

1 sheet.

2 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. And obviously we
3 know we have a water plant that is in need of some
4 serious overhauls and upgrades. But with, I guess,
5 our high costs in operating, would be attributed to
6 the age of the facility and what it takes to keep
7 it operating? Is that one of the factors?

8 DR. JOHNSON: I would say yes, it is, because
9 there's a 6.9 --

10 MR. SHERMAN: No. What are you doing?

11 (Audio disruption.)

12 DR. JOHNSON: What, Mr. Sherman?

13 MR. SHERMAN: No. No. I'm sorry. I have an
14 open mic that...

15 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. Let me go to the
16 next question.

17 So, Mr. Sherman, would you be able to explain
18 the over 5 million dollars that USD force to the
19 City, that's for managing the employees? Is that
20 the --

21 MR. SHERMAN: Correct. Yeah, we actually
22 have a cost allocation plan that we run every year.
23 And those charges include all of the administrative
24 services that are provided to the district, it
25 includes items such as fleet maintenance, IT. And

1 it does include the cashiering feature. It does
2 include the billing. It includes the field crew as
3 well. So all of the items that go into the billing
4 are in there. Collections are in there. And then,
5 again, all of the other administrative issues from
6 all the other departments, including
7 administration, legal, human resource. And, again,
8 we have a breakdown of all that. And we can share
9 the cost allocation plan if you would like.

10 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: I'm sorry. Did you say
11 elections?

12 MR. SHERMAN: I don't believe I said
13 elections, no. If I did --

14 CITY MANAGER EVANS: I believe he said
15 collections.

16 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: I'm not sure if I heard
17 it --

18 MR. SHERMAN: Oh. Collections, yes.

19 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Oh. Okay. Is it --
20 okay. For instance, I've already seen fleet
21 encompassed in a couple of these different
22 divisions' budget. For instance, distribution has
23 their fleet already encompassed. Are you saying
24 the fleet for the collection personnel that -- I
25 mean, I guess the custom service personnel?

1 MR. SHERMAN: That would be part of it. And
2 then also within the fleet budget, does not include
3 the administration for public works, so that number
4 would be in there to oversee the fleet area.

5 And then, again, anything having to do with
6 the facilities that they have, so their facility
7 charges, for example, for the property where public
8 works is, all of those costs are all incorporated
9 in the cost allocation plan.

10 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. And since we had
11 the first budget workshop and the discussion was
12 more or less health insurance, these numbers that
13 speak to health and dental insurance, does that
14 encompass the projected increase that we have?

15 MR. SHERMAN: Those numbers would include the
16 projected increase not only for health insurance
17 but also for your general liability insurance.

18 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. And that, what
19 we estimated -- actually, it looks a little
20 different. But what we talked about, about eight
21 percent, if we adopt that plan that's been
22 proposed?

23 MR. SHERMAN: Yeah, the numbers that are
24 actually in the budget are at 13 percent. That's
25 where we were when the manager submitted his

1 budget. So if we sign on to the 8.9 percent then
2 the numbers would all actually go down.

3 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. All right.
4 Thank you. That's all I have.

5 CHAIR BOTEL: Thank you.
6 Councilwoman Lanier.

7 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: I think this question
8 is for Mr. Sherman.

9 Mr. Sherman, you talked about cost
10 allocation. How is cost allocation derived?

11 MR. SHERMAN: It's derived differently for
12 each department. So, for example, IT may run off
13 of the number of computer units that a department
14 has. HR would run off the number of employees that
15 they have. Facility costs would go by square
16 footage. So every department may have a different
17 metric that we utilize in calculating how the costs
18 for that specific department gets allocated.

19 For the finance department, clearly all of
20 the billing and field crew, that's a hundred
21 percent goes to the utility. But when you look at
22 the treasury area, where I have the cashiers and we
23 do the banking and we do debt and those types of
24 issues, then it's a little bit more, we look at the
25 types of collections that we bring in and the

1 volume of those collections that we bring in.

2 We look at accounts payable, again, it
3 depends on the number of checks that we're writing
4 and accounts payable that are coming through.

5 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: So for the Utility
6 Special District in particular, how is that cost
7 derived?

8 MR. SHERMAN: Well, again, it's an allocation
9 based on each individual department's budget. So
10 at the end of the day (audio disruption) four
11 million dollar charge to the district, but \$180,000
12 might be for the City administrator and 300,000
13 might be for the finance department. And it goes
14 down and it breaks down each individual department.

15 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Okay. And is it
16 possible to get a copy of the cost allocation
17 (audio disruption) utilities?

18 MR. SHERMAN: Absolutely. Yes.

19 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Yes. Thank you. I
20 would like to see that.

21 Now, the other question is that -- I wrote
22 down -- let me see my notes -- is what do we have
23 in bond money?

24 MR. SHERMAN: I'm sorry. What was that
25 question?

1 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: What do we have in
2 bond money?

3 MR. SHERMAN: Oh. In actual cash available?
4 It's (audio disruption) it's right about 26 million
5 dollars.

6 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: And how old is that?

7 MR. SHERMAN: 2016 is when we issued that
8 debt.

9 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: 2016. And what is it
10 being used for now?

11 MR. SHERMAN: A variety of capital projects.

12 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Okay. I'd like to
13 kind of break that out for me as well.

14 You know, the Utility District is very near
15 and dear to my heart. I'm a fanatic water drinker
16 and hey, hey, we got to get this water (audio
17 disruption). So I'm really interested in how this
18 is all going to work in terms of our end game,
19 getting a new water department.

20 So I certainly would like to see in terms of
21 the bond money that we have, in terms of how costs
22 is allocated for this utility district, and also
23 looking at the metrics for it, when it comes to
24 those cost allocations I would like to see what
25 metrics are used in each of those departments to

1 get those cost allocations. If you can break that
2 out for me, I would really appreciate it.

3 MR. SHERMAN: Yeah, the cost allocation plan
4 does do that.

5 And when we present the capital improvement
6 plan, you'll see the different funding sources. So
7 you'll see a list of projects that are in essence
8 paid from cash, ongoing cash proceeds; and then
9 you'll see a list of projects that are being paid
10 out of the bonds.

11 We will provide that to you.

12 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Okay. Good. I would
13 like to see that. Thank you so much.

