City of Monrovia

Strategic Planning Program

Community Outreach Results

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The HSM Team

City of Monrovia
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Community Outreach Results

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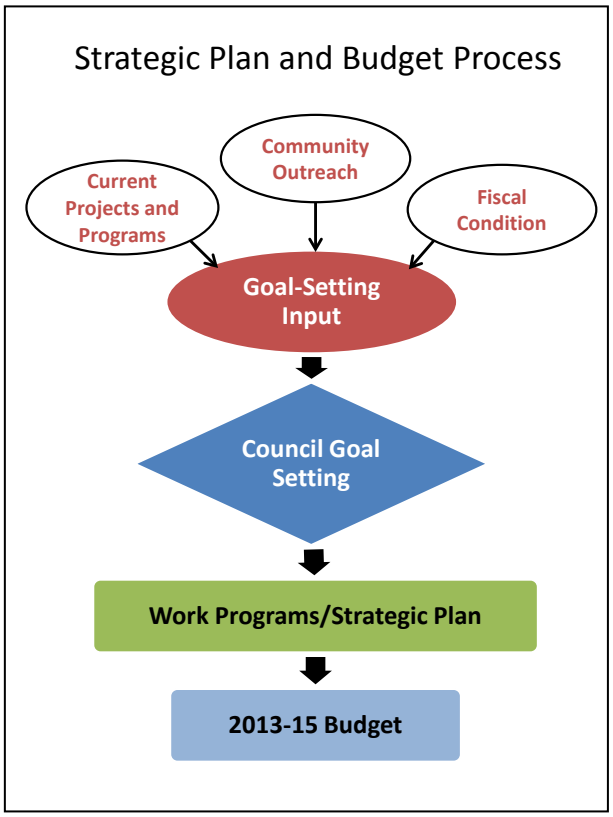
❶ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

REPORT PURPOSE

This report presents the results of the City of Monrovia's extensive community outreach and engagement efforts as part of its strategic planning program.

On one hand, the responsibility for setting goals and strategic plan priorities for the next five years – and allocating the resources needed to accomplish them – rests with the Council. However, meaningfully engaging the community in determining the "most important things for the City to focus on" is an essential component of this process.

Stated simply, along with knowing "what's already on the City's plate" and its fiscal outlook, being informed about what the community believes are the City's top priorities is a critical input for the Council in setting the City's course – and resulting budget decisions –over the next five years.



Report Organization. This report is organized into four main sections:

1. ***Executive Summary.*** Summary of findings, highlights and description of the outreach process.

2. ***Outreach Results.*** Overview of the outcomes from each of the key outreach effort: Community Workshops, Commission Workshop, survey results, social media, workshop participant evaluations and listing of community group presentations.

3. ***Highlights from 2009 Community Survey***. Key findings from the community survey prepared by the Rose Institute in 2009.

4. ***Appendix: Detailed Responses.*** Detailed survey responses from the utility billing mailer, emails, social media and other sources.

RESULTS SUMMARY

As described in more detail below, the City has provided a wide variety of outreach opportunities in meaningfully engaging the community in answering the central question of the strategic planning program:

What are the most important things for the City to focus on over the next five years?

The responses to this question were as diverse as the many community members who participated in this process. That said, the following themes emerged as the top seven community priorities, considering all of the input sources:

Top Seven Priorities

- Public Safety (especially police protection)
- Economic Development
- Gold Line Development and Connectivity
- Youth Services
- Infrastructure Maintenance (especially street paving)
- Environmental Protection/Open Space
- Parks & Recreation

Other areas of significant community interest included:

- Balanced Budget/Fiscal Responsibility
- Increased Use of Citizens/Volunteerism
- Old Town Vitality
- Code Enforcement/Community Appearance
- Traffic Safety/Congestion
- Historic Preservation
- Foothill Boulevard Upgrades
- Friday Night Family Festival

Education a High-Priority, But Not a Primary City Function

It should be noted that education was rated as a high community priority in virtually all areas of community engagement. Given the importance of education, this is understandable. However, while there are opportunities for the City to be supportive of this service, it does not have responsibility for public education at the elementary and high school level: this is the responsibility of the Monrovia Unified School District. Accordingly, we recommend that the Council consider this as it sets priorities in the context of allocating limited City resources.

Results Highlights

As noted above, seven themes garnered strong support that recurred across multiple sources of input: public safety, economic development, the Gold Line, youth services, infrastructure maintenance, environmental protection/open space and parks & recreation.

- *Public safety* encompassed a wide range of concerns but focused most frequently on maintaining a high level of police protection. Addressing gang activities and maintaining and expanding Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) and neighborhood watch programs were frequently cited. Maintenance of fire services were also listed although less often than police protection.

- *Economic development* encompassed attracting/retaining businesses through a variety of techniques. Some specific areas were mentioned, most frequently Old Town.

- Concerns about the *Gold Line* revolved around three main issues: completing the project; developing the surrounding area; and connecting the new station to the rest of the City, especially Old Town.

- *Youth services* incorporated a wide variety of ideas, including after school programs; youth sports; stay-in-school programs; internships and job training for teens; and the YES and Friday Night Live programs.

- *Infrastructure maintenance* concerns, which surfaced as a priority more often in the surveys than in the community and commission workshops, focused primary on the pavement condition of City streets, although sidewalks and street trees were also mentioned frequently.

- Under *environmental protection/open space,* opening up greater public access to wilderness areas was encouraged as well as a number of "green" practices.

- The most frequently noted *parks and recreation* concern was maintaining existing parks, although increasing park and recreation facilities was also a recurring suggestion.

Other themes that recurred frequently in the survey responses and/or the workshops included:

- Balancing the Budget/Fiscal Responsibility: this concern surfaced as a key issue in two of the workshops and was also one of the top fifteen themes in the surveys.

- Increased Use of Citizens/Volunteerism: there was a recurring sentiment that citizens are resources for achieving a wide variety of community purposes and that there is a role for the city in encouraging and providing a framework for increased volunteerism.

- Old Town: keeping the Old Town vibrant and family-friendly; parking and traffic congestion were sometimes cited as needing specific attention.

- Code Enforcement/Community Appearance: in addition to the general appearance of the City, recreational vehicle parking and trash were specifically noted by some respondents.

- Traffic Safety/Congestion: various locations/conditions were cited.

- Historic Preservation: this concern was strongest among workshop participants; ideas included completing the historic resources survey and assessing current preservation ordinances and programs.

- Foothill Boulevard Upgrades: among the workshop participants especially, the Foothill Boulevard corridor was cited as needing improvements to its appearance, business vitality and circulation.

- Friday Night Family Festival: this is clearly a much beloved element of Monrovia and many people want to see it continued and nurtured.

OUTREACH PROGRAM SUMMARY

Key community outreach efforts included:

- **General Publicity.** This included distribution of posters and hand-outs around town (such as City offices, stores and other public places); news releases and other materials to conventional media outlets; and other general outreach opportunities such as the City Manager's weekly report and "Monrovia Today Newsletter."

- **Community Group Outreach.** Monrovia Idea Team 9 (MIT-9) staff made presentations to numerous community organizations in order to present the strategic plan process, the reasons behind it and encourage participation in the surveys and workshops. Over 6,100 community members were directly reached through this process: Boards, Commissions and volunteer groups: 352; service groups: 2,756; resident door-to-door distribution: 250; and public service patrons: 2,760. More detail about the groups reached through this process is provided in Section 2.

- **Utility Billing Insert.** This mailer explained the process, advertised the community workshops and directly asked for ideas about priorities, with prepaid postage business-reply for mailing along with a description of other ways of providing priorities to the City. Over 180 responses were received from this effort.

- **Social Media Outreach and Engagement.** The City provided a wide range of opportunities to provide ideas about priorities through all of its usual social media methods, including a link on its website. Special social media tools (Mind-Mixer and Textizen) were also used to solicit community priorities.

- **Community Services Commission (CSC) Input.** The CSC assisted staff in developing the final general publicity, community group outreach, hand-outs and social media strategies.

- **Commission/Board Workshop: November 28, 2012.** All members from the City's six commissions and boards were invited to a facilitated workshop on November 28, 2012 to solicit their ideas about community priorities: Planning Commission, Community Services Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, Library Board, Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board and Youth Commission. Twenty commission/board members attended this workshop.

- **Community Workshops: December 11, 2012 and January 12, 2013.** Two opportunities were provided for community members to participate in workshops to solicit a range of ideas for the City's future and then set priorities among those ideas. As described in more detail below, the community workshops were well-attended, with 140 participants. Based on the overwhelmingly positive evaluations received after each workshop, they were well-received (participant evaluations are provided in Section 2 of this report).

The following provides additional information about the results from the workshops, surveys and Mind-Mixer.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

As noted above, a series of workshops soliciting input on municipal priorities was a key part of the strategic plan community outreach efforts. The first was held on November 28, 2012 for members of City commissions and boards; and workshops for the general public were held on December 11, 2012 and January 12, 2013.

Two different venues, days and times were planned for the community workshops to encourage participation by citizens from throughout the community. The first was held on a weekday evening at the Community Center, attended by 50 participants; and the second on a Saturday morning at Calvary Chapel south of the 210 freeway, attended by 90 participants.

While Council members attended the workshops, their role was to actively listen and process the input in preparation for their "goal-setting workshop" to follow on February 9, 2013. No Council discussion or action was taken at the workshops.

Process

The general format for all workshops included opening remarks by the Mayor and City Manager, followed by a brief presentation by staff on the purpose and process of the strategic planning process and the workshops. It was stressed that goal-setting and the strategic planning process are the start of the City's budget process, not the end; and that the workshops, while an important part of the process, are one of many inputs that the Council will consider in setting goals for the next five years – and ultimately in adopting the two-year budget for 2013-15.

Participants were then randomly assigned to small groups to encourage diversity of interests and were asked to list priorities for the City to focus over the next five years. After each group developed its list of potential priorities, participants were asked to vote for up to five items on the list that would be their highest priority. Each small group then

reported its priority items to the larger group. All of the small groups were facilitated by City staff, including members of the MIT 9, who were deeply involved in the workshop process.

Staff and consultants then consolidated the lists of highest priority items from the various groups into a "master" list of candidate items. All workshop participants were then asked to "vote" for the five items they thought were highest priority by affixing adhesive "dots" to the items on the master list.

Results

The results from each of the workshops are presented in Section 2. For each workshop, the items that were voted on are listed under general "themes." It should be noted that in many cases, the small groups came up with several items that could be classified into a single "theme" (for example, a group might have wanted increased police patrols and another group gang prevention programs – both of which could be considered part of a "public safety" theme). The descriptions of each theme include specific items that were generated from the small groups that were included in the more general "theme."

Many more suggestions were generated by the small groups that were not ultimately voted on. The lists of candidate priorities are quite extensive, and in the process of prioritizing at each table, most did not make it to the "master list" that participants voted on with dots. This shows that real – and difficult – work was completed around the tables to identify collective priorities. However, *all* suggestions have been summarized and listed in the results presented in Section 2.

The results in Section 2 show the top "themes" and the number of votes each received. We have also indicated in how many of the tables (small groups) a particular item was listed. So, for example, at the December 11 workshop, economic development issues were included on the lists from six out of six "tables" (small groups), while historic preservation was listed by two of the six tables.

Similarities Among Workshop Results

Certain items were among the highest vote getters at all three workshops. They include youth services; economic development; the Gold Line and connections to the rest of the City; public safety; traffic and parking; and improved communications and "customer relations" between the City and community. Another more complex item was a call for tapping the expertise and experience of the citizenry through increased volunteerism that could be utilized for a number of community purposes. Support for the schools and the school district was also strong and recurring, although, of course, this is not a primary responsibility of the City.

Differences Among the Three Workshops

Although there is significant overlap among several key priorities identified through the three workshops, some differences also emerged, as outlined below.

- ***Workshop 1: Boards and Commissions.*** The results tend to reflect some of the primary concerns of the appointed bodies represented at the workshop. For example, historic preservation was most strongly supported at this workshop and suggestions on this topic were the most detailed. That said, many of the priorities of the commission and board members were also considered important at the workshops for the general public.

- ***Workshops 2 and 3: General Public.*** There are also differences worth noting between the two public workshops. Among the priorities identified in the first workshop were public access to wilderness areas, concerns about the Foothill corridor and the preservation of historic homes. These were not among the highest priorities listed in the second workshop. On the other hand, the second workshop included certain suggested priorities that did not surface at the first public workshop including homeless and social services; outreach to non-English speaking residents; and job training and development.

  One specific issue that arose during the second workshop warrants a special note: the future location of the Calvary Chapel of Monrovia. Currently, the church leases space in a building acquired by the (now gone) City redevelopment agency. Many members of the church attended this workshop and their interest in acquiring the property was among the highest vote-getters.

Limitations

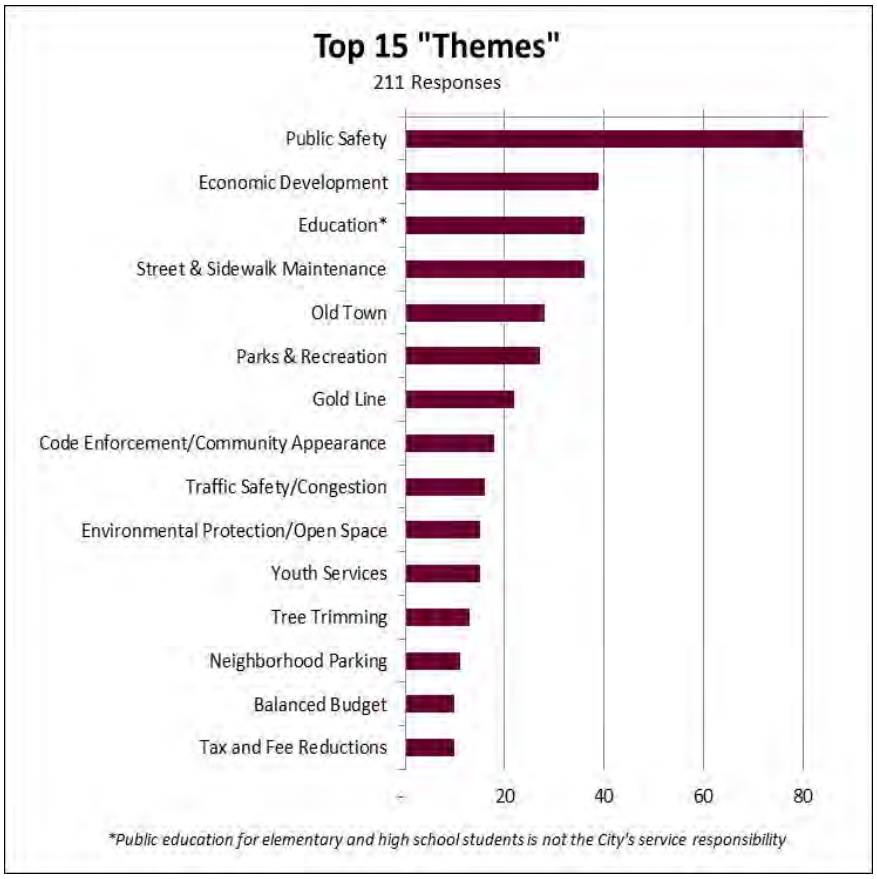
Public input from workshops is not "scientific" in the sense of a statistically significant assessment of the entire population, but instead the interests, concerns and motivations of those who attended and participated. Accordingly, these results should be considered as one source of input among the others used during the public outreach phase of the strategic plan process.

Another consideration when viewing the workshop results is that by necessity, some suggestions become generalized in the prioritization and voting process. Some of the nuances of specific recommendations may be blurred. These details will likely be recaptured, however, during later phases of the strategic plan process, especially when the general priorities are translated into specific "work programs" that will guide actual implementation efforts.

Workshop participants were also given the opportunity to submit their comments in writing if they felt that their ideas needed further elaboration than that afforded by the prioritization and voting process. Those written comments are included in Section 4 (Appendix) of this report.

SURVEY RESULTS

As noted above, priorities were solicited through a variety of survey tools, including utility bills, web site and social media. The results from these outreach efforts are presented in Section 2, with the detailed comments received provided in the Appendix. Excluding Mind-Mixer (which is discussed in greater detail below), 211 responses from these sources were received.



The top fifteen "themes" are summarized in the sidebar chart. Like the community workshops, these are not "scientific surveys," and as such, caution should be used in interpreting the results.

Nonetheless, the results are useful—especially when viewed in conjunction with the other forms of community feedback that the Council has received as part of this process—in gaining additional insight into the concerns of the Monrovia community.

MIND-MIXER

In addition to the more traditional methods of soliciting public input (workshops, surveys and correspondences), the staff used an on-line tool called "Mind-Mixer." Participants were given the topic: "Envisioning Monrovia's Future" (other topics not directly related to the strategic plan effort were also explored through Mind-Mixer). People then posted ideas and others could comment on those ideas as well as indicate whether they agreed with an idea by a "second" (ie, "I second this idea"). As of January 11, 2013, fifty ideas were posted that were related to the strategic planning process, which garnered almost 200 comments in total.

One way to think about this tool is as an on-line workshop, where people can express ideas and then vote on them. However, in the in-person workshops, ideas were first vetted in smaller groups and only those garnering some significant support at that level were posted for the "voting" by the entire audience. This medium allowed people to describe their ideas in detail and for others to engage in a dialogue through their comments.

Perhaps the most significant difference between Mind-Mixer and the workshops/surveys is in the prioritization. People filling out the surveys were asked to give their 5 highest priorities for the City to focus on. Likewise, at the workshops, participants were limited to 5 votes ("dots") that they could affix to ideas.

On Mind-Mixer, however, there were no limitations on providing "seconds:" people could express their support for as many good ideas as they wanted, without limit. Thus, the Mind-Mixer tool did not explicitly force people to articulate their priorities among good ideas – ideas that could potentially compete with one another for limited City resources.

Mind-Mixer Ideas with Most "Seconds"
(and other ideas related to them that were submitted)

Theme	Ideas	Seconds
Access to Open Space Areas	Create access to the hillside areas.	14
	Charge an entry fee at Canyon Park.	9
Volunteerism	Create a directory of volunteer talent.	13
	Create a program for volunteer grant writers.	7
Animal Control	Develop a new contract for animal control services nearer Monrovia.	13
Community Gardens	Create community gardens in open space areas.	12
Gold Line	Encourage dining opportunities at the station.	12
Parks/ Recreation	New public park south of Huntington.	10
	Build state-of-the-art recreation facilities.	6
	Master plans for all parks.	5
Schools and School Facilities	Re-design the use of open space at Clifton Middle School.	9
	Create a volunteer position to act as liaison between the schools and businesses.	6
	Support the adult school.	3
Night Life	Create a more vibrant night life.	7
Public Safety	Continue MAP.	6
	Safer city: greater presence around schools; continue MAP (posted twice).	5
	Public safety: schools, gang prevention, streets.	5
Capture Rain Water	Capture rain water in swales.	6
Food for Bears	Place feeding and watering stations in open space areas to discourage bears from entering residential areas.	6
More Street Trees	Increase street trees (note: other ideas included reducing troublesome trees).	6

Results

The ideas that received the highest number of "seconds" are listed in the sidebar table. Where there were similar or related postings, we have included them with the most popular ones.

A few of the top ideas are similar to themes that were expressed in the workshops and surveys:

- Access to hillside open spaces
- More volunteerism to take advantage of talents among community members
- Desired land uses at the Gold Line station (in this case, dining opportunities, specifically)
- Parks and recreation improvements
- Support for the schools and school facilities
- Public safety

Another Mind-Mixer idea that recurred in the other methodologies was street trees. In Mind-Mixer, however, the ideas were indeed mixed: some people called for more trees, while others thought some trees were a nuisance; and others thought that a street tree plan and proper species selection would alleviate those concerns.

Other ideas that garnered support on Mind-Mixer but did not register strongly with the surveys or workshops include: developing a new contract for animal services nearer to Monrovia and with better services and a lower kill-rate; developing community gardens in the hillside open space areas; capturing rain water (run-off) through swales rather than hard-surface gutters and storm drains; encouraging more night life; and providing feeding stations in the wilderness areas for bears to discourage them from coming into residential areas.

A listing of all the ideas received is provided in Section 2; and the detail for all of the ideas, comments and "seconds" on the Mind-Mixer "thread" is included in Section 4 (Appendix).

CONSISTENT WITH 2009 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The results from the strategic planning outreach are consistent with the "Quality of Life" survey conducted in 2009 by the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College. This scientific survey found that fiscal responsibility, public safety and economic development were the top three community concerns for the City.

Moreover, survey respondents generally rated the Monrovia community and City services very highly. Highlights from key survey results that can help guide the strategic planning process are provided in Section 3 of this report; and the complete report is available on the City's web site at: http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/about-monrovia/news-a-information/2009-satisfaction-survey.

CONCLUSION

With the receipt of this report (along with companion reports from City staff), we transition from the first major phase of Monrovia's strategic planning process – community outreach – to the second major phase: goal setting. Hundreds of people participated during the outreach phase, either in person or through other forms of input, offering many and wide-ranging ideas. This level of input is, of course, the desired outcome. But it also means that the Council now has many competing ideas to consider – and a challenging task ahead in setting priorities for the next five years (and in turn allocating the resources need to achieve them in the upcoming 2013-15 Budget).

There is no statistical formula or exact recipe for determining what is in the best long-term interest of the community. Council members must process the hundreds of community suggestions through their own individual experiences, knowledge and judgment, within the context of the City's financial situation and considering the perspectives provided by your professional staff. This is not only appropriate, but necessary, in our representative form of government.

Using the approach presented to and approved by the Council last fall, the next step towards goal-setting will be for individual Council members to propose, in writing, their highest priorities for the next five years. Then, on February 9, 2013, a special Council

meeting is scheduled for working through these proposals and for reaching consensus using a method successfully employed in other communities. Consultants and staff will review that process, and distribute the materials needed for going through it, at the January 29, 2013 meeting.

❷ OUTREACH RESULTS

The following presents the outreach results from the:

- Community Workshops
  January 12, 2013
  December 11, 2013
- Commission Workshop
- Surveys
- Mind-Mixer
- Workshop Participant Evaluations
- Community Group Outreach: MIT-9/City Staff Presentations

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

January 12, 2013

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: January 12, 2013			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 9)**
Youth Services	After school activities; programs for at-risk youth; after school/youth center (including sites south of Huntington); continue Friday Night Life; (summer jobs; sports facilities; support YES program; organized youth sports; internships at city hall and at businesses; mentorship programs like Big Brother/Sister; places for teens on Friday; stay in school programs).	55	9
Economic Development	Be "business-friendly"; support small businesses; streamline city processes; provide business incentives; encourage family-friendly businesses;(address business vacancies; encourage businesses with later hours; attract more popular restaurants; "shop Monrovia"; coop's and sharing spaces; affordable rents).	48	8
Calvary Chapel	Retain Calvary Chapel of Monrovia at present location.	48	5
Homeless Services	Support multi-faceted affordable housing; support homeless and social services; (provide more programs and center on the southside).	35	5
Gold Line: Connectivity	Gold Line: Improve transportation connections to rest of town (especially Old Town) and plan for resultant traffic; (shuttle service from station to other parts of town; tram/trolley from Gold Line to Old Town).	33	4
Citizen Resources and Volunteerism	Use citizens' expertise and experience for life skills training and other purposes; encourage/support community volunteerism; (use volunteers with police and fire; more community involvement; increased engagement to create city security/accountability).	26	5

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: January 12, 2013			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 9)**
Public Safety	Maintain public safety (including support of Neighborhood Watch programs); (continue and expand MAP; police patrols; maintain safe neighborhoods including those south of Huntington; more police/community interaction to build relations; more police presence before and after school; maintain police and fire; increased police presence and personnel; gang prevention).	23	8
Sale of City Property	Sell city property to raise revenues.	18	3
Job Development and Training	Support job development and training; (provide a career center for people that have been laid off).	17	3
Schools	Support schools and the school district (highest quality resources and teachers; life skills and work force preparation; increased security at schools).	15	5
Maintain City Services	Maintain existing level of city services.	15	1
Community Organizations	Recognize and support community organizations like churches.	12	1
Outreach to Non-English Speakers	Provide outreach to non-English speaking members of the community; (encourage diversity and participation in the decision making processes).	12	1
Friday Night Festival	Support the Friday Night Family Festival.	11	2
Customer Relations	Improve city customer relations and communications with the community; (focus on customer satisfaction; customer service).	8	1
Traffic and Parking	Improve traffic controls and parking (build more parking structures; more parking in Old Town; improve traffic flow and controls; traffic flow mitigation off Myrtle/210).	6	2

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: January 12, 2013			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 9)**
Family Festival	Support the Friday Night Family Festival.	4	1
Street Lighting	Additional street lighting.	3	2
Gold Line Station Off Hours	Encourage "off hours" uses at the Gold Line Station/Station Square.	0	1
Other issues listed by participants			
Senior Services	Provide/increase senior services; more activities focused on men; computer training; senior center for programming.		5
Streets	Maintain streets; (repair streets).		4
City-Community Communications	Improve communications between city and residents (signs; banners; working with businesses and churches; etc.); increase awareness through public access TV; more readily available information (e.g. improve agenda info/public comment).		3
Community Gatherings	More community gatherings like movies in the park; community celebrations; community building through block parties, places to gather.		3
Old Town	Enhance Old Town as a destination spot; extend hours of businesses on Sundays; upgrade the Krikorian Theater.		3
Parks	Increase parks and recreation space especially south of the freeway; improve park maintenance and cleanliness.		3
Shuttle Service and Transit	More local shuttle services including dial-a-ride; expand Monrovia transit (perhaps charge more).		3
Dog Park	Provide a dog park.		2
Gold Line: Development	Develop the Gold Line station and the area around the station.		2
Historic Preservation	Complete historic resources survey; support home preservation.		2

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: January 12, 2013			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 9)**
Infrastructure	Focus on updating city infrastructure (including internal infrastructure -- customer service; note: see above); improved maintenance of trees, signs (upgrade south of Huntington).		2
Utilities	Maintain/improve public utilities; work with SCE for fewer power outages.		2
Wellness	Wellness programs; health fair for seniors (see senior services above).		2
Adult Activities	Promote activities (such as night life) for adults.		1
Aqueduct Protection	Support a strategic fund to protect the California aqueduct system.		1
Art/Music Institute	Support an art and music institute.		1
Attract Drivers to Stop	Find ways to attract drivers to stop and enjoy Monrovia.		1
Bear Barrels	Provide free bear barrels.		1
Bowling	Support family bowling in Monrovia.		1
Casino	Bring in casinos to increase city budget.		1
City Hall Hours	Shorter city hall hours of operation.		1
Code Enforcement	Focus on code enforcement to maintain high standards.		1
Emergency Center	Provide an emergency center during power outages.		1
Family Activities	Promote family activities.		1
Family Support Center	Create a family support center for mothers and children.		1
First Time Home Buyers	Develop a first-time homebuyers program.		1

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: January 12, 2013			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 9)**
Foothill	Revitalize Foothill west of Myrtle.		1
Garden-on-wheels	Develop a pallet garden on wheels.		1
Ice Skating Rink	Support an ice skating rink in Monrovia.		1
Library Services	Maintain/improve library services.		1
Low Income Housing and Services	Increase financial and housing assistance to lower income residents.		1
Marketing Community Events	Better marketing of community events.		1
Multi-family Recycling	Provide/encourage multi-family recycling program.		1
New Residents	New resident informational outreach and communications.		1
Noise Pollution	Noise wall on freeway.		1
Off-site College Campuses	Bring in off-site college campuses.		1
Olive Avenue Park	Re-create Olive Avenue Park.		1
Oppose 710 Expansion	City should take a stand against 710 Freeway expansion.		1
Parking Restrictions	Restrict parking of SUVs (RVs?) in residential areas.		1
Personnel Costs	Decrease city personnel costs.		1
Private Funding	Bring in private funds to build the city due to limited city budget.		1
Restrooms	More public restrooms.		1

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: January 12, 2013			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 9)**
Senior Housing	Encourage senior housing.		1
Senior/Youth Partnerships	Encourage/develop senior and youth partnership ideas/functions (see above re: senior services, youth services and volunteerism).		1
Single Parents	Increase services for under represented groups including seniors (see above), youth (see above) and single parents, etc.		1
Smoking Ban	No smoking public spaces, parks, etc.		1
Solar Panels	Use solar panels on city facilities.		1
Underground Utilities	Underground utilities.		1
Utility Costs	Partner with business to handle increased utility costs.		1
Veterans	Provide programs for veterans.		1
Wi-Fi	Provide city-wide Wi-Fi.		1

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

December 11, 2012

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: December 11, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 6)**
Economic Development	Retain and attract businesses; bring anchors into Old Town; identify growth businesses; recruit businesses to the Tech Corridor; improve shopping districts (bring in Steinmart store $; business incentives for residents that own businesses; attract visitors and filming; attract quality businesses with long term potential -- not "fads"; increase tax base; task force to attract appropriate businesses; support and promote small businesses; training for small business development; shop local programs).	31	6
Gold Line: Land Use and Development	Gold Line: Master Plan and revitalization in surrounding area; (develop the Station Square project; develop services and infrastructure south of the freeway).	26	4
Parks and Natural Areas	Improve parks and natural areas including greater public access to wilderness preserve areas; (increase the number of parks south of the freeway; maintain existing parks; green space).	25	4
Fiscal Responsibility	Balance city budget; take long term perspective on city solvency (public discussion of cost effective legal counsel/contract with LA County Fire; do 5-year fiscal planning that builds reserves; increase tax base; address redevelopment to augment city losses)	15	5
Public Safety	Improve safety in neighborhoods and throughout the community; no cuts to the police or fire departments; increase police force ("more than we need"; neighborhood watch programs; increase police reserves; gang prevention; enhance emergency services; more enforcement in fire zones in the foothills; expand MAP to rental areas).	15	5

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: December 11, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 6)**
Gold Line: Connectivity	Gold Line: Improve transportation connections from the station to other parts of the city, and to other cities.	13	2
Historic Preservation	Strengthen zoning and other ordinances (enforce safety requirements to protect historic homes e.g. gas valves; complete the historic homes survey).	12	2
Volunteer Programs	Improve outreach for volunteer programs (neighborhood organization; invite people to volunteer).	12	2
Animal Control	Eliminate existing contract and explore other local options.	9	1
Energy Conservation and Alternatives	Explore state and federal incentives for energy conservation (strengthen solar access zoning/codes; increase charging stations for vehicles and solar panel incentives).	7	2
Foothill Boulevard	Beautify Foothill Boulevard	7	1
Outreach Programs - Neighborhoods	Develop/strengthen community outreach programs such as MAP (neighborhood organization; neighborhood network; unite city-wide community; better communication between the city and the public;).	7	6
Youth Services	Increase programs for teens in collaboration with other agencies.	7	1
Family Festival	Encourage better quality products at the family festival (which would also increase sales tax).	4	1
Other issues listed by participants			
Infrastructure	Focus on maintaining public infrastructure city wide, including streets and sidewalks; tree trimming and sidewalk maintenance for safety.		5
Library	Educate public about library services; purpose of library needs to be reconsidered; continue funding library programs e.g. for youth; increase literacy services.		3

