

BUDGET SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS	ANSWERS
<p>Hello, I have been a resident of Long Beach for my entire life. Being born here, attended LBCS then graduated from LBHS. Seeing the dire condition the city is in made me have to finally speak up. I'm not here to lay blame on anyone but hoping some of my suggestions can be seriously considered because feel they can help. I understand the city needs money and I have a few ideas on how the city can achieve that. 1. Why doesn't the city have its own impound yard ? We give out a contract to a company for pennies when the city can keep the money itself. There is plenty of bay front property by the bridge to accomplish this.</p>	<p>The City is currently exploring this idea</p>
<p>2. Why doesn't the city boot vehicles for scofflaw and other infractions? We have enough specials working on any given day to do this. If you look online, you can buy boots for \$50.</p>	<p>The City is currently looking into the cost of having its own impound yard as well as the cost of vehicle boots. Updates will be forthcoming in the next couple of months</p>
<p>3. Why doesn't the city have metered parking? With the amount of tourist and shopping traffic in this town you are missing a golden opportunity.</p>	<p>The City is working with the Financial Restructuring Board of NYS (FRB) to get funds for this project.</p>
<p>4. I understand the city uses a plate reader at all entrances into the city. Why is this not being utilized as an income producer. I've heard and I'm sure you can verify that plenty of unregistered cars and trucks come into town on a daily basis thus going back to my first point of our own impound yard. Yes you need to spend money to make money but I'm positive that the outcome would be most beneficial to the city. Thank you for your time.</p>	<p>The City is currently looking into what is needed to begin utilizing the license plate reader.</p>
<p>Below are my questions for the budget hearing. Thank you for the opportunity. 1. Why aren't parking meters in the budget? (Park Ave, not parking garage)</p>	<p>The City is working with the Financial Restructuring Board of NYS (FRB) to get funds for this project.</p>
<p>2. Are employee time clocks in the budget?</p>	<p>The City is working with the Financial Restructuring Board of NYS (FRB) to get funds for this project.</p>
<p>3. <u>A0026-42660</u>. Why aren't you selling any property? City Garage has an offer, there's an under utilized vacant lot on the bay next to the bridge plus the ocean front parking lot on Shore Road. Why are we wasting water front property?</p>	<p>The City is currently awaiting for the appraisal for the property as well as the cost for the construction of a new building. All other property that can potentially be sold is being assessed.</p>
<p>4. <u>A0011-41170</u>. Special Franchise Fees. Why the decrease? Are these contract based? Only contract City Council voted on last year was with National Grid to install sensors. Shouldn't this line go up based on the new contract?</p>	<p>This line was discounted in anticipation of revenue risks in connection with COVID19 impact</p>
<p>5. <u>A0011-41130</u>. Utility Gross Receipts Tax. This tax is based on use of energy, cable and internet. Revenue is decreasing? People are staying home more and more house construction has been completed since last year.</p>	<p>This line was discounted in anticipation of revenue risks in connection with COVID19 impact</p>
<p>6. <u>A 7141</u>. Is renting out the Ice Arena on the table?</p>	<p>The City is currently preparing a solicitation package to determine the best way to operate the ice arena.</p>
<p>7. <u>A 7320</u>. MLK Center. Why is the City spending any money here if it's leased? Why is the City paying for the Utilities? When is the last time the lease went out to bid?</p>	<p>This was an error and will be corrected via ERRATA sheet. There has not been a bid process for the center.</p>
<p>8. <u>A8160</u> Why such a large increase in the sanitation department's budget?</p>	<p>The Sanitation department has the lowest paid workers. (Lower than minimum wage) Salary adjustments will be made. Additional full-time staff will be hired.</p>
<p>9. <u>A9030</u> Why the drastic decrease in Social Security expenses?</p>	<p>The CARES act allows for deferral of payroll taxes for calendar year to be paid in future fiscal years.</p>

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10. A1671 Why are you eliminating the Director of Community Development, it's a grant funded position. Who will administer the CDBG?	The CDBG grant will be administered by a current full-time employee. The additional CDBG funds will be used to help offset the cost of infrastructure projects.
