

AGENDA
ITEM

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CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA STAFF REPORT

DATE: September 17, 2025

TO: Mayor and City Council

APPROVED BY: Benjamin A. Martinez, City Manager 

PREPARED BY: Mayor Nuricumbo 

SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Adopting a Zero-Based Budget Policy to be in Place for the 2026/27 Fiscal Year.

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Recommendation:

A discussion among the City Councilmembers on whether they would like to adopt a Zero-based Budget Policy, and provide direction to the City Manager on how to proceed.

Background:

A Zero-based Budget (ZBB) Policy offers several benefits to city governments by requiring all departments to justify every expense from a "zero base" for each new budget cycle. Instead of basing future budgets on past spending, which can perpetuate inefficiencies, a ZBB forces a rigorous, ground-up evaluation of every program and expenditure.

The key benefits for a ZBB Policy are that it increases transparency and accountability by forcing justification of expenses, thereby enhancing the public's trust, and identifies wasteful spending. It also aligns spending with priorities, promotes focused operations, and enhances budget flexibility by allowing the City to adapt its budget to changing circumstances, redirecting resources to more pressing needs rather than adhering to historical spending patterns.

Fiscal Impact:

No fiscal impact is anticipated.

Coordinated With:

None

Attachment(s):

None