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: December 11, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 6)**
Schools	Support the school district and local schools; partner with MUSD (will have an effect on Monrovia's future including maintaining property values; better funding for schools).		3
Rentals	Focus on tracking renters; register boarding houses and room rentals.		2
Schools and Business	Build greater connections between schools and businesses, for example, by providing internships for students; partner with schools and businesses for job readiness.		2
Underground Utilities	Underground utilities for safety and aesthetics.		2
Affordable Housing	Encourage development of affordable housing.		1
After-school Programs	Offer affordable after-school care/programming for school age children.		1
Alternative Transportation	Rethink transportation infrastructure (e.g. more bike lanes)		1
Annexation	Annex the unincorporated areas of Monrovia.		1
Bike Lanes	Bike lanes in and around Myrtle.		1
Canyon Park vs. Hillside W.P.	Communicate the difference between Canyon Park and Hillside Wilderness Preserve.		1
Civil Defense Plan	Create a city-wide civil defense plan.		1
Code Enforcement	Increase code enforcement; more enforcement re: dog-owners and motor homes.		1
Customer Service	City needs "good" customer service; city "concierge" to cut through red tape; upgrade city website to provide "one-stop" information.		1
Disability Services	Enhance disability services		1
Electronic Billing	Allow for electronic billing/payment of city bills.		1

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: December 11, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 6)**
Food Infrastructure	Rethink the food infrastructure (e.g. encourage community gardens).		1
Freeway Frontage Clean-up	Focus on trash clean up on freeway frontage.		1
Freeway signage	Freeway signage for Old Town and Friday night family festival.		1
Grants	Generate income through grants.		1
Hire Monrovians	Employers should focus on hiring Monrovians first		1
Housing Density	Increase housing density in certain areas.		1
Housing Growth	Study (focus) on future housing growth.		1
KGEM	Broaden KGEM to all of Monrovia.		1
Landscaped Medians	Focus on landscaping on medians, emphasizing low-maintenance options.		1
Litter Education	Programs, including signage, to reduce litter.		1
Local Transportation	Use best management practices for local transportation		1
Maintenance of Public Spaces	Control trash and maintain landscaping of public spaces especially public parking and parks.		1
Myrtle/ Huntington	Develop the corner of Myrtle/Huntington.		1
N. Monrovia Sidewalks	Build sidewalks in northern Monrovia.		1
North/South Connections	Design elements to connect northern and southern neighborhoods.		1
Old Town	Viable tenants that retain Old Town charm		1

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: December 11, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 6)**
Old Town Parking	More parking in Old Town.		1
Old Town Side Streets	Improve signage and promotion of side streets in Old Town.		1
Primrose Traffic	Re-route noisy traffic from Primrose.		1
Property Values	Maintain property values.		1
Re-enfranchise Immigrants	Re-enfranchise immigrant population.		1
Residential Parking Permits	Develop a residential parking permit program to minimize cars.		1
SCE	Upgrade power system to reduce outages		1
Senior Programs	Provide programming for seniors (e.g. physical activities).		1
Sewer Connections	Connect all foothill homes to sewer.		1
Small Town Feeling	Maintain Monrovia's small town feeling.		1
Smoking	Become a smoke-free city to better air quality		1
Specialized Equipment Sharing	Consider agreements with other agencies to share specialized equipment.		1
State and Federal Mandates	Keep up with state/federal mandates.		1
Streamline Planning Process	Streamline the planning process (in house plan review).		1
Visible Street Addressing	Paint address numbers on curbs to improve visibility.		1

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Community Workshop: December 11, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 6)**
Water Conservation	More water conservation and enforcement against misuse		1

COMMISSIONERS' WORKSHOP

November 28, 2012

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Commissioners' Workshop: November 28, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 4)**
Youth Services	Youth services (expand, protect, strengthen) including more options for youth after school and involving high school students in city projects; more programs for teens like Y-life; jobs for teens and job readiness training.	11	3
Historic Preservation	Historic Preservation including strengthening the historic building code, survey historic homes and explore the creation of new historic districts; strengthen the historic preservation ordinance; restore historic buildings and make them more noticeable.	10	3
Gold Line: Connectivity	Gold Line: improve connectivity to Old Town and other parts of the city; include alternative ("green") options; consider bringing back trolley with new routes	8	3
Public Safety	Public Safety including specifically community policing and patrols, crime prevention and victim outreach; increasing staffing levels; maintain and expand MAP; keep fire services current especially regarding urban - wildland interface.	8	4
Economic Development	Economic Development including specifically job creation and business attraction; provide the proper level of staffing in Economic Development and Community Development	8	2
Gold Line: Land Use and Development	Gold Line: Master Plan and revitalization in surrounding area	5	2
Library Services	More library services	4	1
Old Town Parking	Increase parking in the Old Town	4	1

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Commissioners' Workshop: November 28, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 4)**
Old Town Vitality	Strong Old Town with viable and diverse businesses; businesses that are family-friendly and appropriate.	4	2
Street Lighting	More/increased street lighting	4	1
Fiscal Responsibility	Continued fiscal responsibility	3	1
Foothill Boulevard	Improve the streetscape and businesses on Foothill	3	2
Hillside Plan & Wild Area Mgmt	Complete the Hillside Plan; improve wild area management	3	2
Infrastructure	Maintain city infrastructure (including water, sewer and drainage); establish a fund to maintain city facilities	3	2
Neighborhood Networking	Better communications/networking across neighborhoods	3	2
School Facilities	Work with the school districts (regarding shared use facilities)	3	1
Citizen Resources and Volunteerism	Develop an inventory of skills among community members and strengthen networking to take advantage of them	3	1
Streets	Street maintenance and re-surfacing	3	2
Beautification and Code Enforcement	Neighborhood beautification and code enforcement	2	1
Public Participation	Increase and diversity community participation	2	1
Senior Services	Senior programs and services including better communications about senior programs	2	2

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Commissioners' Workshop: November 28, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 4)**
Natural Resources	Take advantage of natural resources (for example, storm water recharge and revenue generation through energy alternatives)	1	1
Wildlife Management	Better wildlife management in residential areas (bears, coyotes, deer); wildlife education	1	2
Other issues listed by participants			
Affordable Housing	More affordable housing		2
Alternative Transportation	City wide transportation: get cars off the streets		1
City Council	Cohesive City Council		1
City Hall Annex	Repaint the City Hall annex		1
Daycare	Encourage construction of daycare facilities		1
DMV Office	Local DMV office		2
Extend Street Fair	Extend Friday night street fair to side streets		1
Family Programs	Family-oriented programming		1
Grants	Encourage the pursuit of grant funding		1
Healthier Food Choices	Restaurants with healthier food options		1
Myrtle to Evergreen	Beautification of empty lots between Myrtle and Evergreen		1

RESULTS SUMMARY			
Commissioners' Workshop: November 28, 2012			
Theme	**Issues Suggested as Candidates for High Priority**	**Votes**	**Tables (out of 4)**
Parade	Bring back Old Monrovia Day Parade (with floats)		1
Pedestrian Safety	Crossing lights for school/pedestrian safety		1
Public Art	More art around town		1
Recreational Spaces	Maintain and increase recreational spaces		1
Schools	Work with schools to reduce class sizes and increase resources to students; focus on school quality		3
Sign Controls	Better sign controls		1
Street Trees	Establish a city street tree plan		1
Tree Removals	Limit public works projects, specifically tree removals		1
Underground Utilities	Underground utilities		1

SURVEY RESULTS

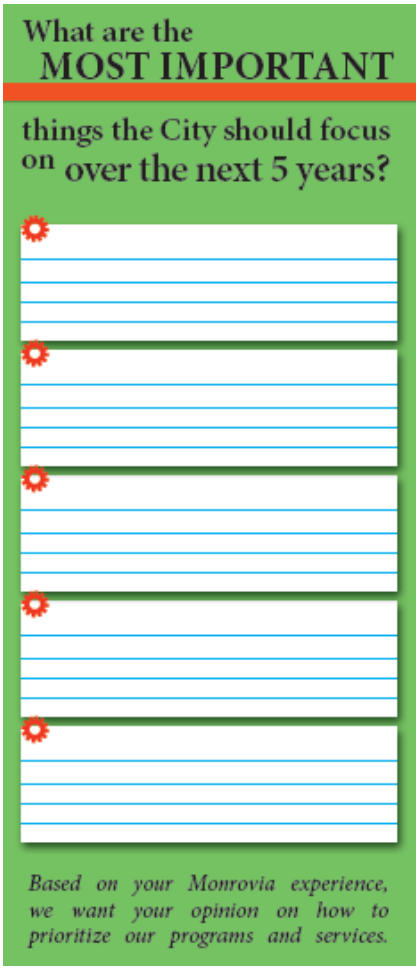
As of January 15, 2013

The following summarizes the results of four key outreach efforts as part of Monrovia's strategic planning process. All of them are based on responses to the question: *what are the most important things the City should focus on over the next five years?*

1. **Utility Bill Inserts.** During the month of November 2012, the City included "Plan Monrovia" information in all of its water bill mailings, which reached 10,000 customers. Along with providing information about the process, inviting participation in the upcoming community workshops and identifying other ways for community members to help the Council set top priorities for the next five years, the insert included a postage paid "tear-off" survey card asking: what are the most important things the City should focus on over the next five years?

   By January 15, 2013, the City received ***182*** replies. This was a strong response, given that:

   - This is the City's first attempt at this type of survey.
   - And it was an "open-ended" survey instrument (it did not provide pre-determined "check-off" answers), so it required extra thought and effort on the part of respondents to complete and return the survey.



2. **Email and Web Site Responses.** The City's web site provides comprehensive information about the strategic planning process and also invites community members to share their top priorities, similar to the utility billing insert. Additionally, all of the City's outreach materials provided an email address for the submittal of top priorities. To-date, the City has received ***ten*** email responses.

3. **Textizen.** This is a form of social media using text messages. To-date, ***seven*** community members have used this form of input.

4. **Other Responses.** ***Twelve*** responses came from other sources such as letters and added comments at the Community Workshops.

SURVEY RESULTS

Caveat: Not Scientific Surveys. None of these outreach efforts were conducted as "scientific surveys," and as such, caution should be used in interpreting the results. Nonetheless, the results are useful—especially when viewed in conjunction with the other forms of community feedback that the Council will receive as part of this process—in gaining additional insight into the concerns of the Monrovia community.

But There Are "Themes." Since these are "open-ended" responses, it is not possible to provide a simple, analytical summary of the results. Nonetheless, clear themes emerged. The following summarizes the "Top 15 Themes," presented in order of the most common responses.

TOP 15 THEMES

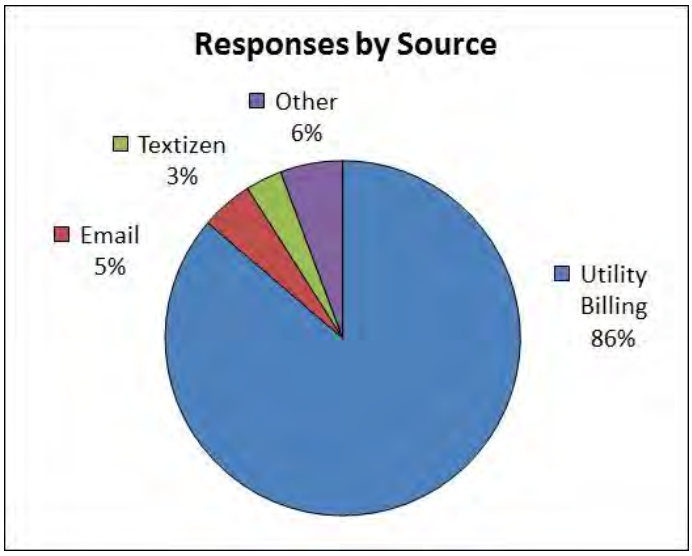
Based on 211 Responses

	Responses by Source				
Theme	Utility Billing	Email/ Web Site	Textizen	Other	Total
Public Safety	73	2	3	2	80
Economic Development	36		2	1	39
Education*	36				36
Street & Sidewalk Maintenance	35			1	36
Old Town	27	1			28
Parks & Recreation	26	1			27
Gold Line	22				22
Code Enforcement/Community Appearance	17	1			18
Traffic Safety/Congestion	13	1	1	1	16
Environmental Protection/Open Space	15				15
Youth Services	13			2	15
Tree Trimming	13				13
Neighborhood Parking	10		1		11
Balanced Budget	9	1			10
Tax and Fee Reductions	10				10

** Public education for elementary and high school students is not the City's service responsibility*

Responses by Source. As reflected in the side bar chart, the utility billing inserts provided the most responses, accounting for about three-quarters of survey responses:

- Utility Billing: 86%
- Email: 5%
- Textizen: 3%
- Other: 6%



However, the "top themes" are highly consistent, regardless of the source, with public safety, economic development, education, street & sidewalk maintenance, Old Town, parks & recreation and Gold Line among the top seven.

MIND-MIXER IDEAS

As of January 11, 2013

The following presents the 50 Mind-Mixer ideas received as of January 11, 2013 in response to the topic "Envisioning Monrovia's Future." A summary of the top ideas "seconded" (agreed with) is provided in the Executive Summary; and the detail of the ideas presented along with all of the comments generated by the idea is provided in the Appendix (Section 4).

Idea Title	Idea Summary
Open the Hillside Recreation Area	The Hillside Recreation area, that Monrovians have been taxed for, I believe, almost ten years, and which the City Council voted in June or July of this year to open, really needs to open. It is taking far too long.
Move Monrovia Animal Control's Contract Closer/Offer Spay Neuter	Our current contract is up in June. We need to move to a closer location that offers better service and a lower kill rate. We currently offer no low cost spay, neuter or vaccination programs. Our current contract is with Pomona which has one of the lowest adoption rates in CA. It is so far away that people will not even go and pick up their lost pets. It is time for a change in Monrovia on how we treat our animals. Please help inform Monrovians on this important matter. 4 million unwanted dogs and cats are killed every year in the USA. You can make a difference! Did you know that FixNation will spay or neuter cats for free and even furnish cages?
Monrovia Community Garden	The land WE Monrovians bought in the foothills still has not found consensus on its use. Part of that property was used as growing grounds by Rosedales years ago, so there is a botanical history there already. It has been suggested by future environmental thinkers that every city should have as one of its primary goals for development that communities try to become as independent in all areas as much as possible. Energy and water come to mind right away, but food should be a concern as well. We are fortunate that we have some of the world's leaders in agriculture and plant development close by. So the resources for such a project are not an issue. We have a Monrovia Garden Club, and lots of retired folks and others that have a passion for gardening. Gardening is great exercise which is a plus for volunteers as well. We have a local transit system that can help with transportation for seniors, etc. Our city has one of the best Street Fairs where some of the items could be sold to help supplement the garden

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	to make it self sufficient. However, the primary focus would be to provide food to those in our city that are less fortunate, and we already have a distribution organization for that as well. Further, as the project evolves I could also see that another function could be added so that volunteers could be called upon by our citizens to collect fruit from trees in our residential neighborhoods that would otherwise go to waste. There are plenty of other off shoots to help the environment as well as educational opportunities for our schools. I see it as a great win-win project that could serve as a model for all other cities to copy.
Dining Facilities at Monrovia Gold Line Metro Station	Maybe this is already part of the thought process, but in case not It would be nice to be able to have a good meal there; not to mention a great latte... and let's invite local businesses to be there - not the usual corporate faces. What do you think?
Public Park Below Huntington	I feel a park below Huntington is essential. Park/plaza space was a part of the Gold Line Station idea before redevelopment was altered. There are about 5,500 residents who live below Huntington with 0 acres of parks within that area (1/2 mile radius from the corner of California and Railroad Ave). It appears that every other 1/2 mile radius above Huntington has 5-20 acres of park space. The National minimal standard that was used for many years recommended .1-.3 acres per 1,000 people; a 2 acre park is warranted.
Use Land Wisely at Clifton Middle School	I walk down Palm St. almost every day. During the summer, I would often see the lawn in front of the school being watered. Especially since we live in a desert, that seemed to me like a colossal waste of resources. That lawn is not used for sports (or any other activities that I know of). It could be replaced by native, drought-resistant plants, or a meditation labyrinth, or a sculpture garden, etc. Additionally, I've been sad to see the school garden languish untended. I don't have any students at Clifton, so I don't know who started the garden or who's in charge of it, but surely there's someone in Monrovia who

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	could assist the students in learning to raise crops? (Not me. I have a black thumb!)
Time and Talent	Develop a directory of volunteer talents to help keep the city running and maintained. Develop volunteer projects to help clean up and repair.
Small Canyon Park Entrance Fee for Non-Resident Walk-In Visitors	Canyon Park is a wonderful and unique asset of the City. It has numerous visitors to the Nature Center, picnic areas and trails on weekdays, and a high number of "walk-in visitors" on weekends. A high percentage of the park visitors are not residents of Monrovia, but nevertheless are welcome visitors. Since the City, and its residents, support the Park financially, it seems that a small entrance fee (maybe $1) would be a fair way for non-resident walk-in visitors to assist in maintaining this enjoyable wilderness. Note: There is currently a parking fee for cars that enter the Park whether a Monrovia resident or not.
Increasing the Night Life on Weekends	The city needs more night life on weekends, especially on Saturdays, since so many of those small businesses depend on visitors coming to Old-town for their survival. The City should look into replicating the Farmers Market as a smaller event, maybe like a mini-concert or some type of special event. The City can even look into a sponsorship from one of the big business located in the City to avoid increase in cost.
Grant Writers	Enlist some volunteer grant writers to go after funding for programs
Volunteer Liaison between Schools and Businesses	Monrovia students need to feel part of this community! One way to help achieve this is by creating a volunteer position that will help connect our schools with Monrovia businesses. This volunteer position can be overseen by the Monrovia School Board as the school board members can best determine how to involve local business. Some ideas for business involvement are: * Team sponsorship * Theatre/arts/music sponsorship * A place where the residents can purchase tickets for school programs * Paid and/or Non-paid internships * Career presentations at the school * Student and school staff discounts so schools are

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	encouraged to shop locally The school board can also work at adding more local businesses to the "approved vendor list" to better position our school district to buy locally as much as possible. (I am unaware of how much our school district buys locally.)
Provide Food and Water for Bears	This year has seen a significant increase in the number of bears coming into the neighborhoods along the foothills. Many have ventured as far South as Foothill Blvd. There are several things that might help this situation and for the safety of Monrovia citizens, as well as the bears, I think something should be done. My idea is probably controversial, but I hope it, or a variation of it, will be considered. A location in the mountains, accessible using one of the fire roads, could be used to provide food and water for the bears. This should keep them in the mountains and out of the local neighborhoods. A cost/benefit study would have to be done (as with all proposals) but we shouldn't wait until a bear attacks a child or until someone kills a bear from fear of attack, before the study is done.
Build State-of-the-Art Recreation Facilities	Monrovia has a diverse demography but offers few resources to support a healthy lifestyle. Outdoor open space (i.e., parks) are minimal, and safety is often a concern. As a result, residents often have to find affordable opportunities to live healthy lifestyles outside the community. State-of-the-art recreational facilities that couple indoor activities, such as gymnastics, fitness, racquetball, and open recreational use (i.e., art classes, children's programs, etc.) should be developed alongside outdoor green space for picnics, aquatics, and tennis, among other activities. Discounts should be offered for residents, but the facilities should also be open to non-residents so Monrovia becomes a destination in the SGV.
Continuing MAP	MAP is the community in action!~
Capture Rain Water through Use of Swales	Rain water can replenish ground water if it falls and runs over soil rather than pavement. The gutters along our streets, especially those that are on a slope, flow with water when it rains, and the water is lost into the storm drains. The asphalt in the gutters could be replaced with swales, soil and vegetation that allow infiltration of the rain water. This is

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	especially important in Monrovia where we rely on groundwater for our water supply.
A Commitment to Excellence in Education	Whenever young families are considering which foothills town to live in, the top school systems are always at the top of the list (S. Pas, La Canada, San Marino). This consistent desire keeps property values high, crime low and a sense of community high in these locations. The single best investment we can make in Monrovia is to continue to support the improvement of our schools. As opposed to another commenter, we don't need more police in schools, we need more teachers, books, technology and extracurricular opportunities.
Safer, More Secure Monrovia	I primarily believe that we need to focus on making the schools of the Monrovia Unified School District the coveted schools of the San Gabriel Valley. Although Monrovia Unified is its own entity, the City of Monrovia can help to lay the foundation of this idea by having an extremely high police presence. People need to feel safe in sending their kids to our schools and out to play in our neighborhoods. The police presence will deter crime causing criminalistic people to, eventually, move out and a higher caliber resident to move in. The Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) must stay in tact so they may continue the empowerment of our residents in taking back their neighborhoods and building the community that makes Monrovia great! Lastly, I can envision Monrovia as the place restaurateurs, retailers and service companies want to call home. Entrepreneurs often look for communities that are populated by families and an area with pedestrian traffic as this helps to ensure a rewarding business experience. Good schools, safety, a sense of community and a city that has entertainment, food and programs will keep our city vibrant and prosperous! Thank you for reading my thoughts.
Safer City	Spend more time and resources on gang violence at our schools and in our streets.

Idea Title	Idea Summary
Residential Parking Permits	I love how much we are not like some of our foothill community neighbors, but I would like to submit a proposal for us to consider a nominal ($25) annual fee for on-street overnight residential parking. Potentially no parking on the street from say 2:00 - 5:00am without a permit. It could be added annually to our water bills - no additional costs incurred for new paperwork, etc., etc, This could have multiple benefits: * potential to assist with crime reduction * reduction in unwanted cars staying in one place for days on end * city based income to contribute directly to city based expenses Have guests staying with you and they'll be parking on the street? Sierra Madre has (had?) a reasonable workflow... * you call the police station * give the make, model, license plate of the car * tell them the amount of time they are staying with you * receive a fee-free overnight permit [pretty sure I remember this correctly] What do you all think?
Infrastructure	Take care of city streets, parks, public buildings
Improve the Parks - Master Plans	Library Park has seen some great improvements, but the other parks need improvements. Olive Park's asphalt walkways are turning to gravel. The playground is aging and is hardly ever used. Each plan should have a plan developed by the community around it and its users. The plan should identify current deficiencies and improvements.
More Street Trees	We should plant more street trees. Street trees make walking more pleasant. They reinforce the feeling of how close we are to the mountains. They keep your car cool. They raise property values. They reduce the urban heat island effect. Could we plant 1,500 trees by 2015?
Build Business	Advertising for a product needs to be constant and ever present. McDonald's is the perfect example of this. The same is true for awareness. The Ad Council (www.adcouncil.org) is very good at bringing awareness to our national needs through TV ads and also in print.

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	A "Shop Monrovia" campaign that is visible all around town as well as a focus of outreach beyond our city limits is very much needed. Around town, an ever changing (every quarter?) visual that keeps the message fresh is a must. Cable providers can do target marketing by airing commercials on TV in targeted, localized areas. The message can be used to draw consumers and new business. Our very own KGEM TV can help to get the word out. KGEM is a non-profit and is available to people who live, work or go to school in Monrovia. So we can have everything from interns getting the message out to the more experienced getting the word out. Maybe we can even have a California Gold, Huell Howser type show that focuses on what local businesses provide in products and in services! So many ways to have fun and get creative with this. Isn't time to think outside the box? Chamber of Commerce (or anyone familiar with the Chamber,) thoughts?
Remove Destructive Trees and Save on Trimming Costs	Back when Monrovia was being built, landscapers did not pay much attention to the types of trees that were planted on the public streets. Typically fast growing and inexpensive was the only criteria. Myrtle Avenue, north of Foothill is a prime example of poor planning. We have three blocks of Chinese Elm trees that have destroyed the sidewalks and sewers and seedlings pop up in the front yards. Every year when I see the tree trimmers spending weeks to trim these enormous trees, I think of all the money the city could be saving by removing them and plant Crape Myrtle trees (or something similar) that would save us from future annual trimmings and damage to the sidewalks. I am a tree lover and truly do not support removal of trees, however we would save lots of money if we took pro active approaches on these destructive trees and we would also have a bit of sunshine to celebrate on the street.
Fortify City Autonomy	Break the addiction-to/dependency-upon "free money" from Sacramento or Washington DC. It is never free. It exacts a burdensome price of higher taxes and diminished freedom.
Things I Miss Plus a Few New Ideas	Bring back the Monrovia Day’s parade, Queen and Court, Jail on wheels, Old Town Western theme and march it down

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	Foothill Blvd. Myrtle Ave. just is too narrow. Add a local artist and craft fair with resident's getting first shot at discounted booth rates. Add a free large booth (or two) for those local artists that only want to display but not sell their work. (1 piece per Artist). Have a food truck roundup that day as well and a Chili cook-off or BBQ contest. Set up a Battle of the Bands for local groups to provide music. Even the Soap Box Derby was a hoot for a few years; maybe try something along those lines as well.
Rethink the Purpose of the Library	I voted for the bond for the new Library but almost didn't because I wasn't sure what the purpose of a library is in a digital age, when vast arrays of information are available by computer and ebook. This is even truer now. So, is the library just an extension of the community center, or what? This deserves some thought.
Street Lighting Improvements	Most street lights in Monrovia are High Pressure Sodium type lamps. If these lamps were converted to LED type lamps, the City would realize huge energy savings and a relatively short payback period for the cost of the upgrade. The light output would be the same and in fact the night color spectrum would improve. Also, traffic signal lights should be converted to LED. There may be State and Federal energy grants available for this work. Everybody wins with this idea!
Support our Adult School	I was happy to see that the 2 previous ideas were both about Monrovia's schools. I would like to remind the City Council and Monrovia residents of an important school that is part of Monrovia Unified School District: Monrovia Community Adult School. At a time when budget cuts have led to the closing of many California adult schools, we need local recognition of and support for this valuable resource in Monrovia's community. Our adult school provides lifelong learning opportunities to help adults reach their educational, training, career, and personal goals. We help integrate immigrants into our society by providing low-cost English language instruction. English-proficient immigrants, in turn, lead to higher-achieving students in our K-12 system as those immigrants' children attend our public schools. I urge the City Council to include Monrovia Community Adult School as a priority in its future plans for our city.

Idea Title	Idea Summary
Put the Power Lines Underground	All the above ground power lines and telephone lines are unsightly. Really nice cities like San Marino and Pasadena have put them underground. We should consider an assessment on our utility bill that will put power lines underground. It might take 30 to 50 years, but it would improve the city a lot.
Ticketing Speeding Motorists	I have lived in Monrovia for 19 years and I have never seen it so bad. In the neighborhood from 5th to Mayflower and Foothill to Huntington where I live and there is anywhere from a 25 to 35 mph speed limits I've witnesses motorist traveling in excess of 50 mph, running stop signs, not allowing pedestrians to even get half way through a cross walk before they go flying behind them. Driving down Chestnut @ 30 mph I get motorist trying to pass me giving me finger jesters, and tail gating me while yelling profanity at me. WHY? Because I'm obeying the traffic laws. The City Of Monrovia really needs to step it up and start getting aggressive with these dangerous motorists. When the Arcadia Gold Line is in operation this behavior is only going to increase. Let’s be proactive and not reactive and stop jeopardizing the safety of the residents in this area and the City Of Monrovia. Thanks for reading. Ken
Education!!	In my very first post to PlanMonrovia.org, I stated my ideas about a few things on one post so I want to re-post my thoughts about education. Whatever and however we need to do to make the Monrovia Unified School District the coveted school district in the San Gabriel Valley, will benefit us all. It starts with a "more-than-we-need" police presence as we seek a school system that has a proven record for genuinely improving schools and enacting that system. One school system that we can inquire about is the TAP program. The link to learn more is http://youtu.be/OZ3w1iFBPxA We may or may not qualify but we can at least explore the idea. The reason for the police presence is that when people who are interested in criminal activity are constantly confronted,

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	they will leave Monrovia and a higher caliber of citizen moves in for the schools. Community continues and business improves. Am I in a dream world? Thoughts?
More Sales Tax Please!	Sales Tax REVENUE that is! We can ask our city leaders, the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to support our city, but the responsibility to keep Monrovia prosperous is ultimately a shared responsibility between our community leaders and the city's residents! Did you know? Our city primarily makes its money from property taxes which are remaining flat and sales tax revenue which is second. Sales tax revenue is the quickest, least expensive way to help our city raise the funds it needs so urgently. SIMPLY BUY WHAT YOU ALREADY BUY WITHIN MONROVIA! So don't wait to hear or see a message asking you to "Shop Monrovia," please, just do. It’s important.
Benjamin Franklin Bronze Statue	Since Benjamin Franklin was the father of the concept of the public library system in America. I think it would be great idea to have a bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin to honor this visionary of public education and literacy. I think the statue should be similar in style to the one of Mark Twain we already have at the park. Thank you for your consideration
All the Traffic Lights Should Be Tripped Versus On Timers	If all the traffic lights were on sensors and not of timers it would improve the flow of traffic.
Crosswalks with No Light Should Have More Visibility for Drivers	I have seen in several towns where they have a crosswalk with no light where the pedestrians can press a button and little lights in the street light up to alert drivers that someone is crossing. There are several places in town I think this would help save lives. For instance on Mountain just below

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	Foothill there is a crosswalk with no light and also one for schoolchildren across Foothill near Ivy/Canyon. Another location I can think of is on Shamrock at Lime Ave. I would feel a lot safer crossing if there was some better indication that drivers could see that someone is trying to cross. FYI, years ago when I first moved to Monrovia I saw someone hit and killed at the crosswalk on Mountain so I know that this has been an ongoing issue especially at night as it is hard to see the crosswalk lines sometimes.
Envisioning Monrovia - School System	My envision of Monrovia is a city that has a superb and well-funded K-12 school system. Most homeowners know that reputation of schools play a major factor on home prices. We need to invest into our local schools so we can reap the long term benefits from the seeds of education. We could start by investing into science programs, music programs, athletic programs, and etc. Anything helps! I will be the first Monrovian to pay extra from my taxes to invest into our schools.
Reduce the Amount of Multi-Family Residences	I have seen areas designated as SFR with backhouses and converted garages, these areas need to be strictly enforced and maintained as SFR by the city. Also I think there should be a move by the planning department to reduce the amount of multi-family residences in our neighborhoods. It creates a high density that the city was not designed for, crowded streets and lower-income renters that don't properly maintain their property. Any nice neighborhood in Monrovia is a SFR district. I recently went to purchase a home above Foothill near Magnolia and the next door neighbor had a back house and 5 cars parked on the property (ghetto!) The front house was charming but the overall feel of the area made me feel like I was living on an apartment street again (obviously not what you want to feel when you are looking to buy a half million dollar + house in N. Monrovia). Look at what happened to N.W. Pasadena neighborhoods. The city let the back-house construction and house division go unchecked. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!
Myrtle Avenue Landscaping	When the city put in the "pop outs" along Myrtle Av it made it so a car waiting to turning left on a green light couldn't leave enough space for another car to pass on the green light. This slows traffic on Myrtle and makes it an adventure to drive the street. Eliminate the "pop outs" so that two lanes of

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	traffic can proceed through the green lights.
Delay of Green Light	Set all traffic lights to go from red to green with a 2-3 second delay. This would enable someone to get through the entire intersection prior to oncoming traffic.
Inter-City Purchasing	I wonder if it would make sense for various local cities to purchase specialized equipment and services together. For example, Monrovia has a septic tank pumping truck and Arcadia has another. Do both cities really need their own? Perhaps the two cities should jointly purchase such specialized equipment, and then share it. I don't mean to focus on septic tank trucks. That is just an example. Perhaps there is enough work to keep both of them busy. But my point is that there may be SOME kinds of equipment and services that are idle much of the time and could easily be shared among multiple local cities, or between cities and school districts, saving all jurisdictions some money.
Services to Community	Plan of attack should consist of matching staff to community needs, this will help to correct the problem of staff working out of their job description and enhance moral in the workplace.
A "No New Smokers" Hue and Cry	I'd like to live in a city where no child considers even trying tobacco--not even once. It's evident now that addiction can occur on the first use of nicotine; regardless, it occurs very, very quickly. There is no treatment that works for the most addicted. Chantix is very unsafe. The only way to keep our children from addiction is to convince them that nicotine decides for itself who becomes addicted; that addicts are people who lose their ability to "not think about smoking." I don't know how to promote this. But I do not believe that current warnings prevent children from becoming addicted to nicotine. If the warnings worked, no child would be an addict, right? City of Hope would be half the size. (I was a patient there for a smoking-related cancer. I had become addicted at age 15 and smoked for 7 years. The cancer arrived 35 years later.)