As of now, 22 CSEA members have received their termination letters. Are there any plans to layoff exempt, police or fire?	The City is currently negotiating with the Police and Fire Unions.
#1 Considering our current fiscal crisis has the Police unions offered any concessions such as contributing to or increasing contributions towards retirement and medical benefits? If so, what are those concessions. If not, why not? Can they be mandated to do so considering the city's financial distress and not wait until budget negotiations (whenever they may be)? Besides, there's no guarantee they will agree to any concessions anyway.	The City is currently working with the Police and Fire Unions.
#2 Why is it necessary to have a Supervisor of Beach Maintenance, Assistant Superintendent of Beach Maintenance, 3 Supervisors of Beach Maintenance, 3 Working Supervisors and a Senior Administrative aide? These positions seem redundant, could be/should be consolidated or eliminated.	Beach Maintenance oversees maintenance for Beach, City Hall and all City Buildings. We are also currently assisting the Recreation Department, on top of the numerous jobs we have going on everyday. For this reason, it is imperative that we have the allotted supervisors in our budget.
Why has the CSEA taken a hit of losing 20 employees while the Police dept. is untouched?	The City is currently working with the Police Union.
So the LOWEST PAID employees are suffering, & the HIGHEST PAID employees can't help the city get some balance?	The City is currently working with the Police and Fire Unions.
CSEA has had 20 members laid off and were told to cut 10% of every departments budgets. What concessions have the other unions given ? Can't always balance the budget on the backs of the lowest paid employees.	The City is currently working with the Police and Fire Unions.
How much does it cost to run the daycare part of the magnolia center? Why is this being cut it's been part of the city for many years Was Donna Gayden appointed the City manager's position or was it a special hire by the city? How much is she getting paid to do her job?	Based on the recommendation of the Financial Restructuring Board of NYS report and the result of the deficiencies of the center, the City has determined that it will only operate the before and after school programs as well as the Sandbox program, A request for proposal is being prepared to lease out the day care space for day care purposes. The City hired Ms. Gayden as the City Manager. She currently makes \$178,000 annually.
Same questions for John McNally the assistant to the city manager?	Mr. McNally was hire through an interview process. He currently makes \$110,000 annually.
Why is the MLk center receiving roughly an additional \$70,000 in the proposed budget?	This was an error and will be corrected via ERRATA sheet
How much do does the city pay an outside company to pick up our recyclables?	We only pay for disposal of recyclables, we don't pay anyone to pick up City's recyclables, its done by Sanitation
Don't we have a sanitation department why do we pay someone else to pick them up?	We only pay for disposal of recyclables, we don't pay anyone to pick up City's recyclables, its done by Sanitation
What other proposed cuts from the budget does city manager Donna Gayden have?	The City Manager has asked all department heads to take another look at their budgets for any additional cuts. After the Council meeting on May 19th it will be determined if any additional cuts are needed.

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With these proposed cuts how much is the city saving?	Approximately \$2.5mil in General fund
So is it true the proposed budget is being cut from years passed and the city council plans on raising taxes?	The budget reflects estimations of revenues and expenditures based on prior years and proposed activity. The current budget reflects at 3.68% increase in taxes.
Why does the comptroller get a \$30k raise, while the CSEA is giving concessions and having layoffs?	Comptrollers salary was not increased since the time she was hired. Amount in PY budget was an estimate.
Why is it okay that last year fifteen police officers made over 200k but come budget season CSEA members that average 55k per year are the ones being laid off?	The City is currently negotiating with the Police and Fire Unions.
How much more do Long Beach CSEA Union will have to give up in the near future? More job layoffs? Anymore departments being phased out in the immediate future? How much cut in our pay is being look at? How will my medical benefits be affected in the cuts the City is planning in their new budget? Is early retirement being offered to those who have a few years left before they actually retire? Those that were already laid off, is this permanent or will they have an opportunity to have their job & position back once the City gets back on its feet again financially?	The City is currently negotiating with the Police and Fire Unions.
