

Overview

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The following summary synthesizes those written comments captured by small group recorders (City staff) who kept notes during the small group discussions for the City of Glendale Budget Workshops held in February and March 2006.

Each of the small group recorder comment sheets were reviewed and each additional note or comment was categorized under one of the seven main categories (and subcategories) and counted (mention).

When a comment didn't fit under one of the subcategories, it was captured under an "Other" subcategory.

Total mentions were counted for the entire category (total mentions) as well as for each of the subcategories.

In most instances, the comment was captured directly from the comment sheet to preserve the richness of the sentiment. In some situations, the comment was summarized for brevity purposes.

Community Services

43 - Recreation

- 41 "Need more activities for kids, after school programs, sports."
"Not enough places, locations for youth to go and hangout."
"Add more structured, youth activities."
"Steer kids away from gang violence and crime."
"Need more programs for youths, to engage in positive activities."
". ..especially girls softball."
"Youth are getting into trouble – need neighborhood clubs with activities to play, for the entire family. Use church facilities."
"Recreation programs are not enough for young and older people in our community."
"Need year round activities for the community."
"Need to coordinate after school programs so they can be more than daycare – need youth counseling and programs."
"Would like more organized programs for youth."
"More after school programs."

02 Other

41 - Arts and Cultural Activities

- 18 "We need stronger culture and arts programs."
"Need a cultural center."
"More arts programs."
06 "Need a museum dedicated to Old Glendale, need more museums."
02 "More events like Unity Fest."
02 "Need additional Community Centers for performances."
02 "Need more senior citizen arts and culture classes."

06 Other

31 - Social Services

- 10 "Homelessness is a problem in Glendale"
04 "More homeless services."
03 "More services for Seniors."
02 "Weak in social services like activities and counseling for youth + homeless."

12 Other

10 - Diversity

- 08 "We need more interaction between cultures, need to work and celebrate together."
"Only celebrating pockets of diversity."
"We need more ongoing diversity activities in addition to the one day/once a year programs."
"We have a discrimination issue at Hoover High – we need more events that will bring our cultures together."
"Address race conflicts – diversity issues."

02 Other

28 - Education and Literacy

- 16 "Need good education – this is why we live in Glendale."
"Funds for education are important for the growth of our community."
"Lifelong education is important in Glendale."
"Expand programs to value educating others."
"Education is very important for our next generation."
"Our main concerns are education and kids."
"We need more attention paid to K-12 literacy programs."
"Our education system needs improvement, especially in high school."
"Need more English classes."
"More ESL programs."
05 "Need more English classes."
07 Other

Economic Vitality

29 - Business Retention

- 28 "Need to retain businesses."
"Need to retain the small businesses, not screw them over."
"Make it easier for them to operate here."
"Difficulty in obtaining building permits – make it easier."
"Loosen restrictions, too hard for businesses to build here."
"Glendale is not friendly to new businesses."
"Keep the existing businesses and help them grow."
"How do we keep Disney."
"More effort is needed to stimulate more businesses staying, locating here. Give tax breaks, reduce impact fees."
"Concerned about business turnover, especially Brand businesses."
"City has not been able to retain businesses."
"Glendale has not done its homework on retaining and attracting big businesses."
01 "Brand Blvd needs to look like Colorado Blvd in Pasadena."

37 - Economic Growth

- 05 "We should attract more 'upscale' businesses to Downtown."
05 "Improve revenue sources."
05 "Economic health is central to Glendale."
03 "We need always to get bigger to survive."
02 "Americana is good."
02 "Americana is not good."
02 "Add a business tax."
02 "Too much focus on Brand Ave businesses."
11 Other

40 - Jobs and Job Training

- 30 "Need more job training, help people find jobs."

“Job training, especially for international students, need more work done at the Job Center.”

“Job training is very poor – too few options, too limited to relatively young people.”

“Jobs and job training for young people is very important, could improve.”

03 “Not many people know about the Verdugo Jobs Center – improve outreach/advertising.”

03 “The City’s efforts towards Job Training are adequate today.”

04 Other

09 - City Funds/Emergency Funds

08 “Emergency funds are very important.”

“We need to have ‘rainy day’ funds.”

“Be sure there is enough money to handle emergencies.”

01 “Economic stability is important, don’t reduce reserves.”

09 - Other

05 “Glendale has no night life, like the Burbank Theater District.”

04 Other

Housing

24 - Housing Downtown

12 “Put housing in the downtown to reduce traffic.”

05 “Reduce the amount of housing growth – have smart growth, limit the # of units/year.”

02 “Be sure any new housing downtown has the infrastructure in place/or coming to support it.”

05 Other

10 - Transit-Oriented Development

06 “Need to focus development along transit corridors.”

02 “Need mixed use housing at the transit centers.”