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	Let's try talking about addiction, and make it clear that although some people can quit their addictions to nicotine, most cannot. The CDC has these data.
Do not Allow Front Yard Fences at the Street/Sidewalk	I see more and more of these every year. Chain link fences and cheap wrought iron fences are a definitive sign of a low-end neighborhood. They look trashy and really take away from the charm of the city. This is an easy building law to enforce and will help beautify our city. Monrovia has some amazing architecture with our craftsman and victorian houses, the charm of these areas is destroyed with a rusty fence or plain gray masonry fence columns. I ask anyone that reads this idea to drive through two different Monrovia neighborhoods, one where owners don't install these fences and one where owners do, and compare the charm and beauty of the street. This is a beautiful city and we should have higher standards for the curb appeal of our homes.
Keep City Services within City Control	Of utmost importance to me and the neighbors I've spoken with is to keep Monrovia's Fire, Police, and Water within Monrovia and not contract out those services - even if supplemental funds from property tax fees are required. It's the only way to maintain financial, administrative, and policy control. I'm over 60 and have dealt with numerous municipalities and governmental entities during my life and have witnessed the financial abuses some agencies have thrust upon "innocent" citizens of a community (i.e. Metropolitan Water Co. of L.A. - too little accountability for too much spending).
Increase Tax Base	Annex the Mayflower village area of County Monrovia to increase the tax base
Fire Protection	I would like to see a COST and EFFECTIVENESS study of the CITY contracting with LA COUNTY FIRE for our Fire Protection services.
Legal Services	City of Monrovia spends millions of dollars each year for Legal Services with a large Law Firm. What would be the costs and benefits/savings with our own IN-HOUSE Legal Counsel?
We Should Make a Plan for Addressing Depreciated Infrastructure	There are many streets and sidewalks around town and public parking lots in downtown that are in need of reconstruction. We should be sure we have a plan for funding and

Idea Title	Idea Summary
	implementing a comprehensive resolution to these deteriorated capital improvements. Some of the deteriorated improvements set a bad example and may be discouraging private investment particularly in certain residential neighborhoods. Maybe a Mello Roos type financing program could be implemented.
Free Day	How about a "Free Parking Day" once a week or once a month. The LA County Arboretum as well as the Huntington Library offer free parking and admission monthly. It would allow more people to appreciate the beautiful wilderness. If raising funds is the issue, why not offer some basic gift shop stuff for sale: calendars, post cards, bumper stickers, toy bears, etc. They could be sold in the Nature Center. It might bring in a lot more than $60,000 per year.

WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT EVALUATIONS AND COMMENTS

The evaluations received after each of the three workshops were overwhelming positive. Participants were asked to evaluate whether they strongly agreed, agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed or had no opinion on the following:

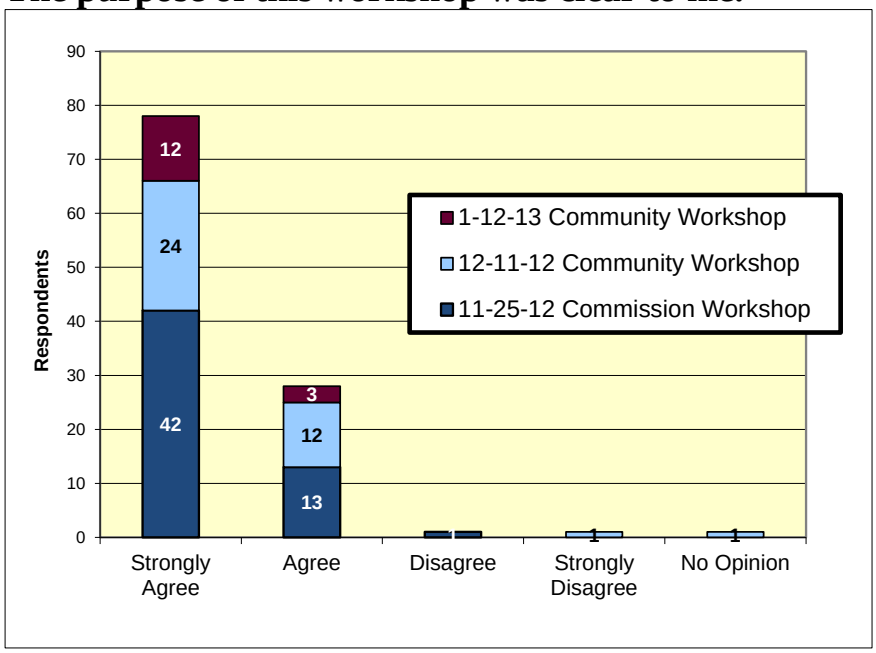
- The purpose of this workshop was clear to me.
- Workshop participants reflected the diversity of the people and views of our City.
- I felt comfortable with the other participants.
- The agenda and process of the workshop were appropriate for the topic.
- There were enough opportunities for me to express my views.
- The facilitators provided a fair and well-managed environment for participants.
- I believe this workshop will result in better decisions about the City's priorities and budget decisions.
- If asked, I would participate again in workshops like this.

Participants were also asked to provide any comments they had about the workshop.

EVALUATIONS

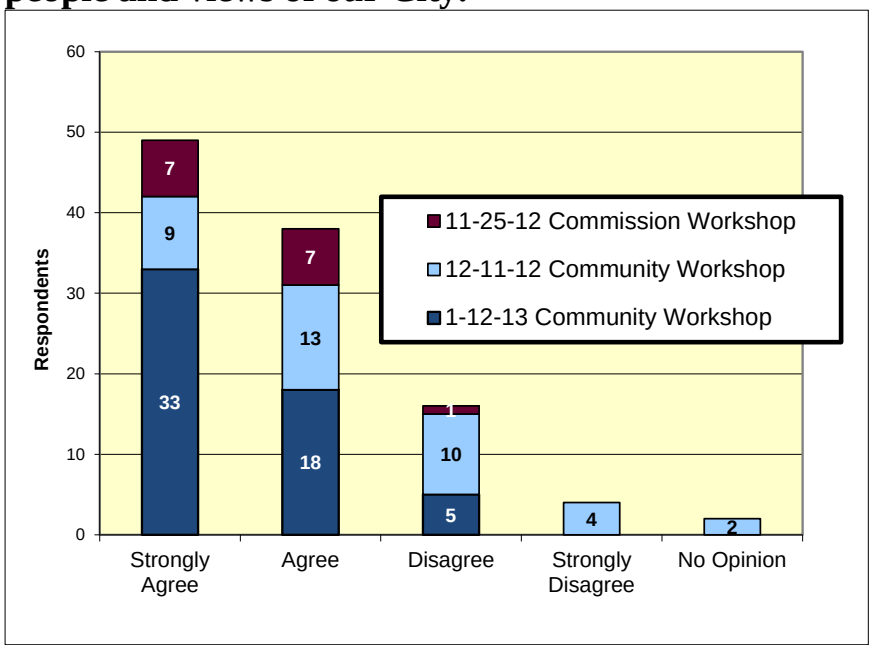
The following summarizes the 109 responses we received to the eight statements above from the January 12, 2013 Community Workshop (56 responses), December 11, 2012 Community Workshop (38 responses) and November 28, 2012 Commission Workshop (15 responses). This summary is followed by the comments we received at each workshop.

The purpose of this workshop was clear to me.



97% of those responding either strongly agreed (71%) or agreed (26%) that the purpose of the workshop was clear to them.

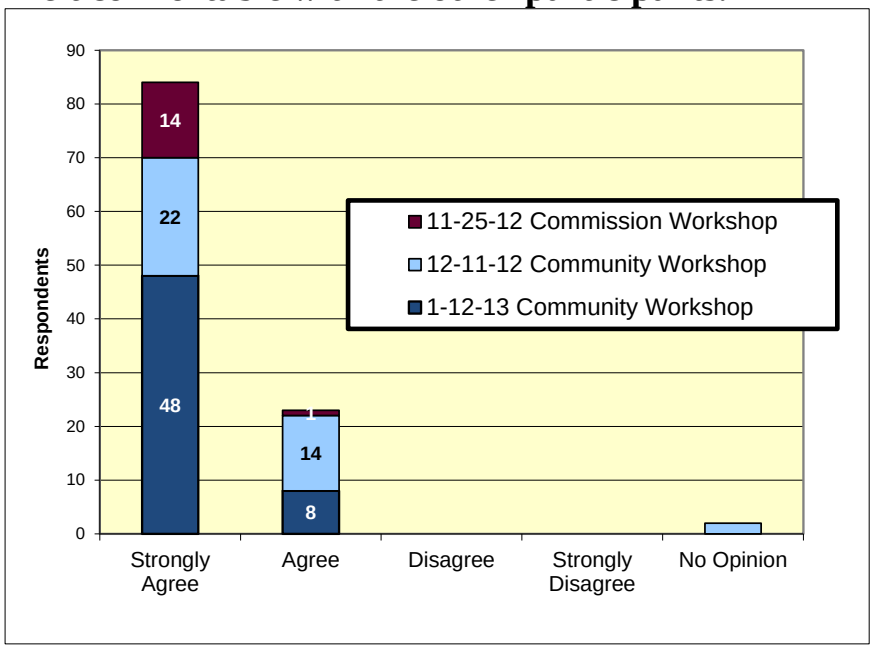
Workshop participants reflected the diversity of the people and views of our City.



79% of those responding either strongly agreed (44%) or agreed (35%) that workshop participants reflected the diversity of the people and views of our City.

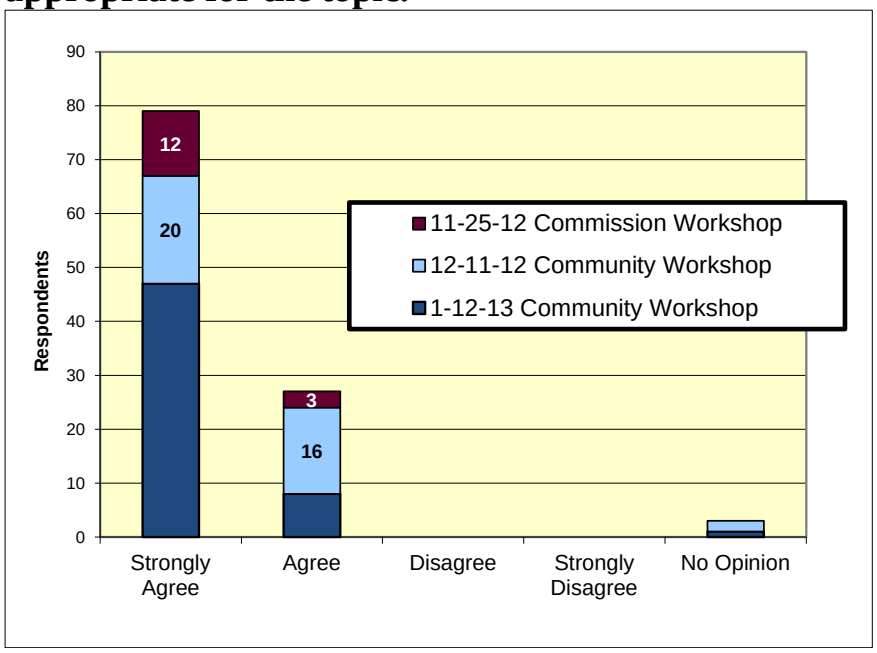
On the other hand, 19% did not agree with this. Of the 20 disagreeing responses, 14 came from the December 11, 2012 workshop.

I felt comfortable with the other participants.



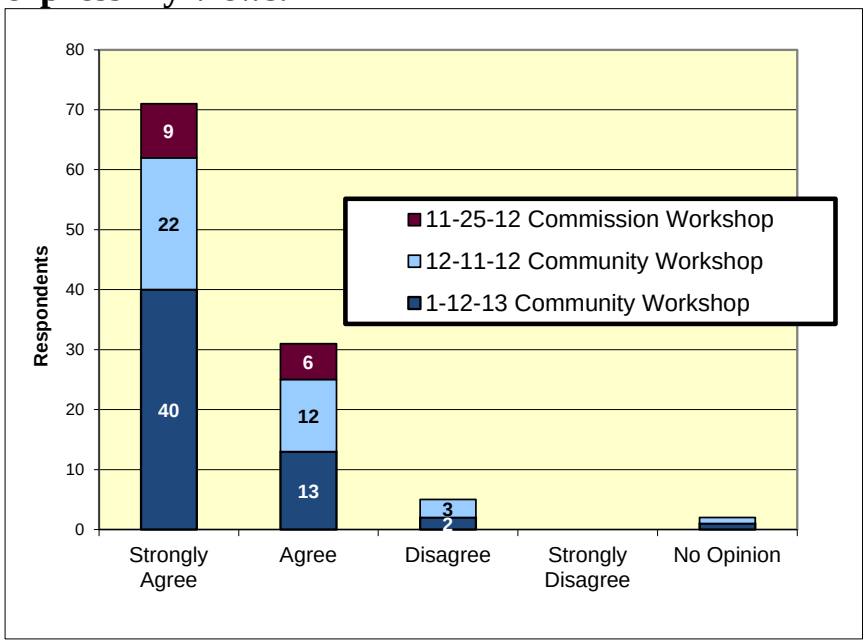
98% of those responding either strongly agreed (77%) or agreed (21%) that they felt comfortable with the other participants.

The agenda and process of the workshop were appropriate for the topic.



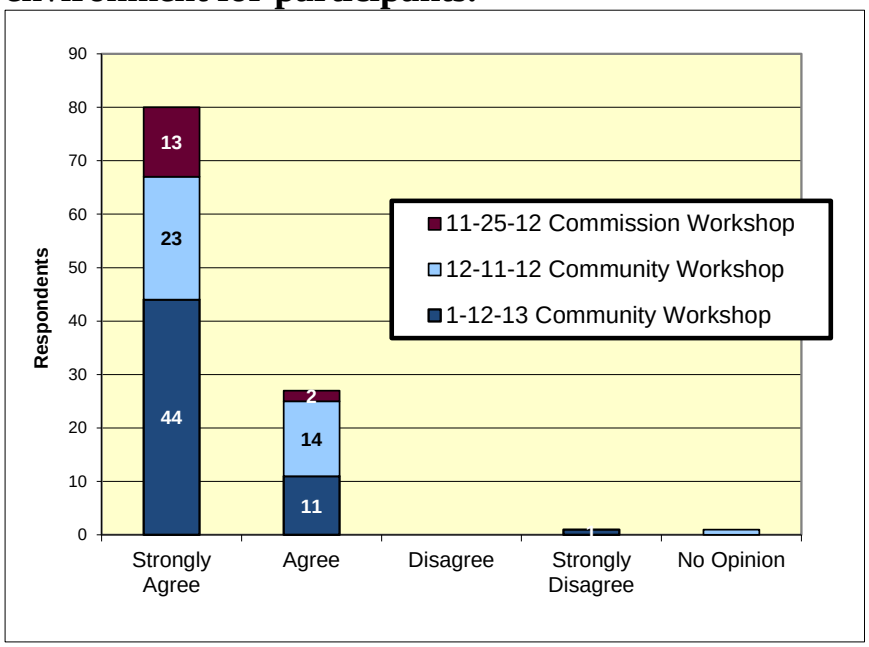
97% of those responding either strongly agreed (72%) or agreed (25%) that the agenda and process of the workshop were appropriate for the topic.

There were enough opportunities for me to express my views.



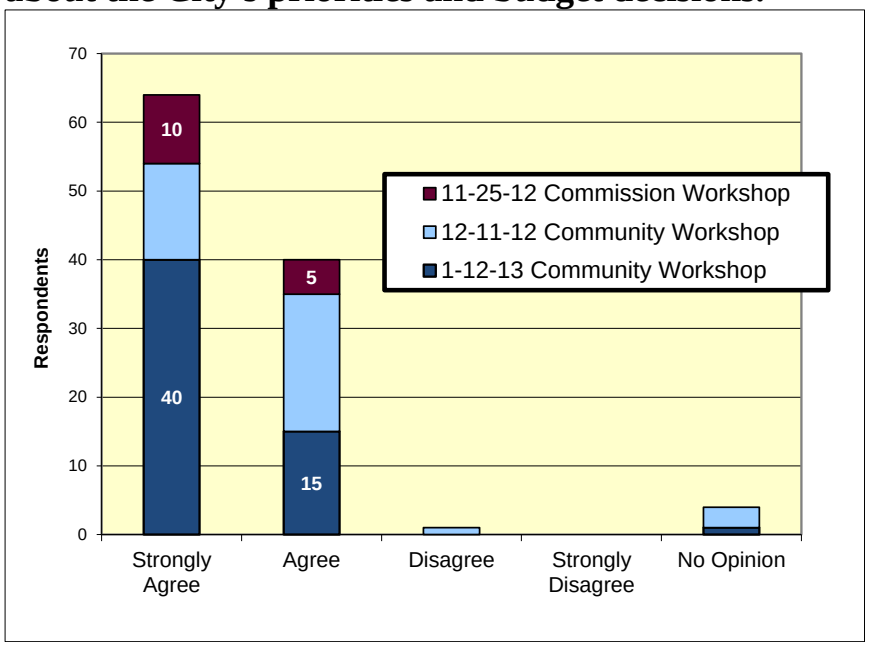
93% of those responding either strongly agreed (65%) or agreed (28%) that there were enough opportunities for them express their views.

The facilitators provided a fair and well-managed environment for participants.



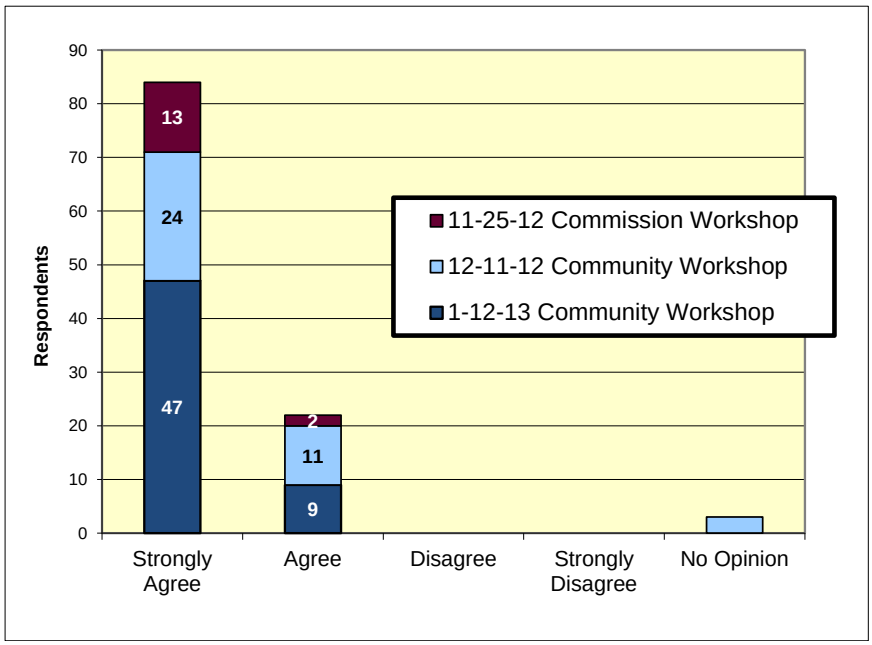
98% of those responding either strongly agreed (73%) or agreed (25%) that the facilitators provided a fair and well-managed environment for participants.

I believe this workshop will result in better decisions about the City's priorities and budget decisions.



97% of those responding either strongly agreed (77%) or agreed (20%) that they believed this workshop will result in better decisions about the City's priorities and budget decisions.

If asked, I would participate again in workshops like this.



97% of those responding either strongly agreed (71%) or agreed (26%) that if asked, they would participate again in workshops like this.

COMMENTS

The following are the written comments received at each of the workshops:

January 12, 2013 Community Workshop

- This workshop was an excellent venue for people to express their views on what the city plans for the future.

- You did it on the weekend (A+). You did it a community based center (A+). You mobilized each person into action (A+). In the future concentrate on an energy policy with business and industry.

- Not clear on the purpose/extent before I got here. People were great overall – some people had unusual agendas. We didn't get through all of our thoughts but our cards will get through and that is great.

- Wow! I really felt I participated in municipal government, and my idea made the priorities list!

- I would be more than happy if you held this workshop at least once a year – feel free to use Calvary Chapel Monrovia.

- We should use Calvary Chapel Monrovia more often for these types of events, etc.

Workshop Participant Evaluations and Comments

- We, by default, had to go "general." The nuances of the ideas should not be lost by the process of generalization. Citizens should be part of the actual implementation of the new strategic plan.

- Well organized.

- I appreciate the opportunity to be involved. The venue did not allow for the expression of views – that is ok. The goal of identifying the most important concerns and wishes was fulfilled. Look forward to expanding upon my opinions via "blue page" or internet. Thank you!

- Would be great to see quarterly meetings like this offered so we can keep the momentum/involvement and discuss/get updates on projects. Using the Monrovia Calvary Church as host at this location is very nice!

- Making it more affordable for small businesses to stay and become established in Monrovia should be a priority that will do a lot for Monrovia's economic development. There are some resources (i.e. Foothill Unity Ctr) to help low income, but I feel there needs to be much more assistance available. It is a multi-faceted problem.

- Great!!!

- Too much energy was focused on programs and not enough on how things were to be paid for.

- Please consider the cost effectiveness and increased level of psycho-social aspects/impact on supporting the sale of land/surrounding land to Calvary Chapel Monrovia for permanent use and expansion/development i.e. homeless housing, food bank, youth mentor programs. Thank you for the voice and opportunity to participate.

- Appreciate the mayor's office/city hall for convening the workshop – this leads to transparency and a well-managed city. Thanks.

- I would to [illegible] city to provide services at Regency Court –o- (Senior community and disabilities). 1) Provide community resources. 2) Computers and computer classes. 3) Work out – exercise equipment/classes. 4) Active presence of City resources and $.

- I love the idea of the City with Calvary Chapel Monrovia to make this happen. I would like to see an increase in safety lighting and street repairs in the city.

- Having Calvary Chapel Monrovia to host workshop was excellent idea and location should be used for future.

- We love Monrovia! Thank you!

- The priority of the sticker vote was very confusing for me. It wasn't black and white. I thought that the categories with the most dots were top priority, but it wasn't explained that way.

- Excellent job.

- We must maintain present levels of services in the city and expand when possible. None of the other suggestions will take place unless we do so. Most programs are already in place, but our citizens are not aware.

- Thank you for the providing an opportunity for the community to give input into the future of our home.

- Details – with examples, could be lost in the process as more general headings are used to organize the materials. Good meeting.

December 11, 2012 Community Workshop

- Outreach to bring youth to these meetings.

- I do not believe the people at my table understood the purpose of the exercise. More time should be spent defining examples of things the City has no control over. If would have helpful if the facilitator had curtailed lengthy discussions (politely) to get time for more ideas.

- Slides were not readable due to too much light.

- I believe more outreach to the Hispanic community is needed in order for them to participate in workshops like this one offered tonight. This would reflect more diversity!

- Thanks.

- This workshop gives the residents of Monrovia [an opportunity] to express their ideas for the City they love. Thank you for the workshops.

- Very well done. Thank you for asking. Space the papers with ideas further apart to get to easier.

- Wonderful participatory community.

- Would be helpful to include the voice of lower income and ethnically diverse Monrovians in this dialogue. Please make translation services and outreach to those who do not easily attend events like this so they have encouragement to participate.

- Dissonance: the Mayor said "think big" – next speaker said limited funds.

- Need to tell people to bring 5 ideas with them to "conserve" time for sharing/listing those ideas. Some of us needed more time to explain our ideas, which would resulted in more votes for our ideas but we barely had time to state the idea, no time to elaborate on it. The way an idea is listed – a sound bite – does not do justice to the concept being promoted. Shorter break! Instead of having public come to you to give ideas, City should go out to schools, groups (service organizations, churches, parks, etc.). Get more diversity of opinions for City. This group is not representative of the City!!

- Post results on City website. Encourage folks south of the freeway to come.

- Hoping the issue of school-community partnerships remains – GREAT selling point for new residents and increases property tax revenues. Note: Possibility of small branch library and/or Friends Store in Station Square.

- The process was rather diffuse. I think it would have been good to group suggestions conceptually and identify broad areas of agreement. I realize that this is likely to happen later in the planning process, but I would have appreciated it from the outset.

- The workshop could be improved by some level of forecasting. For example, the future of fossil fuels ("peak oil"), food supplies, energy, water, that drives various "relocalization" (incl. Transition Town) planning in US and Europe. As difficult as it is to predict the future, responsible planning – especially in the longer term (next 20-30 yrs) requires it. We also need the voice of Spanish-language residents and leaders from the African American community (e.g. pastors). This planning process is overwhelmingly represented by higher income whites (mainly). Few Mexican-Americans and low-income immigrants.

- I don't know what the answer is but how do we get more than about 50 people (out of a city population of 39,000 +) to get involved in a meeting like this?

- Shocked that long term financial solvency isn't the priority.

- There should have been a day-of e-mail reminder/text/television etc. that the Strategic Plan workshop was taking place. Mobilize MAP leaders and community services to spread the word on the days leading up to the workshops. Door-to-door, etc.

- Monrovia has a rich organizational business culture that needs to give voice to its knowledge and experience.

November 28, 2012 Commission Workshop

- It would be helpful to know what the current list of financial goals is so maybe some do not fit the current goals or objectives.

- Add more time to the meetings; more group interaction on the ideas.

- Awesome workshop!

Workshop Participant Evaluations and Comments

- Communicate agenda prior to the meeting.

- I think it was important to make the guidelines clear; i.e. you don't have to list all of the "status quo" priorities to keep them; list ones for increased focus.

- I enjoyed the opportunity given to me and found the group activity as a great way to express diverse thoughts and opinions. I would be happy to join this group again.

COMMUNITY GROUP OUTREACH

MIT-9/City Staff Presentations

Group	Type of Outreach	Date	Attendees
Commissions and Volunteer Groups			
Library Board	Presentation	October 25, 2012	10
Commissions Workshop	Presentation/Focus Group	November 28, 2012	21
Planning Commission	Presentation		20
Historic Preservation	E-mail		15
MAP Leader Meeting	Presentation	October 20, 2012	45
Friends of the Library	Newsletter	December 10, 2012	50
Neighborhood Watch	Presentation	Starting December 10, 2012	50
Teen Advisory Board	Presentation	November 5, 2012	24
Library Volunteer Management Team	Presentation	October 29, 2012	7
Canyon Park Volunteers	Announcements & post card distribution	December 19, 2012	50
Youth Commission	Presentation, though all Youth Commission members have been given postcards	December 19, 2012	60
MOTAB	Presentation	November 13, 2012	
Total			**352**
Service Groups			
Monrovia Reads	Presentation	December 5, 2012	20
Ministerial Association	Presentation		15
Foothill Unity Center	Announcements & post cards at distributions	December 10, 12 & 14	60
Foothill Unity Center	Surveys at Toy Drive	December 18, 2012	60
Santa Anita Family Services	Flyers		
Volunteer Center	Presentation	November 27, 2012	20
YMCA	Post card distribution	Per CEO: will distribute	25
Boys & Girls Club	Presentation	December 10, 2012	20
Kiwanis		December 20, 2012	20
Rotary	Presentation	December 4, 2012	30
Quota	Presentation	October	20
Coordinating Council	Presentation	December 3, 2012	25
Foothills Pregnancy Center	Flyers & e-mails		N/A
MAP Contacts	E-mail & Survey Packets for Neighborhoods	November 7, 2012	628x2
Wednesday Night Revive	Called November 28, 2012 and December 4, 2012 (HG)	December 19, 2012	50
Mountainside Communion	Presentation	November 18, 2012	50

Group	Type of Outreach	Date	Attendees
United Methodist Church	Presentation	November 18, 2012	50
Christo es Nuestra Rocka	Presentation	November 18, 2012	50
Calvary	Printed Materials		N/A
Monrovia Provider's Group	Presentation	December 6, 2012	40
Historic Preservation MOHPG			
MAFA			
Blue Star Moms		December 13, 2012	10
American Legion			15
Produce in the Park	E-mail blast & postcards	December 1, 2012	170
Total			**2756**
Public Service Patrons			
Youth Sports	Announcements & post card distribution	Week of November 26 & December 3	150
Monrovia Transit	Surveys in 9 vehicles	Starting December	N/A
Library Patrons			N/A
Community Services Patrons	On-going	Random rentals have asked for discussion	N/A
Senior Clubs (3 clubs)	Presentation	Week of December 10, 2012	60
Sunshine Company	Presentation		30
Chamber of Commerce	Presentation & Chamber e-mail		20/2500
Monrovia School Board	Presentation		
Total			**2760**
Resident Door-to-Door Distribution			
Genia Mills	East Walnut Gated Community	November 2012	100
David & Monica Palomares	East Walnut	November 2012	20
Rachelle Killacky	Madeline Drive	November 2012	25
Yvette Williams	Almond Avenue	November 2012	20
Sherri Hoefferle	Royal Oaks	November 2012	20
Lisa Acosta & Irene Paredes	Genoa & Mayflower	November 29, 2012	25
Rosemary Calderon	Sherman Avenue	November 29, 2012	20
Katie Gundersen			20
Total			**250**

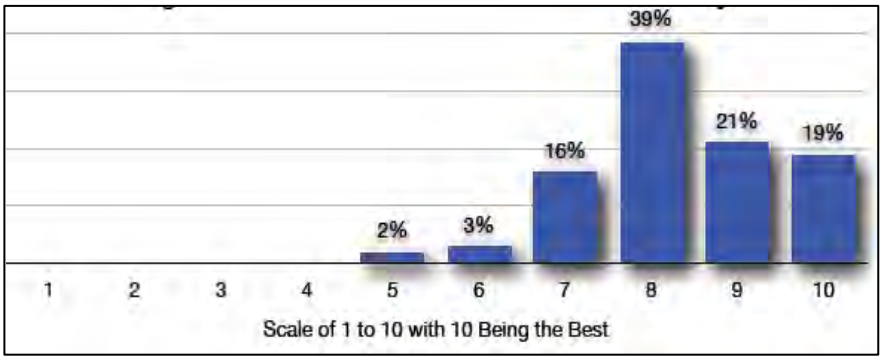
❸ HIGHLIGHTS: 2009 COMMUNITY SURVEY

The results from the strategic planning outreach are consistent with the "Quality of Life" survey conducted in 2009 by the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College. This scientific survey found that fiscal responsibility, public safety and economic development were the top three community concerns for the City. Moreover, survey respondents generally rated the Monrovia community and City services very highly.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

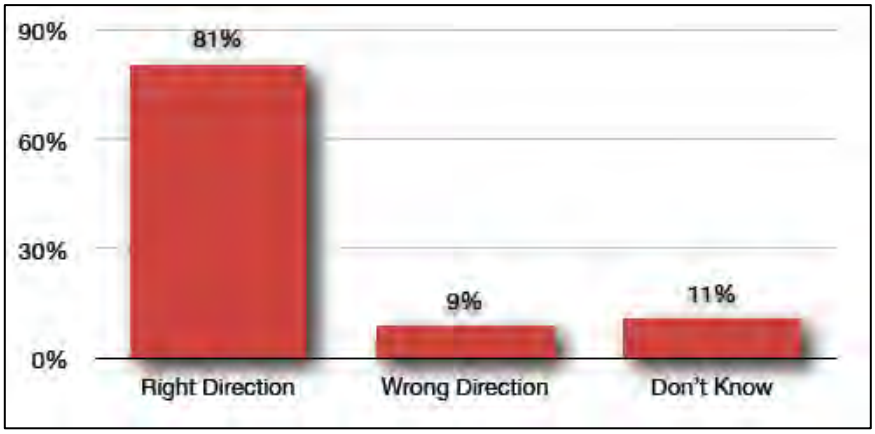
The following key highlights from the survey can help guide the strategic planning process. The complete report is available on the City's web site at: http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/about-monrovia/news-a-information/2009-satisfaction-survey.