Good afternoon couldn't you let CSEA Staff and The Police Department And Fire Department do no raises and the Lag Pay like we did in the past so that everyone can keep there job thank you and God Bless	City's financial problems are structural, while lagging payroll addresses some cash flow issues it does not solve a structural problem, and it becomes even bigger issue in the year after the lag was implemented.
<u>The basis of this question relies on the fact that Civil Service workers are assigned to the department in which they work for the City of Long Beach.</u> The CSEA contract gives the local Civil Service Commission authority to establish “layoff units”. From what I have been able to find out in quarantine, the layoff units in Long Beach are now being defined as each separate department within the City.	We do not discuss personnel matters. For Civil Service rules, you can visit www.longbeachny.gov/civilservice and follow the link to Civil Service Rules.
<u>Do you realize that because these layoffs are being based on the current snapshot of where departmental personnel are assigned at this exact moment, employees are being laid off who have more seniority in the same job title than others, but are being laid off because they are ASSIGNED to work in a certain department?</u> There is no one else in their “departmental layoff unit” to displace, but <u>there are people with less seniority to displace in their same job title in different departments.</u>	We do not discuss personnel matters. For Civil Service rules, you can visit www.longbeachny.gov/civilservice and follow the link to Civil Service Rules.
<u>Employees with the highest seniority in an equivalent job title should be given the opportunity to switch/transfer/work in the department where they would not be laid off. The personnel in the job title with less seniority should be switched to the department where the position is possibly being eliminated. I firmly believe this is the spirit of New York Civil Service law. Seniority in your job title absolutely counts.</u>	We do not discuss personnel matters. For Civil Service rules, you can visit www.longbeachny.gov/civilservice and follow the link to Civil Service Rules.
<u>Would you approve employees with the most seniority in the same job title the ability to switch or transfer to the department where they would not be laid off?</u>	We do not discuss personnel matters. For Civil Service rules, you can visit www.longbeachny.gov/civilservice and follow the link to Civil Service Rules.
This solution respects both the “layoff unit” definition as being each department, while allowing Civil Service workers the seniority benefits they have earned.	We do not discuss personnel matters. For Civil Service rules, you can visit www.longbeachny.gov/civilservice and follow the link to Civil Service Rules.

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<p>a) One way to ensure the City Council, City Manager and Comptroller are completely transparent with the City of Long Beach tax payers' is by having a "Budget to Actuals" report presented to the taxpayers on a monthly basis, via the Internet or a monthly newsletter, and when there is a projected imbalance between revenue and expenditures, the City Manager will establish an improvement plan. What steps are you taking to make this possible for the City of Long Beach tax payers?</p>	<p>The City will be posting these reports monthly on the City's website, starting in June.</p>
<p>b) According to New York State Comptroller, Thomas P. DiNapoli, in his December 2019 report, the Long Beach City Council was unaware of a General Fund Balance Policy. "The rapid decline in fund balance resulted from budgeting practices by City Officials, including unrealistic estimates of revenues, the use of non-recurring funding sources in the general fund and lack of long-term financial planning." Has the current City Council and City officials developed a "City Fund Balance Policy" and plan to replenish unassigned fund balance?</p>	<p>Fund Balance policy will be reviewed and presented for Council vote in the next couple of months. The FY2021 budget projects partial restoration of the general fund balance of over \$500,000.</p>
<p>As the city has furloughed over 140 employees and is planning on laying off over 20 CSEA members due to economic stress, I believe that no raises be given to any exempt employee as they are not contractual. I urge you to eliminate these pay raises.</p>	<p>There are no raises budgeted for exempt employees in FY2021 budget, except for City Council members, whose raises are tied to the CSEA contract.</p>
