



May 3, 2013

Mayor Greg Stanton  
City of Phoenix  
200 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Re: GPCC Board of Directors Recommendations on FY 2013-14 Trial Budget

Dear Mayor Stanton,

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce has engaged in the public process to provide feedback on the City Manager's Proposed Trial Budget. This year the Chamber's Budget Task Force received a presentation from Budget and Research Director, Mario Paniagua, and had the opportunity to review and follow up through a question and answer period. The Chamber's Vice Chair of the Budget Task Force, Jeff Kros (AMWUA), presented committee recommendations to the GPCC Board of Directors on April 25, 2013 which the Board of Directors unanimously approved. On behalf of 2600 members of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, we respectfully make the following commendations:

- GPCC recognizes the enormous strides made by the City to achieve the goal of \$100 million dollars in innovation and efficiency. The Finance, Efficiency and Innovation subcommittee, under the leadership of Councilman Bill Gates, has identified significant savings which will help to ensure sustainable budgeting for Arizona's largest city. We applaud your efforts and encourage continued focus in this area to achieve the \$16 million projected in FY 2013-14.
- GPCC supported efforts to bring pension reform to the citizens of Phoenix on the March 2013 ballot. With the passing of this measure, many financially sound policies can now be implemented. Particularly notable is the new balanced contribution rates for the employer and employees. Understanding the challenges of slow growth in the current economy, GPCC is encouraged by this change in policy and looks forward to the long-term benefits which will come as a result.
- GPCC recognizes and appreciates the focus and determination from City officials to maintain the City's AAA Bond Rating. This economic driver sets Phoenix apart from other municipalities and remains a critical financing tool to be maintained going forward.
- GPCC understands the challenges of today's slow growing economy. With the ebb and flow from policy changes and other dynamics, members want to recognize with caution the impacts of deferred maintenance costs on the City's infrastructure. As the City pursues more cost saving measures, it is also important to maintain a focus on critical infrastructure networks that are the backbone of an operationally sound municipality.

- GPCC acknowledges the desired services of the community for particular recreational activities. The operation and maintenance of the City's municipal golf courses appears to present additional challenges to the City's budget. We encourage a healthy evaluation of the right sourcing opportunities available which will create a long term solution for the management of the municipal golf courses.

In closing, we commend the efforts the City has made to pursue innovation and efficiencies and to remain a solid fiscally responsible government. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in shaping the focus of taxpayer dollars and look forward to future opportunities for partnership.

Sincerely,



Todd Sanders  
President and CEO  
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce



David Bruno  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
DHR International