Figure 1: How Residents Rate Monrovia as a Community



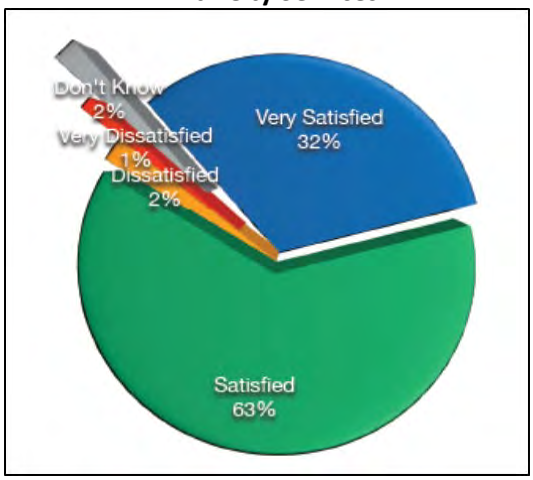
Monrovia Community. As reflected in Figure 1, over three-fourths of those surveyed (79%) rated the Monrovia community as an *eight* or higher on a scale of one to ten.

Figure 2: What Direction Resident Feel Monrovia Is Headed



Community Direction. Residents of Monrovia view the City very positively. As shown in Figure 2, over 80% of the survey respondents said they felt the City was on the right track, while only 9% felt it was headed in the wrong direction.

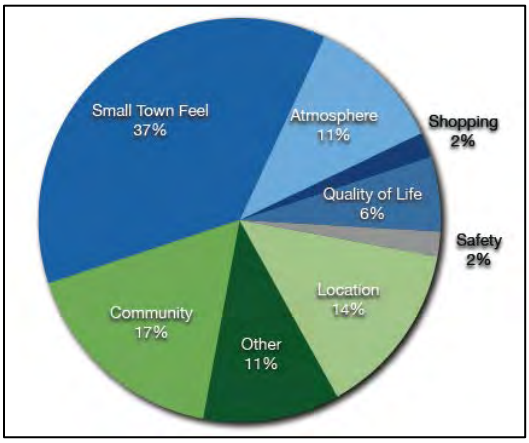
Figure 3: Level of Satisfaction with City Services



Satisfaction with City Services. This positive view of the City's direction is reinforced by residents' satisfaction with City services. As shown in Figure 3, 95% of those surveyed responding that were either very satisfied (32%) or satisfied with City services (63%).

Notably, only 3% said they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with City services.

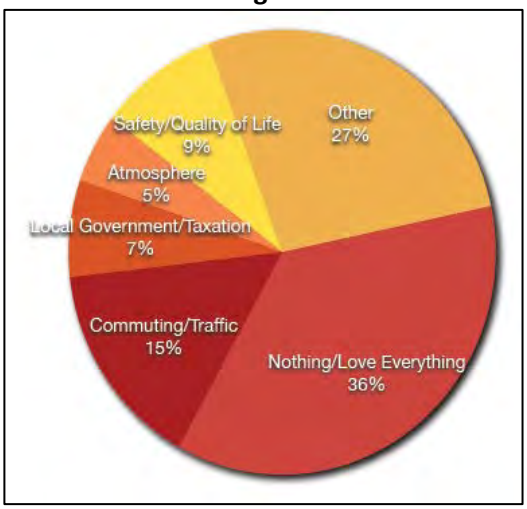
Figure 4: What Residents Like Best About Living in Monrovia



Best Like About Living in Monrovia. As shown in Figure 4, over 70% (71%) of those surveyed said that best things about living in Monrovia were the small town feel, sense of community, "atmosphere" and overall quality of life.

Location (14%), safety (2%), shopping (2%) and other factors (11%) accounted for 21% of the "best things."

Figure 5: What Residents Like Least About Living in Monrovia



Like Least About Living in Monrovia. The top response (36%) was that they either "loved everything" or disliked nothing about the City.

"Commuting or traffic" was the top dislike, noted by 15% of those surveyed, while all other specific concerns were received responses of 9% or less.

❹ APPENDIX: DETAILED RESPONSES

The following presents the detailed responses for the survey results presented in Section 2, which summarizes the 255 individual responses we received from:

A. Utility Billing Mailer

B. Mind-Mixer

C. Email/Web Site

D. Textizen

E. Other Sources

Additional Comments from Workshops
Letters
Other Comments

What are the most important things the City should focus on over the next 5 years?

1. **So many of our streets are full of large cracks and potholes with thick grass and weeds. We need the streets repaved.**

1. Investigate the idea of L.A. County taking over the Fire Department to save the city money and publicly disclose to residents the findings of that investigation.
2. Enforce the city's regulation to keep motorhomes, trailers, etc. out of sight & not in driveways - the regulations state they must be out of sight. This is not enforced, which makes neighborhoods unsightly.
3. Thank you for this opportunity to speak out. Monrovia residents since 1955.

Business

1. **Do whatever is necessary to maintain and encourage high quality businesses in Downtown area. Vacancies are a deterrent to shoppers. Property owners need to understand that in a "down" economy, leases/rents should accommodate the retailer. When business goes under - so does the community.**

Residential Parking

2. **The narrow streets need overnight restrictions and some need one-side-only. Charging a fee for overnight.**
3. **Street parking permits will encourage residents to use their driveway & garage and/or raise $ for maintenance ☺**

Building

4. **Be very careful when granting permits for building & remodeling. Don't let Monrovia end up like South Arcadia. Also, curtail the use of foreign language on business signs especially those that don't use the English alphabet!**

1. Balance budget.
2. Safety.
3. Cleanliness & (unreadable) of community & parks.
4. Limited government.
5. Education.

1. **Maintaining a balanced budget.**
2. **New Metrolink station completion.**
3. **Public Safety.**
4. **Schools.**
5. **Maintain public services.**

1. Police presence (more) especially in South Monrovia.
2. Better road conditions. Too many potholes in the city of Monrovia.
3. No future affordable housing projects!
4. Better enforcement of laws penalizing dog owners leaving dog waste on residents' lawns.
5. Enforce law restricting placement of orange cones to reserve space for parking!

1. **Smoke-free outside dining.**
2. **Smoke-free coffee-shops.**
3. **Smoke-free-parks.**
4. **A city free of cigarette butt litter which not only is an eye sore, but poses a danger to families with small children or pets who may ingest poisonous products.**
5. **We love the 4th of July & Christmas celebrations each year! Make Monrovia a smoke-free city!! ☺**

1. Cut bloated government spending.
2. Same as above.
3. Same as above.
4. Same as

1. **Monrovia needs a dog park!**

1. Painting the lane lines on Foothill Blvd.
2. Keeping within budget.
3. Working toward completion of Gold Line.

1. **The city should focus on building the Gold Line station and area surrounding it.**
2. **The streets need care and resurfacing in several areas.**
3. **It would be good to see community support for individuals growing their own food.**

1. Since the Gold Line will be opening soon, city should create ways to make easily accessible: free shuttles, urban planning, etc.
2. Here's a radical thought: Turn Myrtle Avenue, between, say Olive and Foothill into a "CAR-FREE-ZONE."
3. Find the funds to subsidize solar panels on as many homes as possible.
4. Encourage community gardens & small-scale agriculture throughout city…involving livestock & composting.
5. You can see where I'm going with this: "GREENING" they city. It's the wave of the future!

1. **Slurry cracks on surface streets.**
2. **Fill in pot holes.**
3. **Kept catch basins cleared of debris.**
4. **Work toward under-ground lines.**
5. **Restore train station to its former glory.**

1. This past October we had our Oak Tree trim. I ask the city of Monrovia if they would cut their trees growing up inside the Oak. They called and said someone would be out and look at the 5 trees. They never came and I never heard from them, nor did they call.

1. **For over 50 years I have lived in my home in Arcadia. I have watched Monrovia grow and become this wonderful, friendly city. Monrovia has it all - K-Z-**

1. Business/quality. Selective with which business are opened in city and how does that rep. city. We don't need more fast food chains
2. Schools - Focus on bringing our elementary schools to a higher level of safety & overall quality in education.
3. Safety - Eliminate hazards that lurk in city. Implement stricter ordinances, i.e. street parking, etc.
4. Overall quality - This is related to the above, do we need more fast food chains? What about healthier alternatives? Schools, etc.
5. Aesthetics - Our street corners, residential lawns - We need to keep our appearance cleaner & to higher level.

1. **Preserving the small businesses downtown.**
2. **Local public transportation.**
3. **Safety & (unreadable)**
4. **Keep big business out - preserve the "small town" feeling.**
5. **More community activities.**

1. Repair sidewalks.
2. Tree trimming.
3. Repair streets.

1. **Inclusion & concern for all Monrovia's citizens in any & all decisions involving funds & quality of community life.**
2. **Streets / quality of public works.**
3. **Limit development for a set term.**
4. **Schools / teachers, etc. Anything to do with education.**
5. **Senior services.**

1. Better schools and education.
2. Build a dog park.
3. In N Out Burger.
4. Increase funds for police & fire dept.
5. Promote Monrovia city when Metro is finished.

1. **Out image stinks. The L.A. Times article probably took our property values down another 10% - Fix the South Monrovia issues.**
2. **Our streets are in terrible shape. Pot holes.**
3. **Do we have the right City Attorney - His advice is costing us in fees, but worse yet bad advice costs of lawsuit $'s.**
4. **Gold Line - Station so please think things through.**

1. More patrol above Foothill Blvd. - currently it is very sparse.
2. Maintain parkways & Parks - they look terrible; establish an active sidewalk repair program.
3. Establish a good street maintenance program; paint street lines on a regular basis.
4. Code enforcement - citizens not taking pride in their properties. i.e. trash barrels left out for days & days; cars parked on lawns in appropriate sign on utility poles etc.
5. Tree trimming program - City trees need to be trimmed every three years without question.

6. Out city needs to look beautiful like our neighboring cities, Duarte & Arcadia.

1. No overnight parking on streets (especially functions on a black budget).
2. Do not cut back on police.

1. Increase the number of police officers. I understand that MPD is short 20 officers.

1. Continued excellent gang abatement programs.

1. Public safety police & fire dept.
2. Do something with homeless - stop increasing clean out the city.
3. Create more job & business.
4. Bathroom in the park be clean & safe for children & public use.

1. Public services roads, parks, etc.
2. Public safety polices & fire
3. Attracting small & large businesses
4. Community pride
5. Supporting school system & its accomplishments.

1. Traffic: Specifically on Foothill in the morning and afternoons. Living north of Foothill, impossible to get on unless going to a street with signal.
2. Safety: Police Dept. does an excellent job. We need more officers.
3. Public Transportation: Nothing by MTA or local for Foothill and getting to Old Town
4. Continued development of dilapidated areas.
5. Business growth and a community college extension campus.

1. Maintaining & helping Old Town businesses.
2. Support schools & recreation programs for kids.
3. Increase access & awareness to open space in hillsides.
4. Longer library hours.

1. Improved police dept. Increase patrol. Improve support equip.
2. Improve fire depart. Increase fire fighters. Improve equip.
3. Improve schools. Increase # teachers. Increase activities. Music/art/sports.
4. Complete sidewalks on 5th st. north of Duarte & south of Huntington - children must walk in streets.

1. Street paving line on Foothill, they are very dull and hard to see.
2. Programs for at risk teens.
3. Community outreach.
4. Public safety.
5. Street maintenance.

1. Keep taxes low.
2. Adopt policies that encourage small businesses in Monrovia.
3. Keep utility costs down.
4. Keep taxes low.
5. Keep taxes low.

1. Work with So Cal Edison to reduce the enormous amount of power failures we experience even when there are no particular weather catastrophes.
2. The traffic on Myrtle through old town is congested - (personal opinion) – we need to synchronize the traffic lights & lengthen the 'green' on Myrtle to allow more flow.
3. I live in the Gold Hills - would love to see more patrol cars.
4. What can we do about the bears? - I see them virtually every week!!
5. Out of ideas - so here's some praise - Nice 4th of July (2012) fireworks display!!!

1. Teen clubs that help seniors maintain their property. IE mow grass, trim hedges, paint exterior of house & wall. (Senior supplies paint brushes, tape, teen provide labor.

1. Close senior ctr sell property.
2. Hire more police. Establish community volunteer program to augment police.
3. Repeat R.E. zoning (like Houston, TX) allow owners to develop any business or residence they care to.
4. Crack down on - illegal aliens - get rid of them - get rid of most social and criminal problems.
5. Make Myrtle Ave. a walking mall. Chestnut to Foothill.

1. Gas lines check and replace as needed. Electric power poles also. Safety concerns.
2. Sewer lines check and replace as needed.
3. Trim trees around street and safety signs.
4. Trim trees or shrubs close to streets.
5. Sprinklers systems that water the streets instead of intended landscape plantings.

1. Lowering taxes.
2. Being more fiscally responsible - no waste.
3. Gang clean-up.

1. School rating.
2. Safety.
3. Environment.
4. Parks.

1. Schools/education (improve).
2. Community resources (parks/libraries/recreation pools/events, etc).
3. Business developments (shop, eat, play in city).
4. Transportation (improve, expand & make more accessible).
5. Rebuild/improve run-down areas, buildings.

1. Employment based on merit, not diversity. Diversity (racism) is bad.
2. Schools should focus on the achievers (merit) not the under-achievers.
3. Get the gangs out of Monrovia. If you can't do it, say so, the citizens will do it.
4. No tax breaks for business."
5. Get Foothill transit to run on time. Despite what they say IT IS NOT ON TIME ANY DAY.

1. Local businesses.
2. Metro Line.
3. Community service.
4. **Schools**.
5. Safety.

1. Going green!!! Energy, recycle, waste.
2. Strong financial bases no debt!!!!
3. Safety for citizens. Keep up the good work.

1. Please open the wilderness park near Hidden Valley. We pay for it yet we can't use it!!
2. Please resolve the throughway issue on the lower Clamshell Road. Open travel from the Clamshell all the way through.
3. Please rescue the road building issue on Santa Anita Ave. near Chantry. So the road can be reopened.
4. Issue bear cans for trash free of charge. Too many people aren't taking care of their trash. (unreadable) human/bear interaction.
5. Hurry up with the Gold Line already. We need this additional public transportation!!!

1. Bring back the horse car that ran on Myrtle Ave back in the early 1900's for the Gold Line to transport people to the main part of Monrovia.

1. Keep taxes low.
2. Encourage business and adopt policies that are pro-business to come to or remain in Monrovia.
3. Keep utility costs low.
4. Keep taxes low.
5. Keep taxes low.

1. The downtown is a real gem! Walkable - good restaurants - need more shops with unique merchandise.
2. Gold Line station - needs to be attractive or entice riders to disembark & visit downtown shops & restaurants.

1. Fix the streets correctly instead of filling in pot holes. It is just a band aid fix. The holes get bigger & bigger.
2. Take care of trees. They are never pruned back enough on our street. They cover up street lights. Branches are always falling.

1. Residential street lighting.
2. Bring new business.
3. Littering penalty or fine.
4. Allow new 'granny flat' rentals in this tight economy.
5. No property tax increases.

1. Find Ways to Cut Cities.
2. Expenses- There by relieving our taxes and fee's Start with the most expense dept's on the City's budget.

1. Bring more jobs/businesses into Monrovia.
2. Maintain our infrastructure – fix streets & sidewalks if needed.
3. Keep crime at the lowest possible rate – strong anti-gang stance!
4. Fill vacant buildings & offices – lower rent if necessary to fill all the empty spaces.

1. Fix all broken sidewalks.
2. Fix all pot holes in the streets.
3. Make all crosswalks brighter. Put in lights on the pavement so you can see the crosswalk.
4. Trim all trees on major streets and small streets.
5. Install bumps in the road near parks to slow drivers. Especially at Recreation Park on Lemon Avenue.

1. Cleaning up our City. Abandoned furniture yard signs posted at intersections. Shopping carts and unkept yards.
2. Cleaning out our gang problem. Proactive law enforcement.
3. Protecting a balanced budget by electing new City Council members with fresh ideas.
4. Keeping city salaries and pension costs in line.
5. No new bond issues or tax increases.

1. Keep growing our business base
2. Promote buy local in Monrovia
3. Promote tourism / visit Monrovia P.R.
4. Increase volunteerism / community involvement
5. Open a senior center

1. Develop and improve light rail station and transit village on Gold Line
2. Assist and welcome business development that improves community along Foothill Boulevard (Aztec Hotel, Blockbuster Video, Coffee House, Empty Stores, ETC.)
3. Paint and maintain traffic safety lines (center median) and cross walks on busy Foothill Boulevard. Traffic lines in poor condition!
4. Continue improvements to Monrovia's Old Town business district. No parking meters!
5. Develop access to Monrovia's wilderness preserve for hiking, biking and fire fighting

1. Check-up/maintenance on the crosswalk signals (buttons) at busy intersections (Foothill/Madison) etc. I think the intersection signals are a priority, particularly at intersections where students cross. Although we have crossing guards right before and after school times, many students, <u>especially</u> at the high school, use the crosswalks at different times of the day. The buttons at Madison/Foothill are broken, and I worry that students will wait so long that they will jaywalk and be hurt
2. Spruce up the neighborhood parks

1. Local transportation to connect to the new Metro station
2. Affordable housing
3. Bringing in new businesses

1. Helping local businesses
2. Keep city clean
3. Keep schools in good shape
4. Maintain infrastructure
5. Promote community involvement

1. Supporting our local police / fire department(s) – give them resources, including compensation. Don't get (unreadable) in the pension debate. Retain good people/hire good people
2. Continue business growth, including Gold Line extension development
3. Accountability – elected officials and department heads should be hired based on integrity/ethics. The elected are unfortunately exempt from this
4. Education – continue enhancing learning institutions/school campus, etc
5. Work collaboratively / regionally on grant funding opportunities for law enforcement – lobby against AB109 – Early release of prisoners

1. Support light rail development & associated projects
2. Continue enforcing speed limit on Foothill Blvd.
3. Install "lighted" crosswalks across Foothill Blvd where there are no traffic lights. For example, at Alta Vista. Pedestrian pushes button on sidewalk & flashing lights illuminate across the street
4. Consider developing community supported agriculture here in Monrovia. Continue great community events

1. Street repairs potholes & resurfacing causes accidents & tire damage
2. Code enforcement concerning motor homes that are parked on city streets
3. Homeless citizens sleeping in city parks – mainly library park
4. Tree trimming especially tree branches that are overgrown over streets. This damages roofs of cars & trucks
5. Monrovia is a lovely place to live. But improvements are always needed. The service at the community center desk is very poor

1. Safety – a strong police and fire presence
2. Historic Preservation – strengthen laws to prevent destruction of historic homes and neighborhoods
3. Increase sales tax base by recruiting new business to Monrovia
4. Education – pay teachers a living wage!
5. Increase public works – fix streets, add lighting, sidewalks, tree planting, etc

1. Getting businesses into the city – especially Myrtle Ave. ESPECIALLY a bookstore but no more nail salons and hair places
2. Building up the Farmers' Market more to encourage more visitors to our city. Getting stores involved would help
3. We really love living in Monrovia!!

1. Convert your paramedic squad to a paramedic <u>ambulance</u>

1. Maintaining our outstanding police and fire departments for continued community security

1. Gang violence – as written about in LA times Sunday front page article
2. Gold Line – Get it up and running. Bring business to Gold Line stop. Make Gold Line stop an attractive destination
3. Public work improvement project resurfacing of streets @ Melrose Ave. and solving dangerous intersections @ Foothill and Shamrock

1. <u>Stop</u> Bowden Development from building 6 or more units on one property lot
2. At the intersection of Mayflower & Huntington, change the middle northbound lane to go straight <u>or</u> turn left. One lane to go straight is not enough!
3. <u>Stop</u> the sirens all evening the week before Christmas with the fire truck & police car going thru town
4. <u>Stop</u> putting fast-food restaurants on all the corners on Huntington. (Newest: Jack-in-the-Box where Pottery Ranch used to be) Please!!

1. Youth Programs Youth / Teen Center + Sports Facility
2. Continued MAP support – partner w/ neighborhood watch?
3. Continued support for MPD to suppress gang activity
4. Increased support for summer youth programs and activities – more $$ for YES – continued year-round

1. Improve Monrovia High School
2. Improve Clifton Middle School
3. Stop getting sued

1. More funding to MAP program
2. More security @ parks
3. Exercise programs for seniors
4. After-school programs for teens
5. Parks south of the 210 fwy (pls pardon handwriting – hand is paralyzed)

1. Adding lights to dark streets (Terrado Drive is very dark and we've been having a lot of break-ins)
2. Adding speed bumps to slow down cars on Terrado Dr.

1. Better schools' that will increase property value which will increase city $
2. Clean up run down areas. Enforce code violations & get slums cleared out
3. Monrovia needs to support businesses downtown. Myrtle is a huge draw…keep it up
4. Continue efforts in "community" feel. That is why we live here
5. Better Christmas lights!! Step up your game.

1. Make improvements to city parks especially Monrovia Canyon park and the Monrovia Wilderness preserve
2. Develop area around New Gold Line station
3. Continue improvements to downtown core including extension of Old Town to New Gold line station
4. Develop bike path system to make bike access to downtown safer and more convenient
5. Preserve Aztec hotel as an architectural treasure

1. Road maintenance road resurfacing for Canyon Blvd, Canyon Crest Dr etc has not been done
2. Foothill Blvd signals need to be synced, so as to give preference to major streets. At present every signal on Foothill causes stopping every few yards.
3. City tree maintenance to be improved. Often they are not trimmed & obscure street lighting, stop sign, etc
4. When compared with other cities Monrovia is very responsive to its citizens. Thanks

1. Marinating our infrastructure. Ie, sidewalks, streets etc
2. Preserving architectural standards
3. Keeping us safe!
4. Bringing in new business that reflects our standard *Bookstore please!
5. Community events that encourage diversity

1. Creation of a Monrovia Senior Center
2. Improved transportation for seniors
3. Establishment of a property – based improvement district (P – Bid) in Old Town
4. Better tenant mix in Old Town

1. Keeping rents low in the downtown
2. Keeping only non-corporate businesses in the downtown
3. Bringing a bookstore to the downtown
4. Maintaining an importance on historical buildings
5. Maintaining public safety

1. Public safety
2. Parking
3. Maintaining the small town atmosphere

1. Infrastructure – pipes under streets and re-paving. Too much patching going on Prospect Ave in particular.
2. Replacing the uprooted trees from last December
3. In resurfacing in #1 paying attention to area where water pools at curb to attract mosquitos

1. Stop the Gold Line from going through Monrovia Police Department
2. Since some in Monrovia wanted a larger and more expensive library than Arcadia, pay the debt off A.S.A.P.!
3. Since some in Monrovia thought we needed to spend $26 million on Monrovia High, pay if off A.S.A.P.!
4. Remove parking restrictions as a result of street sweeping (I can do a better job than your noisy machine!)
5. Remove the ban on oak trees…especially on sidewalks / public safety should come before the "sacred" oaks (raised broken sidewalks)
Thank you for asking!

1. Continue to develop businesses in Monrovia
2. Make sure to continue improvements to old town area
3. Increase police patrols to reduce home robberies
4. Improve / keep trash collections good. Improve trash sorting program – look into Athens sorting out recyclables.
5. Improve parking in old town

1. Continue to have / offer events to make Monrovia a destination
2. Pro-Active on creating & supporting neighbor-hood watch "block" program

1. Our new train station
2. Crime, break-ins
3. Staying close to everyone in one city
4. Keeping it a safe small town
5. To help find a building for life fellowship to move into. For the best church for everyone in our town to go to Pastor Scott Preast

1. Continue to improve public schools (raise API score)
2. Safety
3. Get rid of (eyesore) Brass Elephant / hotel ugly
4. Clean/beautify foothill (west of Myrtle)

1. City of Monrovia (city hall) should work with the school district to restrict traffic around the schools

1. Make Monrovia a quiet peaceful place to live
2. Suggest zoning & ordinances to control noise and non-residential activities in residential areas

1. Move telephone wires underground and get rid of the ugliest tele. poles & wires
2. Get the city's internet and cable access converted to fiber optics

1. Gang elimination
2. Lowering cost of utilities
3. No more rabbit warren apartments

1. Keep alleys clean in town
2. Empty land – build park
3. Stop! builders from removing any variety of mature trees and plant oaks to deter over building
4. Encourage building of more Victorian Queen Anne style homes
5. Build park on large parcel of open land bounded by Canyon on west, Grand on east Greystone on north. Behind homes

1. Public transportation buses to & from metro & 2 main shopping centers
2. Good schools & that gorgeous high school
3. Parks &B Recreation
4. Buses for seniors & students
5. All city's services are very well run & satisfying

1. Improve education in all level of schooling through high school education
2. Enforce laws against criminals reduce (strong stance) against crime, gangs
3. Promote public transportations throughout the city; buses, Metro
4. Promote & invite businesses to the city – incentives to business growth
5. Enhance quality life among community at large – concerts, summer festivals

1. Moving overhead phone / power / cable lines underground. There are too many wires/cables on pole that are unsightly. (See 500 block of West Palm)
2. Eliminate the family festival on Fridays. It causes parking & traffic problems
3. Re-pave Linwood Av. between Violet & Mayflower. Too many pot holes & cracks
4. More street lights on Palm between Mayflower and Alta Vista. Area is too dark!

1. Gold Line continuation
2. More "non-bar" type restaurants
3. Re-surface streets in dis-repair such as Norumbega

1. Please re-stripe street lane, especially Foothill Blvd. and Mountain Ave

1. Taxes go up every year
2. Stop suing citizens of your own town. Stop all lawsuits – compared to other towns –abusive
3. Stop spending $ at all – library – upgrade of school will take years to pay off
4. Reduce your pension to 15% of your salary – term limits – 6 yr
5. The metro extension & renovation of station are plenty of expenditure
6. Reduce public employees – half of them can be found sleeping in trucks at various sawpit wash areas

1. Preserve the old homes & prevent mansionization & subdivision of large older properties. Maintain the charming character of our older neighborhoods
2. Limit the high density developments in our city's core. We have enough big condo developments
3. Maintain the charm of Myrtle Avenue
4. Programs for youth to keep them away from gangs

1. Overnight parking on streets. Go to a nightly permit system like San Gabriel. Will clean up streets & provide revenue
2. Stop people from going through our recycle bins on Wednesday morning. It scares my girlfriend when she goes to her car

1. Providing trails per the approved plan in the hillsides as promised to the residents of Monrovia
2. Help get the Gold Line station up and running with Metro. Restore the Depot! Check out Glendale's!
3. Keep a balanced budget – focus on services not administration
4. Continue to offer competitive salaries in order to attract good employees
5. Land uses should continue to be balanced with single / multiple residential, commercial & industrial. Be careful with any rezoning or GP changes

1. Taxes – Lower taxes. Don't pass anything creating more taxes
2. Reduce spending on entitlement type programs
3. Make sure Monrovia does not have any capital appreciation bonds!!!
4. Inspire Monrovia staff to create a more positive environment @ the city; avoid typical "government"
5. Attitudes – operate more like the private sector, as if you must earn your customers!!!

1. Ban signs in Chinese – declare Monrovia an English–speaking city
2. Become more business friendly – especially to contractors, etc
3. No Arcadia mansionization. Keep "old town" look
4. Do a better job keeping Myrtle plantings tidy – too overgrown now
5. Keep major businesses below Huntington – support our local Myrtle Ave stores

1. Police safety
2. Traffic control of Foothill
3. Post office parking

1. Sports center
2. Skate park
3. Food court

1. Continue focus on energy between community and school
2. Emphasis on resources to elementary schools – long term strategy for good schools/good community
3. Emphasis on positive police presence – good for community
4. Keep officers on SARB etc. – they are very accessible to schools – good connections are very helpful

1. Monrovia Unified School District Emergency supplies
2. CPR certification for staff members of MUSD
3. Bully prevention programs for MUSD all grades

1. Activities for teens…things that they will connect to when they are out of school (summer, spring break)
2. Continue to offer Leadership activities for youth including the "Yes" program
3. Career partnerships between schools & business
4. Emergency preparedness "can't be too prepared"

1. Social activities for teens ages 12 – 18

1. Focusing every day on solving root problems and blight in the community
2. Focus on having more community activities, and events that promote safety and wellness in the community
3. Having more programs that deal with children, and helping them in their studies and family life
4. Focus on dealing with the root problems with troubled youth
5. Having more opportunities to teach the community about safety and addressing ways to prevent burglaries of homes and cars

1. Bringing staffing levels for city departments back up
2. Empowering citizens to be proactive in solving their own problems
3. Bringing in businesses to bolster sales tax revenue
4. Make sure public safety remains a priority
5. Make sure public safety remains a priority

1. Hiring more officers
2. Promote people to key leadership positions
3. Open traffic motor position
4. Hire CSO positions
5. Bring police cadets back

1. Year 1- reduce cost of gov't 5%.
2. Year 2- reduce gov't another 5%.
3. Year 3- reduce cost of gov't by another 5%.
4. Year 4 – reduce cost of gov't another 5%.
5. Year 5- reduce gov't cost another 5%, total of 25%.