<p><u>Line A0027 42720</u> - Economic Development grant the city is showing \$0 while the previous year it received \$367,285. I would like to know if this is the CDBG funding and if so, the city should be eligible for funds for this year and the proposed amount should be listed. If not, where is the CDBG funding listed in the budget? Why are we not receiving any funding? <u>line A6420 51101</u> regular salaries Economic Development. the salary earned by the employee in this department earned \$84,000 (proposed increase to \$112,000) and I would like to know why he or she did in submitting grant requests.</p>	<p>While the City will continue to pursue to apply for any available grants that can supplement Operating funds revenues, we will budget conservatively, and only for those funds that we have already received grant authorizations. Development of FY2021 budget for the A0027.42720 was done in collaboration with person responsible for grants at the City, and there was no revenue projections to be used in this line item. Included in this line item in FY2019 is WTC 9-11 related reimbursements. That will be moved to Other Unclassified revenue, to make comparison more appropriate. In addition - Director of Economic Development salary did not change and agrees to budgeted and actual salary in FY2020.</p>
<p><u>Line A8172 51101</u> - regular salaries Beach Maintenance why are the salaries including overtime much higher than for street maintenance? What is the difference in the number of employees? Would beach maintenance be more on a seasonal basis rather than year round and what is the scope of the work for maintenance?</p>	<p>The Beach Maintenance department employees work in Building Maintenance as well. The City will start allocating part of the expenses that are charged to Beach Maintenance that should be allocated to Building Maintenance, to the proper department.</p>
<p>a) There should be no raises this year. City Council should not take a raise. It's a small amount so won't affect any members so take it off. It's an embarrassment.</p>	<p>City Council is not taking a raise.</p>
<p>Exempt employees should not get raises. See especially Comptroller, CM, exec asst to CM, Corporation Counsel!, Parks Commissioner??</p>	<p>No raises were given to employees in these positions, All positions were hired in FY2020 and in FY2020 budget those positions were vacant and budgets were underestimated.</p>
<p>b) Why don't we collect what is owed to us? (fines for dogs and alcohol on the beach/boardwalk...air B&Bs... housing tax exemptions ...commercial snow removal...jetties...separation payments that were wrongfully paid...payment from Pride weekends...etc...)</p>	<p>Collections are pursued by the City Comptrollers department, where and when appropriate Corporate Counsel gets involved.</p>

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If you are planning to keep some employees who were notified of their termination, will you tell use where the money is coming from to keep them? Will our taxes be raised?	There are no plans to reverse actions taken to date.
Why are you closing the Magnolia Child Care Center? Every other program is set to resume operations. Why did you TARGET the daycare?	This was recommended by the FRB report also came as a result of operating deficiencies of the Center.
Why is it that the MLK center receiving a 232% increase this year while you are completely cutting out the Magnolia Child Care Center and many other programs.	MLK budget is to be reduced via ERRATA sheet, and Magnolia Day Care center closure was recommended by the FRB report and also came as a result of operating deficiencies of the Center.
Why is the Magnolia Daycare closing permanently?	Based on the recommendation of the Financial Restructuring Board of NYS report and the result of the deficiencies of the center, the City has determined that it will only operate the before and after school programs as well as the Sandbox program, A request for proposal is being prepared to lease out the day care space for day care purposes.
At today's City Council meeting I asked the question: "How is what you are now proposing different than what prior administrations have done and how are you <u>solving</u> the problem and not adding to it? Or do you have no viable solutions?"	Previous Administrations' budgets included inflated revenues that did not materialize, and while expenditures were also over budgeted, actual expenses always exceeded actual revenues. FY2021 budget is prepared by conservatively estimating revenues and implementing necessary cuts to provide for City's FY2021 actual expenses not to exceed its revenues.