14 CITY MANAGER EVANS: And Madam Chair, if I
15 may, to Councilperson Lanier's comments. The cost
16 allocation plan also is a plan that is heavily
17 audited and to make sure that the funds are
18 utilized to really charge back for the services
19 that are being provided, because being that it's an
20 enterprise fund, in the past -- and I mean not in
21 this agency but in other agencies -- you saw a
22 situation whereby other municipalities were
23 utilizing electric, gas, water, wastewater
24 utilities, to be able to fund general operations.

25 So there has to be a fair apportionment, and

1 it is highly scrutinized and audited, and compared
2 to other municipalities to make sure that you don't
3 have a percentage where Riviera Beach may charge 5
4 percent but another community may charge 2 percent
5 and it may be industry norm that 2 percent is.
6 Then you have to explain that particular rationale.
7 So there's a lot more to it.

8 But to your point, Councilperson, we can
9 provide you that information. But it is something
10 that is scrutinized very heavily.

11 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Okay. Yes. I just
12 definitely would like to see how that's all worked
13 out, so I can get a clearer picture of what's being
14 (audio disruption) in Utility District and how far
15 do we have to go to get to this new water plant.

16 CHAIR BOTEL: Thank you.

17 Councilman McCoy.

18 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Thank you.

19 Mr. Johnson, the utility engineer position
20 that's being unfunded -- how many engineers do you
21 have at the district and why is that being
22 unfunded?

23 DR. JOHNSON: We successfully brought aboard
24 Jonathan Batista, who is now the assistant director
25 of the Special District. He is an engineer. He

1 has a chemical engineering background. Also an
2 environmental engineering background. He's helped
3 and assisted us with multiple projects. So he's
4 one.

5 We have Mr. Armstrong, who is another
6 engineer for us, who's been with the district for
7 about eight years.

8 And currently the position that is going to
9 be unfunded is occupied. It's (audio disruption)
10 that person today and let them know that we were
11 considering defunding the position. Of course,
12 that's up to Council to decide.

13 So we have three engineers on the district
14 but we have multiple engineering contracts, because
15 there's so much work that has to be engineered,
16 designed and constructed, that's required by the
17 state.

18 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Thank you, sir.

19 CHAIR BOTEL: Anyone else?

20 I have just a couple of questions.

21 Mr. Sherman, could you explain to me the
22 contingency? It looks like there's 600,000 in
23 contingency in sewer, 550 in water, 550 in
24 distribution, 550 in administration, for a total of
25 \$2,250,000. Where does that go? Does that just

1 roll over every year, and it's just there in case
2 we have an emergency and we need it?

3 MR. SHERMAN: It's there in a given year in
4 case you have an emergency needed. We try to keep
5 it at around 10 percent of operating expenses. So,
6 again, it could be a break, or a pandemic, who
7 knows, that's what it's there for, you know, for
8 emergency purposes.

9 Under the bond documents there is a specific
10 flow of funds on how cash comes into the agency and
11 flows through and pays all the bills. At the end
12 of the day, if the Utility District generates,
13 we'll call it a surplus, through operations, that
14 surplus actually flows down into a capital projects
15 account, so it's dollars that are available to pay
16 for capital projects.

17 So you're funding it this year. If you need
18 it, it's there. If you don't need it, we can use
19 it to fund a capital project in a subsequent year.

20 CHAIR BOTEL: Okay. I guess this question is
21 probably also about the potential of planning for a
22 new water plant at some point. The question I have
23 is the USD water, the contract services goes from
24 the adopted budget last year in 2019 of 46,000 up
25 to 200,000. And then -- that's not the only one I

1 have a question about, but maybe you could explain
2 that one first.

3 Is it that we're going to be using --
4 contracting out more engineering services than
5 normal or than we have in the past? The --
6 actually, the actual for 2020 was 91,000. So it's
7 more than double in this current budget we're
8 looking at. And is that -- again, is that because
9 we're looking at designing new...

10 MR. SHERMAN: I think, yeah, if I recall on
11 that, what we were trying to do is just follow the
12 spending trend. We've been using a lot of what we
13 call the CIP dollars for our on-call contractors;
14 and part of the thought was is that we would put a
15 little bit more money in the operating lines, some
16 of those smaller contract projects, rather than
17 using the capital dollars.

18 CHAIR BOTEL: Okay. Because you've got quite
19 a bit more in the operating supplies in that USD
20 water, going from 350,000 to a million. And is
21 that the same explanation?

22 MR. SHERMAN: Yeah --

23 CITY MANAGER EVANS: And I think it's
24 predicated on a lot of the capital projects that
25 we're looking to move forward. And so, of course,

1 you need that design and engineering to move
2 forward. So that's why I think you saw on the
3 increase.

4 So, our intent is to, obviously, move forward
5 with twice as many projects as we accomplished this
6 year, to be able to move our Utility District that
7 much further.

8 Plus, as we go through the exploratory phases
9 for a new water treatment plan, you're going to
10 incur a lot of costs on the front end as you go
11 through that, for that specialized assistance.

12 CHAIR BOTEL: Okay. Yeah, but I see the same
13 thing is under USD administration, where you put
14 100,000 in as opposed to 33,000 in actual from last
15 year.

16 How come the bank charges went down so much,
17 went down from 248,000 actual in 2020 to a budget
18 of 100,000?

19 MR. SHERMAN: Yeah, I think that -- I think
20 we're going to have to revisit that budget number.
21 One thing that I think a lot of our customers have
22 learned during the pandemic is how to use the
23 internet to pay their bills. So they're paying
24 online, our bank fees have obviously gone up. So
25 that line is going to have to be adjusted going

1 forward.

2 CHAIR BOTEL: Okay.

3 MR. SHERMAN: We're actually hoping that the
4 customers continue to, you know, use the online
5 services. We do not charge for it. And a lot of
6 communities do charge that dollar or two for a
7 service fee. We do not charge for that. It's
8 fully absorbed by the district.

9 But, again, that's how everybody is paying
10 their bills for the last four months so...

11 CHAIR BOTEL: Thank you. I don't have
12 anything else.

13 Anyone else?

14 Thank you.

15 Mr. Evans.

16 CITY MANAGER EVANS: All right. Madam Chair,
17 we'll go back to Director Bailey, assuming he has
18 the technical issues worked out.