1. Noise reduction Stop pollution Run off.
2. Eliminate all leaf blowers. Eliminate Sunday construction.
3. Eliminate Office of Mayor – rotate office from city council seats – save money.
4. Eliminate fixed contracts (eg. Trash) Bid out annually.
5. Put Fire Dept on 8 hr shifts to save money!!

1. Crime.
2. Education across the life span.
3. Affordable Recreation.
4. Conservation.
5. Affordable housing.

1. We need a place for graffiti artists.
2. Basketball games at the parks.

1. Find cheaper & more efficient ways to maintain city (landscaping primarily).
2. Setup biking permits for use in skate parks. Adult & child sign possible injury waiver. If they fall, it's their fault. Bike at your own risk.

1. Get the city together more often, with a carnival or music in the park (movie nights?).

1. Music center.
2. Boxing gym.

1. Look into paramedic ambulance transfer "insurance" as Arcadia has. For $50/yr, one can have paramedic ambulance transfer from one's home free-of-charge for that 12-month period.
2. How about a "city-wide garage sale?"

1. Building up the community around the Gold Line station – shops/ restaurants to make it a good place to stop and shop.
2. Maintaining & expanding the street fair experience to showcase our town & bring in revenue.
3. Keeping & growing support for the school system.
4. Maintaining a safe & clean town.
5. Maintaining & expanding Monrovia Canyon Park.

1. **Public safety – more Police- no cuts in the Fire Department.**
2. **Street maintenance and repair.**
3. **Education – more money for schools.**
4. **Protect hillside – maintain Canyon Park.**

1. Quit wasting taxpayer's money on library foundation. Grace period on city bills. Zero grace is terrible business practice.

1. **Gold Line ☺.**
2. **Keep Xmas parade art exhibits Farmer's Mkt.**
3. **Keep "Old Town".**
4. **Police presence.**
5. **Library keep Mon. Community Adult School.**

1. Pomona Ave & Raymond Ave area needs to should be re-vamped & modernized re-developed very junky area nice hotel or restaurant.

1. **Business development. Filling void left by Redevelopment Agency, especially on Myrtle.**
2. **Public safety, police force & fire dept (gang control).**
3. **Education (schools).**
4. **Park development & upkeep.**
5. **Community events (fair on Myrtle, Farmer's market, etc.).**

1. No parking on street at night – brings more crime.
2. Quit building around Myrtle too congested.
3. Give attention to other areas of Monrovia – it shouldn't just be about Myrtle.

1. **Involve handicap persons in planning civic improvements, some of the changes on Myrtle & the Civic center were not any improvements.**

1. Fix pot holes correctly, instead of doing half the job three years in a row. Do it once, the right way.
2. Stop supplying employees of the city with free coffee. The can buy their own or not drink it.
3. Encourage new business to the city. Allow food trucks. Also tax them on sales.
4. Put all above ground utility wires underground. Pressure Edison to do so. Monrovia is at risk due to fires from winds.
5. Property values will go up with the preceding. Open all wilderness areas to hiking

1. Neighborhood safety
2. Business friendly
3. Clean city
4. Senior citizen support for transportation, activity center
5. Emergency response team kept in place & improved

1. More vigilance in the schools
2. More maintenance in the parks
3. More vigilance with the juveniles
4. Tree maintenance
5. Utility discount programs

1. Control of rent
2. More security in the school. More safe
3. More community sports for family of low income
4. More services of (unreadable) for Hispanic people
5. More (unreadable) low income family

1. More money for schools
2. In & Out

1. Safety in schools
2. Maintenance in streets
3. More programs for teen to keep busy
4. More safety at parks
5. In-n-out in Monrovia

1. Playground at Julian Fisher Park & bathrooms
2. Cleaner restrooms at recreation park

1. More parking spots
2. Concert hall

1. Have a pool
2. Graffiti wall

1. Recommend a police/public forum 7-lacking this important interaction
2. Overgrown foliage by wash poses a fire hazard. Particularly on Royal Oaks & Mountain
3. Please call me for further information: Patty Corrales – 626-622-9650

1. Security in the schools for everyone
2. Security and vigilance on the streets for our students
3. Stop the rent control because it is too high
4. More activities like the programs offered by Eulise.
5. Offer English classes at more schools for adults

1. More police training and for police to treat the people better
2. Better revision of department buildings of (unreadable) for more security and cleanliness
3. Better maintenance of the parks and electric services of (unreadable)
4. More security when school lets out against gangs
5. Community service programs for juveniles and assistance for the families

1. More lights at the park on Shamrock and Lemon, near the YMCA
2. Get rid of the juveniles that congregate on the streets or at the parks
3. Programs for juveniles who have bad grades because they have problems with the material
4. Stop the drug addictions and alcoholism in the city of Monrovia
5. Improve the services at the clinic on Maple and Magnolia

1. More rent control and rights for the renters

1. Lucenda Garcia park is poorly maintained. There is cat feces and bad guys
2. More lighting in the streets of Monrovia
3. More patrol throughout all of Monrovia
4. More protection at the Monrovia schools
5. Meetings for protection at the schools and search those who go to school

1. Better maintenance at the parks
2. More distractions for juveniles, like sports
3. More vigilance at the parks to avoid drug sells
4. More job opportunities for the youth
5. For all the parks to have their own bathrooms and that they be kept open

1. **Infrastructure – pipes for water & sewer – it will never get cheaper to upgrade**
2. **Get electricities underground – less likely to lose power due to our trees**
3. **Help homeowners rehab older homes to improve neighborhood stability and property value**
4. **Help merchants stay in the Old Town area**
5. **Get original Monrovia train station building rehabbed and open with a café or coffee shop/museum**

1. Increase property values: Safety, increase schools kids programs
2. Maintain property values – via public safety, quality public schools
3. Kids programs, great community service
4. Access to more trials via the preserve trails via the preserve
5. Maintain Monrovia Canyon Park & its service

1. **Since the youth of the city have their own "center" on Mountain, I suggest the comm. ctr be a senior center so that seniors can come there from 8:30 to 5. Perhaps – We used to have a game room with a pool table – also a library which is now in a closet in the main Kay Dalton room. There could also be a T.V. The federally funded lunch also could be moved to the comm ctr then. Pat Ostrye. Both Duarte & Arcadia have senior ctrs**

1. Paramedics at my age 90 years
2. (Unreadable) good scheds keys (unreadable) (unreadable)
3. (Unreadable) should have (unreadable) program including art & music

1. **Safety – police & fire protection**
2. **Keep a balance city budget**
3. **Grown city revenue with business friendly growth**
4. **Keep taxes LOW!**

1. Street lighting
2. Have landlords clean up houses that are in need of repair
3. Police enforcement of speed limit on Mayflower between (nothing further was said)

1. **Attracting a variety of small businesses to shops on Myrtle with one (unreadable) priced keystone large store**
2. **Repair sidewalks and update infrastructure**
3. **Improve what exists in town and slow down on new construction of businesses**
4. **Attract a balanced variety of manufacturing companies to provide local jobs**
5. **Spend my taxes wisely**

1. Reduce elementary school class sizes. Esp. grades K-3! 33 kids w/ 1 teacher in kinder & 1st is very challenging **
2. P.E. for all elementary school students at least 2 x/wk. Right now, only the 4th & 5th grades @ Mayflower get P.E.
3. Continue to keep our city safe & family-friendly

1. **Help insure we keep Monrovia fire & police & don't contract for those services (i.e. LA County Fire, LA County Sheriff)**
2. **Prevent over populating Monrovia. Additional high density resid'l development strains our infrastructure & erodes the charm and complexion of our "small town" community**
3. **Please prohibit the use of leaf blowers. They are gross polluters and generate airborne contaminants**
4. **Big problem @ Huntington & Mayflower. A "straight thru" lane for northbound traffic needs to be dedicated. Current dual purpose rt lane gets jammed if pedestrians are present and/or the slightest amount of traffic on Hunt**

1. Norms restaurant, Stater Bros market

1. **The new yellow or orange in front of stores are very dangerous for seniors**
2. **Affordable senior housing to keep us in Monrovia**
3. **Left hand turn signal at busy intersections. Colorado & Myrtle a busy one**
4. **Keep Senior Center parking clear of business trucks on senior Tues & Wed.**
5. **Love Monrovia and the staff at the senior center**

1. Crime – vandalism young people – stealing restoring in Library Park so we can't use it
2. Nicer restaurants nice stores clothing
3. The new Gold Line area so Monrovia new restaurants new shops – new (unreadable) area
4. Bring old town upscale to So. Monrovia
5. Upgrade and upscale So. Monrovia will help with the crime getting low incomes out. Low gangsters

1. **Safety**
2. **Crime preven**
3. **Keep up the good work**
4. **Best city in the valley**
5. **Good schools!!**

1. More low income housing
2. In-n out burger

1. **Encourage locally owned businesses to keep the money in the city**
2. **Improve the parks & recreations programs to the city**
3. **Targeting children 5-10 years through educational programs**
4. **Improvement of the roads to help reduce traffic & accidents**

1. Remaining an "All American" city, no signs in other languages – English only signage
2. At night traveling west on Foothill, the left turn lanes into Pavilions lot are almost invisible. Re-paint??
3. It's worrisome how often businesses change on Myrtle, needs a feeling of stability
4. Crime prevention – burglaries in the Foothill area. Citizens there feel there is no real protection
5. A dog park!!!

1. **Every time there is wind there is a blackout! The wiring here is old & "fixing" doesn't help. We are tired of throwing food away**
2. **New wiring is expensive and inconvenient but is much needed. We lose power but the high school is lit up! So not all the city needs "fixing" Thank you**

1. Quality of schools
2. Ensuring Old Town is attractive destination for businesses
3. Recreational activities

1. **With our economy as it is, it would be best to <u>not</u> proceed with the expensive of Wilderness Preserve Project. It simply makes no sense – <u>no one</u> is clamoring for the development – leave the hillside neighborhood at peace!**
2. **We love our town and believe that "big" changes aren't in anyone's interest. Keeping the downtown business district healthy should be a top goal – empty stores are possible reflection of too high rent**
3. **Traffic on Canyon north of Foothill Bl – though speed is often monitored/displayed by the large digital signs – we rarely see law enforcement this is an issue north of Hillcrest especially both north and southbound**

1. Protect the Hillside no more infringement on our animals & views
2. No more ugly over-sized mixed used (down town) units like the one on Walnut that has many vacancies. Protect old homes!
3. Improve our schools (mainly Jr. High & High School) scores to make Monrovia even more desirable
4. Keep the downtown height to 30 feet so vistas (scenic) will not be blocked
5. Watering trough somewhere back in Mountains so bears & other animals have water & won't need to come into habitable areas

1. **Bring more businesses to the community In&Out Chick Fil**
2. **Better transportation metro rail, buses, etc**

1. Fiber optic infrastructure: establish a public / private partnership w/ Freedom Fiber or Sunesys to revitalize Monrovia like what Chattanooga, TN did.
2. Cell phone coverage streamline regulations and work with AT&T, Verizon, Sprint & T-Mobile to add towers and blanket the area with 5 bars of LTE coverage
3. Shop Monrovia: encourage local shopping. Add, update and enhance signage on the 210 and surface streets showing the borders of the city
4. Yard sale permits simple services like yard sale permits should be made available online
5. Sidewalk assessments where no sidewalks exist, home sales in excess of $200k and remodels in excess of $50k should require an assessment to establish a sidewalk

1. **Maintain the small town, community focus**
2. **Maintain the universal language (English) signage throughout the city. Please don't allow what has happened in San Gabriel, Arcadia, etc**
3. **Limit new construction to appropriate levels. Do not allow overbuilding large, monstrous homes on small lots**
4. **City to retain ownership of the hillsides and not allow construction in the hills. The wildlife that we have in Monrovia is so unique**
5. **Continued Old Town events, Friday nights, New Year's Eve, Christmas parade, etc**

1. Our schools' security – especially Santa Fe MS – corner of 2 main, busy streets (Peck & Duarte Rds)
2. Street lights
3. Public transportation development

1. **Sidewalk maintenance – repair lifted of uneven concrete**
2. **Trees – trim trees on sidewalks**
3. **Promote drought tolerant landscaping – offer how to classes on landscaping**

1. A dog park would be fantastic – a big open off-leash space

1. **Focus on crime, vandalism & graffiti is rampant in my neighborhood, with little or no concern from city. Community policing starts with restoring neighborhoods and focusing on petty crime, it's proven! Get with it!**

1. (Plant more trees) city beautification
2. Build a community center where has swimming, pools, basketball court…etc.)
3. Recruit Asian markets

1. **Continue Improving Schools (Good schools increase all of our property values. They are worth it!)**
2. **Create a plan related to providing services around the coming metrolink train stop at our historic station**
3. **Continue to develop downtown as a "destination" shopping and dining experience to rival Pasadena**
4. **Develop film/tv production contacts to make filming easier. Monrovia is a great place to live. Let's publicize**
5. **What's going on with the Mayan/Aztec Hotel on Foothill? What a waste of a wonderful landmark**

1. Continuing increase in library services and programing

1. **Gold Line extension and local transit options to connect with Monrovia Station….e.g.Local Trolley, Bus**
2. **In-N-Out in Monrovia**
3. **Zankou Chicken in Monrovia**
4. **Update local ordinance so that residences with medium sized lots can have smaller number of goats, alpaca, etc. We have a great chicken policy already!!!**
5. **Legalize residential beekeeping as other cities such as Santa Monica have done already!!! (no domesticated bees = vacuum for Africanized bees)**

1. More kids programs to take them off the streets
2. Cleaner parks
3. More police around schools
4. More help for homeless people
5. More trees and greens

1. **Food bank, more food, better food**
2. **Shelters for all families**
3. **Schools/crossing guards**
4. **Light/stop sign at Buena Vista off ramp from 210 freeway**
5. **More funding to foothill pregnancy resource center**

1. More funding for the Foothills resource center: they help so many people with baby supplies
2. More food banks; getting more food and supplies for the needy
3. We need more jobs either in this City or Duarte
4. You should do "Coat Drives" when the Winter approaches for the homeless
5. More funding for the Foothills pregnancy resource center

1. **Food banks**
2. **Shelters**
3. **Safer schools**
4. **More help to get jobs**
5. **More help to get medical for homeless and for people who need help**

1. Aprir clinicas comunita rias mas cercanas
2. More local clinics for women's health and family
3. Community clinic

1. Funding for more hiring in public safety
2. Better retirement benefits for public safety employees
3. Four firefighters on every engine
4. A third fire station
5. Fire department merge with LA County

1. Retiree medical insurance for employees
2. Consolidate fire dept with LA County Fire Dept
3. Comply with NFPA 1710 4 firefighters on all fire engines
4. Better benefits

1. I would like more police presence at our schools. More school resource officers
2. I would like newer computers for the police cars and police department
3. I would like to see a new police pay attention to the re-alignment issues
4. Upgrade the police radio system
5. Upgrade police motorcycles

1. Public safety
2. Better pay for public safety
3. A leave incentive for sick family members
4. Hire community service officers for cold reports and to assist patrol
5. Better medical retirement for public safety

1. More medical pay to fire department personal
2. Retirement city to pay ours
3. Go to LACO Fire
4. Better benefits
5. Comply with NFPA 1710 four man engines

1. Public safety – city pay for medical
2. Public safety – city pay for retirement
3. Public safety – better benefits
4. Public safety – comply with NFPA 1710 4 person engines
5. Public safety – consolidate with Los Angeles County Fire Dept

Topic Name: Envisioning Monrovia's Future

Idea Title: Open the Hillside Recreation Area

Idea Detail: The Hillside Recreation area, that Monrovians have been taxed for for, I believe, almost ten years, and which the City Council voted in June or July of this year to open, really needs to open. It is taking far too long.

Idea Author: Brad H

Number of Seconds 14

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Laurie, I can't seem to find the correct web page on the city site that discusses the progress of opening the Hillside Wilderness Preserve and Recreation Area. Could you give a web page, please. | By Brad H

Comment 2: We truly appreciate the Hillside Wilderness Preserve comments from the community. The Monrovia City Council adopted the Environmental Impact Report and Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Hillside Wilderness Preserve (HWP) on February 7, 2012. The adoption authorized Staff to begin formalizing the access points at Ridgeside, Cloverleaf, Highland and Sleepy Hollow using the Resource Management Plan as the guide. In accordance with the RMP, each access point will be equipped with amenities that will help facilitate access and use by the public. These amenities include gates, signage, bear proof trash receptacles and mutt mitt dispensers. Please refer to the City's website for updates on the status of this project. | By Laurie L

Comment 3: I certainly agree with this idea. I have been told that there currently is "informal access" to the Hillside Wilderness Preserve at Sleepy Hollow, Ridgeside, Cloverleaf, and Highland. I have hiked in these areas, but you must pass "No Trespassing" signs and gates to do so. The Dept. of Community Services has said that signage, "Mutt Mitts", and trash receptacles must be put in place for use by the public and that this should be accomplished by January or February 2013. I hope many of the City residents will second this idea and that the City will follow through with giving us the use of the Preserve that we joined together to purchase. | By Ron H

Idea Title: Move Monrovia Animal Control's contract closer/offer spay nueter

Idea Detail: Our current contract is up in June. We need to move to a closer location that offers better service and a lower kill rate. We currently offer no low cost spay, neuter or

vaccination programs. Our current contract is with Pomona which has one of the lowest adoption rates in CA. It is so far away that people will not even go and pick up their lost pets. It is time for a change in Monrovia on how we treat our animals. Please help inform Monrovians on this important matter. 4 million unwanted dogs and cats are killed every year in the USA. You can make a difference! Did you know that FixNation will spay or neuter cats for free and even furnish cages?

Idea Author: Janie D

Number of Seconds 13

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: Thank you for your comments and concerns. Unfortunately, there are few shelters in our area willing to accept animals from cities which they do not provide animals control service. Our main options are Los Angeles County and Inland Valley Humane Society, with IVHS better meeting our needs. We have proposed sheltering our impounded animals with closer humane societies (Pasadena) that have lower euthanasia rates, but those proposals were rejected based on the fact that we provide our Animal Control internally and do not contract for service with the closer shelters. The City of Monrovia is able to provide better Animal Control service (more coverage & lower response times) by keeping our officers in-house. We have asked Pasadena to re-consider contracting with us for sheltering, but due to underfunding and understaffing, they are not able to do so at this time. | By Laurie L

Comment 2: This is very important to many of my neighbors, too. | By Caroline C

Comment 3: I would like to see Pasadena Humane Society be the shelter for Monrovia. PHS already serves Arcadia, Sierra Madre and several other neighboring towns. Their facilities are excellent and being a member city, Monrovia could also access PHS's incredible education programs, community outreach programs etc. Having worked in their Barks & Books program at Arcadia Library and the Companion Animal Program and various nursing homes and retirement villages I can personally vouch for the wonderful work they do. Since they serve several hillside communities, they have dedicated staff that work with the various types of urban wildlife and birds in our area. Their adoption methods are tried and true - they want to find the best and most suitable homes for each animal. They have low-cost spay/neuter programs and also have training classes available. I would love it if Monrovia would contract with the Pasadena Humane Society for our animal services. | By Annie B

Comment 4: If we have a community newletter, it should contain information on the shelter servicing our comm. also include links for low cost spay/neuter ; and important information on how long a pet will be held at a shelter, before they are euthanized, if not picked up. it's a fact they being killed daily, and people still don't get that. In addition, if you can no longer keep

your pet, all steps do to before having to surrender them to shelters. People still think a shelter, is for dumping their bully breeds, sick, old and unwanted pets and they will happily take care of them, nurse them back to health, and then find them a new home. Not likely at all. In fact, these are the ones at the front of the line to be euthanized in a shelter, and even puppies are being euthanized due to over population. A city ordinance for mandatory spay and neuter would help. Not sure if the city has to power for mandatory spay/neuter but it would surely help. PS love the shuttle idea for low spay and neuter. | By Eva M

Comment 5: I'm relatively new to the area, so I have two questions: 1) FixNation appears to serve LA. It's not super close to Monrovia, but if it would be prohibitive for Monrovia to fund a similar program, maybe they should consider partnering with FixNation to, I don't know, offer a once a month shuttle to their location. 2) Is there a closer shelter than Pomona? If so, why don't we use it? What are the alternatives?

Thanks! | By Gabrielle K

Idea Title: Monrovia Communittee Garden

Idea Detail: The land WE Monrovians bought in the foothills still has not found consensus on its use. Part of that property was used as growing grounds by Rosedales years ago, so there is a botanical history there already.
It has been suggested by future environmental thinkers that every city should have as one of its primary goals for development that communities try to become as independent in all areas as much as possible. Energy and water come to mind right away, but food should be a concern as well.
We are fortunate that we have some of the world's leaders in agriculture and plant development close by.So the resources for such a project are not an issue.
We have a Monrovia Garden Club, and lots of retired folks and others that have a passion for gardening. Gardening is great exercise which is a plus for volunteers as well. We have a local transit system that can help with transportation for seniors, etc. Our city has one of the best Street Fairs where some of the items could be sold to help supplement the garden to make it self sufficient. However, the primary focus would be to provide food to those in our city that are less fortunate, and we already have a distribution organization for that as well.
Further, as the project evolves I could also see that another function could be added so that volunteers could be called upon by our citizens to collect fruit from trees in our residential neighborhoods that would otherwise go to waste.
There are plenty of other off shoots to help the environment as well as educational opportunities for our schools. I see it as a great win-win project that could serve as a model for all other cities to copy.

Idea Author: Rick W

Number of Seconds 12

Number of Comments 7

Comment 1: We appreciate the interest in a community garden. The Department of Community Services, Recreation Division is currently investigating a Community Garden on the West side of town. Please look for updates on the progress of the project on the City webpage. | By Laurie L

Comment 2: It would be simple just to have a free food for all gathering in a public space -- sort of an outdoor 'mercado' for people to share and trade. If you added all kinds of plants and seeds, it would really be fantastic. Maybe Armstrong would host it in their parking lot before they open on Saturdays. | By Caroline C

Comment 3: Great idea - another way to meet neighbors.

Would like to elaborate on the idea a bit further. Should other people not have the time or the requisite green thumb that comes along with such an endeavor, there are other places within the country that have also turned this type of effort into a self-sustaining revenue.

For example, a person chooses which level of produce they would like to receive. Based on that membership level, they are then presented with their portion of locally grown, organic food. If you are not able to contribute with your time, you could contribute financially to the continued success of the community garden. | By Heather D

Comment 4: I *LOVE* | By Gabrielle K

Comment 5: I *LOVE* the idea of a local CSA! | By Gabrielle K

Comment 6: Excellent idea regarding a membership, either by volunteering or membership fee, to receive the food that is harvested. | By Rick P

Comment 7: A community garden is a great idea, and I especially like the part about picking up unused fruits. It pains me to see how much of the bounty of Monrovia fruit trees goes to waste. | By Gabrielle K

Idea Title: Dining Facilities at Monrovia Gold Line Metro Station

Idea Detail: Maybe this is already part of the thought process, but in case not

It would be nice to be able to have a good meal there; not to mention a great latte... and let's invite local businesses to be there - not the usual corporate faces.

What do you think?

Idea Author: Heather D

Number of Seconds 12

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: A great way to improve other areas..:) and spread out a little. | By Lynn D

Comment 2: Thank you for your response and enthusiasm about the incoming Gold Line! The City has been working with a developer to build a mix of office, retail and housing to the area surrounding the future Monrovia Gold Line Metro Station. At this point, it is still in the preliminary stages and no decisions have been made about the types of businesses that will go there. As that process continues, we will be sure to communicate your comments in addition to further reach out to the community to get their input on the types of businesses they would like to see there. If you have a list of specific Monrovia businesses you would like to see, we would be very interested in hearing them. | By Laurie L

Comment 3: Hi Laurie ~
Friend's Cafe has done a great job of quickly becoming our local go-to coffee shop - would they be interested in stretching their legs out a little bit and having a place at the Metro? In the interest of seeing dining diversity within our town, we don't have a really good Spanish tapas restaurant - one that would have enough square footage to possibly accommodate entertainment at night on weekends (flamenco dancers??) Whether it's at the metro or not, this I think would be a really welcome addition.. I'm sure if I give it time I can come up with more, but this is my current and immediate "oohh" response.

What else is currently up in discussion? Maybe some things that could be more day-turnaround commuter friendly based (shoe repair, dry cleaning...)??

What do you think? | By Heather D

Comment 4: Laurie and Heather, Businesses help each other. As a (service) business owner myself, I have come to understand that service and food establishments have an opportunity to create a "foot-traffic" that helps to draw potential customers to other types of shops like clothing and specialty item stores. In return, these stores do the same for service and food businesses!!

Friends Cafe is a great suggestion. I would suggest to also include other eateries that cater to the full range of the income demographic of Monrovia by inviting restaurants that have a loyal following like Chipotle and a Smith Brother's Restaurant.

Retailers could include boutique clothing stores, men's clothing, kitchen accessories, artisan bakers, artisan ice cream, etc. | By Albert V

Comment 5: Albert - I do not want to endorse any conglomerate such as Chipotle; I think after all the talk of trying to make Monrovia more unique, the last message we want to send is for all the commerical entities to be welcome. what does that say about our efforts to support the small family businesses we want to encourage? I would much rather support your suggestion for the Smith brothers. As an alternative how about a Robert Simon restaurant?

We also need diversity in our dining culture. I mentioned it an earlier comment, but I would very much like to see a Spanish Tapas restaurant closer to home if everyone is also on board with that. If not - Old Town Pasadena and Long Beach will suffice. | By Heather D

Comment 6: Great idea, I believe this would be a great point-of-difference at the Monrovia Station from many of the existing stations along the current Gold Line route.

The original station plan suggests a coffee house within the Historic Monrovia Train Station which is NOT going to be the train-riders boarding platform. The platform to board trains would be right next to the Historic building. Check out this link, http://la.uli.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/TAP-Report-Monrovia-Monrovia-Station-Square-Transit-Village-2010.pdf

Please be aware that the above .pdf was created prior to the State of California abolishing the Redevelopment Agency, therefore, considerable funds that would help to take the Monrovia train station from plan to reality is simply not there.

All the ideas that bring people to our city to live, go to school, to shop and to eat, to start businesses will all help to generate more revenue for the city so we can afford to pay for more. Remember to please shop Monrovia! | By Albert V

Idea Title: Public Park below Huntington

Idea Detail: I feel a park below Huntington is essential. Park/plaza space was a part of the Gold Line Station idea before redevelopment was altered.

There are about 5,500 residents who live below Huntington with 0 acres of parks within that area (1/2 mile radius from the corner of California and Railroad Ave). It appears that every other 1/2 mile radius above Huntington has 5-20 acres of park space. The National minimal standard that was used for many years recommended .1-.3 acres per 1,000 people; a 2 acre park is warranted.

Idea Author: Nancy M

Number of Seconds 10

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: The city had a park off of Wyland way but sold it to developers plus there is Pamela Park and the baseball fields at Santa Fe middle school. However, more parks is not a bad idea, just an expensive one that I agree, is warranted. | By David B

Comment 2: How can we add another park when were having a hard time fixing Julian Fisher Park! | By larry S

> Comment 3: Julian Fisher Park is in need of new play equipment but at least it is open space (something residents below Huntington do not have access to). I think we should pursue a Kaboom grant and use members of the community to install playground equipment in Julian Fisher Park | By Nancy M

Comment 4: I look forward to seeing the Gold Line Station plan as it evolves as we move forward. I too, hope that the park aspect stays in the mix. Open space is important. | By Albert V

Idea Title: Use land wisely at Clifton Middle School

Idea Detail: I walk down Palm St. almost every day. During the summer, I would often see the lawn in front of the school being watered. Especially since we live in a desert, that seemed to me like a colossal waste of resources. That lawn is not used for sports (or any other activities that I know of). It could be replaced by native, drought-resistant plants, or a meditation labyrinth, or a sculpture garden, etc. Additionally, I've been sad to see the school garden languish untended. I don't have any students at Clifton, so I don't know who started the garden or who's in charge of it, but surely there's someone in Monrovia who could assist the students in learning to raise crops? (Not me. I have a black thumb!)

Idea Author: Gabrielle K

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Gabrielle, This post motivated me to go to Clifton Middle School and look at the grounds as well as assess the gardens. The planter boxes are truly in a sad state.

As you mentioned, we live in a desert, so teaching the kids about planting native and drought resistant plants is important. I would like to suggest that the planter boxes be filled with succulents. A variety of colors, textures, shapes and sizes are found in succulents and most of them flower as well!

I have a couple of resources that may be willing to help guide us into an easy-to-care-for succulent garden. The kids can hold a fund raiser as the cost of many succulents are fairly low. | By Albert V

Idea Title: Small Canyon Park Entrance Fee for Non-Resident Walk-In Visitors

Idea Detail: Canyon Park is a wonderful and unique asset of the City. It has numerous visitors to the Nature Center, picnic areas and trails on weekdays, and a high number of "walk-in visitors" on weekends. A high percentage of the park visitors are not residents of Monrovia, but nevertheless are welcome visitors. Since the City , and its residents, support the Park financially, it seems that a small entrance fee (maybe $1) would be a fair way for non-resident walk-in visitors to assist in maintaining this enjoyable wilderness. Note: There is currently a parking fee for cars that enter the Park whether a Monrovia resident or not.

Idea Author: Ron H

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 8

Comment 1: How about a "free parking day?" Maybe one day a week or once a month. The LA Co Arboretum as well as Huntington Library have free admission and parking once a month. It would encourage people to visit and enjoy the great wilderness. If raising more funds is the issue, how about selling Monrovia Canyon Park calendars, bumper stickers, postcards, toy bears, etc.? The stuff could be sold in the Nature Center and/or even on the City's web site. | By g W

Comment 2: Thank you for your Canyon Park comments regarding use and fees. Proposition

A Grant funds were used to make improvements to Canyon Park including trails, the Nature Center and the Cabin/Conference facility. Proposition A is funded through a California bond measure which requires the park be made equally available to residents and non-residents thus a separate fee for non-residents cannot be enacted. The Community Services Commission reviews all fees and charges annually and makes recommendations for new fees and/or fee changes as part of the fee resolution adopted by City Council annually. We will take your ideas to heart. | By Laurie L

Comment 3: I don't like the idea of charging people to use public parks. This just seems to San Marino to me. We should be encouraging people to use and enjoy parks, to get exercise, to experience nature, not making it harder. | By Scott R

Comment 4: I think this would be a good idea and help bring addtional revenue into the city. After all I believe San Marino chages a non resident entry fee for Lacy Park. | By MRV R

Comment 5: I doubt a 1$ fee would even pay for the accounting and administration costs, let alone benefit the park in any way. Fees like this are more a nuisance than a benefit. | By David B

> Comment 6: Do you have any idea how many people walk into the Park each week? My understanding is the Park takes in approximately $60,000 per year from the $5 per car fee. There are significantly more individuals that walk in than the autos that drive in and park. The $5 fee is collected at the Entrance Station near the first Ranger Station, so a system is already in place to deal with collecting cash. | By Ron H
>
> Comment 7: Sorry Ron, I highly doubt that Canyon Park see (by your number) over 30 cars a day, 365 days a year. | By David B
>
> Comment 8: The $60,000 came from one of the Rangers. Maybe it's high -- maybe buses make up the difference. In any event, the number can be found out and a cost benefit study might be useful. The City, like most cities, is looking for ways to help it's budget. Feeling like it is a nuisance might be passing up something that could help. | By Ron H

Idea Title: Time and Talent

Idea Detail: Develop a directory of volunteer talents to help keep the city running and maintained. Develop volunteer projects to help clean up and repair.