The speaker talked about this loan as being a short-term note, etc.. But, if we don't have the money in a year to two, we will have to borrow again, which is exactly what prior administrations have done (and each successive administration blames the prior one, so I don't feel out of place in blaming you now). And, the second part of my questions was not answered. Please answer the entire question.	This I assume pertains to \$4.25 million deficiency notes approved by the City Council. As discussed, this is to address revenue shortfall due to COVID 19. The prior administrations did not have to deal with the pandemic. This administration is committed to finding ways of repaying this short term notes without further borrowing to repay it. Unless there is a federal or state program that will assist municipalities affected by pandemic, this will have to be reflected in the City's budgets for next and following years.
The City of Long Beach Comprehensive Review Report for financial restructuring that came out in June 2019 highlighted the financial burden of the Long Beach Police Department. The report suggests re-sizing of the police department as a cost saving measure because The City of Long Beach is currently employing 48 full time patrol officers and the IACP model recommends 35 full time patrol officers. The Long Beach Herald, on May 7th, stated that the average salary without benefits for a LB police officer is \$164,780 (the HIGHEST average pay among all cities in the State of NY) meaning the 13 additional patrolman cost the city more than \$2.1 million yearly (nearly a third of the \$6.6 mil general fund deficit). Why have there not been more discussions about cutting the LBPD head count? If 81% of the city spending goes to personnel then cuts need to be made from personnel to bring costs down.	The City is currently negotiating with the Police and Fire Unions.
I have only lived here for about 2 years and even though this idea has limited income revenue, I wonder why we don't enforce the rules we have. I never see people getting tickets for being on the jetties. Also, what about people walking their dogs on the beach or boardwalk (in the past).	Police Department gives tickets for both but as far as the dogs/animals on the beach park go, when the claims state they are service animals they are exempt from enforcement.

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<p>There is rarely a presence of enforcement on the beach on nice days to ticket people and remind them of the rules. If we don't enforce rules, some people take advantage, which takes away from the enjoyment of living in a beach community. It is totally disgusting to step in dog poop when they shouldn't even be on the beach. Or what about the liability of people walking on the jetties? Start ticketing them and maybe they will stop.</p>	<p>Police Department gives tickets for both but as far as the dogs/animals on the beach park go, when the claims state they are service animals they are exempt from enforcement.</p>
<p>Parking meters will only hurt local residents and not bring in enough outside revenue. People will shop elsewhere if they have to pay for parking Which is what happened in Rockville Centre. Thank you for hearing my concerns.</p>	<p>City conducted feasibility studies in the past and will consult these studies in implementation of this project.</p>
<p>Has the city explored being annexed by Town of Hempstead or Nassau County? For example, Pt Lookout, Lido, and Atlantic Beach, which share the barrier island with us, seem to be doing ok. Perhaps it's odd to send in a question to ask if you've ever considered shutting yourself down, but that is effectively what I am asking. Please respond. I just saw a Herald article that said questions would be addressed. Thank you.</p>	<p>Not at this time.</p>
<p>CSEA has given concessions and had layoffs...will the other unions and exempt employees have to give concessions and are there going to be layoffs for them as well?</p>	<p>The City is currently working with the Police and Fire Unions.</p>
<p>Here is my (1) question regarding tonight's City Council Meeting: 1. I do not see any money budgeted for recovery of monies overpaid for separation payments. If I'm correct, is this still a future possibility? Thank you,</p>	<p>No revenues are budgeted when probability of receipt can not be determined at a time budget is developed. The city created the FY2021 budget with a conservative approach, and only those revenue streams that can be reasonably assessed for collections are included as revenue items in the budget.</p>
<p>Good evening, I just got done watching the meeting and I would like to ask these questions....1. If it costs nearly a Half million for one cop and nearly that for One fireman. 2. Why are there no layoffs In Police and Fire?</p>	<p>The City is currently working with the Police and Fire Unions.</p>
<p>3. And how much do we pay N.C. Police and why if our own Police are paid that much? Thank you, Rob M.</p>	<p>Between all Categories of Property (4) County collects approximately \$10.83 million in County Police related taxes.</p>
