



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Mayor & Council Members

FROM: Ed Van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer *EW*

DATE: July 25, 2014

SUBJECT: Responses to FY 2014-15 Budget Questions

The following Budget Questions and responses have been released and are now available on the City's website for viewing.

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/budget/cbq/index.cfm>

- 25. Can Parkland Dedication Funds (PLD) be used for general maintenance purposes in parks?
- 34. Please break out the Unmet Service Demand for Integrated Transportation Systems to distinguish between maintenance needs and distinct enhancements like the bicycle sensing pilot program.
- 52. Please provide a breakdown of the allocated costs/budget of administering the Short Term Rental program that is projected to be \$301,462 for FY 2013-14 as referenced in response to Council Budget Question #44.
- 53. The City Council passed regulations related to short-term rentals (STRs) in late 2012. Please provide a full history of the number of STRs registered by year and the current aggregate total of registered properties, the number of STR properties that have paid the Hotel Occupancy Tax at least once since the program's inception, and the total amount of tax dollars received by the City from STRs broken out by year.
- 54. In their July 2014 memo, the Austin Water Planning Task Force recommends that the water utility begin work immediately on an Integrated Water Plan that includes cost comparison and rate impacts of both supply- and demand-side strategies, extensive public input, and a comprehensive understanding of all

water sources, including storm water, among other things. What is the estimated cost for this type of work?

55. In their July 2014 memo, the Austin Water Planning Task Force recommends that the Austin Water Utility should develop benchmarks with the aid of independent consultants with a historical commitment to conservation, reuse, and decentralized options to use in evaluating potential water conservation programs. What is the estimated cost for this type of work?
56. In their July 2014 memo, the Austin Water Planning Task Force recommends that the Austin Water Utility develop the remainder of the core reclaimed water system – what is the current status of our reclaimed water system, what are the future expansion plans, and please give a history of budget allocations and spending for this program.
57. Please provide total revenue collected from Hotel Occupancy Taxes (HOT) for FY12, FY13 and FY14 YTD broken out by type of business (ie. Hotels, Bed and Breakfast, Type 1 Short Term Rental (STR), Type 2 STR, etc.). Please also provide information on what limitations are placed on HOT revenue.
58. Recently, the Human Resources Department (HRD) sent a memo about the new paid parental leave program and calculated the cost at 691,150, stating this was based on the hourly rates of employees plus FICA, Medicare and retirement. Please provide further information on this calculation. Given that the city must budget for an employees' salary and associated costs for an entire year without assuming they'll be out for extended unpaid leave, isn't the city simply paying what we budgeted? In other words, this amount might be "lost savings" but isn't really an additional cost. Also, has the rate of temporary backfill (as opposed to existing employees temporarily taking on the duties of the person on leave) for these positions increased, or are the positions still being temporarily backfilled with the same frequency as they were prior to the benefit being offered? Please show data to support this answer.