

Recently, the Council passed a budget that increases our commitment to public safety via enforcement and prevention, investing in police officers and prevention programs to keep our neighborhoods safe.

The budget is too big to cover in detail, so please contact me with questions. In summary, we supported:

- 30 new officers next year
- Pre- and after-school programs to keep kids out of trouble
- Planning councils to bring neighbors together to problem-solve
- A market study for the Northside

I cast each vote with District 12 in mind. I promised to work for safe neighborhoods and getting to root causes of crime. This budget advances both goals. I appreciate those who contacted me - my votes reflect your input. Since I heard a range of positions on many issues, I'm sure some of you will disagree with some of the votes I made. I tried to balance what the majority of constituents said with the tough fiscal choices we had to make.

The council struggled to balance "police, prevention and pocketbooks." The last is as important as the first two; I voted for a variety of cuts to cover the costs of the items I voted to add.

Some will claim I was not supportive of additional resources for our police department. Those claims relate to an amendment I voted for to authorize 18 officers now and 12 more as soon as we receive the long-awaited police staffing study and a plan for paying for these officers into the future. This budget will strain our resources for many years; I thought it important to have a plan for the best use and continued funding of additional officers.

As always, your concerns and ideas are of great interest to me. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.