<p>I have 2 ideas of ways of generating revenue for city budget. 1) Naming rights for our boardwalk. Over the course of the summer season 1,000s of people come to our city to use beach or just stroll on our boardwalk. On any given. Weekend, weather permitting, hoards of people come via the Long Island Rail Road to go to our beach. Of course there are also the many events year round that 1,000s of people come to our city to observe or partake in such as races, Michele O'neil volleyball, Super. Bowl Splash and of course surfers!!! There must be some value to all that exposure that would be attractive to a company to advertise. Northwell Heath pays a million dollars a year for it's name to be on the Jones Beach Theatre where they only average 35 shows a summer!! Bethpage Credit Union pays \$200,000 dollars a year for the stadium where the Long Island Ducks play. That is only a 6,000 seat ballpark that rarely sells out. There is also MCU park (Brooklyn Cyclones) and the Ford Amphitheater a small concert venue on Coney Island. That is just a small sample of venues that receives monies for such purposes.</p>	<p>City's Administration will take it under consideration.</p>

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<p>2) Parking; Most towns and villages on Long Island have metered parking. My suggestion would be to have some type of decal that residents can purchase for their vehicle to park anywhere in city for an annual. fee. Metered parking for nonresidents, and residents who choose not to pay annual fee. I know that there has been a backlash from small businesses in the past because they feel it would hurt business. But it doesn't seem to have negative affect on other towns. Put out a good quality product or service and people won't mind paying a small fee to park to shop your store or restaurant! Thank you for your time and effort</p>	<p>City is working with the Financial Restructuring Board of NYS (FRB) to get funds for this project.</p>
<p>Nassau County and Town of Hempstead have received over 100 Million Dollars related to COVID 19 relief. Is Long Beach entitled to any of that money? What are the City Manager and City Counsel Members doing to secure funds from the Federal Government for Long Beach? Are there other places the city could get financial assistance related to COVID 19?</p>	<p>City applied for Disaster Relief grant and is entitled to 75% of all COVID related purchases as well as 75% of overtime payroll expense incurred due to COVID19 response.</p>
<p>In view of the high \$ water bills received. I would like to see the last three years of the Budgeted Expenses and actual expenses incurred along with the Actual Revenue Billed for the same period of time. Also a reasonable explanation as to why other L.I. communities experience lesser charges. I realize that this information may not be available for this meeting, but I Think that this could be an Agenda Item in the future. I would appreciate you're a response when data is available</p>	<p>Water fund for four years (going back to fiscal 2017). We will be happy to address any other questions you have once you review this historical information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Districts have a water rate and a tax rate. The tax rate generally covers capital improvements. Residents receive a tax bill from the township their water district is in and the town passes those taxes back to the water district. The water fund in LB does not receive any taxes. • In the mid 80's water rates were changed from a declining block rate to an inclining block rate as part of an effort to force conservation. The problem with this is that the initial gallons of water pumped is the most expensive because once your fixed cost (Capital Investment, Labor, OPEB's , etc.) are covered those additional gallons pump only include your variable cost (Power & Chemicals) • Because we are on a barrier beach and draw water from the Lloyd Aquifer, our wells are 1200 to 1400 feet deep compared to main land wells which are only 600 to 800 feet deep. This increases power cost to pump • Because there is high levels of natural iron in the Lloyd Aquifer we need to treat to remove that iron with filtration, the levels of iron on the main land are typically low enough to be treated with a sequestering chemical. • Most water suppliers experience a big increase in summer pumpage due to irrigation which brings in revenue from higher rate blocks, in Long Beach there is only a small increase in pumpage due to irrigation.

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<p>Welcome to Long Beach! The budget presentation was excellent. In my next life, I want to be a Long Beach police officer. I am extremely glad the FRB report was discussed. Prior to the past election, Anissa Moore promised to address my Good & Welfare comments but nothing was done. John and Scott were given a copy of my Good & Welfare remarks back in 2019.</p> <p>QUESTION: How much does Long Beach pay Nassau County for county police “tax” (i.e., narcotics, murder, etc.)?</p>	<p>Approximately \$10.8 million</p>