



Madison

Office of the Mayor

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Dear Department and Division Heads,

Since our last meeting, a group consisting of Common Council President Lauren Cnare, Council President Pro-Tem Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, Ald. Satya Rhodes-Conway, Katie Crawley and Sally Miley (Mayor's Office), Karl Van Lith and Guy Van Rensselaer (HR), Sarah Edgerton (IT), Deb Simon (Finance), and Mayor's Office interns Patty Smith and Emily Ley have been meeting to plan for this year's rollout of a new format for seeking public input for the budget process.

Instead of the traditional formal budget hearings, we will hold public meetings at five locations around the city. Each meeting will focus on a unique grouping of city agencies. (See chart below). At the meetings, citizens will have the opportunity to work together with city staff and committee and commission members to develop priorities for the 2012 budget.

Agencies will be asked to provide information about their missions and the services they provide so that participants have a more informed understanding of the work that the city does as they think about how to prioritize these services. The schedule for the meetings is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Topic Area</u>
* July 26	Urban League	Community Development and Services
August 1	Olbrich	Administration
August 16	Senior Center	Infrastructure
August 22	Orchard Ridge UCC	Large Community Facilities & Parks (Recreation))
August 31	Warner Pk Comm Center	Public Safety

*doors open 6:30
program 7-9 p.m.*

The Common Council is working on a plan to publicize these meetings and encourage constituents to attend. Katie Crawley in the Mayor's Office is developing the media plan.

In addition to the public meetings, there will be a new website to engage citizens in the budget planning process. The intent is to create enough interest in the process that they will want to attend the public meetings. The site will be rolled out on July 18. It will feature more explanatory material about city finances and the budget and will also have an online survey for citizens who could not attend the public meetings.

We will need your help in the preparation for the meetings. Specifically, we want to provide the participants with your missions, as mentioned above, and a list of services that your agency provides. Agencies will also be asked to attend the appropriate public meeting to assist in educating and explaining processes and services related to their agency. A member of the implementation group will follow up with you about this request. We will need this information by July 12.

Thank you in advance for your help. If you have any questions or suggestions, please call one of the group listed in the first paragraph. Also, if you would like to see interesting budget web pages from other cities, please email Sarah Edgerton.

Mayor Paul R. Soglin

Ald. Lauren Cnare

Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff