



DRAFT—Summary Council Feedback Jan. 12, 2023

City Council Strategic Planning

Common themes:

- Public health and safety support
- Community engagement
- Downtown investment
- Environment/climate action planning
- Build out: water and natural resource planning
- General Plan Update
- Homelessness, mental health and addictions
- Education and workforce development tools
- Affordable housing; revitalization; zoning standards

Initiatives Discussed:

- Expand public safety HEAT squad.
- Tap into cameras and real time crime center to address homelessness challenges in 'hot spot' areas (Main/Alma School, Broadway corridor, Kleinman, Pioneer)
- Consider staffing needs in code compliance and park rangers.
- Continue to support homelessness programs; support for hotel, additional services.
- Convene a team of non-profit and faith-based leaders to participate in human service solutions.
- Build on wellness solutions for community needs in behavioral health, mental health, addictions -focus on prevention and intervention strategies.
- Expedite Fire Station 222—and make other public safety capital projects a priority.
- Consider zoning prohibitions in schools and churches to allow for temporary housing for homeless; include homeless strategy in the General Plan Update.

- Continue to support Mesa K-Ready, Mesa Promise and Workforce Center @ Mesa and related early literacy programs such as ReadON Mesa.
- Continue to emphasize Achieve60 Mesa goals and solutions.
- Use city museums as workforce development tools.
- Create first responder cancer screenings, post-traumatic stress programs.
- Continue work to activate and revitalize downtown; support adaptive reuses. Consider downtown needs through buildout. Focus on helping small businesses grow.
- Consider building villages within each district where we connect transportation, transit, parks, arts and other resources. Hub for each area (with their own character) to limit need for auto use.
- Look at zoning and design standards: solutions to revitalize areas that are older, aged and with more blight; create vertical, integrated mixed uses; loosen parking and increase walkability.
- Formalize an art and culture district.
- Consider redevelopment of Superstition Springs Mall into future planning process so that a cohesive, well-connected vision can be pursued.
- Make citywide connectivity a priority—GP Update – use for placemaking.
- Create a Latino/Hispanic district to celebrate culture, foods, crafts, social.
- Downtown is worthy of more investment; more ASU; 51/55; Site 17.
- Update zoning codes to allow for infill near transit, accessory dwelling units—simply/expedite/reduce costs for review process to allow these housing allowances.
- Continue to build/expand shared use bike lanes citywide; not all (on-street in particular) feel safe.
- Support the General Plan—not legal minimums—let development be what is good for Mesa.
- Provide a better understanding of existing housing inventory and needs.
- Facilitate LIHTC projects; consider older motels for this purpose. Affordable housing citywide spread.
- Create grant fund for low-income households to make code compliance-related improvements.
- Continue building on community information and engagement strategies to ensure a well-informed community.
- Water sustainability and conservation for buildout; build underground storage supplies; be proactive to make Mesa self-reliant on water resources; create water recapture program for residents and businesses.
- Additional programs to support small businesses and simplify processes.
- Continue to aggressively pursue high-pay jobs in Mesa.
- Increase number of jobs per capita in Mesa
- We need to reinforce a message on expectation of quality development citywide, including affordable housing.

- Create microgrids downtown to protect Downtown's energy supply and respond to market.
- Defend vision for Pecos Industrial Zone and Elliot Technology Corridor.
- Take full advantage of federal funding for long-term infrastructure projects.
- Battery banking, solar distribution at night.
- Expedite installation and use of smart meters.
- Use "cooling" landscaping and design (especially in low-income areas) to reduce urban heat; 1M tree pledge.
- Pursue micro pathways—connections to destinations, employment, transit, education.
- Turn recycled materials into product.
- Continue advancing the Mesa Climate Action Plan.