02 Other

65 - Variety of Housing

49 “Need more variety.”

“Don’t have the variety we need, need more variety.”

“We need to build housing to meet different people’s situations.”

“Need more variety.”

05 “Too many apartments.”

04 “Need more single family housing, and less apartments.”

07 Other

86 - Housing Affordability

42 “Improve the amount/stock of affordable housing.”

“Housing affordability is a huge concern for young families.”

“Affordable housing is a key issue, to attract people.”

- “Need more low income housing.”
- “Average person in Glendale cannot afford a 1 bedroom home here.”
- “Housing is too expensive.”
- “Need affordable housing in downtown.”
- “Need more affordable housing for moderate income people.”
- “Provide low income rental.”
- “Need low income and affordable townhomes at a higher density, with green space.”
- “My kids will never be able to afford a house in Glendale.”
- 07 “Support first time homebuyers.”
- 06 “What about rent control and the stability that comes with that” “
- 05 “Need programs for low income people to rent or buy a home.”
- 05 “Need more affordable housing for City employees, educators, etc.”
- 04 “Need more senior housing.”
- 03 “Against rent control.”
- 03 “Rents are too high.”
- 02 “Section 8 should provide more vouchers.”
- 09 Other

Other

18 Other

Transportation and Mobility

77 - Public Transportation

- 16 “Not enough Bee-Line service.”
- 11 “Need a light rail transit system.”
- 10 “Public transit should be improved – might help with other issues.”
 - “It is not easy to go to Burbank or Pasadena.”
 - “Not enough accessible public transportation.”
- 07 “Speeding cars pose a safety risk.”
- 04 “More public transportation, less traffic.”
- 03 “Bee-Line is the best.”
- 03 “Need more education on using public transportation, more people need to use public transportation.”
- 02 “The Metro is not on time.”
- 02 “The service for Dial a Ride is terrible.”
- 02 “Need public transportation to Medical Facilities.”
- 02 “Need improvement on bus service, especially schedules.”
- 15 Other

98 - Traffic

- 55 “Traffic congestion.”
 - 28 “Traffic is really bad.”
 - 03 “Central, Brand, and Glendale are always full of cars.”
 - 03 “Traffic is really bad, especially by the freeway.”
 - 02 “Must get people to use public transportation to reduce congestion.”
 - 02 “Brand construction is a major problem.”

- 11 "Need system to regulate traffic – lights need to be synchronized."
- 09 "Consider one-way streets in Downtown Glendale."
- 06 "More left turn signals."
- 03 "City plans include too much high density development downtown."
- 02 "Traffic enforcement is needed – people are following the rules."
- 12 Other

69 - Parking

- 42 "Need more street parking."
 - 07 "Don't have sufficient parking spaces for business & dense population."
 - 05 "Too many red curbs, not enough parking – need more street parking."
 - 04 "Need more street parking in residential areas."
 - 02 "Parking is a problem, especially after Americana development."
- 11 "Need more free parking downtown."
- 06 "Too many parking variances."
- 10 Other

08 - Long Term Regional Transportation Plan

- 05 "Regional Transit development is needed."
- 03 Other

23 - Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Walkways

- 07 "Need more bike lanes, especially in downtown."
- 04 "Need more pedestrian walkways and bike lanes – safety is important."
- 04 "Pedestrian safety and traffic enforcement – drivers are not following laws."
- 08 Other

12 - Other

Community Facilities

51 - Developed Parks

- 23 "Need places for people to go – put in more developed parks!"
 - "Children need places to play."
 - "Need specialized parks, i.e., skate park, chess park, swim facilities, equestrian park, etc."
 - "Buy private property and add some full service parks with trails and bike paths."
 - "Too many vacant lots – turn them into parks."
 - "We need a community park."
 - "More mini parks."
 - "Acquire more land for parks – look at City funds for acquiring more land."
 - "Need more parks like Pacific/Edison Library/Park."
 - "Need more accessible parks."
 - "Need a dog park."
 - "Need parks other than 'jock' parks."
- 08 "More parks are needed in South Glendale."
- 04 "Need joint use of schools as play environments."

