies across the country are implementing their version of Comp. Stat. What it is is an all look at crime, and on a regular basis and essentially deploy the resources more effectively. And so we're constantly Stat as a tool to provide our department weekly updates and updated information in order to adjust our resources, and essentially meet the needs of our community. Some budget facts for this department. We have a budget of 241 million -- \$241.4 million. I will note that 233 million of this is coming out of our general funds. The rest is funded through expense funds and grants. We have a total proposed FTE count of 21.50 FTE's. This includes 24 new officers due to growth, and the addition of a senior attorney position. There was also a one-time critical expenditure of over \$749,000 mostly going to the acquisition of 12 new vehicles. In terms of budget savings, APD was

able to buckle down in their budget and they were able to identify about 1.6 million in savings. First one being the elimination of a current vacant commander position. This brought about a savings of 175,000. I know in this particular position we're certainly going to be evaluating that in the future, and as funds become available, we'll try to see if we can reinstitute that at some point. In addition the child abuse unit does not anticipate that it will occupy its current lease facility in fiscal year '09. This will generate a savings of about \$102,000. In addition it's increasing its reduced over time rate from right under \$46 to 08 per hour, and this is going to result in an increase of about 150,000 in savings. Also a savings of about \$258,000 will be generated from the reduction in overtime. Essentially what the department is going to be doing is using detectives to fill in as additional officers for some of our major special events. For example, mardi gras, texas relays, halloween and south by southwest. Further, overtime in the proposed budget is being reduced by \$898,000. This is mainly as a result of department initiatives such as home for the holidays and the elimination of minimum staffing. Some of the challenges within the department, of course we have more than a few. The critical equipment that apd uses on a daily basis is reaching its useful life, so certainly what the department is doing, they formed a committee that's going to be reviewing all of their capital outlay requests and is going to work to identify solutions. Also the cost of fuel increases in the area that apd needs to patrol grows, so there is certainly be a need to allocate more resources to address those areas. Areas of focus here are going to be the newly implemented car pool system, increased use of hybrids in non-first responder positions, and a plan to relook at vehicles used for call-backs. Further, apd will lose grant funding it as it relates to fte's and equipment. I know the department has been diligent to form late a plan to derm when the loss of those -- that equipment occurs in the future, that they have a plan to either look at general fund or other alternative sources of funding. There is also limited funding for treang and this is primarily for our commission staff, and we helped identify creative sources. They're working on the training curriculum committee that has been formed to review requests for training. In an effort to serve a larger area of the community the department is going to focus on expanding utah services. Talked a little about this and I know the chief has placed a lot of emphasis in this area within the community, and it includes police activities link program, and the explorers program. This program, essentially what it does is it strives to connect law enforcement and youth in a very positive way, and it's been very successful. It essentially includes athletics, educational and recreational opportunities and the goal of the program is to deter juvenile crime and violence. The explorer program is a sub sis subsidiary of the boy scouts of america and is a work site-based program of learning for life. The age-group that we generally target for this group is about 14 to 20 years and it's primarily those individuals that are interested in a career in law enforcement. Essentially what we do here is we partner with the greater crime commission, looking at outside funding sources to be able to fund some of these activities. There are also concerns regarding staffing shortage and we'll have to be more effective in developing recruitment strategy. I've talked about in terms of growth of the -- annexation they expect to see increasing calls. Talked a little bit about stad is going to do and those can assist us in the regular review of our call loads in partnership with looking at our formal staffing allocations, and then do some real-time monitoring on a daily basis. So that's going to be real critical. Further, the challenges are -- the challenges that I've talked about are just some of the concerns that the department feels are going to be critical in maintaining service to the community, but I know they're going to work hard to try to identify some solutions. Now let me move over to the office of emergency management. This area focuses, coordinates, specialized public safety

