

Dear Mayor Darby and Talent City Council,

Mayor Darby Ayers-Flood recently mentioned that she and the Talent City Council need to improve communications to the public regarding the proposed Talent Urban Renewal plan. During the Feb. 14th council meeting under item, 4.1 (Discussion of Taxing District Feedback) Mayor Darby and Talent City Council must discuss **in public and in detail** the concerns of the most financially impacted taxing districts, Fire District 5 and Jackson County. Also, they must address the letter from the Phoenix Talent School District. Fire District 5, Phoenix Talent School District and Jackson County are all opposed to the TURA plan. Communicating to the public is important. Listening to Fire District 5, Phoenix Talent School District and Jackson County is even more important.

Jackson County points to discuss in public:

1. The Draft Plan has the effect of locking in the losses to property tax revenue suffered by the County, the City of Talent, Fire District No. 5, and all of the other taxing districts by the devastating 2020 Almeda Fire.
2. The plan will not provide revenue that the taxing entities had relied upon to fund critical services including for first responders that worked heroically fighting the Almeda Fire.
3. The plan will leave the taxing districts (Fire District 5) no option but to reduce service levels as there is not an available source of replacement revenue.
4. Fortunately, the City of Talent has several options (other than taking money from Fire District 5) under which the City could still achieve all of the goals of the Draft Plan with substantially the same timeframe set forth in the Draft Plan.
5. The City of Talent could forgo adopting the Draft Plan and look at alternative financing to pursue the goals set forth in the Draft Plan to pursue and construct improvements in the City of Talent without impacting, the ability of the other taxing entities to provide critical services
6. The County believes that general government taxing entities losing \$11,354,514 in tax revenue over 17 years, to realize only a total of \$5,704,264 in increased value to the tax roll is not acceptable.
7. Delaying the implementation of the Draft Plan for an additional year, this would also have the effect of smoothing over the years that the Urban Renewal Area would generate, allowing the City to pursue projects at a more even pace within the City's existing staffing and other resources.
8. Talent can pursue its goals without impacting the ability of the other taxing districts reliant upon the property tax revenue generated within the proposed Urban Renewal Area to provide needed and critical public services

Phoenix Talent School District points to discuss in public:

1. Phoenix Talent School District believes the proposed plan is happening to soon
2. Phoenix Talent School District notes that fire and police are very important to them and they are worried about the TURA plan reducing police and fire department funding.
3. Phoenix Talent School District is advising Talent to wait another year in order to collect more critical engagement and feedback.

The proposed Alameda Fire Recovery and Revitalization Plan falsely claims to fund projects that are deemed necessary as a result of the Alameda Fire and that are designed to aid in recovering from the wildfire's impacts.

The plan includes upgrade projects that appear to have very little if anything to do with the results of the Alameda Fire. The desire for many of these upgrades existed before the fire:

- Seismic Pipe Upgrades \$418,500. The need for seismic upgrades existed before the fire and has little if any relationship to the wildfire's impacts.
- Wagner Street Extension \$511,000. This project has been on the drawing board for over 10 years and dates back to when the roundabout was installed. How can it be claimed that the desire to extend Wagner Street to the roundabout is necessary as a result of the Alameda Fire?
- Wintersage Street Upgrade to Local Street Standards \$150,000. The desire for this upgrade existed before the fire and has little relationship to wildfire's impacts. The Alameda Fire never touched Wintersage Street.
- The desire to fund other projects such as improved storm drains near Gangnes Road and installing new sidewalks on Rapp Road existed before the Alameda Fire. These projects are not necessary as a result of the Alameda Fire.

The public deserves to hear the Talent City Council engage in thorough and detailed discussions that address the concerns of our Fire District 5 Board of Directors, fire department union members and Fire Chief Hanley as well as our Jackson County representatives and our Phoenix Talent School District.

Chris Luz

Resident of Jackson County, Phoenix Talent School District and Fire District 5.