- 03 "Better maintain the existing parks, improve equipment and facilities."
- 02 "It's good to have small parks convenient to people in the apartments."
- 11 Other

35 - Undeveloped Open Space

- 11 "Need more open space."
- 08 "Preserve existing open space."
"This is important to preserve the City's "identity."
- 06 "Hillside should be developed into open space."
- 05 "No housing on the hillsides – restrict variances to prohibit building there."
- 05 Other

30 - Community Centers

- 15 "Need more community centers."
- 04 "More Senior centers."
- 11 Other

06 - Technologies for Public Access

- 02 "Wireless access would be good to have."
- 04 Other

30 - Libraries

- 14 "Need more of them."
"Libraries should be our number 1 priority."
". . .especially in Adams Hill."
"No libraries in Adam Hill."
"Need more library services for youth."
"Wish we had more libraries so you could walk to them."
"Need more pocket libraries."
"Libraries improve educational opportunities for residents."
"Need a library in the Clark Magnet School area."
- 07 "Library hours need to improved, lengthened."
- 03 "Keep stocked with materials and keep them open!"
- 02 "Libraries need improvement."
- 04 Other

38 - Streets

- 17 "The condition of streets needs attention, must be improved."
"Streets need more maintenance because of the increase of traffic."
"Street paving is needed in La Crescenta, North Glendale areas."
"City should do the work rather than outsource it – they will do a better
"job."
"Pot holes are a real problem."
"Need street repairs in Montrose near the Post Office."
- 06 "Need more street lighting."
- 05 "More street sweeping/cleaning."
- 04 "Streets are too narrow."
- 03 "Sidewalks need improvement."

03 Other

18 - Utilities

04 "Water quality is poor."

03 "Put the utilities underground."

02 "Update our utilities."

02 "Lots of power outages – work on meeting demand."

02 "Where is our water coming from in the next ten years?"

05 Other

01 - Other

01 "Concern that we are not maintaining/repairing our existing infrastructure."

Community Safety, Health, and Wellness

57 - Police

17 "Wonderful job being done now."

"Most participants feel that police and fire are doing a good job – they need recognition."

"They are a great department and respond quickly."

"Glendale is the #2 safe city – no need for more police. Good job at self-policing."

16 "Need more police."

". . .especially to address the gang problem."

"More police in La Crescenta."

"Need more police services in the Adams Hills area – don't feel like they are getting the service they need."

"Want to see more police officers in the hills."

03 "Keep us safe."

"One of the reasons I moved here was because Glendale is safe."

02 "More police patrols at night."

02 "Police force does not reflect gender and ethnic makeup of the community (lack understanding of the Armenian culture)."

02 "Can't disregard safety, safety is most important."

15 Other

28 Fire

09 "Fire services are great."

08 "Need more fire service."

"We need more paramedics."

02 "More hillside brush fire prevention is needed."

02 "Glendale Fire Department does not reflect gender and ethnic makeup of the community (lack understanding of the Armenian culture)."

07 Other

04 Building Safety

02 "Building safety needs to be improved through permit processing, needs to be more efficient, streamlined."

02 Other

27 Code Compliance

18 "Need to stay on top of this area, needs improvement."

09 Other

44 Disaster Preparedness

35 "Concerned about disasters – need a plan in place."

"Concerned that we are not prepared for major disaster."

04 "The City should educate people to better prepared for disasters."

05 Other

03 Other

02 "Incrementally increase health, safety, and wellness."

01 Other

Planning and Community Character

05 - Public Art

03 "Public art is lacking in Glendale."

02 Other

74 - Neighborhood Character/Community Planning

22 "Want to keep the charm of neighborhoods."

"Need to preserve our neighborhoods, they are being overdeveloped."

"City needs identity that creates unity and pride."

"Character of neighborhoods needs to be maintained."

"Single family homes keep the character of our community."

"The City needs to have more character."

"Stop changing zoning."

"Atwater Village does not have any neighborhood character."

"The Home Depot is impacting the character of our neighborhood."

09 "Density is too high."

05 "No mansionization."

05 "City needs to stop granting variances."

04 "Too many stucco boxes, architecture is dead, buildings are tacky looking."

04 "We need an identity."

"We don't have a vision of the type of city we want to be."

03 "Longer term planning is needed to solve neighborhood character problems before they happen."

03 "We need to carefully plan our community."

02 "Need to improve overall aesthetics in South Glendale"

02 "Want to see Glendale retain its bedroom community character."

15 Other

27 - Historic Preservation

- 24 "Must save historic structures, old buildings."
"Greater emphasis on historic structures is needed."
"We need more historic preservation."
"People move to this community because of the character of the neighborhood."
"Old Glendale is disappearing – need to save."
"Preservation should extend beyond Brand Blvd or Montrose."

03 Other

31 - Public Participation

- 17 "More community involvement is wanted."
"We need to improve participation in meetings – there is real lack of knowledge."
"Public participation makes us a stronger community."
"Need more public meetings."
"Use entertainment to grab more participation."
"More outreach programs for public in different languages."
"Would like more public participation opportunities."
"Use Public access TV on DISH network."
04 "Need better advertising for these workshops."
03 "Previous input has been ignored."
03 "Many small group members thought exercise process was very clever and organized."
04 Other

16 - Environment and Conservation

- 06 Concern about recycling – need more recycling"
"Don't understand our recycling program."
03 "Littering is a big issue."
02 "Air pollution here is really bad."
02 "Conservation needs to be a priority."
03 Other