and emergency services for our community. Staff in this area maintain a comprehensive all hazard emergency management approach in infrastructure. Certainly proud of everything that they do. Some of the accomplishments within the last year have been the reconfirmation as a certified storm-ready community by the national weather service, a bronze quill award for participation in the city of austin flood awareness week and it's been recognized as an urban area security commission city for 2008 and recently we're advised that there's funding in the amount of about 8 million that will be coming to our area. And last but not least our capital area shelter hub plan was deemed as a best practice by the governor's office, primarily the division of emergency management. The proposed budget for the department essentially you can categorize this in two funds. First there is the \$585,000 in general fund. The bulk of the budget is composed of grant funds. Essentially there is about -- a little over \$10 million projected in this year's budget from a variety of grant sources. To give you some idea of our fte's, we have about 8 fte's. 5 Of those are funded by grants. Some of the challenges and the opportunities that we see for this department is the ability to meet the new planning mandates from fema and the state division of emergency management. And essentially with the current staff that we have. That certainly presents a challenge for us. These include everything from city-wide continuity of operation plans, with the designation of a hazardous material route that is around the city of austin, mass evacuation plans for the entire city and any other plans for major catastrophic events. Also, the department feels that it cannot meet the training and exercise coordination needed with some of its current staffing levels so we'll certainly take a look at that. And then also another need that we're going to be working on here in the near future is the need to provide critical elected officials an executive staff level training. As an initial phase, with the ultimate goal of bringing about what we would consider a nationally recognized community emergency ready training that is highly touted and highly looked upon by many communities. I know we've had a lot of ott and that's one of our goals to bring about the first phase and eventually with the goal of bringing that nationally recognized program here. Our final budget that I'll be presenting is municipal court. This is the judicial branch of the city government. The court's mission is to provide fair, efficient and accountable service to the public by impartiality and administering justice so that the quality of life is enhanced throughout our city. Some of the accomplishments is the court helped organize the second annual great texas warrant roundup in which about 200 entities across texas participated. The downtown austin community court provides a great service. It now offers free in-house counseling for indigent defendants. This counseling is provided by caers and clinicians employed by the court. Very successful program. That also has increased the community service support that is provided to many of our city departments as well as some of our special events that occur in and around the downtown area. A recent example of that, which I think is a great one, is the court's role in the initiative for the cleanup of waller creek. Some of the budget facts, municipal court is made up from many funds, or their budget is made up from many funds. A breakdown of their funds the proposal general fund has a revenue stream of about 2 million with expenditures of almost 12 million. Our revenue -- the revenue generated and expenditures within our security funds is essentially going to be at 500,000. The technology fund is going to yield about 700,000. However, expenditures will be about a million. The biggest project that we're going to be working on is to bring back on to the court's case management system. That's going to cost about \$150,000. We also have a juvenile case manager fund that's going to see a revenue of about 700 and expenditures of about 300,000. And then for our traffic safety fund, essentially our revenue and expenditures will be the same. Now moving on to the budget savings, the

department was able to identify about \$339,000. This came from savings in our service collection costs, which was about \$275,000. In addition we were able to identify savings in our contractual and commodities. I'm happy to say that all of these do not represent a decrease in service levels within the department, and the department has been very diligent to make sure that that doesn't happen. As you can see from this slide, it's kind of busy, but the court expects to see a significant workload increase. Between fiscal year '07 and '08 the court is going to see about -- or see an increase of almost 70,000 cases filed. What happens is the volumes of these numbers continue to rise, and the resources don't, then the quality of work certainly -- the quality of work performance certainly can be an issue. But what staff is going to do is closely monitor this in the near future and work hard to make sure that it doesn't affect our customers. Some of the challenges that the court sees are the problems that we are seeing with the economy. As the economy continues to be a challenge, this certainly is going to affect a customer's ability to pay. This will result in increased service and certainly will cost the department money, so we have to keep an eye on that. Technology is also another concern. Certainly the expectation of our community is -- and as we're seeing more and more individuals, they're relying on internet transactions, we certainly need to keep up and increase our capabilities to meet those expectations. As most of you know also we are building a new municipal court building. Although funding has already been allocated and the project is set to begin, there is an issue of time, and when the building will become available. Another issue has to do with our legislative session. The court certainly is waiting to see what bills will affect our proceedings, and it certainly has an impact on us. In the past legislative actions have hindered how the court operates and the court sees this as a major concern. And lastly, the court also would like to provide more quality assurance. However, this becomes increasingly difficult as more legal requirements are hitting us, and so as they appear we certainly are going to be challenged to try to deal with those in the future. So, mayor, city council, in conclusion we appreciate the council's continued support for our public safety group, and even though we've noted a number of challenges, i think our folks see those as opportunities as well. We're going to work hard to try to address those in the next year and in future years. So that concludes my presentation. I'll be happy to address any questions or ask the directors to come up. thank you, mr. lumbreres. Questions from the council? Council member shade. I'm curious in the ems savings area, the idea that vacancies aren't going to impact service delivery and the next page you talk about the increase of call volume and we know that in tough economic times that's likely to continue to increase. I just really would like a little more clarification on exactly how that's going to work.

