

June 6, 2017

Dear Madam Mayor and Esteemed Councilmembers,

When any entity - business, city, state, or country- builds their budget, it is very important that it is balanced. But a balanced budget means more than being able to cover all foreseen expenditures. In order to be balanced, a budget must cover the needs for safety (firefighters, police, etc.), the needs for repairs (infrastructure) and the needs of building growth, stability, and tax revenues for the coming years. Each of these areas are important for the future of the city and its citizens.

I would respectfully ask that the city council would adopt a truly balanced budget. One that supports economic growth by not cutting those departments which encourage business growth and the marketing which will build the stability of the future through growth of our tax base. This growth will ensure the City has the financial ability to continue future growth, maintain and repair our infrastructure as well as provide for the safety and security of its citizens for years to come.

To adopt a budget that favors one aspect over another would be a short-sighted mistake that will impact the City for years. We are at a time of growth in our business districts as well as preparing for the growth along our Bayfront. To prepare a budget that gives one part of the budget essentials (Safety) such a priority over the others would be a mistake.

Please consider another way to balance our budget to give balance to all our needs as a City.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sparks

President, Third Ave. Village Assoc.

Owner Mangia Italiano on Third