19 MR. BAILEY: Hello, hello. Mic check. One
20 two.

21 CITY MANAGER EVANS: All right. Sounds good.

22 MR. BAILEY: All right, all right, all right.
23 I apologize for that previous technical
24 glitch.

25 As you can see, the Public Works Department

1 is broken up into five divisions: Admin and
2 engineering, fleet services, property maintenance,
3 streets and grounds, and stormwater.

4 In fulfilling the City manager's budget
5 request, we are unfunding five positions: Two of
6 which are filled, the project manager and staff
7 assistant; four vacant maintenance workers; the
8 lead electrician's position, which is vacant; and
9 the assistant public works director position that
10 is vacant.

11 Over the next year we are looking to increase
12 our turn-around time on permit review, site plan
13 review, plat review, and inspections.

14 Another -- as we enter this time of large
15 capital construction projects on the horizon, we're
16 looking at, in the engineering and public works
17 department, evaluating all projects on a 50-year
18 life cycle. As you can imagine, taking a 50-year
19 perspective on buildings, roads, significant
20 capital infrastructure, will make a much better
21 return on our investment today, so that we don't
22 have to disturb the lives of our citizens, having
23 to rebuild roads and other infrastructure on a
24 higher frequency.

25 Our last goal for Public Works is to look at

1 and incorporate sea level rise and resiliency in
2 all of our capital projects. The road project on
3 Singer Island is a great example. And I got a
4 number of calls in the last two weeks on that
5 project, as it relates to resiliency. The choice
6 that this City made to build those roads out of
7 concrete, which will last 40 or 50 years, as
8 opposed to asphalt, considering how close they are
9 to the water table and to the seasonal high -- mean
10 high tide on the island, is an example of how we
11 are at the forefront of resiliency and longevity
12 when we do our capital projects.

13 Moving on to fleet. We --

14 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Before you go on, I
15 want to make sure I say something to that. I
16 appreciate the work that was done over on Singer
17 Island, but I still have some roads over in the
18 Monroe Heights community that folks aren't too
19 happy about. So don't get on such a high horse at
20 this point because I, I won't feel comfortable or
21 nor will I feel content until I can stop getting
22 five and six calls just about the deplorable road
23 conditions in the Monroe Heights neighborhood.

24 So I appreciate what you're saying but, you
25 know, we can't celebrate until we make sure that

1 the quality of life is extended to the mainland
2 when it comes to just simply driving down roads,
3 where you don't have to worry about damaging your
4 car or even falling off the bicycle.

5 So that's what I'll say to that, Mr. Bailey.
6 And I'm done.

7 MR. BAILEY: All right. I seem to have lost
8 control. There it is.

9 Moving on to our fleet department. We are
10 unfunding one senior heavy equipment mechanic
11 position.

12 The goals for 2021 in the fleet department.
13 We are now at a point in our history where we can
14 look at certain vehicle types, where we can move to
15 electric vehicles. I'll be working with
16 Mr. Sirmons on putting legislation in as
17 development and City projects come online, electric
18 charging stations.

19 I know that Palm Beach County in their land
20 development regulations are considering making a
21 certain number of electric charging stations
22 mandatory. And we will be looking at that very
23 closely as well.

24 In addition, right sizing the fleet. Right
25 now there are some historical standards that have

1 gone forward with the number of vehicles assigned
2 to each department as the economy shrinks, as our
3 staffing load goes down, and as we become more
4 efficient. And second, those vehicles need to be
5 repatriated or redistributed so that our capital
6 cost for vehicles will also go down. Not every
7 individual in a department needs their own vehicle,
8 and we will be looking to right size the fleet
9 department as we change our operating protocols
10 going forward.

11 And last but not least, stormwater. Our
12 stormwater utility is very robust. I can tell you
13 in my nine years here we have made incredible gains
14 in the efficiency and effectiveness of our
15 stormwater system. We've added a significant
16 amount of exfiltration trench in the roads to
17 relieve localized flooding and move water through
18 our canals.

19 We have a great handle on our storm system.
20 We know where some of our trouble spots are; and my
21 team is out there as soon as the storm ends, so we
22 can provide service to the residents.

23 There are no budget modifications for
24 stormwater, but the goals for 2021 are to complete
25 our capital projects on time. Complete our GIS map

1 of all known drainage pipes and structures within
2 the City. And to conduct national pollutant
3 discharge elimination system, commonly known as
4 NPDES inspections, within one business day of a
5 qualifying rain event.

6 And with that, I will take any questions.

7 CHAIR BOTEL: Mr. McCoy.

8 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Thank you.

9 So, I guess, two things. If I can go back to
10 the slide -- well, I have it here, but the fleet
11 services slide and the transition to electric
12 vehicles. It was -- do you contemplate, I guess,
13 any of the money that's set aside in this specific
14 division, that this will be the actual purchase of
15 fleet vehicles? Or just, are we looking to put
16 some of those capital dollars into electric
17 charging stations at this point? Or, I guess, in
18 this upcoming year.

19 MR. BAILEY: The capital funds identified on
20 this sheet are only for vehicle purchases. If we
21 were to purchase vehicles -- and I don't intend on
22 necessarily purchasing vehicles in this budget --
23 obviously, we first need to do a proper analysis of
24 which are the right vehicles, when is the right
25 application for those vehicles.

1 Obviously, our FT 50s, 350s, that pull very
2 large equipment are not immediately going to
3 convert over to electric. It will mainly be our
4 passenger vehicles, our sedans, maybe some small
5 SUVs that don't have high towing capacity or a
6 towing need that we can transition over.

7 As we run that analysis over this fiscal year
8 we will also then in next year's capital look to
9 add the necessary charging stations at City
10 facilities. But I can foresee as we build new
11 facilities, charging stations are going to be
12 required not only for our fleet but as part of a
13 benefit to the community.

14 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. So if we were
15 looking to do it at the actual City facilities, why
16 would this be encompassed in your budget?

17 MR. BAILEY: So this is the funds to buy the
18 vehicles, not the charging stations.

19 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. All right.
20 Well, you said when we look to, I guess, start on
21 our new facilities. But even at this rate, if this
22 is \$475,000 that we're putting forth, you know, I
23 don't know what exactly the -- I guess, here's my
24 concern. I'm not sure I understand what those
25 \$475,000 represents as far as capital vehicle

1 purchases, when you have -- well, I would like to
2 see what our useful life is for our vehicles, and
3 which one of our -- which of those vehicles within
4 that department have reached their useful life.

