



For Immediate Release
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Community Invited to Share Ideas for Upcoming Budget

Harrisonburg, VA – Harrisonburg City Council and staff are beginning the process of developing the budget for fiscal year 2015-2016.

The city operates on a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30. A balanced budget must be submitted to City Council by April 30 every year. Before City Council adopts the budget, two public hearings must be held to receive input from the community. According to city code, the budget must be adopted at least 30 days before the end of the fiscal year, which would be by May 30.

Currently, the city manager is working with department directors to prepare a budget to present to City Council. While staff is working on the budget, community members are also invited for the second year in a row to participate in this year's budget preparation process.

Are there items that you think the city should spend more or less money on and is there something that you think is not included in the current budget that should be?

Residents have an opportunity to submit comments about the budget before a public hearing is held. Staff will take all suggestions into consideration but remind respondents that final decisions on the budget are made by City Council and are dependent upon available resources and competing priorities.

A survey has been posted to *Be Heard Harrisonburg*, which serves as a public forum where the community is invited to participate and engage in conversation with the city and other residents. The survey will close on Monday, February 9, 2015.

To access the survey, simply visit www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org and click on "surveys" at the top of the webpage. This survey will be open to all community members and registration to *Be Heard Harrisonburg* is not necessarily required but is recommended for future engagement through this site.

More information about the city's current budget is available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/budget.

We want to hear from YOU! Do you have a new idea for Harrisonburg? Let us and other members of the community know what that idea is. Participate in a discussion, support other ideas, and give feedback on community projects. This is YOUR chance to Be Heard Harrisonburg by visiting www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org.

