

Subject: Budget Advocates Meeting 2/2/2015

I attended two meetings at the DONE offices at City Hall. The first meeting was the White Paper where they were discussing the writing of the White Paper and who would do the editing. Most of this was preliminary and was focused on who would work on various sections and do editing.

The second meeting was the regular Budget Advocates Meeting. The Budget Advocates have \$14,000. There was a discussion on the Town Halls that have been announced to happen this month. No dates or places have been announced. Next was a discussion on CF13-0355 a motion made by Bernard Parks in March of 2013 that Neighborhood councils be included in the city budgetary process. A letter was made to Councilman Krekorian asking him to include the Budget Advocates referencing this motion. A lot of the items on the Agenda were glossed over or not relevant. A long discussion was had on making Banners of different types as well as different types of audience response resources to be used for the Town Halls. Not more than \$1500 was to be spent on Banners was passed. They are investigating audience response. Considerable time was spent of going over what Departmental Reports were in or being worked on by the various sub-committees. Discussion was made of the visits to the various council offices and that only four were left. I have not seen any of these reports and how successful they were.

At one point I was asked to report about the Port and after two sentences I was cut off since they didn't feel the port as a proprietary department was relevant to the budget.

I would like to suggest that we of the Harbor look to our own resources to educate our stakeholders and chime in on the budget process. It seems that the Budget Advocates have very little interest in the Harbor and are nowhere near as effective as we are in monitoring or advocating. In saying this I would like to suggest we put together a CD15 budget day were we could have speakers and breakout sessions to educate ourselves and the Harbor Stakeholders about the budget and solicit from these stakeholders where they would like us to concentrate our efforts.