5 In fact, I'm no mechanic, and I know we do
6 have a fleet unit, but what I would like to know
7 is -- well, my particular concern is this: Before
8 I talk about funding a half a million dollars in
9 vehicles, I don't want to lose employees from the,
10 I guess, the departmental overview positions. Like
11 I at least see two positions that's there. And,
12 you know, I've not heard a justification of why we
13 no longer need a project manager. And obviously, a
14 staff assistant is something that I think we all
15 need, because I field a number of calls about
16 various things, and I think we all, members, over
17 the weekend was copied on an e-mail regarding some
18 of the things that need to occur down on the south
19 end with regular public works maintenance.

20 But, you know, I certainly don't want to see
21 anybody in the Public Works Department have any
22 cuts for us to think about going forward with
23 possible electric vehicle purchases. Especially
24 when we haven't already built out, I guess, the
25 charging stations, which are pretty costly to do an

1 install. So, you know, that, that's a major
2 concern for me.

3 But I definitely want to understand what the
4 reasons for those cuts, for those two positions.

5 MR. BAILEY: Councilman, the 475,000 in
6 capital purchase are not any electrical vehicles
7 this year. That goal is to start the research that
8 is necessary to spend this fiscal year so we can
9 roll out a capital plan on where electric vehicles
10 are appropriate within our fleet for next year.

11 So, we do have a list of vehicles at the end
12 of their useful life that comprise the replacement
13 plan for the 475,000; and that was provided to
14 finance as a part of our submitted budget package,
15 and we can get that to you.

16 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Yes, please.

17 And, Mr. Bailey, since we're on that subject,
18 can you speak to why we no longer need a project
19 manager? Because I thought, if I'm not mistaken,
20 there was maybe a construction manager position
21 that we decided to do an RFP for; and I don't know
22 if that's any relation, but I'm curious as to why
23 we need to reduce this position and also the staff
24 position. Is that something that we're looking to
25 do for an outsource contracted position?

1 Perhaps Mr. Evans or --

2 MR. BAILEY: No, sir. The project manager
3 position was only added five years ago when we went
4 out and got about 40 million dollars of bond
5 funding for the road program. As you know, the
6 road program is coming to an end with Avenue M and
7 26th Court. I believe we have one more CDBG
8 project that will begin at the end of the year; and
9 then for all intents and purposes, the large
10 capital program that we've been working on for the
11 last five years comes to an end, so we would not
12 need that project manager.

13 The job description and the skill set for
14 that individual is for horizontal roadway
15 construction. The RFP selection that you're
16 referring to, sir, is for construction, I believe
17 it's entitled construction oversight; and that is
18 for vertical construction in building construction
19 for the new City Hall, police, fire, and all of the
20 capital construction that was discussed at the
21 workshop, that are building related and not
22 necessarily road related.

23 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay.

24 MR. BAILEY: As for the staff assistant, I
25 have a -- in my department of 50, I have an office

1 manager and another administrative level person, so
2 we have two other individuals who can absorb the
3 load from this staff assistant's position.

4 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. So was -- well,
5 I guess, was there a reduction in demand, or is
6 this just a part of your across the board cuts?
7 But help me understand why exactly are you
8 proposing this at this point.

9 MR. BAILEY: Well, sir, in the manager's
10 budget directive we were asked to get down to a
11 certain level of cost allocation. And when we
12 looked at actually trying to maintain level of
13 service with our other line items, these are two
14 positions that unfortunately rose to the top that
15 we were going to have to continue it out.

16 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. I understand
17 your justification for the CDBG block grants are
18 coming to an end because of those current road
19 projects, but do we have a current demand -- I
20 mean, do we have a reduction in demand at least
21 from the staff assistant position? Because those
22 are the persons that's on the front line that
23 actually fields the calls for Public Works and then
24 redirects them to the appropriate departments,
25 right?

1 CITY MANAGER EVANS: The -- I'll address
2 that. The existing staff complement that the
3 Public Works Department has can easily accommodate
4 the demand. Plus, there's additional capacity to
5 be able to absorb any increase in numbers
6 associated with services or calls for service for
7 the particular department. Plus, with having other
8 operations in the existing facility there is other
9 clerical support and staff that can assist in
10 facilitating those particular calls for service.

11 And we have seen the more folks utilizing Q
12 Alert Systems and utilizing more electronic means,
13 especially in light of the pandemic, to request
14 services from the City. So we believe with the
15 existing staff complement, that there's enough to
16 be able to absorb the workload.

17 And one of the challenges, obviously, with
18 the loss in revenues that we experienced, with all
19 the state revenues being down, and 40 percent of
20 the revenues the City collects from other entities
21 being down, we had to make some budget reductions
22 to be able to balance the budget. And I think
23 wholistically -- and I would have to get with HR
24 and they maybe can provide that -- I think the
25 number of those that would be impacted as it

1 relates to being in actual positions, the number
2 may be no more than three to four persons.

3 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Across the whole entire
4 agency?

5 CITY MANAGER EVANS: Across the whole entire
6 agency.

7 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: So how did we determine
8 that? Because, I mean, are we reallocating? Are
9 we reassigning them to different departments?

10 CITY MANAGER EVANS: Some are being assigned
11 to different departments. Some departments have
12 asked for reclassifications to other positions. So
13 we have tried to find homes for those individuals
14 that potentially could be displaced as a result of
15 this budget.

16 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Mr. Evans, Ms. Wynn
17 perhaps, to what level is that a consensus or
18 embodiment of this City Council, that we make a
19 desire not to have those individuals, you know,
20 laid off or completely eliminated from, I guess,
21 our workforce? Like, do we have some -- I guess,
22 obviously, we approve the budget but I mean -- and,
23 obviously, I don't want to tell you who you can and
24 can't hire. But, you know, I certainly am not in
25 support of any budget that puts any employee out of

1 work.

2 You know, my first option would be to
3 maintain them in their position, and which we know
4 that's not always practical because of those
5 budgetary constraints. But ultimately I would
6 like, in lieu of us actually eliminating them,
7 that's reassigned to a different department or a
8 different division or something of that sort. Is
9 that a Council directive that can be initiated? Or
10 is that one of the provisions that's, I guess,
11 restricted for our, I guess, restricted according
12 to our charter?

13 CITY MANAGER EVANS: I can provide, you know,
14 from my perspective, and Ms. Wynn can put -- you
15 know, my job as a manager is to provide you with a
16 balanced budget based on the economic conditions of
17 the agency. And based on the direction that I
18 provided to staff, to bring forward some
19 recommendations to be able to -- originally, we
20 were at a 4.2 million dollar budget shortfall. We
21 were able to, once the information was provided to
22 us, get to about 1.9 million dollars.

23 We are concerned that revenues in subsequent
24 years will also look to be reduced. We have
25 reduced some of the vacancies that we do have in

1 the agency. And so we really looked long and hard
2 as to how we can go ahead and address some of the
3 challenges to be a balanced budget.

4 As it relates to the Council's role in the
5 budget process, I think it's something that the
6 Council ultimately ratifies the budget and they
7 provide direction to administration, whether they
8 agree or disagree.

9 The other element that makes it even that
10 much more complicated is you do have bumping rights
11 and you do have collective bargaining agreements,
12 and so inevitably you may have a situation where
13 you look to address one particular position and it
14 may have an impact on another department. And so
15 we did look at how can we minimize the reduction.

16 But I can tell you even the City of West Palm
17 has to reduce their budget by 10 million dollars.

18 I have a survey out to other municipalities
19 that are going through the same type of exercise
20 because of the revenues that the city collects
21 being down in all municipalities.

22 But Ms. Wynn can speak more exclusively and
23 specifically as far as the Council's role and
24 responsibility in the budgetary process.

25 CITY ATTORNEY WYNN: Yes. Good evening

1 everyone.

2 I agree with everything Mr. Evans just said.
3 You know, the manager has the responsibility and
4 the obligation to bring forth a budget to you all
5 and to balance that budget. If you all were to
6 give the direction as a body that you did not want
7 to see any cuts, you'd have to figure out a way to
8 bring that forward. And, you know, that is usually
9 is pretty difficult to do. But, you know, you have
10 that authority to say you don't want to see any
11 cuts, as a body, any cuts in the workforce.

12 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. Well, that
13 didn't necessarily sound like the same thing that I
14 heard Mr. Evans say.

15 Obviously, the responsibility of staffing and
16 departmental operations exists with the manager.
17 But my concern is, can we have, can we take a
18 position as a body that if any positions are to be
19 unfunded then the first right of refusal should go
20 to reassigning or reallocating them to different
21 departments.

22 And I'm only speaking in terms of, you know,
23 the obvious unforeseen pandemic pay that we've
24 seen, that really took us, I think, way more than
25 we -- obviously, more than we budgeted, because we

1 didn't even anticipate this last time this year.
2 But I don't want the first thing that we have to do
3 as a body in terms of our budget is to cut
4 employees jobs or raise the health care costs on
5 our employees.

6 So, you know, I don't know, and it seems to
7 me -- and I'm being very honest. I'm a little
8 confused as to responses, because neither one of
9 them were specific to give me any direction.

10 But my position is, and I would hope that the
11 members support this, that the last thing should be
12 any cuts to employees; especially since many of
13 these employees didn't enjoy the actual pandemic
14 pay or have the ability to earn pandemic pay. But
15 I don't want because we've reached this shortfall
16 that anybody has to be concerned with health care
17 costs or whether or not they have a job.

18 And, obviously, the pandemic pay was beyond
19 any city's control in this nation.

20 But certainly I want to, you know, try to see
21 if we can cut on some of these services that we
22 provide in some of the other departments, as
23 opposed to making employees the first thing that
24 has to go, or health insurance costs that has to be
25 increased.

1 CITY ATTORNEY WYNN: Mr. McCoy, if you would
2 give me the opportunity to research your question,
3 and I'll get an answer to you.

4 CITY MANAGER EVANS: And Councilman McCoy, if
5 I may, with regards to the pandemic pay, as
6 previously stated, it doesn't have anything to do
7 with this particular budget that's being proposed.
8 We're funding the budget based on revenue
9 collection that is anticipated to come in in fiscal
10 year 2020-2021. And we have seen a loss in revenue
11 from state revenue sharings.

12 If the Board is to take the position that
13 there's not to be no cuts to employees, and then we
14 move forward with the health insurance as
15 previously -- as the plan, as it is today, you're
16 looking at an additional increase of well over
17 probably 2 million dollars; that we would have to
18 find 2 million dollars in additional reductions in
19 operations. And at that point, now you're talking
20 about either increasing fees or having a situation
21 where another department or another operation ends
22 up feeling that particular pinch. Because there's
23 only that finite amount of resources.

24 That's why when we saw the positions that law
25 enforcement gave up, we had the discussion as part

1 of the union negotiations with the Police
2 Department, if we're going to move forward with
3 this contract, realize that there's certain
4 operations and positions and opportunities that may
5 have to be modified to be able to fund that.

6 In addition to, in this particular budget
7 we're hoping to be able to collect some revenue
8 associated with the fire assessment. And so that
9 revenue doesn't come in, you may be looking at a 3
10 million dollar budget shortfall that we would have
11 to find somewhere. And so we try to do as many
12 things as we possibly can.

13 And this doesn't even account for the
14 \$678,000 that we programmed into this budget to
15 receive monies back from the loan that we provided
16 to the CRA in 2009 and haven't received any payment
17 since. So if you add that to the situation, we may
18 find ourselves in a 3.5 million dollar budget
19 shortfall.

20 So I can assure you, we've had multiple
21 conversations and discussions and the
22 Reasonableness Committee looked at this in multiple
23 forms and fashions to be able to bring a budget
24 that, one, the City can afford; and two, we can
25 continue to operate with the understanding that in

1 subsequent years we're going to have to go through
2 the same type of exercise to reduce vacant
3 positions. And that's what we tried to do, go
4 through vacancies as much as possible. And then
5 operationally what things that other departments
6 could absorb as part of the process.

7 COUNCILPERSON McCOY: Okay. Well, here's
8 what I would say in response to that, Mr. Evans and
9 Ms. Wynn, you know, the question still remains, how
10 is it that we're statutorily required to pass a
11 balanced budget but we have no oversight on when
12 wages, such as what occurred just a few months ago,
13 pandemic pay wages, are being now inserted without
14 a budget amendment and essentially -- and it's done
15 at the administrative level; and then we have no
16 control over the signing as a body, beforehand,
17 that this is something that we're willing to
18 support.

