Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission

TRUE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
(Note: these minutes are not official until reviewed and approved by the commission at a future meeting)

October 8, 2026
4:00 p.m.
Lynwood Roberts Room

Attendance: Commissioners Day (Chair), Bass, Rounsville, Tyson, and Hargrove

Excused: Commissioners Barr, Youngblood, Luhrs, Oglesby and McHugh

Also: Colleen Hampsey, City Council Research; Phillip Peterson and Tommy Carter, Council Auditor's Office

Meeting Convened: 4:00 pm

Discussion with Council Auditor Phillip Peterson
Mr. Peterson spoke to the group about the recently approved budget and the budget process. He offered a high-level review and the actions of the Finance Committee. He noted that roughly 99% of what was proposed by the Mayor was approved in the budget. Mr. Peterson talked about the public safety contingency created last year in response to the reduction in millage. Mr. Day asked about the impact of politics on the budget, and he spoke about local government's "real" responsibilities. There was discussion about how budgetary decisions reflect policy priorities. Mr. Peterson talked about City grants, specifically cultural service grants and public service grants for nonprofits. Mr. Peterson fielded questions about affordable housing and the independent authorities, particularly JTA. The group discussed the need for public transit. There was discussion about JTA's finances, and audit rights related to independent agencies. Mr. Bass said that the role of government should be limited to essential services and that the private sector should handle innovation, such as NAVI/autonomous vehicles.

Auditor Report
Tommy Carter, Auditor's Office, did not present any reports because none have been released since the Commission's last meeting.

Committee Report – PSG Subcommittee Discussion of Data
This discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes could not be approved due to the ack of quorum.

Discussion about Amendment 3
This discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

Commissioner Comments
Mr. Bass presented his concept of a tiered framework for TRUE Commission priorities. He said that the Commission should focus on areas in which they can affect change. He talked about regular communication with council to express concerns through semi-annual reports. He highlighted the need to focus on one financial concern at a time. Mr. Bass' framework was well received by the group in attendance but could not be adopted due to the lack of quorum.

Public Comment
John Nooney talked about the potential impact of Amendment 3, and data centers. Mr. Smith extended support for Mr. Bass' proposal.

Prior to adjournment, the members bid farewell to Ms. Rounsville, as this was her last meeting as a TRUE Commission member.

Next Meeting
The next TRUE Commission meeting will be on October 8, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Colleen Hampsey, Council Research
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Posted 10.16.26 5:00 pm