Idea Author: Ron B

Number of Seconds 9

Number of Comments 13

Comment 1: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
JOIN THE 2013 REGIONAL HOMELESS COUNT

Join dozens of fellow community volunteers to help count homeless individuals in our city on January 29, 2013 from 6p.m. to 12a.m. at the Monrovia United Methodist Church, 140 East Palm Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016.

There are 4 cities in the SGV that are also doing the HOMELESS COUNT PLUS (Monrovia, Arcadia, Duarte, and Pomona) which not only includes conducting a basic count of the homeless on the streets, but also using the Vulnerability Index to assist us in learning who of the homeless on the street are most vulnerable. The Vulnerability Index will allow this community to not only get a count of the street homeless, but will also provide us with more about our homeless neighbors including demographic information and vulnerability status. Vulnerability status will then be used to prioritize our most valuable, permanent supportive housing resources.
Tuesday, Jan 29 from 6pm - midnight: Homeless Count
Wed Jan 30 & Thurs Jan 31 from 6pm - midnight: Homeless Count PLUS

The hours and location for all three nights are the same: Monrovia United Methodist Church located at 140 East Palm Avenue, Monrovia CA 91016 from 6pm-12am. It is helpful to have individuals assist for 2 nights if possible to maximize productivity (by reducing training).

To register as a volunteer (must be 18), visit LAHSA's website www.theycountwillyou.org
Here you can sign up to assist on Jan 29 for the count.
If you can ALSO volunteer either Jan 30 and/or 31st, e-mail Lisa@SGVconsortium.org

For more information, contact Lisa Bartkowski at lisa@sgvconsortium.org , (626) 214-5986 | By Nancy M

Comment 2: One upcoming volunteer opportunity: THEY COUNT: WILL YOU
Join the 2013 Monrovia Homeless Count In order to make a difference in the lives of homeless men, women and children in Monrovia, we need to know who they are and where they are… Join dozens of fellow community volunteers to help count the homeless individuals in our city. January 29, 30, 31st - 6 pm to 12 am

Sign-Up Online: www.TheyCountWillYou.org For more information, contact Lisa Bartkowski via email at lisa@sgvconsortium.org or call 626-214-5986.

| By Nancy M

Comment 3: GREAT IDEA! I am an expert at productivity software, computers and networks. I was a concert organist (am playing part time) and play most types of keyboards. I am handy with tools, and can roll my sleeves up. I AM WILLING TO VOLUNTEER FOR MOST ANYTHING RELATED TO THESE AREAS.

I will bet that there are many Monrovians who have a lot of talent and skills to share for the benefit of the city and their neighbors. John's idea about posting jobs or tasks on the city website is fantastic! I WOULD VOLUNTEER A LOT if there was some simple way for me to apply for tasks, jobs, etc. COULD THE CITY OF MONROVIA'S WEBMASTER IMPLEMENT SUCH A TOOL? It would pay back ten-fold for the city and residents if this could be done. Best regards, Tony | By Tony W

> Comment 4: The City currently lists a number of skills and talents that can be useful in a variety of City programs and services on this web page: http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/component/content/article/46-human-resources/123-volunteer-opportunities
>
> If you are looking for a second career or wishing you could do more for Monrovia -- Now is your chance!
>
> If you are retired, work part-time or not at all, or are looking for experience in a new field, the City of Monrovia has an opportunity for you. The City is looking for volunteers willing and able to join City staff in serving the community. If you have good clerical, computer and/or people skills, are interested in teaching or working with families and children, or if you have special or professional skills -- give us a call!
>
> For more information or an application, call the City's Job Line at (626) 932-5592, ext. 2701
>
> Two volunteer positions that have continuous openings are; FIRE CADET and LITERACY VOLUNTEER.
>
> This can be a start m | By Nancy M

Comment 5: perhaps we could utilize the existing database from San Gabriel Valley Volunteer Center and expand it for Monrovia | By Nancy M

Comment 6: Does the city have an Architectural Review Board of some type? I would

volunteer my time for that. I think it's important to keep our neighborhoods looking nice. | By Rich F

Comment 7: This would be a great idea especially if the jobs and tasks were to be posted on the city website. Ideally, each job/task would have a specific person in charge so they could be contacted by the volunteers and make sure they perform correctly and "close" the job when it's completed. One concern, however would be safety. Liability waivers would probably need to be provided for this type of scenario | By John D

> Comment 8: A link from the city website to the city Facebook page could help to bring together a group of people interested in a particular volunteer project.
>
> For example, a school that needs some cleanup help could post the task and volunteers that want to commit to the project can report to City Hall to fill out a waiver and | By Albert V
>
> Comment 9: by Albert V A link from the city website to the city Facebook page could help to bring together a group of people interested in a particular volunteer project.
>
> For example, a school that needs some cleanup help could post the task and volunteers that want to commit to the project can report to City Hall to fill out a waiver and leave contact information, so a "project manager" can organize a time and date for completion. | By Albert V
>
> Comment 10: GREAT IDEA JOHN! (see my comment above). Regards, Tony W. | By Tony W

Comment 11: This would be a great idea especially if the jobs and tasks were to be posted on the city website. Ideally, each job/task would have a specific person in charge so they could be contacted by the volunteers and make sure they perform correctly and "close" the job when it's completed. Once concern, however would be safety. Liability waivers would probably need to be provided for this type of scenario. | By John D

Comment 12: This could be coordinated by the Historical Society. The gentlemen who restored our wonderful museum is a retired contractor and seemingly good at getting things done for the city! | By Caroline C

Comment 13: I love this idea! I have limited time to spare but I can find some time to allocate for volunteering.

Any ideas as to who would be the creator and manager of the list? Also who would be allowed

to submit a request for help? | By Albert V

Idea Title: Increasing the night life on weekends

Idea Detail: The city needs more night life on weekends, especially on Saturdays, since so many of those small business depend on visitors coming to Old-town for their survival. The City should look into replicating the Farmers Market as a smaller event, maybe like a mini-concert or some type of special event. The City can even look into a sponsorship from one of the big business located in the City to avoid increase in cost.

Idea Author: Teshale T

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 10

Comment 1: How much does it cost the city to close the street, provide law enforcement/security and any other services regarding this? This idea sounds good but will it cost more than it brings in? | By John D

Comment 2: The idea about closing Myrtle to cars on Saturday nights (or perhaps 1 Saturday per month) so restaurants would serve on the sidewalks and perhaps add entertainment sounds like an interesting idea...
We should ask the local businesses what they think as well. There is a group called MOTAB (Monrovia Old Town Advisory Borad). Also, let's start asking some of the restaurants (Rudy's, Sena, Bella Sera, T Phillips, etc.) | By Nancy M

Comment 3: Good idea Ed, starting with family festival leading into the weekend, then on Saturday and Sunday say around 4 or 5pm shut down myrtle until 9pm for dinning with live band. | By larry S

Comment 4: would we want to think taking a gradual approach and turn Old Town Monrovia into a pedestrian-friendly environment on the weekends? should it begin with our traditional friday night event and last through sunday evening? (there was the benefit event which did just what you mention not too long ago with the band, etc. and that seemed to be a big success). | By Heather D

> Comment 5: That's another great way the City can do something about it. I just feel like the weekends needs some life. Thanks. | By Teshale T

Comment 6: I dont know about replacing the farmers market, as so many people from all over

the SGV come to Monrovia on Friday nights, just for that reason, but I do agree about more nightlife on Fridays and Saturdays, Where restaurants and coffee shops and specialty shops stay open later. | By Miriam G

Comment 7: Hi Miriam, I did not say "replace," I stated "replicate." The Farmers market is a great thing and should never be replaced. Thanks. | By Teshale T

Comment 8: Perhaps Myrtle Avenue in Old Town could be closed to vehicle traffic on Saturday nights so that restaurants could serve customers outdoors. This could be combined with some live and/or recorded music and areas for dancing and perhaps some artists exhibits. | By Edward H

Comment 9: Hi Edward, that's an even better idea! I am sure those businesses will love that idea. The City really needs to promote all those great tools they have. It was only recently that I heard about "Plan Monrovia," and only because I was researching the City. | By Teshale T

Comment 10: We should ask the local businesses what they think as well. There is a group called MOTAB (Monrovia Old Town Advisory Borad). Also, let's start asking some of the restaurants (Rudy's, Sena, Bella Sera, T Phillips, etc.) | By Nancy M

Idea Title: Grant Writers

Idea Detail: Enlist some volunteer grant writers to go after funding for programs

Idea Author: Ron B

Number of Seconds 7

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Volunteer liaison between schools and businesses

Idea Detail: Monrovia students need to feel part of this community! One way to help achieve this is by creating a volunteer position that will help connect our schools with Monrovia businesses. This volunteer position can be overseen by the Monrovia School Board as the school board members can best determine how to involve local business.

Some ideas for business involvement are:
*Team sponsorship

*Theatre/arts/music sponsorship
*A place where the residents can purchase tickets for school programs
*Paid and/or Non-paid internships
*Career presentations at the school
*Student and school staff discounts so schools are encouraged to shop locally

The school board can also work at adding more local businesses to the "approved vendor list" to better position our school district to buy locally as much as possible. (I am unaware of how much our school district buys locally.)

Idea Author: Albert V

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I love this idea. We do need to focus on our schools. Having sponsors for art and music. My son attends one of the elementary schools. When he was in kindergarten, they ran out of funding for his art classes. My husband and I paid for his entire class to finish out the last 3 months. He is currently in 2nd grade and they have no art classes. There is no time in the classroom for this anymore as it was many years ago when I was in elementary.
The kids love the arts/music. It is no longer priority to engage children and see that sparkle of pride to help them develop.
The State keeps cutting away at basic learning tools. | By Dawn G

> Comment 2: Please check out this link http://kgem.tv/category/monrovia/archive-mon/ Here you will find the interviews of the Monrovia School Board Candidates on the show known as "Beyond the Headlines" with Ralph Walker.
>
> Please watch the interview with our former mayor, Rob Hammond. In this interview, he states his desire to help bring back the arts to our schools. I believe him to be sincere but he too has to work within the school by-laws. Very interesting. Next on my list is the interview with Ed Gililland. | By Albert V

Idea Title: Provide Food and Water for Bears

Idea Detail: This year has seen a significant increase in the number of bears coming into the neighborhoods along the foothills. Many have ventured as far South as Foothill Blvd. There are several things that might help this situation and for the safety of Monrovia citizens, as well as the bears, I think something should be done. My idea is probably controversial, but I hope it, or a variation of it, will be considered. A location in the mountains, accessible using one of the fire roads, could be used to provide food and water for the bears. This should keep them in the

mountains and out of the local neighborhoods. A cost/benefit study would have to be done (as with all proposals) but we shouldn't wait until a bear attacks a child or until someone kills a bear from fear of attack, before the study is done.

Idea Author: Ron H

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: I like it. How to get the food in there safely is an issue hahaha but I like it. I keep envisioning a bear is going to bust down my back door because he smells the kitty food..hahaha Not funny but I am ready to run out the front door. | By Lynn D

Comment 2: .....understanding we now have URBAN Bears that have found life in our neighborhoods is more desirable that in the Wilderness Preserve. Fish and Game dubbed life in the irrigated neighborhoods as an "endless salad bar" for the Wildlife. I would improve this idea by getting a Grant to train Australian Shepherd dogs to keep wildlife out of neighborhoods by herding them back into the Wilderness Preserve! | By Dorothy K

> Comment 3: I have an australian cattle dog that would be willing to serve. I run nearly 30 miles a week with her and she won't quit. I'm tired and could use a break. | By Chad S

Comment 4: I think you raise good points. I think a study of how our type of bears have been managed elsewhere is the first step. Have their been any attacks by this kind of bear in this kind of setting, etc.? We don't know that feeding bears wouldn't draw cougars, or heaven knows what else. Also, we would have to place a hot tub up there or they will still come down to the houses! | By Caroline C

Comment 5: Like you said, not sure how it would be implemented, but some thought certainly needs to be given to this matter. Does anyone know our local forest service folks - ask them if they have any thoughts to help contribute to this idea? | By Heather D

Idea Title: Build state-of-the-art recreation facilities

Idea Detail: Monrovia has a diverse demography but offers few resources to support a healthy lifestyle. Outdoor open space (i.e., parks) are minimal, and safety is often a concern. As a result, residents often have to find affordable opportunities to live healthy lifestyles outside the community.

State-of-the-art recreational facilities that couple indoor activities, such as gymnastics, fitness, racquetball, and open recreational use (i.e., art classes, children's programs, etc.) should be developed alongside outdoor green space for picnics, aquatics, and tennis, among other activities. Discounts should be offered for residents, but the facilities should also be open to non-residents so Monrovia becomes a destination in the SGV.

Idea Author: Ashwin R

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: We appreciate the recreational facilities comments from the community and you have brought up some great ideas for recreation to consider as we move forward. In addition, the Department of Community Services, Recreation Division offers indoor and outdoor activities at the Community Center, Canyon Park and Recreation Park. The Community Center offers indoor activities for seniors such as social clubs, excursions and contract classes for the public (Zumba, Karate, Tap, ballet and tennis). Canyon Park offers open space for walking and hiking and an outdoor education program that focus on the State of California Science Curriculum for children in 3rd through 5th grades. Recreation Park offers outdoor space for tennis, baseball and soccer. For a full-list of parks and their amenities please access the City's website at www.cityofmonrovia.org. The City's future plans include open space access for the Hillside Wilderness Preserve. | By Laurie L

Comment 2: The Y have resident discount but nothing like what Duarte offer their residents. The city need to take back the Mary Wilcox center and utilize it for our youths and MAP Leaders. | By larry S

Comment 3: I LOVE this idea - we love to go rollerblading & bicycling; but we currently pack up the car and go to Long Beach, Santa Monica or Burbank to enjoy their 'skate path'. If we could get something equivalent that would be wonderful!

I have a concern on some of the specific items mentioned - there is a Y on Mountain which provides quite a few of these things - maybe they would be interested in providing a resident discount? I think it would be wise to avoid direct competition and be mindful of blending our needs with theirs so everyone benefits?

What do you think? | By Heather D

Comment 4: Hi Heather,

You're right - the Y on Mountain does offer some of these features. My family has

appreciated their aquatics program, in particular, in the recent past. That said, the fees were substantially higher than programs offered elsewhere, such as in Sierra Madre, which recently began a true public-private partnership with a company called WaterWorks. It would be great to see the Y work with Monrovia to reduce costs and, more importantly, upgrade their facilities, which the Y would likely not do on its own. Their current facility is quite old and in dire need of improvements, and I doubt they'd have the means to do it on their own. In addition, Recreation Park, which abuts their facility, is a grand space for outdoor activities, but it needs substantial renovation, as I don't believe the space is being utilized properly. And I'd love to see more of those types of spaces throughout Monrovia.

Thanks for your comment, Heather! | By Ashwin R

Idea Title: Continueing MAP

Idea Detail: MAP is the community in action!~

Idea Author: larry S

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 12

Comment 1: The Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) has been empowering residents and strengthening neighborhoods since it was unanimously approved by City Council in 2006. Since that time, the program has graduated 115 people from the MAP Leadership Academy, hosted 3 city-wide Neighborhood Conference events and connected many residents through Nextdoor.com, neighborhood events and meetings and opportunities to learn and serve the community together. Can you share a story of how the MAP program has affected you or your neighborhood? | By Laurie L

Comment 2: Just four years ago, the neighborhood near Los Angeles and Sherman Avenues was home to the city's most notorious gang house. Two Duroc Crips who lived there shot and killed 16-year-old Sammantha Salas in early 2008, days after their uncle was shot to death by rival gang members in front of his Sherman Avenue home. The shootings marked a period of gang warfare in Monrovia that claimed four lives and touched off a massive public safety response. That's when the MAP team sprung into action. The approach of MAP has always been centered around people. The city-sponsored program focuses on reducing crime and blight by providing tools for residents to become more involved in their neighborhoods. | By larry S

Comment 3: The MAP program "sparked" an idea in 2 neighborhoods that literally made these neighborhoods "shine" (by participating in the Holiday Home Decorating Contest). Way to go Almond & Fig! | By Nancy M

Comment 4: MAP has educated me about my city, inspired me to be proactive in my neighborhood, guided me to know how to make change. MAP provides opportunity to volunteer. MAP has empowered me! | By Albert V

Comment 5: As you know MAP has become more than a program. It has become an effective tool for identifying, understanding and addressing the needs of our community and neighborhoods. Just ask the 112 or more graduates.

| By larry S

Comment 6: thank you both for posting this information - after reading, it is certainly worthwhile and seems to be the umbrella program which is already addressing a few other ideas submitted thus far. yes, let's please make sure this continues to be an avenue of success to addressing ongoing issues. | By Heather D

Comment 7: Hi Heather,
Yes, thanks for asking! The work of MAP is a great thing to become involved with. Check out this link http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/city-government/map-monrovia-area-partnership to learn more. Also, call them and tell them how you heard about MAP so you can feel the energy that comes from the people who run the program. All of them are wonderful. | By Albert V

Comment 8: Here some basic information about MAP
http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/city-government/map-monrovia-area-partnership

Let's ensure MAP continues to be funded. It is likely the most cost effective tool in bettering our community and can help have a positive influence on crime prevention, community building, economic development, neighborhood beautification and so much more. | By Nancy M

Comment 9: Hi Nancy, They say great minds think alike. Our posting on the link to MAP was 1 minute apart!! | By Albert V

Comment 10: The Monrovia Area Partnership is doing the very important work of creating community in the parts of our city that needs it the most! The knowledge and empowerment residents come away with after being exposed to MAP programs is proof alone that the work of MAP needs to continue.

I am a MAP Neighborhood Leader and proud of it! | By Albert V

Comment 11: Albert is there a link or any educational info you can provide on this for further reading? | By Heather D

Comment 12: We must have been typing at the same time!! :) | By Nancy M

Idea Title: Capture rain water through use of swales

Idea Detail: Rain water can replenish ground water if it falls and runs over soil rather than pavement. The gutters along our streets, especially those that are on a slope, flow with water when it rains, and the water is lost into the storm drains. The asphalt in the gutters could be replaced with swales, soil and vegetation that allow infiltration of the rain water. This is especially important in Monrovia where we rely on groundwater for our water supply.

Idea Author: Karen J

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: test | By g W

Comment 2: Hi there, thank you so much for your ideas! The City will be looking into various ideas on how to increase rainwater capture and ground water recharge as part of our efforts to comply with our new Municipal Stormwater Permit and Water 4 Life Program. | By Laurie L

Comment 3: Dear Ms. Lile,
Thank you for responding to my posting I have a further refinement to suggest. Removal of cement in gutters can be expensive, but it would not be necessary to break the cement everywhere. As long as a stretch of gutter "upstream" of a storm drain is porous, water would be returned to the ground.
Is information about the Municipal Stormwater Permit and the Water 4 Life Program available to the public? Thank you. | By Karen J

Comment 4: I am so surprised that Armstrongs does not do this (on Foothill next to Starbucks). It is especially needed there since they have DAILY runoff from watering their plants which goes directly into the storm drain. | By Nancy M

Idea Title: A commitment to excellence in education

Idea Detail: Whenever young families are considering which foothills town to live in, the top school systems are always at the top of the list (S. Pas, La Canada, San Marino). This consistent desire keeps property values high, crime low and a sense of community high in these locations. The single best investment we can make in Monrovia is to continue to support the improvement of our schools. As opposed to another commenter, we don't need more police in schools, we need more teachers, books, technology and extracurricular opportunities.

Idea Author: Jacob B

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Excellent post Jacob! Truly, anything we do to continue to improve our schools MUST BE AT THE TOP OF OUR LIST!! "Continue to improve" being the key statement here. Please check out www.school-ratings.com to see how our schools rate.

Most Monrovia schools API (Academic Performance Index) rate above 800 which is something to be proud of considering where we came from (mid 700's) just two years ago! And that's the District, not just one school!

I personally believe that the continued improvement will happen with all you mentioned as well as a strong police presence. I don't mean to say police on the campuses so much as police in and around the city in general. That of coarse will mean police at the schools. When our kids make connections with authorative figures like parents, teachers, police officers and fire fighters, our kids are exposed to people who they want to emulate! Police at our schools are an important, positive statement. | By Albert V

> Comment 2: Oops, I got it wrong. The Monrovia Unified School District has scored in the high 700's and NOT in the mid 700's as I stated above. Check out this link http://www.monroviaschools.net/monrovia/lib/monrovia/Fact%20Sheet%20November%202012.pdf?1565Nav=|&NodeID=639 Interesting facts. | By Albert V

Idea Title: More Street Trees

Idea Detail: We should plant more street trees. Street trees make walking more pleasant. They reinforce the feeling of how close we are to the mountains. They keep your car cool. They raise property values. They reduce the urban heat island effect. Could we plant 1,500 trees by 2015?

Idea Author: Scott R

Number of Seconds 6

Number of Comments 10

Comment 1: How much would this cost the city of, and the residents of Monrovia? Who is going to pay for planting trees in this poor economy? While I love the concept, this would be very low on my priority list with regard to value-for-dollar and short term ROI for Monrovians. There are many other things with greater impact to the residents of Monrovia that need fixing or improvement. Respectfully, Tony | By Tony W

Comment 2: in deference to the comments regarding invasive trees - this is very true AND I also like the idea of coming up with a list of approved city trees. Trees also help with keeping houses cool in the summer as well as contribute to cleaning up our air.

In taking the NO and YES idea(s) here is the beginning of a list I would like to submit the following trees be NOT allowed for planting: Camphor, Ficus, and Eucalyptus (not indigenous and dangerous with wind storms). Is there an arborist within our midst who can expound upon this idea?

Also, here's a link I found which could give us some additional guidance:

http://www.mortonarb.org/tree-plant-advice/article/867/invasive-trees-shrubs-and-vines.html

Trees for possible planting consideration: Crape Myrtle, Sycamore, anyone have any others to add?

What do you think? | By Heather D

> Comment 3: What's wrong with a camphor tree? | By Nancy M
>
> Comment 4: Hi Nancy ~ Camphor trees have invasive roots that can wreak havoc on foundations when planted too close to homes and they uproot sidewalks which then also will require maintenance that can be avoided if we make a decision to choose another species. | By Heather D

Comment 5: Trees are nice but very destructive to streets, sidewalks, and ESPECIALLY sewar systems. I've probably spent $10k in damages caused directly and indirectly from a big tree in front of my house that I eventually had to get removed. Which the city made me pay for that too. So, when and if you plant trees, envision and plan where those roots will go. Think about the added cost to the city or home owner for trimming them. The added cost of street sweeper or another noisy leaf blower too. I like trees very much but there are lots of cons to consider

when planting them. Maybe some type of tree that doesn't grow taller than 20 feet or roots go down instead of out. I don't know much about the different types but if there where some like that, we could have nice trees to look at without all the problems. | By John D

> Comment 6: I agree, when planting trees they should be matched to the appropriate parkway width. We shouldn't plant trees with invasive roots. I know of a local city that allows each street to work together to choose from a palette of appropriate species. | By Scott R

Comment 7: Just be sure to purchase the proper trees, low maintenance, with color and interest. | By kathleen F

Comment 8: Let us use volunteer labor, and let us not bury the crowns when we plant. | By Caroline C

> Comment 9: Yes, I'm sure we could find Scouts, churches, and environmental groups that would be willing to help plant. | By Scott R

> Comment 10: I would be happy to plant trees. | By Nancy M

Idea Title: Safer, more secure Monrovia

Idea Detail: I primarily believe that we need to focus on making the schools of the Monrovia Unified School District the coveted schools of the San Gabriel Valley.

Although Monrovia Unified is its own entity, the City of Monrovia can help to lay the foundation of this idea by having an extremely high police presence. People need to feel safe in sending their kids to our schools and out to play in our neighborhoods. The police presence will deter crime causing criminalistic people to, eventually, move out and a higher caliber resident to move in.

The Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) must stay in tact so they may continue the empowerment of our residents in taking back their neighborhoods and building the community that makes Monrovia great!

Lastly, I can envision Monrovia as the place restaurateurs, retailers and service companies want to call home. Entrepreneurs often look for communities that are populated by families and an area with pedestrian traffic as this helps to ensure a rewarding business experience.

Good schools, safety, a sense of community and a city that has entertainment, food and programs will keep our city vibrant and prosperous!

Thank you for reading my thoughts.

Idea Author: Albert V

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: I agree with the second thrust: that fostering very small business is important to balance out the successes we have seen with the big business near Huntington. It'd be nice if the city offered some "red-tape defense" workshops for people thinking of starting a small business here. Any kind of information network for people thinking of opening their first small business would be helpful. None of us likes to see a business fail.

If more police are added, I think it is essential that they be real community police, that our police really get out and talk to people of all ages, often. It's harder to break the law when the police officers have been your pals since you were a kid! The police want to prevent crime more than they want to have to catch bad guys; community presence lets them do that. | By Caroline C

> Comment 2: Well put Caroline! I cannot comment on how easy or difficult it is to open a business in Monrovia, my business is in Sierra Madre. I would hope though, that it is not a complicated process.
>
> As far as your opinion on the police, you stated it better than I did. Thank you for capturing the essence of what police men and women contribute to the community. Police should be familiar to us in the community, not feared. | By Albert V

Comment 3: I agree that MAP must continue to empower residents but I think that an extremely high police presence isn't always the answer. I would say that targeted policing in high incidence areas would be more effective and still allow residents to feel safe without a sense of being in a police state. | By Rick P

Idea Title: Safer city

Idea Detail: Spend more time and resources on gang violence at our schools and in our streets.

Idea Author: Richard S

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Has there been a study that would help determine why children are killing each other in this city? Can we get to the root of it? Kids aren't born wanting to kill, I hope. So there's an older kid or kids behind each new one. Does this have to do with drug sales, or what? Are we coordinating with other police departments, etc? | By Caroline C

Comment 2: Monrovia should expand its use of reserve police officers, who are essentially free volunteers. Many cities in the area use Level II reserve police officers, in addition to full time and "Level I" officers (who have essentially the same training as full-timers). Monrovia only uses Level I reserves. Level II officers, while less trained, work under the direct supervision of a full-time officer. This provides more flexibility and manpower for emergencies and high priority calls on which a response might otherwise wait for additional cars. The Level II academy is shorter and more attractive to other-wise fully employed professionals (the Level I academy is 11 months long 3 nights a week & weekends and allows almost no absences, a practical impossibility for a working person with a family). Opening MPD to Level II officers will provide the City more staffing at reduced cost, eventually allowing the same budget to go to fewer full-time officers, thus improving their compensation, | By Robert P

Comment 3: 3 Monrovia Budget ideas have been submitted through this website taking Police Services to the top of the list!

A police force that is "bigger than we need," may be the approach we have to take to create the safe city we want.

In looking at the Fiscal Year Budget 2012-13 on the www.CityofMonrovia.org web site, it looks like the city council is on the same page! | By Albert V

Idea Title: Residential Parking Permits

Idea Detail: I love how much we are not like some of our foothill community neighbors, but I would like to submit a proposal for us to consider a nominal ($25) annual fee for on-street overnight residential parking. Potentially no parking on the street from say 2:00 - 5:00am without a permit. It could be added annually to our water bills - no additional costs incurred for new paperwork, etc., etc,

This could have multiple benefits:
* potential to assist with crime reduction
* reduction in unwanted cars staying in one place for days on end
* city based income to contribute directly to city based expenses

Have guests staying with you and they'll be parking on the street? Sierra Madre has (had?) a reasonable workflow...
* you call the police station
* give the make, model, license plate of the car
* tell them the amount of time they are staying with you
* receive a fee-free overnight permit [pretty sure i remember this correctly]

What do you all think?

Idea Author: Heather D

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 17

Comment 1: Back on 12-4-12, I sent an email to Monrovia Chief of Police, Chief Hint with 3 questions. First, do parking permits help to reduce crime? Secondly, do permits help in keeping cars from parking, long term and finally, are permits helpful to police in identifying "suspicious" vehicles?

His response was to say that parking permits is complicated in Monrovia. Many of our older homes were built at a time when people didn't have multiple cars so off-street parking is not available and would burden some of these families.

To the question of parking permits as a crime deterrent, Chief Hunt said that it has some merit. To the issue of long term parking, permits don't help. The city has a 72 hour limit and residents should call police to report abandoned vehicles, the police will mark the vehicle to begin the 72 hour time frame. Lastly, permits were used in the past for "high-crime" areas but since improvement of these areas, permits rarely help the police.

Thanks for reading. | By Albert V

Comment 2: I have people constantly parking in front of my house because they have to many cars and it angers me. Why in front of my place all the time why not theirs??? However I am against it!

The people who can least afford it will be the most affected. Then what about overnight guest | By Lynn D

Comment 3: I think that we should follow Arcadia's and Pasadena's street parking policy. In my neighborhood people purposly store their vehicles on the street because they have too many

to put in the driveway. It makes my street look trashy. Obviously the apartment districts would be exempt (as with Pasadena). But all SFR districts should have a no overnight parking policy, (USE YOUR DRIVEWAY, that's what it's for!) I work hard to make my house look nice and I don't need my neighbors storing their cars in front of it. | By Rich F

Comment 4: Great idea Heather | By Philip C

Comment 5: You mentioned the benefits:
* potential to assist with crime reduction
* reduction in unwanted cars staying in one place for days on end
* city based income to contribute directly to city based expenses
But let's break it down. I wonder how much crime would be reduced by adding a parking fee? Just how would a parking permit reduce crime?
As for unwanted cars, the city already has a 72 hour limit. If this is not being enforced now, how would a permit improve enforcement?
Money? Sure the City gets a few more dollars and the residents get what for it? This strikes me a solution looking for a problem.
| By David B

Comment 6: Hi David –
* cars without the permit are easier to spot and draw suspicion to themselves merely by not having a sticker.
* cars have a 72 hour limit only after you've notified the police - they then go mark the car (we recently went through the motions on this very issue - we went away for a week-long holiday. we came back and one of our neighbors told us that the mysterious car parked in front of our house had been there for a total of four days. if the car had a permit, we at least would know whether it belongs to a resident or not and can begin the process of getting in contact with them and finding out the details of the car. | By Heather D

Comment 7: Heather, Is this your motivation? A single mysterious car? As for finding out the information, the police only need the VIN# or License plate and the City would be prevented to disclose any of the permit information to you by law. (GLB)
Like I said before, we have the existing parking laws, just call the police and let them do their job. It makes no sense to create more bureaucracy, added regulations and even more staff to fix a problem the police already know how to solve. | By David B

Comment 8: David, As I looked into the question of parking permits helping to reduce crime, many cities say the same thing. Yes it does.