19 And I just really find it very tough to tell
20 an employee that, no, you couldn't get pandemic pay
21 because it wasn't done across the organization.
22 Irrespective of their unions. But then the next
23 conversation we have during budget discussion is
24 salary -- I'm sorry. Not salary -- health care
25 cost increase. And then, obviously, some positions

1 are going to be eliminated.

2 And I would definitely like to see this from
3 the remaining departments, about the number of
4 positions that's going to be, that's going to be, I
5 guess, the full -- the FTE across the board for the
6 entire city. But that's really tough. And it's
7 almost -- it's a real serious question to think
8 about. And I think I've asked this three or four
9 months ago, about how is it that we have no
10 oversight on a pandemic pay policy that we didn't
11 even budget for. But now we're right here at the
12 very point of budgeting and we're saying that
13 perhaps -- and it's a question of whether or not we
14 have the ability to say we don't want to cut
15 certain positions; or if we do eliminate positions,
16 then they should be reallocated. And that's a
17 question that I still have, and it still remains.

18 And I want to make sure that -- you know, I'm
19 not just here to represent what the City Manager
20 proposes but -- obviously, I think I've shared with
21 a few of you, I have people that literally come to
22 my office, and it's not always a pleasant
23 conversation when I have to tell someone that this
24 budget is going to be something that we knew four
25 months ago, based on communications, that this was

1 going to be something that was going to be a tough
2 year and possible job cuts and also increase in
3 taxes.

4 Thankfully, we didn't have to increase the
5 taxes -- tax rate, I should say.

6 But certainly this is going to be a tough
7 budget year for everyone. And I don't want to
8 start off with what I think was the most important
9 and critical thing, and that's our employees. It's
10 the number one asset that we have as a city,
11 because they make us work -- they actually provide
12 us what we need to run the government. And then
13 also being able to tell them there's an increase in
14 those medical costs.

15 So that's all I have relative to this, but I
16 certainly don't want to give up any positions at
17 this point.

18 CHAIR BOTEL: Ms. Miller-Anderson -- I mean,
19 excuse me. Ms. Lanier.

20 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: I wanted to ask Public
21 Works, in regards to this four maintenance workers
22 vacant positions that are being phased out. As
23 Mr. McCoy has said, I too get numerous calls about
24 the esthetics of the city, meaning that -- the city
25 is very small, it's eight square miles, and I think

1 that the city should look better than it does,
2 given the fact that it's a very -- this is a very
3 small city. And people have called me about
4 Australian and Blue Heron, about the overgrown
5 grass. They've called me about the south end. And
6 I have gotten -- I mean, this is since I became a
7 councilperson.

8 The lack of esthetically pleasing parts of
9 the city, and how it looked, and how the grass
10 looks, and how the landscaping looks, and how is
11 this cutting four maintenance workers going to
12 affect that? Because, I mean, it appears that we
13 can't -- we can't keep it looking well with what we
14 have. So how do we address that in terms of trying
15 to ensure the city is esthetically pleasing, given
16 that it's only eight square miles, and given the
17 fact that the crews that we do have -- not that
18 they're not doing any work, but you're going to
19 take four workers from them, you know, not fund
20 four workers, to be able to do this job. So how
21 does that affect us? How does that affect how
22 we're going to make sure that the city looks like
23 it's supposed to?

24 MR. BAILEY: Thank you for that.

25 CHAIR BOTEL: Councilwoman Miller-Anderson

1 wants to say something. But do you want to wait
2 for her to finish, and get an answer?

3 COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: Yeah. I
4 mean, I'll -- yeah, I'll go -- let him answer. But
5 her point has been brought up sometime now, so
6 it -- I don't think cutting them will make a
7 difference. But he can answer, and then I'll come
8 back.

9 CHAIR BOTEL: Mr. Bailey.

10 MR. BAILEY: Yes. Councilwoman, I was going
11 to say unfortunately the maintenance worker
12 position is a high turnover position, so we've had
13 those four vacancies on sort of a rotating basis
14 for the last 18 months to 24 months. Only recently
15 exacerbated by COVID-19. With trying to maintain
16 at least one of the three crews that we have out at
17 any one given time, it's taken out 33 percent of
18 our capacity for doing maintenance in the roads.
19 So those four maintenance were positions -- I'm
20 sorry. Go ahead.

21 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: No. I think my
22 question is that, you know, with the four
23 maintenance workers -- I mean, how do we address
24 this? I mean, this is -- as Mr. McCoy has said, I
25 mean, all of us Council people have said the same

1 thing, how is it that this small city does not have
2 at least esthetically pleasing maintenance in the
3 landscaping. Grass is overgrown. Lots are
4 overgrown. Alleys are overgrown. Constantly.

5 So how do we address that? I know that we
6 are in budget talks. And I know that we're looking
7 at trying to trim the fat. But I need to tell my
8 constituents, and I'm sure everybody on this Board
9 needs to tell their constituents, how we're going
10 to address this issue.

11 Because it's not just, you know, now -- and
12 Councilwoman Miller-Anderson and Botel have been
13 here for years, and it's the same thing. I just
14 want to know how the city is going to address that,
15 the overgrown lots, the overgrown alleyways, the
16 lack of maintenance, the lack of esthetically
17 pleasingness. As either you're coming off of 95 or
18 you're coming in from the south or the north, it
19 does not look well at all.

20 So I need to be able to tell my constituents
21 how we're going to address this issue. And if
22 anybody who has an issue -- which I do -- and
23 you're looking at positions being cut, you're
24 trying to figure out in your mind how we're going
25 to be able to address this.

1 And I don't want to hear the same thing I've
2 been hearing. I need to hear something different
3 here.

4 CHAIR BOTEL: Ms. Miller-Anderson.

5 COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: So over the
6 years that has always been an issue. And I know
7 Mr. Bailey has heard it from several of us over the
8 years. And from my experience it has been more of
9 a scheduling issue and just a maintenance schedule
10 of making sure that -- you know, because at one
11 point I understood that, you know, the focus was on
12 Blue Heron, the focus was on MLK, and then maybe,
13 you know, Broadway or a few of those -- hold on.
14 My computer went out. Hold on.

