



ANDREAS BORGEAS
COUNCILMEMBER

CITY COUNCIL PASSES COUNCIL BUDGET TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

Fresno, CA (October 28, 2010) – The Fresno City Council unanimously passed the “Council Budget Transparency Initiative” today. The Initiative, authored by Councilman Andreas Borgeas, requires each Council District to disclose on an annual basis the expenditures and/or allocations of their infrastructure budgets on the city of Fresno website.

Each Council District has a district budget appropriated from the General Fund. Within this budget there are two-components: the operation budget and the infrastructure budget. The operation budget is intended to cover day-to-day office expenses, interdepartmental charges, salaries, and other traditional operating expenses. In contrast, the infrastructure budget, which is approximately \$40,000 on an annual basis, is intended to fund various infrastructure projects within the council district; however, it is discretionary in nature.

The Initiative, therefore, by requiring the disclosure of how the infrastructure budget was spent, continues the endeavor of establishing a more transparent government. Councilman Borgeas said, “the ability to see where government devotes the public purse is fundamental to democracy,” and added, “budget transparency checks mismanagement, bolsters public confidence in government, and promotes fiscal responsibility.”

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