Sure. Well, I can tell you just to kind of preface what he'll be saying, we did challenge the departments in their cost savings plans for this fiscal year as well as next fiscal year, is they have to look very closely and assess carefully service delivery performance and impact to the customer. So that was kind of one of the things that we laid out very clearly, but I'm sure arty can speak to that specific issue. ...

Mayor wyynn:

Ernie rodriguez, director of ems. That's an excellent question for us because it is our biggest challenge. The problem I think that we're going to see coming in the future is that this community is going to keep growing, and while we're not going to actually reduce any of the services, keeping up with growth is going to be the issue. And that is -- that's where we're going to see the impact. Our response times are

probably not going to be as good or at least we won't see the rate of improvement that we've seen in the past on response times because we don't have enough staff to do that. 7 Medics is enough to fill an ambulance for a 12 hour period. And so we will see an impact. It won't be in reduction of services. It will be in the capability of keeping up with future growth. I mean --

does that answer your question? it's not a reduction in services but you won't be able to reach as many people in as quick a time frame. So that seems like a reduction in services to me.

Yeah, and what we're -- when we look in reduction in services what we're talking about is taking down ambulances out of services. We're not doing that. But we won't be able to add more ambulances to meet the growth. to keep up with the growth.

Right. further questions, comments? Again, we appreciate the flexibility the staff showed by allowing us to have these presentations here on a wednesday special called meeting. For those of you-all watching at home, you know, this was a summary presentation. The detail of the backup for all of these departments and the overarching city budget are available on-line. There's hard copies, i believe, at branch libraries and other places around town. When you go on to the city's web site, you can -- as a citizen you can not only ask detailed questions, make suggestions, you can look at all the questions being posed by my colleagues and myself and the responses and answers from the staff, very comprehensive ability for people to track the analysis and debate that we have. Each year we set three days aside early in the second week of september. We've scheduled september -- monday, september 8, tuesday the 9th and wednesday the 10th for our budget approval process, where we get together and walk through what likely will be a number of amendments, proposed amendments, to the original proposed budget and, you know, have our, you know, debate and dialogue about any amendments to the budget. So again, we appreciate the staff's flexibility, congratulate everybody on the presentations and fundamentally on the actual budget itself and look forward to, you know, some good dialogue and analyses as we prepare to approve a budget in early september. Welcome back, leslie.

Thanks. We have a brief wrap-up slide, if you could queue that up, please. The mayor just mentioned the budget adoption, which is scheduled for september 8, 9 and 10. We will be conducting additional budget hearings, I believe, four of those, tomorrow evening, slated to start approximately at 6:00. We just wanted to wrap up as well and summarize for you what we plan to bring back on september 8, 9 and 10. The -- some of the amendments that you spoke of would include the updated solid waste service fees related to our pay as you throw program that are encouraged to really bring about more recycling, that robert good our assistant city manager, discussed during his presentation at the previous meeting. Changes to our transportation user fee to provide for additional street preventative maintenance. We will be bringing back the proposed budget for you reflecting the certified tax 12 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, that we recalculated after we received the certified tax roll from the appraiser, and of course when we did that and distributed that information, we also indicated, as did the city manager when we delivered the proposed budget, that we would be recommending allocating that additional tax revenue. It was approximately \$300,000, to the budget stabilization reserve. And that recommendation is really just based on, you know, the state of our current economy and trying to be cautious. So that sums it up, and with that we look forward to discussing the budget with you at the

adoptions on the 8th, 9th and the 10th. Thank you. thank you, leslie. Questions for leslie? Comments, council? Thank you all very much. So council, that concludes our briefing that we posed 2 on today's special called meeting. The only other business before the council, we have no action items posed today, is our closed session executive session discussion regarding the austin energy's proposed partnership in a biomass electric generating plant in east texas. Without objection we'll now go into closed section 086 of open meetings act, to have those discussions. I anticipating at some point here later this morning i will come out of closed session to formally adjourn the meeting. It's likely that the closed session won't last more than an hour or so. So I anticipate coming out late morning to formally adjourn this special called meeting of the austin city council and know that we are scheduled on our normal city council meeting tomorrow, thursday, the 28th, at 10:00 a.m. We are now in closed session. Thank you. discussion on 1, that being matters concerning austin energy's generation resource plan. No decisions were made. There being no more business before this special called meeting of the austin city council, we stand adjourned. It is 11:32 a.m.

End of Council Session Closed Caption Log