15 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: We can hear you
16 though.

17 COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: I know. But
18 I couldn't see you. Everything cleared -- it went
19 out. I'm back. Okay.

20 And so the focus was always on just specific
21 streets. And even the scheduling -- you know, you
22 may have eight on one street, whereas you may have
23 been able to split them up and put four on this
24 street and four on another street. So from my
25 experience, and from just bringing this up, and

1 others bringing it up over the years, and hearing
2 from some of the employees, it's more of a -- it
3 was more of a scheduling issue than not having
4 enough people. Because sometimes you could have
5 enough people and they may not be -- they probably
6 aren't being utilized in the most effective manner.

7 So now unless that has changed and we're
8 still having an issue, then that's a whole other
9 problem. But that, from my understanding, was the
10 issue. And if that's been corrected, then we have
11 a new situation that I wouldn't be aware of.

12 And so even with that, it wasn't that we
13 didn't have enough people.

14 So for me, the four maintenance vacant
15 positions, I don't, you know, I don't have much to
16 say about that, because I think we have the people;
17 and I think over the years we've mentioned, you
18 know, we have a lot of positions in the whole
19 agency, you know, the whole City of Riviera Beach,
20 we have a lot of positions, when you look at other
21 municipalities that are larger than ours, but they
22 don't have almost -- they don't have nowhere near
23 the same amount of employees that we have.

24 And so, you know, I've always questioned the
25 number of employee positions that we've had over

1 the years. So I'm not really concerned about some
2 of these positions being eliminated because I've
3 felt like all along we've always had a whole lot
4 more than we probably should have.

5 And being that we've operated -- and I know
6 sometimes, you know, if we see that a person can do
7 five jobs, you know, sometimes you -- people will
8 tend to let continue to do the five jobs instead of
9 hiring five people. But we have a lot of positions
10 when compared with other agencies.

11 And so -- but this particular section here,
12 I -- over the years, I realize that it has been
13 more of a scheduling and just properly maintaining
14 the streets based on maintenance of a schedule, not
15 so much that we don't have the people.

16 So, Mr. Bailey, if I'm incorrect on that, or
17 if that's been fixed, I would love to hear the
18 update.

19 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Well,
20 Ms. Miller-Anderson, I just wanted to speak to your
21 point. I don't think that I was complaining so
22 much about the vacant or the workers being cut. I
23 think that I was -- my complaint is in regards
24 to -- if we can't keep it, if we can't get it
25 fixed, you know, with what we have, why are we

1 cutting more? Why are we not taking on more?
2 You're saying that we're not taking on more because
3 that isn't the issue.

4 COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: No, I'm
5 saying that it's been a scheduling -- just
6 utilizing the people that they've had -- and,
7 Mr. Bailey, please jump in -- from my
8 understanding, from all of the conversations that
9 have been had, we have always had enough people.
10 It's just putting the right people in the right
11 places, and keeping the streets on a maintenance
12 type schedule. So it's been a scheduling thing,
13 from my perspective anyway. And so if I'm wrong,
14 please, someone jump in.

15 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Well, that means
16 that -- but there's still an issue though. The
17 issue is that the city looks -- doesn't look well.

18 COUNCILPERSON MILLER-ANDERSON: I agree. And
19 that's why somebody needs to answer. I can't
20 answer that. That's why I said, unless it's been
21 corrected, that was the issue.

22 Now if we're still having a -- it's not
23 looking the way that we think it should, then that
24 is what needs to be answered.

25 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Well, that's clear.

1 Because even today it's still not looking the way
2 eight miles should look.

3 You know, we have bigger municipalities, we
4 have bigger -- much bigger cities that look -- I'm
5 just not going to get into that.

6 But I'm frustrated because of the fact that,
7 you know, I keep getting calls about it. And, you
8 know, they call the maintenance department, they
9 ask for people to clean out alleys, they ask for
10 people to look at the landscaping. It doesn't get
11 done. So I don't -- you know, I'm just trying to
12 figure out what to do at this point in terms of
13 talking to constituents.

14 And the reason why I brought this up was
15 because if a resident who has this issue is looking
16 at this tonight, they're saying well they're taking
17 away four positions and, as you said, not knowing
18 that it's not the positions, it's the people that
19 you already have. So I just wanted to be clear to
20 the audience of what the issues is.

21 And you can, Mr. Bailey, speak to the
22 audience and let them know how this is going to be
23 rectified.

24 CHAIR BOTEL: All right. Can we just ask --
25 and Mayor Felder has a comment first, and then

1 we'll move on.

2 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Okay.

3 CHAIR BOTEL: Mayor Felder.

4 MAYOR FELDER: Yes, I agree with everybody.

5 Just to get some intake on it. I did have a

6 conversation with Mr. Evans and Mr. Bailey today,

7 and Mr. Evans assured me that we're coming up with

8 a comprehensive plan to roll out to make sure that

9 we are covering the city and making sure that we

10 are beautifying our city. So that is a

11 conversation we had today, that we are working on.

12 And hopefully sooner than later we can get that

13 plan rolled out, so we can make sure that every

14 part of the city has been beautified. So it has

15 been an issue, but we've been -- they assured me

16 today that that plan would be rolled out and we

17 would start the process for making sure that the

18 lots, the alleyways, and every other aspect of the

19 city will be beautified, so...

20 CITY MANAGER EVANS: Madam Chair, if I may,

21 before Mr. Bailey provides some insight. We did

22 have a conversation with the mayor today and,

23 obviously, it is our commitment to make sure that

24 we beautify our community. We're looking at more

25 drought tolerant vegetation. We're looking at more

1 Florida friendly landscaping. We're looking at
2 ways to be more proactive in the picking up of
3 trash and debris in our community.

4 You know, when you have a situation when you
5 plant St. Augustine grass in medians in South
6 Florida, you're going to have to cut that almost
7 every week because it grows so quickly. And so one
8 of the things we want to look at is comprehensively
9 ensuring that the landscaping from the mainland all
10 the way to the island is consistent and uniform.

11 We have developed a schedule that the
12 employees have been following here since the onset
13 of the pandemic. And we are doing it based on, you
14 know, three different crews. We don't have all our
15 staffing complement out there. And we haven't had
16 them out there since the onset of the pandemic. So
17 hopefully we can move to some form of normality
18 where we could be more proactive in addressing some
19 of those concerns when we're up to our full
20 staffing complement.