The idea is a good one but comes with some difficulties in implementation when it comes to the specifics of our city. Such as, some of the homes in our city don't have off-street parking available. The fees other cities charge are around $80 (Arcadia and Sierra Madre.) Heather provided the great idea of a multi-car discount and I will add that permits be less expensive for the residents who don't have off-street parking as an option.

I have left a voice mail for the Parking Enforcement Department at the city to ask their opinion on the subject as well as sending an email to Chief Hunt asking his opinion about crime reduction as aided by parking permits. I look forward to reporting back.

Hot topic Heather!! | By Albert V

Comment 9: hi all -

moderation is the key i think - going city wide in our particular instance is probably not the correct answer to start this endeavor. to introduce this and then expand upon it as needs arise could be the more successful route (as the commercial vehicles will probably migrate to areas that are not permitted).

...for families needing a permit for more than one car, the city could offer a discount for cars 2+. I won't suggest what that actual reduction in fee would actually be per car, but if you had three cars, maybe the total annual cost would be no more than say $60?

thoughts? | By Heather D

Comment 10: Good thinking Heather! The multi-car pricing is great! Also, good thoughts on the moderation . What if the parts of Monrovia that have the mix of residential with business be one of the starting places and the permits be required to business vehicles? The second area of Monrovia to consider for permits, be the parts of Monrovia that have the most police service calls? | By Albert V

Comment 11: Heather your correct, moderation is the key so where would you start? | By larry S

Comment 12: Hi Larry ~ where to begin? i think it all begins with research. Albert is much more directly involved with the community and has good suggestions on specific places to start. | By Heather D

Comment 13: Heather,
Thanks for your reply. This is definitely where we start to figure this stuff out. This site gives us

the opportunity to share our idea so others can respond giving our City Council a direct line to the opinions of its residents!

Yours is a good idea. I clicked on the links you provided and the Sierra Madre link shows an $84 yearly fee. That is enough for me to say, too high. If an overnight parking permit were started, I thought $25 was way more reasonable. That being said, I am still concerned for the households that would be forced to purchase 2 to 3 permits a year. | By Albert V

Comment 14: Permit parking would take away all the commerical vehicle parking that is flooding the residential neighborhoods. If permit parking was to happen it would have to be city wide. | By larry S

Comment 15: On the surface this sounds good and the benefits are definitely worthy. I am a uncertain, however, how many residents would still be forced to park their cars on the street because they my not have off-street parking available to them. If a good number of cars remain on the street,
*Will cars without a permit really stand out?
*A household with 2 or 3 cars will pay a steep price to park in front of their own homes

Sorry for playing "devil's advocate." Heather, it sounds like you have more experience with resident parking permits than I do and it seems like it was a manageable program. | By Albert V

> Comment 16: I completely welcome the reply - this is where we're supposed to figure this stuff out.
>
> ...the only knowledge I'll claim is having lived in both Pasadena and Sierra Madre, I'm familiar with the "no parking overnight on the streets" situation. It is a revenue generator some of our sister cities have had in play for a while.
>
> http://www.cityofpasadena.net/transportation/ParkingServices/
> http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/departments/police-department/141-overnight-parking
>
> To get specific: in Sierra Madre (a few years ago) a sticker was handed out with the purchase of said permit. We were instructed to place it in the left side of our rear window so it's visible from the street (and police cars passing by).
>
> …and yes, we do have some areas where cars are on the street for a variety of reasons. | By Heather D

Comment 17: Parking permits for my own personal vehicles in front of my property

is for:
1. Cities so poorly planed that there is not nearly enough parking on the property and so they are forced to park the extra cars on the street.
2. Cities that want and think they need more control over your personal life.
3. Just greedy for any extra fee they can conjure up.

I don't see a city wide need but there might be a block or two in town where it might help, | By David B

Idea Title: Infrastructure

Idea Detail: Take care of city streets, parks, public buildings

Idea Author: larry S

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: Beautify the city and have good looking and clean streets will definitely improve pride amongst neighbors, it will also increase housing values! | By Tony H

Comment 2: I would like to put an end to street-cleaning restrictions in Monrovia. Each of us can sweep in front of our houses as was done in the past. I have lived in San Pedro where there is no cleaning-based parking restrictions. The streets looked fine.

I would like to see some attention paid to the lack of sidewalks above Foothill. Children must walk down the street on Ocean View, Valley View, and Mountain View, for example. Mountain, above Ocean View, has no sidewalks. This makes walking unsafe. A woman was killed walking on Mountain some years, I am told. She was a resident of a home on Valley View.

Rather than re-pave Mountain a few years ago, which I failed to see the need for at the time, the city should have worked with property owners and used the money to help make the city safe for walking. Walking is a big factor in mental and physical health: walkability is an asset to any city. | By Caroline C

Comment 3: This post is really 3 different ideas. I second the first part about street sweeping. Our city could consider street sweeping only in the areas that are non-residential.

I like this idea because it puts the responsibility of "pride in our neighborhoods," back on the residents.

Unfortunately, the city will have to bear the cost of making new ordinances regarding parking as well as parking sign removal and/or sign reprinting. Lastly, the city would have to figure out if the savings is greater than the revenue from parking tickets. | By Albert V

Comment 4: There are state laws requiring the sweeping of streets. When streets are swept they deposit lots of junk in the storm water systems. Cities are tasked with cleaning the streets prior to that junk getting deposited into the storm water system.

I completely agree with the need for more sidewalks. We should encourage people to walk. It reduces traffic and decreases obesity. | By Scott R

Idea Title: Improve the Parks - Master Plans

Idea Detail: Library Park has seen some great improvements, but the other parks need improvements. Olive Park's asphalt walkways are turning to gravel. The playground is aging and is hardly ever used. Each plan should have a plan developed by the community around it and its users. The plan should identify current deficiencies and improvements.

Idea Author: Scott R

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I believe the Community Services Department has a plan for replacing aged playground equipment. The problem is however they have no money to purchase or install it | By Nancy M

Comment 2: This can be done with volunteer labor and donated materials. I think it's a great idea. | By Caroline C

Idea Title: Street Lighting Improvements

Idea Detail: Most street lights in Monrovia are High Pressure Sodium type lamps. If these lamps were converted to LED type lamps, the City would realize huge energy savings and a relatively short payback period for the cost of the upgrade. The light output would be the same and in fact the night color spectrum would improve. Also, traffic signal lights should be converted to LED. There may be State and Federal energy grants available for this work.

Everybody wins with this idea!

Idea Author: g W

Number of Seconds 5

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: I second this idea and agree with Lynn about replacing as we go.

Being unfamiliar with the term "night color spectrum," I would hope that in consideration of lighting color, it would be that of a warm, incandescent/traditional color as opposed to the bluish color LED lights can be. | By Albert V

Comment 2: The cost could be high at the onset. If we replaced them with LED as they break down the cost might be absorbed easier. | By Lynn D

Idea Title: Build Business

Idea Detail: Advertising for a product needs to be constant and ever present. McDonald's is the perfect example of this. The same is true for awareness. The Ad Council (www.adcouncil.org) is very good at bringing awareness to our national needs through TV ads and also in print.

A "Shop Monrovia" campaign that is visible all around town as well as a focus of outreach beyond our city limits is very much needed. Around town, an ever changing (every quarter?) visual that keeps the message fresh is a must.

Cable providers can do target marketing by airing commercials on TV in targeted, localized areas. The message can be used to draw consumers and new business.

Our very own KGEM TV can help to get the word out. KGEM is a non-profit and is available to people who live, work or go to school in Monrovia. So we can have everything from interns getting the message out to the more experienced getting the word out. Maybe we can even have a California Gold, Huell Howser type show that focuses on what local businesses provide in products and in services!

So many ways to have fun and get creative with this. Isn't time to think outside the box?

Chamber of Commerce (or anyone familiar with the Chamber,) thoughts?

Idea Author: Albert V

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Hello Albert,
Thank you very much for your thoughtful response. Marketing Monrovia is a key element to attracting businesses to our City and getting people to shop here, and while we have been exploring ways in which to encourage this, we agree that more can and should be done. Unfortunately, some of our creativity has been stifled by lack of funding. For example, up until a year ago, the City was in fact working with KGEM on a program called City Beat. It was a great project that brought awareness to different businesses and promoted KGEM. We invite you to check out these segments at http://kgem.tv/category/monrovia/original/mon-city-beat/ and if you see the value, perhaps you can offer some recommendations on how to fund it in the future. Alternatively, we are open to ideas on how to improve the show, as well.
We are open to any other ideas that may lead to the strengthening of our business community in Monrovia. | By Laurie L

Comment 2: Hi Laurie, Thank you for your comments and for taking the time to look up the link you provided.
I am familiar with City Beat and definitely see its value.
I am aware that the city cannot spare the time of the staff members that have been used for the on-camera talent. As well, KGEM-TV doesn't have the personnel to regularly produce the show either so this sounds like a great volunteer project.
I personally, have experience in producing programs at KGEM-TV and may be willing to help with the effort. Also, there are volunteers that can be asked to help with the production. One suggestion I have is to feature two businesses per show. In return, the featured businesses can print web links to their video on their own promotional materials. The show can be used to educate new and current customers about the use of products and to provide information about services. The second business will have additional exposure from the traffic drawn to the links and the show runs on KGEM-TV. | By Albert V

Comment 3: Getting the word out about how important business is to small shops and how important sales taxes are to the city. At the same time, create a "Call To Action" about making purchases in Monrovia. We could make it a simple statement, something like, "Buy it in Monrovia"

Getting the word out could be simply printed sheets of paper in all the store front windows, inexpensive ads in our local paper (Monrovia Weekly,) a mention at all city council meeting, KGEM-TV PSAs. We could partner with the schools to create the store front sheet of paper and maybe the kids can earn community services

hours for distributing the sheets of paper to the businesses.

Just a few ideas. | By Albert V

Idea Title: Remove destructive trees and save on trimming costs

Idea Detail: Back when Monrovia was being built, landscapers did not pay much attention to the types of trees that were planted on the public streets. Typically fast growing and inexpensive was the only criteria. Myrtle Avenue, north of Foothill is a prime example of poor planning. We have three blocks of Chinese Elm trees that have destroyed the sidewalks and sewers and seedlings pop up in the front yards. Every year when I see the tree trimmers spending weeks to trim these enormous trees, I think of all the money the city could be saving by removing them and plant Crape Myrtle trees (or something similar) that would save us from future annual trimmings and damage to the sidewalks. I am a tree lover and truly do not support removal of trees, however we would save lots of money if we took pro active approaches on these destructive trees and we would also have a bit of sunshine to celebrate on the street.

Idea Author: kathleen F

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: These elms live up to 100 years. That's 100 years of tree trimming. Waiting for them to naturally die will not happen soon and there is more concern of them uprooting and damaging people, cars and homes. These trees are very INVASIVE read below.

Here is the definition of these trees : Chinese elm Ulmus parvifolia is a native tree of Japan, Korea and China. The tree is also commonly known as lacebark elm and Drake elm. Chinese elm is classified as an invasive species in certain areas of the United States, given its ability to reseed prolifically and upset native plant growth.

| By kathleen F

Comment 2: Chinese Elms don't belong stuck in between four feet of soil between curbs and sidewalks. But it would be a shame to cut them down while they're healthy and thriving. Perhaps as they die they could be replace with more suitable trees with an equally large canopy. Maybe we should set a goal of planting less invasive species and more native species. | By Scott R

Comment 3: I agree 100%. There are street trees on Shamrock, just below Foothill, tnhat

would be majestic specimens if they'd been in the right place and unmolested by humanity. As it is, they have been pollarded (had their limbs chopped off) to keep them to an unrealistic size. Just plant Feijoa! I hope the local tree lovers and any local trained arborists can weigh in on this. It might not be as expensive as it sounds. Perhaps some lumber can be salvaged and sold from older trees deemed unfit. A city-wide tree survey would be nice to have. Volunteers could do it. | By Caroline C

Idea Title: Fortify City Autonomy

Idea Detail: Break the addiction-to/dependency-upon "free money" from Sacramento or Washington DC. It is never free. It exacts a burdensome price of higher taxes and diminished freedom.

Idea Author: Phil M

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: And you are correct; the sales tax is the 2nd largest revenue generator for the City. Since 2008, the sales tax revenue has been down 25%. Shop Monrovia is an excellent way to keep our local dollars local. How would you recommend the City market the Shop Monrovia Campaign more effectively? | By Laurie L

> Comment 2: I propose a few approaches.
> * A lawn sign similar to the "Shop Monrovia," "Shop where your home is" campaign from just a couple of years ago. Have the sign made locally (B&H Sign?) and make the sign available for a low cost to all residents who wish to help their city and their merchants
> *Post the "Shop Monrovia" message and the lawn sign option on the city's website
> *Post the Message/lawn sign on the city's FaceBook page
> *KGEM-TV
> *Send the message/lawn sign option in each water bill
> *Easy and low cost, copy-paper, printed sheet that can be displayed in each store-front window, in every business in Monrovia (not just Myrtle Avenue.)
> *Make the printable page available on the city's website
> *"Sell" the lawn signs at the Monrovia Family Festival
>
> Any other ideas!?! | By Albert V

Comment 3: Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. Breaking the dependency from Sacramento and Washington D.C is something to consider. To date, the City

mostly benefits through state and federal grants and support. However, these grants are getting more and more competitive and the reporting / auditing measures are getting more and more stringent. This means that they are getting more costly to administer in relation to staff time spent on administering and competing for these grants. Now is the time to stop depending on state/federal funding which evidently are diminishing at rapid speeds, and to begin focusing on aligning the City's local resources to the services provided. By creating this alignment and setting priorities on services and projects, the City will begin to rely more on its local resources to provide local services. However, it is important to note that regional projects will still require collaboration with State and Federal support. | By Laurie L

Comment 4: How would this impact the City? What sort of benefits would we loose? We're not Industry or San Marino. I doubt we could cut all funding ties from the State without severely impacting services and infrastructure improvements. | By Scott R

Comment 5: I completely appreciate this statement. I actually "like" paying taxes, it is patriotic and a good deal. We get a lot for our money. This being said, I don't want to pay any more than I already do.

To help us break away from the dependency of "free money," we need solutions! Therefore, I challenge all Monrovians to commit to shopping within our city limits as much as possible. Monrovia relies on the sales tax we all currently pay so let's keep it here! For instance, I purchase (almost) every drop of the gasoline our household uses within Monrovia. Also in our city, we eat at the restaurants, buy clothing and home goods, we've purchased furniture and so on...

So I propose that the city continue the "Shop Monrovia" campaign only delivered with a lot more information to the public about how much our city relies on sales tax as a source of income. Did you know? Sales tax accounts for 28% of Monrovia's revenue, that's our 2nd largest source of revenue, 2nd only to property tax! | By Albert V

Idea Title: Things I miss plus a few new ideas.

Idea Detail: Bring back the Monrovia Day's parade, Queen and Court, Jail on wheels, Old Town Western theme and march it down Foothill Blvd. Myrtle Ave. just is too narrow. Add a local artist and craft fair with resident's getting first shot at discounted booth rates. Add a free large booth (or two) for those local artists that only want to display but not sell their work. (1 piece per Artist).
Have a food truck roundup that day as well and a Chili cook-off or BBQ contest. Set up a Battle of the Bands for local groups to provide music. Even the Soap Box Derby was a hoot for a few years; maybe try something along those lines as well.

Idea Author: David B

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Rethink the Purpose of the Library

Idea Detail: I voted for the bond for the new Library but almost didn't because I wasn't sure what the purpose of a library is in a digital age, when vast arrays of information are available by computer and ebook. This is even truer now. So, is the library just an extension of the community center, or what? This deserves some thought.

Idea Author: Brad H

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 16

Comment 1: We appreciate the digital age comments from the Community. Libraries are constantly evolving to meet the needs of their respective communities and are a vital resource in navigating digital information and misinformation. The Monrovia Public Library is more than a building and books, it is a community place providing 24/7 information through online subscription services, classes on careers and businesses, access to the Internet through Wi-Fi and computers, volunteer involvement and literacy programming for children through adults. The Library continues to be a place that fills the imagination and provokes great conversation. | By Laurie L

Comment 2: FYI, the library recently instituted a program where you can check out digital copies of books online with your library card. Go to http://scdl.lib.overdrive.com/4320095D-0C7E-479C-8652-AE933EBD4FC0/10/436/en/default.htm and register with your Monrovia library card! | By Karen L

Comment 3: Perhaps the people who run the Monrovia Public Library need to share their 5, 10 and 20 year plans? I agree that there is a need to move towards digital media to replace hard copies. But beyond housing books and periodicals, regardless of form, the library should consider hosting book clubs/discussions, lectures, demonstrations, etc. Perhaps there should be more collaboration with the schools and community center? What are other cities doing with their libraries? | By Larry M

Comment 4: Larry, I am very new to the services our public libraries offer. The library is a very cool place! There is a lot that can be done online with a Monrovia

Public Library card as well as involve ourselves with the events that are part of our library. Check out this link http://www.libraryinsight.net/calendar.asp?jx=cm There are people who find these events interesting.

Log in to http://cityofmonrovia.ws/community-life/library to see other services offeresd | By Albert V

Comment 5: Larry, I am very new to the services our public libraries offer. The library is a very cool place! There is a lot that can be done online with a Monrovia Public Library card as well as involve ourselves with the events that are part of our library. Check out this link http://www.libraryinsight.net/calendar.asp?jx=cm There are people who find these events interesting.

Log in to http://cityofmonrovia.ws/community-life/library to see other services offered like study rooms, Historical Society, Literacy programs...

As far as what other cities do? Maybe you can research that for us. Arcadia Public Library seems to be busier than our library, why? | By Albert V

Comment 6: I second the idea of Electronic Book transfers to our Pads! | By Dorothy K

Comment 7: As I promised in my post from 11-29-12, today I received my Monrovia Public Library card!! This marks the first time in my adult life that I have obtained any library card. That sounds sad to say out loud but it is never too late to change!!

I regularly use my personal computer and google is definitely my go-to resource for knowledge. The digital age (computers) has made me a better writer and my cell phone has enhanced my desire to read. Now, armed with my new library card, I will look into e-books and newspapers that I can checked out online and I am proud to know a little more about the other services the library offers. It is definitely time to "Rethink the Purpose of the Library," not in if we need it, but how we can incorporate it in our lives! | By Albert V

Comment 8: A library is more than a collection of books, it's a repository for knowledge, history and a resource center open to everyone. That said, the digital age is making the justification for a huge edifice a bit tougher but the internet only has a small percentage of information digitized and Google (plus other search engines) have yet to index 30% of all web site pages.

But remember, our library is in a nice park and is a beautiful (and useful) building so no matter what, we need this more than another parking lot. | By David B

Comment 9: You should trust the library staff and board to move the library forward in a

positive way, as it has been doing the past few years. As a librarian myself, we are all keenly aware of the evolving role of the library and what that means to the community as a whole. Of course, in order to best meet the needs of the community, funding is required. It may take time, but I believe Monrovia Public Library is very aware of how they can best serve the community and the role it will take in the future. | By Lyda T

Comment 10: I wasn't suggesting the City Council or Library staff is untrustworthy, but I thought the city was asking for residents thoughts on priorities, so I gave one.

But since you are a librarian, what are your thoughts on the role of the library in a digital age? | By Brad H

Comment 11: I wasn't suggesting the City Council or Library staff is untrustworthy, but I thought the city was asking for residents' thoughts on priorities, so I gave one.

But since you are a librarian, what are your thoughts on the role of the library in a digital age? | By Brad H

Comment 12: Well, I don't work for the library in Monrovia, but public libraries world-wide are redesigning their infrastructure to be more compatible with the digital age. Where I work, we've invested a large portion of our book budget into e-books that can be downloaded to Kindles or iPads, and operate just like a standard library book. It's been a challenge working with publishers to allow licensing for that, but it's finally something that's gained more solid footing.
Public libraries are also serving more of a public service capacity, offering classes and programs serving the betterment of the community. I know Monrovia has offered an All Day Job Seekers workshop that had a full house in attendance. Additionally, there are still large portions of the population that need help familiarizing themselves with all that computers and the internet have to offer, and the library is the perfect place to learn this information. | By Lyda T

Comment 13: So while libraries will no longer solely be book repositories, librarians are keenly aware of the need to evolve and provide services that reflect changes in the information subculture. That's what I mean by trusting the people at the library. They know. It just sometimes takes time to execute certain plans, and bond measures certainly help expedite the process! So thanks for the vote! | By Lyda T

Comment 14: I really like the idea of loaning books using Kindle or iPad. A basic Kindle these days only costs $69, and I'll bet the price comes down even more, making it affordable for more and more people. | By Brad H

Comment 15: The best way to answer this very good question is to visit the library itself and to

get a library card. The second thing to is to visit http://cityofmonrovia.ws/community-life/library to learn what is available to library card holders via online.

People who cannot afford internet service can go to the library to use computers as well as use their own computers to log in to the free Wi-Fi.

Librarians are our best resource to find legitimate reference material that can be cited on college and professional level writings, test proctors, literacy programs, e-reader book loans etc.

I don't have a library card but I will pledge to get one this weekend. Will you take the challenge? | By Albert V

> Comment 16: Well, I've had a Monrovia library card for decades. But, indeed, others should get them as well. | By Brad H

Idea Title: Put the power lines underground

Idea Detail: All the above ground power lines and telephone lines are unsightly. Really nice cities like San Marino and Pasadena have put them underground.

We should consider an assessment on our utility bill that will put power lines underground. It might take 30 to 50 years, but it would improve the city a lot.

Idea Author: Scott R

Number of Seconds 4

Number of Comments 5

Comment 1: Wind storms have been a real issue so underground power lines would increase power reliability and safety. Again we need to view the cost to see if it is possible. (Would the entire city need to agree or could we look at block by block?) | By Nancy M

Comment 2: I agree that this would improve the look of any neighborhood. Does anyone know about how much this would cost for the project as well as how much the individual assessment would be? | By Nancy M

> Comment 3: I lived on a street in Pasadena that went through the underground wires process. A trench is dug at the curb and all wires are buried. Although I am unaware of an assessment for that part of the work, I do know each homeowner was responsible for the trench that would contain the wires from the street to the

house itself.

Overall, I like this idea and agree to the aesthetic appeal as well as the increased reliability of the power. | By Albert V

Comment 4: I agree! This would make our neighborhoods look so much nicer. Driving along Lemon just East of Mountain, it feels like an industrial area. Its a really nice area with the exception of the mass of overhead wires. | By Rich F

Comment 5: This would be such a nice addition to our city - how does this get started? what is our first step? | By Heather D

Idea Title: Support our adult school

Idea Detail: I was happy to see that the 2 previous ideas were both about Monrovia's schools. I would like to remind the City Council and Monrovia residents of an important school that is part of Monrovia Unified School District: Monrovia Community Adult School. At a time when budget cuts have led to the closing of many California adult schools, we need local recognition of and support for this valuable resource in Monrovia's community. Our adult school provides lifelong learning opportunities to help adults reach their educational, training, career, and personal goals. We help integrate immigrants into our society by providing low-cost English language instruction. English-proficient immigrants, in turn, lead to higher-achieving students in our K-12 system as those immigrants' children attend our public schools. I urge the City Council to include Monrovia Community Adult School as a priority in its future plans for our city.

Idea Author: Carol B

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Thank you for the link. | By Caroline C

Idea Title: Benjamin Franklin bronze statue

Idea Detail: Since Benjamin Franklin was the father of the concept of the public library system in America. I think it would be great idea to have a bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin to honor this visionary of public education and literacy.
I think the statue should be similar in sytle to the one of Mark Twain we already have at the park.
Thank you for your consideration,

xochitl Lares

Idea Author: Xochitl L

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: I'd favor Upton Sinclair and other American writers, like Twain, who took risks to make their points. I like all of the comments here. Good ideas, all. Not at taxpayer expense, though. This can be done by volunteers and with donations. | By Caroline C

Comment 2: I love the idea of recognizing the artistic contributors in our area. Since we are talking about the Library, what if we had a "Writer's Wall" or "Local Writers?" If you live in the San Gabriel Valley and you have written a book that has been published, you get mention on the Wall. | By Albert V

Comment 3: really cool - Yes! | By Heather D

Comment 4: I really like the idea of making our area more friendly with the artistic communities, however I personally would be more in favor of this (given our current $$ crunch) if someone who lives locally, and does this professionally, would consider donating their time and efforts towards such an item. A small plaque could be included from the city to mention the artist, which could lead to future commissioned work?

To broaden the scope of this idea a bit further, could there be a way to implement an area within Library Park which could features local artisans? Maybe also the hallways or lobbies within the library, police station and city hall for artwork in need of shelter? This has the possibility of making our community pretty unique...

What do you all think? | By Heather D

Comment 5: Thank you, we must be on the same wave length | By Xochitl L

Comment 6: That's a great idea. | By Rick P

Idea Title: Reduce the Amount of Multi-family Residences

Idea Detail: I have seen areas designated as SFR with backhouses and converted garages, these areas need to be strictly enforced and maintained as SFR by the city. Also I think there should be a move by the planning department to reduce the amount of multi-family residences

in our neighborhoods. It creates a high density that the city was not designed for, crowded streets and lower-income renters that don't properly maintain their property. Any nice neighborhood in Monrovia is a SFR district. I recently went to purchase a home above Foothill near Magnolia and the next door neighbor had a back house and 5 cars parked on the property (ghetto!) The front house was charming but the overall feel of the area made me feel like I was living on an apartment street again (obviously not what you want to feel when you are looking to buy a half million dollar + house in N. Monrovia). Look at what happened to N.W. Pasadena neighborhoods. The city let the back-house construction and house division go unchecked. DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO OUR NEIGHBORHOODS!

Idea Author: Rich F

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Stop building 50 uint complexes where only one or two homes used to stand. The parking, noise, traffic is becoming unbearable for the current homeowners. Putting in signal lights does not alleviate the traffic, it only causes people to speed down what once was a safe street in order to "make the light." Very poor planning on the Ciy's part. Stop giving in to the big buisness interests and start putting your homeowners and residents first. Why are the tax payers always the ones who pay the bills and the salaries and yet we are the ones who are overlooked and shoved aside. | By Kim S

Idea Title: Ticketing Speeding Motorists

Idea Detail: I have lived in Monrovia for 19 years and I have never seen it so bad. In the neighborhood from 5th to Mayflower and Foothill to Huntington where I live and there is anywhere from a 25 to 35 mph speed limits I've witnesses motorist traveling in excess of 50 mph, running stop signs, not allowing pedestrians to even get half way through a cross walk before they go flying behind them. Driving down Chestnut @ 30 mph I get motorist trying to pass me giving me finger jesters, and tail gating me while yelling profanity at me. WHY? Because I'm obeying the traffic laws. The City Of Monrovia really needs to step it up and start getting aggressive with these dangerous motorists. When the Arcadia Gold Line is in operation this behavior is only going to increase. Lets be proactive and not reactive and stop jeopardizing the safety of the residents in this area and the City Of Monrovia. Thanks for reading. Ken

Idea Author: Ken R

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: YES! I live off the 2 block-long street called Hwy Esplanade. Its a shortcut from Huntington to Chestnut and when the 210 gets Huntington full here they come barreling down this small street at 40-50 mph. One child has already been hit on a bike and many animals have lost their lives from these speeders. I walk my dog there every morning and a lot of these speeders are even on their cell phone! (Ken, what a nice horse in the background of your photo... could it be Zenyatta?) | By Deda B

Comment 2: Great point Ken! I live on Magnolia Avenue, and cars charge down the street far in excess of the speed limit - and in front of a church and school no less (an accident or death waiting to happen). I see this as an excellent revenuing opportunity for the city/police. Even if they needed to hire an additional officer to focus solely on speeders, the revenue would more than pay for the position, AND the city would gain additional revenue.

Most important, this would be a win-win for both the city and Monrovians like you and I in that we would have a safer environment.

Cracking down on speeders would also save the city from lawsuits if a catastrophic event occurred related to speeding. Sadly people have often sued collaterally when this type of thing happens. | By Tony W

Idea Title: Verizon FIOS

Idea Detail: My husband and I would like to know why Monrovia is one of the very few communities in the SGV that still doesn't have FIOS.

Idea Author: Kathleen T

Number of Seconds 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: To answer your question I'd guess it's economics from Verizon's Standpoint. If you look at Monrovia's demographics from the 2010 census, out of 36,590 people, 19,815 are 35 and older, that's 54% of the population, 31% are 50 and older. I'm just guessing here, but I'll bet that we are not the core demographic for a premium internet service with a very high initial infrastructure build-out cost. The bottom line here is I'd love it, and would be willing to pay $150/mo for super fast, RELIABLE, internet access, but I suspect that I am in the minority. That means Verizon cannot recoup their infrastructure investment in Monrovia in a timely enough fashion to meet their business goals. Which, in my opinion, is why we are stuck with

the crap offerings from Champion and Time Warner. | By John N

Idea Title: EDUCATION!!

Idea Detail: In my very first post to PlanMonrovia.org, I stated my ideas about a few things on one post so I want to re-post my thoughts about education.

Whatever and however we need to do to make the Monrovia Unified School District the coveted school district in the San Gabriel Valley, will benefit us all.

It starts with a "more-than-we-need" police presence as we seek a school system that has a proven record for genuinely improving schools and enacting that system. One school system that we can inquire about is the TAP program. The link to learn more is http://youtu.be/OZ3w1iFBPxA

We may or may not qualify but we can a least explore the idea.

The reason for the police presence is that when people who are interested in criminal activity are constantly confronted, they will leave Monrovia and a higher caliber of citizen moves in for the schools.

Community continues and business improves.

Am I in a dream world? Thoughts?

Idea Author: Albert V

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: MORE SALES TAX PLEASE!

Idea Detail: Sales Tax REVENUE that is!

We can ask our city leaders, the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses to support our city, but the responsibility to keep Monrovia prosperous is ultimately a shared responsibility between our community leaders and the city's residents!

Did you know? Our city primarily makes its money from property taxes which are remaining flat and sales tax revenue which is second. Sales tax revenue is the quickest, least expensive way to help our city raise the funds it needs so urgently.

SIMPLY BUY WHAT YOU ALREADY BUY WITHIN MONROVIA!

So don't wait to hear or see a message asking you to "Shop Monrovia," please, just do. Its important.

