



155 S. SEWARD STREET ▪ JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801
PHONE: 907-586-5278 ▪ FAX: 907-586-4552

INFORMATION RELEASE
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In new budget process, CBJ finds out what services community values

Community members who participated in the City and Borough of Juneau's budget focus groups highly prioritized Capital Transit, libraries and Juneau Police Department specialty teams, while services like Mt. Jumbo Gym, Eagle Valley Center and City Museum public education fell to the bottom of the priority list.

The city manager will present this information and other findings from the public process phase of Priority Driven Budgeting during [tonight's Assembly Finance Committee](#) meeting.

Deputy city manager Mila Cosgrove said results of the public process phase are meant to serve as a tool for the Juneau Assembly.

"The goal is to give the assembly some feedback from community members about what's important to them in terms of city services and programs that are largely funded through general tax dollars," she said.

Nearly a hundred people participated in various focus groups last month. After being presented an overview of CBJ revenues, revenue allocations, programs and services, participants were asked to rank 44 community programs into three categories: Highly Desirable, Desirable and Less Desirable. Results of the focus group rankings and the online survey can be found [here](#).

During the March 8 finance meeting, the city manager also plans to give an overview of what the assembly can expect from the city manager's budget. Preliminary numbers currently show a \$1.2 million shortfall for general government departments. Finance Director Bob Bartholomew plans to propose funding 60 percent of the deficit from savings and 40 percent through reductions. Current projections don't take into account potential reductions in state revenue.

"We're still in a good position," City Manager Rorie Watt said. "We want to keep moving forward and running our programs well. Priority Driven Budgeting is a good process and it could play a role in this year's budget and future budgets."

Tonight's Assembly Finance Committee meeting takes place at 5:30 p.m. in Assembly Chambers. The city manager's budget will be introduced during a special assembly meeting April 5, followed by a finance committee meeting. The committee then meets every Wednesday until the budget is finalized. There will be a public hearing on the manager's proposed budget during a special assembly meeting April 26.

For more budget information, go to the [Priority Driven Budgeting website](#).

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For more information, contact: Mila Cosgrove, Deputy City Manager, 586-5240 or mila.cosgrove@juneau.org
Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director, 586-0300 or bob.bartholomew@juneau.org