21 There's also been some personnel decisions
22 that have happened in Mr. Bailey's operation that
23 have allowed for some of the individuals that are
24 well seasoned in addressing the needs of the
25 community, taking on those true leader jobs and

1 helping to take care of situations that are
2 problematic.

3 We're also looking at ways -- those alleyways
4 behind some of the households. Do we pave those
5 alleyways in their entirety? Do we look at a
6 situation whereby we talk to the residential
7 property owners and say, are you interested in
8 expanding your backyard and collapsing some of
9 those alleyways?

10 Because we have a lot a lot of alleyways
11 throughout our community that is a challenge for us
12 to continue to maintain. And, obviously, when
13 people park vehicles back there and all the -- it's
14 hard for our crews to get in there.

15 So we're looking at it wholistically, what
16 can we do to beautify our community.

17 In the community value survey, as you all
18 recall, community esthetics was ranked in the top
19 three. And so we heard it loud and clear from the
20 residents. We want to make sure that our community
21 reflects the community that we want it to be.

22 And being more matter of fact about littering
23 in our community. I've already communicated to law
24 enforcement that if we see folks that are
25 discharging waste, that we write a citation, zero

1 tolerance, because that's the only way we're going
2 to change some of the behaviors.

3 And to some of the comments that were made by
4 Councilperson Miller-Anderson about our nuisance
5 abatement program and how do we address some of
6 those nuisance properties in our community to
7 spruce up their investment, to make sure that it
8 doesn't become a problematic property.

9 And the other side, the more we transition
10 folks into home ownership and taking pride and
11 sweat equity in our community, invariably we're
12 going to change our neighborhood. And remember,
13 there's only 15 percent of the residential parcels
14 in Riviera Beach that are homesteaded property.
15 The other properties are owned by individuals, 85
16 percent, that do not reside in our community. So
17 it's a wholistic approach that we're looking at
18 trying to address this situation.

19 So we're not just looking at mowing and --
20 mow, glow and go on the medians. We're looking at
21 how we can do some enhancements to make it easier
22 for us to spruce it up, to let folks know when
23 you're in Riviera Beach you can be -- you can feel
24 that you've arrived, and the community and the
25 esthetics matches the desires of the community as

1 well as the elected body.

2 So we're going to be looking to bring
3 something more specific back to you all for further
4 discussions, but it is something that is a priority
5 of administration.

6 Mr. Bailey, is there anything else that you
7 wanted to add to those comments?

8 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Mr. -- Madam Chair,
9 before he closes, I just wanted to ask you,
10 Mr. Evans, I thought about this and talked to some
11 residents about the possibility of the City, you
12 know, deeding that land in the alley to them to put
13 them to -- that that's theirs to take care of. How
14 likely is that to happen?

15 CITY MANAGER EVANS: That is one of the
16 options that we would like to bring to the Board,
17 because that is a simple solution. I've done that
18 before in other organizations that I've worked for,
19 and it was a success. And any time individuals
20 have an opportunity to expand their backyard -- and
21 invariably, in most cases some of them are taking
22 care of it already. So it wouldn't be outside of
23 the realm of possibility. And it would be an
24 option that we would present to the Council for
25 consideration.

1 COUNCILPERSON LANIER: Okay.

2 CHAIR BOTEL: Before Mr. Bailey responds, I
3 just want to add my two cents. You know,
4 Mr. Evans, the number of calls I get from people on
5 the island who are upset about the landscaping over
6 here. So it clearly is an issue for the whole
7 city, and I look forward to seeing your plan come
8 to fruition.

9 Thank you.

10 Mr. Bailey.

11 MR. BAILEY: Mr. Evans articulated the
12 staff's position incredibly, and so I really have
13 nothing further to add.

14 CHAIR BOTEL: Thank you.

15 Anything else on Public Works then? Any
16 other questions?

17 Okay. Thank you.

18 Mr. Evans, Development Services.

19 CITY MANAGER EVANS: All right. Director
20 Sirmons, you should be able to be in the driver's
21 seat here. So when you're ready to begin.

22 MR. SIRMONS: All right. I don't think I'm
23 able to change that.

24 CITY MANAGER EVANS: Let me get you queued up
25 here, and then make sure that you have the access.

1 All right, sir. You should have it now.

2 MR. SIRMONS: All right. Good evening, Madam
3 Chair, Mr. Mayor, Members of the Council. I am
4 excited to be before you to present the FY '21
5 budget for the Development Services Department.

6 Starting here first with our organizational
7 chart. Again, having been here a little over two
8 months now, we've begun to make some changes that I
9 think will be very impactful in the organization.
10 I'm one of the persons creating a fourth division
11 called operations. What this division has done is
12 kind of been a spin-off from our buildings
13 division. Whereas we have a focus on the
14 process -- or our permit techs and our operations
15 manager, Ms. Grace Joyce, they focus on the
16 nonregulatory aspects of the permit process; so the
17 intake, the circulation and the issuance of those
18 permits. Not any of the codes that are
19 administered during that process. And with having
20 the eye and focus on just those activities, we
21 are -- we expect to see some great gains in the
22 permit process. And so that's one of the changes
23 that we have made already.

24 And getting into our budget, overall we have
25 reduced our budget by six and a half percent from

1 last year's adopted budget. For personnel, we have
2 gone up a little bit. But the majority of those
3 savings have been in the operating expenses
4 category, as well as capital.

5 So to talk about some of those modifications.
6 The first one is our permit tech, Frank Calner
7 (phonetic) -- and I'll start by saying that our
8 permit techs are easily some of the hardest working
9 staff members in the City. Each day they field two
10 to three hundred phone calls off just incoming
11 sometimes 50 to 60 inspections that they plan. And
12 in any given month they process over 600 permits.
13 And that's multiple touches per permit in terms of
14 intake, circulation, as well as issuance of those.

15 And because of the huge volume of work, we
16 don't have the efficiencies and sometimes the
17 quality suffers just because of the massive volume
18 of work that they're doing, and it's only three
19 people, which is why one of my first asks with my
20 first budget is to add an additional permit tech to
21 that front counter. And we have been able to make
22 that happen, so that's one staff addition that
23 we'll have and that I am confident will result in
24 some great gains in our processing times and
25 efficiencies for the department.