Idea Author: Albert V

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 9

Comment 1: I would never endorse an increase in sales tax within the city. I shop exclusively in Monrovia unless I can't find what I need in Monrovia. In my opinion the "Shop Monrovia Campaign" needs to have greater visibility so that it is top-of-mind for Monrovians. Improving the reach and scope of the campaign(s) to promote shopping, dining, etc. in Monrovia is the solution (in my humble opinion). Regards, Tony | By Tony W

> Comment 2: Hi Tony, Thanks for your comment. I completely agree with you and appreciate your effort of "Buy it in Monrovia." I should not have written the title of this post as I did, I was simply using a play on words. Please know that I am NOT suggesting an increase in tax rate but AM calling on Monrovians to do what YOU are doing...Consider Monrovia first when buying what we already buy!
>
> Kudos to you for buying in Monrovia and getting the word out. Please see my post from 12-2-12 titled "Build Business." I believe. as you do, a "Shop Monrovia" mentality and have it be top-of-mind.
>
> Any ideas you have to help in the outreach of this kind of campaign is highly important to post here on this website. Thanks! | By Albert V

Comment 3: I would never endorse an increase in sales tax within the city. I shop exclusively in Monrovia unless I can't find what I need in Monrovia. In my opinion the "Shop Monrovia Campaign" needs to have greater visibility so that it is top-of-mind for Monrovians. Improving the reach and scope of campaigns(s) to promote shopping, dining, etc. in Monrovia is the solution. Regards, Tony | By Tony W

Comment 4: I shop exclusively in Monrovia unless I can't find what I need in Monrovia. In my opinion the "Shop Monrovia Campaign" needs to have greater visibility so that it is top-of-mind for Monrovians. Regards, Tony | By Tony W

Comment 5: Then you advocate for the shop Monrovia campaign? or a different one? | By

Lynn D

Comment 6: Thanks for asking. Yes, I advocate for campaigns that promote the patronage of the businesses in Monrovia, big and small businesses whether they provide a service or products.

If it builds business, I am likely to support it if it makes good sense. | By Albert V

Comment 7: That's right. I work in one area but travel to the next for lunch and other purchases because they have less tax. if they have higher tax I will travel down the road to pay less for bigger purchases no doubt. | By Lynn D

Comment 8: Thanks for commenting on this post and please allow me to clarify. I am NOT suggesting a higher tax rate. I AM challenging Monrovians to help increase tax revenue for our great city by making a strong effort to make purchases we are already making, WITHIN OUR CITY LIMITS.
Shopping locally means:
*Helping businesses keep their doors open and keeping our small and large business districts prosperous
*Finacially strong businesses are more likely to support the community in sponsoring youth programs or charitable organizations or community events like the upcoming New Years Eve celebration in Old Town Monrovia

The benefits to shopping locally are really, too numerous to list here.

Shopping locally ultimately creates higher sales tax revenue for the city and gives Monrovians pride in supporting their community!

"Read my lips, NO NEW TAX RATE!" So, with that in mind, "ask not what your city can do for you, but what you can do for your city!"

Thanks for letting me claify. | By Albert V

Comment 9: This is a horrible idea. This creates absolutely no incentive to purchase anything in Monrovia. | By Rich F

Idea Title: All the traffic lights should be tripped verses on timers.

Idea Detail: If all the traffic lights were on sensors and not of timers it would improve the flow of traffic.

Idea Author: Richard S

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Delay of green light

Idea Detail: Set all traffic lights to go from red to green with a 2-3 second delay. This would enable someone to get throught the entire intersection prior to on comming traffic.

Idea Author: Richard S

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I also think that this would resolve a serious and increasing problem of people running red lights. Although a traffic light turns green, I always wait a second or two before moving through the intersection. Reason is that I've almost been broadsided several times thanks to people blatantly running a red light (a wonderful opportunity for Monrovia to revenue on traffic violations). Regards, Tony | By Tony W

Idea Title: Crosswalks with no light should have more visibility for drivers

Idea Detail: I have seen in several towns where they have a crosswalk with no light where the pedestrians can press a button and little lights in the street light up to alert drivers that someone is crossing. There are several places in town I think this would help save lives. For instance on Mountain just below Foothill there is a crosswalk with no light and also one for schoolchildren across Foothill near Ivy/Canyon. Another location I can think of is on Shamrock at Lime Ave. I would feel a lot safer crossing if there was some better indication that drivers could see that someone is trying to cross.

FYI, years ago when I first moved to Monrovia I saw someone hit and killed at the crosswalk on Mountain so I know that this has been an ongoing issue especially at night as it is hard to see the crosswalk lines sometimes.

Idea Author: Karen L

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Envisioning Monrovia - School System

Idea Detail: My envision of Monrovia is a city that has a superb and well-funded K-12 school system. Most homeowners know that reputation of schools play a major factor on home prices. We need to invest into our local schools so we can reap the long term benefits from the seeds of education. We could start by investing into science programs, music programs, athletic programs, and etc. Anything helps! I will be the first Monrovian to pay extra from my taxes to invest into our schools.

Idea Author: Tony H

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: While I wished too Monrovia schools were the envy of all neighboring cities, I'm not in favor of raising taxes for this purpose. We've been doing this at the state level for decades to no avail. Too many differing viewpoints on how the money should be spent. Increased taxes used to change the quality or ideology of our learning system never seems to work. | By Chad S

Comment 2: We can improve our schools without raising taxes, I bet! It's a great idea to teach not only science and music, but to teach the basic trades such as plumbing, electrical, landscape, cooking, and word processing/data entry. Not every student will require a Liberal Arts degree to have a great career, so I like the idea of exposing children to the trades early. | By Caroline C

Comment 3: I am proud to be part of a community that has taxed itself to build a great library as well as taxing itself to dramatically improve our high school. That being said, I believe that having a superb school district begins in the home. Parents can best help to improve the schools which help to raise the API scores which helps to attract families that keep eduction at a priority.

I seconded this idea primarily because I envision Monrovia Unified School District as one of the better school districts. I don't necessarily agree that another 30 year Parcel Tax is the answer. | By Albert V

Idea Title: Keep city services within city control

Idea Detail: Of utmost importance to me and the neighbors I've spoken with is to keep

Monrovia's Fire, Police, and Water within Monrovia and not contract out those services - even if supplemental funds from property tax fees are required. It's the only way to maintain financial, administrative, and policy control. I'm over 60 and have dealt with numerous municipalities and governmental entities during my life and have witnessed the financial abuses some agencies have thrust upon "innocent" citizens of a community (i.e. Metropolitan Water Co. of L.A. - too little accountabilty for too much spending).

Idea Author: John R

Number of Seconds 2

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I can support this idea IF we have a COST/BENEFIT/RISK analysis of Fire Protection from LA County Fire. Since both Duarte and El Monte both have LA County Fire Protection, we would have a large Fire Protection District with much Manpower and Equipment available to us. LET US NOT BE AFRAID TO BE FULLY INFORMED about our options! Thank you. | By Dorothy K

Idea Title: Myrtle Av landscaping

Idea Detail: When the city put in the "pop outs" along Myrtle Av it made it so a car waiting to turning left on a green light couldn't leave enough space for another car to pass on the green light. This slows traffic on Myrtle and makes it an adventure to drive the street. Eliminate the "pop outs" so that two lanes of traffic can proceed through the green lights.

Idea Author: Richard S

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 6

Comment 1: Hi Richard ~

Monrovia really needs one area we can call pedestrian friendly and have it become known outside of our town as such. Old Town Monrovia on Myrtle has become that area for the community and could become even more-so. There is talk on the "needing more nightlife" discussion about shutting Myrtle down on weekends for this purpose. If you have not already, please read that conversation.

Could not Mountain Avenue satisfy your commuting needs? It is certainly more amenable to

the speed you desire.

Also would like to say Thank You to everyone who commutes up Myrtle and is stopping to allow pedestrians to cross even when it's not convenient to do so. It's a great message to send about the culture we want to create with Old Town.
| By Heather D

Comment 2: I agree. | By Nancy M

Comment 3: Although I initially had the same thought, I like that we must SLOW DOWN for once in our lives. I bet this has already saved a life or two. Myrtle Ave on the weekends is a very busy street and we need to go slow. I live on Myrtle above foothill and it is absolutely a freeway. All the neighbors go 40 - 50 miles per hour by the time they pass my house just to get to Hillcrest. I can tell you many animals have been killed including a family of raccoon with 3 babies and I don't like parking on the street as the drivers have almost hit me getting in my car.
| By kathleen F

Comment 4: That's terrible. I hope the neighbors band together and out a stop to it. Shamrock above Foothill is pretty sedate, as is Mountain. | By Caroline C

Comment 5: I proposed elsewhere that the retail section of Myrtle simply be closed to traffic. | By Caroline C

Comment 6: I strongly disagree. Myrtle isn't meant to be a fast moving thoroughfare. It's meant to be a enjoyable place to walk and shop. If you're looking to get around the city quickly, I would suggest finding a different route. I really enjoy walking and shopping along Myrtle and I'd miss the beautiful landscaping if it was removed. | By Scott R

Idea Title: Inter-City Purchasing

Idea Detail: I wonder if it would make sense for various local cities to purchase specialized equipment and services together.

For example, Monrovia has a septic tank pumping truck and Arcadia has another. Do both cities really need their own? Perhaps the two cities should jointly purchase such specialized equipment, and then share it.

I don't mean to focus on septic tank trucks. That is just an example. Perhaps there is enough work to keep both of them busy. But my point is that there may be SOME kinds of equipment and services that are idle much of the time and could easily be shared among multiple local cities, or between cities and school districts, saving all jurisdictions some money.

Idea Author: Brad H

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I like the efficiencies you propose, but not the possible complications I can imagine.

When a few cities share a need, it's sometimes met by a county service, or a private company, like Athens Services.

Maybe we can cover infrequently-needed services, and spend less, by relying on the county, where Monrovians have a vote, and private companies, where we can always 'vote with our wallets.'

I am very happy that we have Athens Services in Monrovia. People in Los Angeles are over-charged, in my opinion, via the Department of Sanitation. | By Caroline C

Idea Title: Services To Community

Idea Detail: Plan of attack should consist of matching staff to community needs, this will help to correct the problem of staff working out of their job description and enhance moral in the workplace.

Idea Author: larry S

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Disgruntled employee? This has no information in it for the average citizen to form an opinion about. Did somebody give you a job you didn't like? | By Lynn D

Idea Title: A "No New Smokers" hue and cry

Idea Detail: I'd like to live in a city where no child considers even trying tobacco--not even once.

It's evident now that addiction can occur on the first use of nicotine; regardless, it occurs very, very quickly. There is no treatment that works for the most addicted. Chantix is very unsafe.

The only way to keep our children from addiction is to convince them that nicotine decides for itself who becomes addicted; that addicts are people who lose their ability to "not think about smoking."

I don't know how to promote this. But I do not believe that current warnings prevent children from becoming addicted to nicotine. If the warnings worked, no child would be an addict, right? City of Hope would be half the size. (I was a patient there for a smoking-related cancer. I had become addicted at age 15 and smoked for 7 years. The cancer arrived 35 years later.)

Let's try talking about addiction, and make it clear that although some people can quit their addictions to nicotine, most cannot. The CDC has these data.

Idea Author: Caroline C

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Take it to the schools. Have people who have smoked talk about the negative effects on their lives; or share stories about loved ones who have suffered grave illnesses because of smoking; maybe share some pictures of the hideous effects of smoking on lungs, skin and more. I am an ex-smoker and would be glad to tell anyone how unhealthy and destructive smoking is. LET ME KNOW IF A SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY OUTREACH TEAM IS FORMED, AND I WILL VOLUNTEER IN A HEARTBEAT! Best regards, Tony | By Tony W

Idea Title: Do not allow front yard fences at the street/sidewalk.

Idea Detail: I see more and more of these every year. Chain link fences and cheap wrought iron fences are a definitive sign of a low-end neighborhood. They look trashy and really take away from the charm of the city. This is an easy building law to enforce and will help beautify our city. Monrovia has some amazing architecture with our craftsman and victorian houses, the charm of these areas is destroyed with a rusty fence or plain gray masonry fence columns. I ask anyone that reads this idea to drive through two different Monrovia neighborhoods, one where owners don't install these fences and one where owners do, and compare the charm and beauty of the street. This is a beautiful city and we should have higher standards for the curb appeal of our homes.

Idea Author: Rich F

Number of Seconds 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: The title is misleading. Don't allow front yard fences?? How would we keep out the dog walkers who don't clean up their messes. I am not to happy about them peeing in my yard period and then they leave the worst part behind. This happens daily, several times a day!

I want a fence!!! but a pretty one, agreed. I won't second this. deceptive titling. | By Lynn D

Idea Title: Increase Tax Base

Idea Detail: Annex the Mayflower village area of County Monrovia to increase the tax base

Idea Author: Ron B

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 3

Comment 1: Most residential areas use more services than they collect in taxes. That's why cities like to annex commercial areas, which tend to bring in more revenue than expenditures. I don't know about the costs and benefits of the annexation, but it might be worth exploring. | By Scott R

Comment 2: I don't know enough to comment. Does that area receive city benefits directly from Monrovia? | By Caroline C

> Comment 3: I believe Fire and schools are Monrovia. Sheriff's dept and county services from LA | By Ron B

Idea Title: Fire Protection

Idea Detail: I would like to see a COST and EFFECTIVENESS study of the CITY contracting with LA COUNTY FIRE for our Fire Protection services.

Idea Author: Dorothy K

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: LEGAL SERVICES

Idea Detail: City of Monrovia spends millions of dollars each year for Legal Services with a large Law Firm.

What would be the costs and benefits/savings be with our own IN-HOUSE Legal Counsel?

Idea Author: Dorothy K

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: We Should Make a Plan for Addressing Depreciated Infrastructure

Idea Detail: There are many streets and sidewalks around town and public parking lots in downtown that are in need of reconstruction. We should be sure we have a plan for funding and implementing a comprehensive resolution to these deteriorated capital improvements. Some of the deteriorated improvements set a bad example and may be discouraging private investment particularly in certain residential neighborhoods. Maybe a Mello Roos type financing program could be implemented.

Idea Author: Henry G

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Does the downtown have a business improvement district? This is a group of property owners that tax themselves in order to maintain landscaping, decorate streets, create promotional materials, etc. This would improve downtown and perhaps offload some city responsibilities.

Instead of Mello-Roos you might want a lighting and landscape assessment district. I think it would be great if property owners got together to pay for improvements - like street lights, street improvements, and may be even improvements to nearby parks. | By Scott R

Comment 2: This is a good idea if our priority is to repair and maintain our infrastructure. I also agree with the good sense behind a plan that will help to insure Monrovia's stability and future private investment.

I do, however, believe that Monrovia needs a more immediate return on any investment. Therefore, building business around the city and a continuation of the development of the Gold

Line area may bring us the additional revenue the city needs to address the "depreciated infrastructure" we all would like to see improved.

As far as a Mello Roos? I am not familiar enough with specifics like, how long will a Mello Roos would raise our property taxes? | By Albert V

Idea Title: Free Day

Idea Detail: How about a "Free Parking Day" once a week or once a month. The LA County Arboretum as well as the Huntington Library offer free parking and admission monthly. It would allow more people to appreciate the beautiful wilderness. If raising funds is the issue, why not offer some basic gift shop stuff for sale: calendars, post cards, bumper stickers, toy bears, etc. They could be sold in the Nature Center. It might bring in a lot more than $60,000 per year.

Idea Author: g W

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

What are the most important things the City should focus on over the next 5 years?

"For Monrovia to have a no-kill shelter for dogs and cats."

Submitted by Ann Lavine, 303-6501
Nov. 20, 2012 2:30 pm.

***

The city's parks are embarrassing. For a city with such a large number of children and families, I expect better.

The only safe one is Library Park and it closes one night a week (my toddler has been thrown out before because it's "unsafe" on Fridays). Additionally, why does it take five-six city employees to throw toddlers out of a park? What "unsafe" act was he going to do on a baby swing? You could save salary money and rent some lights on a Friday night if you are really only concerned about safety that day of the week. Kids use it the other days of the week without consequence.

The other two parks near us are unsafe every day. Olive Park is only safe if you are executing a drug deal or a teenager looking to kill time. The Rotary Park is in disrepair.

Recreation Park might be okay, but I would need to pass three others and walk close to a mile to get there (with a tantrum-ing toddler wondering why we aren't stopping at other parks).

Additionally, the parks aren't lit. That means that although I live in a climate the permits year-round playground time, my son can't partake all winter because it's too dark to use the parks by the time we get done with work. Install some lights.

Thanks.

--Andrew

***

Clearly, the city's top priority is revenue enhancement. Cities are experiencing declining revenues from all sources. One of these sources is tax revenue from local businesses but this source declines due to the economic situation citizens face. Not only are citizens facing high unemployment and stagnating salaries but they are taxed and taxed by Federal, State and local agencies. Where are citizens to go for the extra money?

A city needs to analyze the requirements on its citizens and to work to alleviate the costs these requirements impose. One example is the requirement to clear yards of trees to comply with fire

department mandates. I for example have to spend up to $2000 a year in order to comply. Is this really necessary? I understand the homes up on the foothill where fire is more imminent but this is not the same below the foothills. Perhaps a stratified requirement would make more sense. A reassessment of this policy may allow citizens to retain more disposable income that can support the local businesses and increase the revenue to the city. There may be other mandates that impose costs on the citizens.

Miguel Ortiz-Marroquin

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Hello!

I commend your efforts to reach out to the community for input but I have some concerns:

1) Very few citizens are educated in urban planning/public policy so I'm concerned the feedback you receive may be uninformed. To that end, I recommend a 'big picture' education campaign that explains the financial system, both direct and indirect, and how local investments/policy can affect HHS budgets at the state and federal levels - which can affect how much funding those legislatures send our way in grants and other local program funding. For example, making attractive alternatives that keep young males from joining gangs or using drugs, saves the state $51,000 per year in incarceration related costs. I'd be willing to bet that the public, if they are well educated will support expenditures that are prudent investments and or reduce future operating costs - The living streets manual may be a helpful tool http://www.modelstreetdesignmanual.com/

2) Parents of children involved in sports will be very challenged to participate; sports consume at least 6 hours per week, per sport, per child and conflict with public meeting times.

3) Perhaps a hand-picked working-group that specifically seeks diversity and expertise would be a worthwhile effort?? And when I say hand-picked, I don't mean friends of the council or commissioners, I mean, old and young folks with backgrounds in sports, education, transportation, law and finance, just to name a few.

4) Showcase what our neighbors are doing; Duarte has opened new trails and significantly improved their parks, Pasadena has fitness events on almost a weekly basis, Downtown Los Angeles has transformed itself in less than 10 years - It's now the cool place for a young professional to live! I have some concerns that Monrovia is slipping in our lead in relation to our neighbors.

Thanks.

Best regards,
Chris Ziegler

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I would like the opportunity to speak about the future of Monrovia's water. I am a native landscape enthusiast. Water is, and is going to be an even bigger issue. Timely action is imperative.

Karen Suarez- Monrovia
626-357-3954

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From: Betty Sandford [mailto:bsandford18@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 5:17 PM
To: Laurie Lile
Subject: CITY PLANNING

I'm very interested in planning for Monrovia's future but meetings that start at 7pm and drag on with big gaps in discussion are beyond my capacity .I hope you can accept my proposals via e-mail.

My proposals focus on the morale of the community. This would include a continuance of the work you've already initiated to strengthen Old Town plus the importance of bringing back a major Monrovia Day celebration with its emphases on community, volunteerism and Monrovia's history and organizations. While City staff are valuable contributors to Monrovia's future, if organizations can be encouraged to contribute to the community and their own welfare by producing the parade, developing their own floats, putting on a community breakfast and a community fair with emphasis on their own fundraising, the results would be increased attention to the community, extra funds for the organization and more fun and participation for the community as a whole. For at least 70 years of my life, this was the Monrovia Day I knew.

While I'm very interested in bringing back Monrovia's past, I'm equally interested in retaining part of Monrovia's present. It is my perception that our
Police and Fire departments do an excellent job of taking care of us and I hope that lowered City income doesn't decrease that care
On the other hand, lower City staffing might be mitigated, for non-safety activities, by increased organizational and individual volunteerism

Thanks for your good attitude and excellent work

Betty

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From: Ling and Nakano [mailto:lingandnakano@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2012 8:23 AM
To: Planmonrovia
Subject: Two ideas for Monrovia's future

If Monrovia can spare the expense, it will go a long way toward making the city more beautiful (and up-to-date) if it moved the telephone wires underground like many of the more upscale communities. While we're at it, let's wire the city for fiber optics so that we can all enjoy first-rate internet and cable TV service. Many thanks. - Roy

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From: Lawrence Ellis [mailto:hilldweller@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2012 4:28 PM
To: Planmonrovia
Subject: Get Involved Plans

The most important thing I can think of is Safety.

The most unsafe area is Foothill Blvd., between 5th Street and Mayflower, then from Mayflower to Myrtle.
The street lane painting is gone. On rainy days there is none visible so that as you drive along swerving from right to left and then back again at each intersection, you have to pray that the person driving in the lane next to you is aware of where the lanes should be. I have had more than one instance where another car has veered into my lane because he couldn't see the lane markings.

While in England back in 1956 on the blackest night in a thunderstorm you could see the lane markings for 1/4 mile ahead as they had reflectors at about 5 ft. intervals. This was long before Bott's dots were heard of here in the US. Here we put a reflector about every 50 ft. then paint over them at the first opportunity.

I have spoken to the Maintenance Dept. to no avail, maybe Plan Monrovia can make the street safe again.

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From: Therese Burch [mailto:tburch4@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 29, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Planmonrovia
Subject: about Monrovia!!!

Don't let businesses sit vacant too long!! Especially the old Acapulco Rest.!!! Get someone in there!!!! Like and In-N-Out or another nice rest, like a Yard House or something!! It makes Monrovia look run down when buildings are vacant!! Lower the parking tickets prices or lengthen the times!! It is just not fair to those of us who work here!!!

Did we really need another Jack-in-the Box???? That was stupid!! The people who live and work here should be able to vote on the businesses that come in here!! Especially restaurants.
**** FIX THE ELEVATOR DOOR ON THE 3RD FLOOR OF THE "COLORADO COMMONS" PARKING STRUCTURE!!!! IT WON'T CLOSE AND SOMETIMES IT WON'T OPEN!!!!! HELP!!!
Therese Burch (I live and work here too)
Monrovia, CA

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Face Painting in: Monrovia, Arcadia, Pasadena, San Marino, Sierra Madre, La Canada, Flintridge, Duarte, Azusa... and the World!
www.MonArcfacepainting.com

What are the most important things the City should focus on over the next 5 years?

What are the most important things the City should focus on over the next 5 years?	Is there anything else we should be focusing on?
Public safety	Traffic
Workforce Investment	
Creating businesses & jobs in Monrovia :-)	
Good morning! Has Monrovia ever thought about enforcing overnight parking restrictions? Sierra Madre has a great overnight parking program that brings inrevenue and gives the streets back to the actual residents. I live in Monrovia and would be happy to pay an annual fee to park on the street overnight.	
Keep gangs and gangsters & gang related activities OUT of Monrovia!	Will get back to you on that.
Getting rid of gangs and violence	
I suggest sending the water bill bimonthly, as is done by other utilities. This should save costs for the city, and halve the number of checks residents write.	

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM WORKSHOPS

January 12, 2013 Workshop

- Would like to get involved in senior services and parent education and homeless projects.

- My table's participants generated fabulous ideas. However, in listing these, the "list" became general. We are concerned that the City Council will not understand what concerned us. A community task force should be appointed (random names – not Council friends) to elaborate on what the community means by these general topics. Implementation of what we want is key, not just broad-brushing general topics.

- Build a volunteer liaison between schools and businesses. Keep community services; youth programs.

- If Monrovia city has land available for development of senior 55/over housing condo and SFR style similar to Del Webb, Harkanian style in Palm Desert, Banning, Hemet: can produce income, taxes, fees for developers. Provide green housing for 55 and older. San Gabriel homeowners ready to sell current homes to move close by instead of having to move to other locations away from doctors, dentists, entertainment, churches and eating establishments we have come to enjoy!

- Pallets on wheels for mobile gardens. Trash for charity for tax write-off for businesses. Green energy and conservation plan for business with a partnership will all utility companies. End support for 710 freeway extension. Support a strategic fund to protect the California Aqueduct system.

- There are many people who would be happy to participate in volunteer programs.

- Problem: Better getting out the message – utility bills don't hit everyone (we pay electronically and don't see a stuffer); condo owners/renters will never see them; facebook/twitter, etc. don't hit everyone; we only saw this because of taking a class and the great flyer/card. Border areas don't get one.
  Suggestion: Have a community board where there is a city sign or have a banner across major streets at borders and other places.

  Problem: Stop the direct assessments.
  Suggestion: Save for schools – make part of funding go to this.

  Problem: Lost businesses because of economy. Don't want things to start going down.
  Suggestion: Help maintain businesses by improving business plan, etc.

  Problem: No recycling for group living.
  Suggestion: Recycling for multi-family – understand the mandates affect when they go in.

Problem: No street lights in some areas.
Suggestion: Street lights.

Problem: Don't have staff to do things.
Suggestion: Volunteer programs or Sierra College – get credit and then have to help out.

Problem: Outlying areas aren't as well represented (municipal services – who handles?). Expect everyone to go to Old Town. There is a [illegible] for border areas and the sough of Monrovia.
Suggestion: Have youth activities, or other functions, in areas outside Old Town.

December 11, 2012 Community Workshop

- I believe local employment is critically important to the overall long-term health of Monrovia. We need some effort put toward local workforce investments.

November 28, 2012 Commission Workshop

- One more comment: I think we need to do a better job of getting utility companies responsive to our needs. SCE needs to replace equipment that causes fires in the foothills. So Cal Gas needs to services gas shut-offs at homes. Please read our City web site re: earthquakes and gas shut-offs. We're instructing people to do what they can't – the shut-offs are <u>frozen</u> due to a lack of maintenance!

January 7, 2013

PLAN MONROVIA
415 S. Ivy Ave.
Monrovia, Ca 91016

CITY FOCUS

SAFETY

The first priority for any city is safety, which means an adequate, but reasonable and sensible, budget for police and fire services, determined by suggestions from the local services themselves, plus review and suggestions by knowledgeable people without connection to the local services.

INFRASTRUCTURE

An attractive city, obviously well maintained, will help to keep the citizens happy (or at least help minimize complaints) as well as help draw new residents and business. Infrastructure includes not only street repair, but cleanliness of streets and sidewalks, exterior and interior maintenance of buildings, especially those open to the public, well maintained and attractive decorative vegetation. The appearance of individual streets within a city adds to or detracts from the overall image (feeling) of that city.

CITIZENS

As part of SAFETY above, and to prepare future citizens to add a positive dimension to what we would all like our city to be, we need to concentrate on the young people growing up in Monrovia, assuming that many of them, and perhaps most of them, will continue to live in Monrovia when they are on their own.

Young people need outlets for their energy when they are not in school, and those outlets need to be positive physically, intellectually, and emotionally. In other words, those outlets need to contribute to making them thinking people with a decent set of values that will contribute to helping them develop into the kind of citizens that will help make this city, or any other city, a desirable place to live. We need to try to keep them out of gangs! It would be wonderful if their parents could assume all, or most, of that responsibility, but that does not always seem to be the case. Though this may not seem like our responsibility as a city, it is what needs to be done if we want our city to be the kind of city we all want to live in.

Boys and Girls Club, open school playgrounds with supervision during non-school time, discussion groups on topics of interest to various age groups, organized sports, free or minimal fee music lessons, other ideas?

As well as the boys and girls who may become future citizens of Monrovia, many of the families of these children, and other families as well, could use some help. The city has already made an effort in this direction and should continue to do so. These families would probably benefit from free or minimal cost organized social activities that would appeal to them and emphasized family values and family cohesiveness, especially the needs of the children in families in general without signaling out their particular family. Of course, you already know that!

PLAN MONROVIA

Yes, this will cost something, and maybe there are other priorities that seem more important or more immediate, but looking at the big picture and the long-range picture, it is difficult to come up with something that could have more benefit to our city than helping to develop the future members of our community.

As far as we can tell, you're doing a good job so far. Keep up the good work!

GOOD LUCK!

Jim Spring

Joanne Spring

Jim & Joanne Spring

Louise Robertson

249 N. Alta Vista Ave; second home – Monrovia Public Library for the Friends of the MPL
Monrovia resident for 14 years

Goals of the friends are to promote (even expand) and support the awesome services of our library and community literacy.

Which bring us to Station Square – commuters morning and evening – get on the train and what might many do – READ

How about a small branch library - small, open selected hours morning and afternoon – as part of Station Square.....Library Station?

If that's not possible the Friends offer their support in opening a small branch of the Friends Store at Station Square – staffed with volunteers. Have some general promise of volunteers from the southern part of the city.

We know there are lots of unsolved challenges, but Friends Board members also consider this a unique opportunity.

Might we work with staff to explore the possibility?

Happy to respond to any questions Council members might have at this point.

April 9, 2012

Mayor Mary Ann Lutz
City of Monrovia
415 S. Ivy Avenue
Monrovia, CA 91016

Dear Mary Ann,

With Station Square now a very real possibility, we would like to share an idea with you. How about a small branch library in the complex? Think of the benefits – moving another of the City's services to the southern part of the city and increasing awareness of all commuters of the City's resources. Yes, City resources are tight but the open hours of the facility should coincide with morning and early evening traffic allowing commuters to request, pick up, and return at the stop. Eventually, commuters would be able to download e-books at the site. Space about the size of the current Friends Store would be sufficient, perhaps even generous. We're able to display 400-500 books on our shelves. Take away some space for a counter and circulation equipment then add a return drop and you'd have a petite branch library!

If that's out of the question – or in conjunction with it – we'd like to add a small Friends of the Library Store. Again, the hours would be limited, but all staffing would be with volunteers. I've already heard rumors that they're waiting in the wings!

Friends' Board members will be delighted to speak in more detail with you or others. We think this is a unique opportunity for the City and we'd like to help. Do let us know when and how we can continue the conversation.

Best wishes from the Friends Board,

Stephen R .Baker, Nicoline Conway, Cathy Hartfield Karen Hollinhurst, Laurel Hiestand, Juliana Otis, and Louise Robertson

cc: Michele Tompkins, Library/Recreation Director
John Carlson, President, Library Board

PLAN MONROVIA JAN. 10, 2013

This is a tough one.

How does a City increase the ***awareness*** of its' citizens? When times really get tough, folks start paying attention. Hit them in their "pocketbook" or, even remotely, threaten the children, and you will have their ***attention***.

Encourage everyone to just take a walk around their neighborhood.....this can be very enlightening. Walk your dog, pay attention.....you may notice homes in foreclosure. Is there anyone on your street or even around the corner who is not getting enough to eat?

Is there someone disabled who could use some help?

We are often too submerged in our daily life to even notice..... This is really sad. Folks who are employed and receive regular paychecks may forget lots of residents are unemployed.

Let us not wait for an emergency to offer assistance, become ***aware*** of your more immediate surroundings. You might be surprised at the conditions that exist in your own neighborhood!

Unfortunately, our collective futures may not be too bright but, ***volunteers*** are the life blood of a Community. Sometimes, just a few hours per week can be of great assistance. There is a lot going on in "our town". Check it out.

Time is more precious than money. Maybe you have a little time to give.

Pat Dunlap
612 King St. - Monrovia
patriot@altrionet.com

ROADSHOW VISITATION TO SCHOOL

December 19, 2012

"What are the most important things the City should focus on over the next 5 years?"

- Crime/public safety
- Transportation
- Teen Center
- Bicycles at skate park
- Curfew – especially right work hours
- Artist graph lab – express through art/legal place to write on the wall
- Volunteering opportunities
- YES Interns program – summer jobs
- Music center
- Boxing gym
- Disconnect between City and available properties (fields, museum, etc.) used by school districts