

CBJ Community Compass Additional Input Form Comments

This document includes all* comments received from the CBJ Community Compass Additional Input Form, which was open to responses from January 22, 2026 – April 1, 2026. There have been minor grammatical and spelling corrections, and names of members of the public have been removed.

The purpose of the Additional Input Form was to collect any input on the city budget outside of the engagement opportunities during the Community Compass survey, public workshops, and Assembly listening session.

While open, the form received 125 responses. Submissions were anonymous, and there were no constraints on number of submissions per individual.

37% of comments were received on the last two days of the form being open. Due to close timestamps of comments received throughout comment period, it is likely that many of the following comments represent repeat submissions from specific individuals. Regardless, all comments have been included below.

The following responses are ordered from first received (oldest), to last received (newest).

**There is one omission due to use of profanity.*

-
- Overall I think Juneau does a good job providing for the community. However, as a long time resident who often wishes I lived closer to a big city with access to more options. One area I would like to see is more indoor recreational spaces that are affordable for winter activities and rainy rainy days. The dining park field house is a great example of this, but the building is falling apart. If we're only going to have one space like this, can we at least prioritize keeping it great repair.
 - We're told that we greatly benefit financially from the cruise ship industry, and this is why we have to put up with the crowds, traffic, helicopter noise, etc., a much decreased quality of life for residents. And yet our taxes go up to pay for infrastructure that is greatly stressed by over tourism. We should be ashamed of the homelessness in Juneau, especially given all the "riches" we receive from tourism. I don't think public money that is dedicated to serve the unhoused should be cut. In fact, I think funds should be increased to eliminate homelessness and the suffering that comes with it. I also don't think funds that support social services should be cut.

- Please be responsible about how you spend public money (my money). Do not spend 9 million dollars to destroy Telephone Hill for a building project that will never pencil out. Do not spend 20 million dollars to move CBJ offices when we were told that the move would cost 14 million dollars. And be more transparent about the real cost of these projects and all projects.
- Save \$5.5 million - Do not demolish Telephone Hill
- Completely fund all City Services that our taxes pay for and stop any give aways in grants, tax breaks, etc. to non-CBJ developers, contractors and service providers. Case in point, put the brakes on paying planners, demolishers, etc. for destroying Telephone Hill. Quit putting homeless people in an avalanche path and go back to the old church plan.
- It isn't the government's job to build my house. In trying to ramrod housing projects through with little or no plan in place, the Assembly makes itself vulnerable in ways that end up in disaster and conflict(Pederson Hill, Ridgeview, Telephone Hill). The other problem that this causes is that CBJ government tends to "compete" with would-be builders, occupying contractors and resources that would otherwise be available to the private sector. This has the unintended effect of making it harder to build a home. As we've seen in recent history, those projects almost invariably end badly, and with consequences that reflect poorly on local leadership.
- I do not think the CBJ should spend any more funds on real estate development. I am thinking not so much about Telephone Hill as I am reflected on (a) how expensive real estate/housing development can get and how fast the cost overruns can add up, plus (b) if the private sector isn't lining up top play ball then that is a pretty good sign that the CBJ is pursuing a project that liable to be expensive and problematic while taking far more time and \$ than suggested in current estimates and pro formas.
- Property needs to be assessed evenly across the borough. As it is now, most higher valued homes are assessed much lower than asking or sales price values while the lower valued homes are assessed at a value very close to the asking or sales price. This may be even more exaggerated for commercial/industrial property - for example, I recently heard of a boat condo off Industrial Blvd selling for \$250,000 while the assessed value was \$120,000. This is a huge revenue gap for the CBJ. If the CBJ wants to create property tax exemptions for expensive waterfront homes or commercial/industrial properties, it should do it transparently through the assembly ordinance process. With some focus on industrial/commercial and waterfront property valuations, the CBJ could see significant revenue gains without changing anything else.

- I have been very disappointed in the way the City has treated its citizens on telephone hill. It has been awful and the city should reverse course immediately.
- SAVE TELEPHONE HILL! It has historic value, and some of the property should at least be turned into a museum.
- Libraries needs to continue getting a share of the CBJ budgeting priorities. Libraries helps the community be informed, knowledgeable and entertained. With the rise of food prices, rents/mortgages, it is hard to spend extra money on entertainments such as movie theaters, buying books for the Bibliophiles and creative outlet workshops which sometimes runs from \$50-130+ which not a lot can afford. The library offers free activities and free books to borrow to entertain all age range. It also serves as a gathering outlet on times when outside activities are limited due to our weather conditions. Continue funding waste and water department for clean water.
- Haven't take the survey yet.
- Please keep Mt. Jumbo Gym open! The gym is an affordable space for a wide diversity of users. The gym is used for kids' parties/activities, women's sports, men's sports, dog training, among other uses. The gym was built in 1941 and should be saved for its historical value.
- I would like to see the city back off of big capital/infrastructure projects. Yes, some of them might have federal dollar contributions, but once complete they will require money to operate and maintain. The government should be able to fund the basic necessities to its current residents. I believe CBJ is too focused on funding growth--for future tourism expansion, for people who may or may not move here--rather than supporting people who pay the taxes and live here. Our wastewater infrastructure is a prime example of neglect. The city waited too long to adjust rates, then we agreed to the rate hikes. Then we were asked for a 10M bond, which we passed. Then we were told CBJ actually needs like 40M more. Where was the accountability for upkeeping our basic utility that allows everyone to flush the toilet???? While your question is phrased to ask what the priorities should be, I will turn it upside down and say what I think CBJ should DE-prioritize: The Gondola (just walk away from the loss, as painful as that is.) The Second Crossing, 8 outdoor pickleball courts (we already have plenty!), yet another redo of Marine Park, utilities to the end of North Douglas to Goldbelt & CBJ lands, The New JAHC/Civic Center, and the proposed city-run compost facility (we already have a private one.)
- Paint the lines on the roads!!! Is it my lane, or theirs, or who knows...I don't, because you can see the lines!

- If you're thinking about cutting library services, then please stop by your nearest public library. Libraries house books that open the whole world to children and adults, for free! That in and of itself is great. Libraries are much more than that. They're community centers that offer safe spaces for people. Rooms are available for groups to meet. Computers, printing, the internet, magazines, newspapers, movies, music, etc. are available. There are reading programs for children. Librarians are great sources of information! Please fully fund the libraries.
- Please, please, please paint lane lines on ALL roads in Juneau. It is so dangerous trying to play "what lane am I in" on dark, rainy nights.
- This is a letter on the budget from the Douglas Advisory Board to the Juneau Assembly. The board, appointed by the assembly, is charged with advising the city-borough about Douglas Island issues. We understand the municipality faces a financial crisis. We know changes are needed to match the tax revenue reductions and costs of glacial outburst floods. But we want every possible effort made to limit impacts on neighborhoods. Since we represent Douglas Island, we're concerned that reductions could unevenly impact facilities and programs in our area. The Douglas Library is our community center. The library itself is well-used and provides a safe after-school place for our children and others. Reading and art programs there are of great value to families. And the community room is home to meetings, classes, presentations and other group events. The attached fire hall speeds emergency response and contributes to the general safety of all of Juneau. Our parks and recreation facilities are also important, not just to island residents but to the whole community. Check out Sandy Beach at lunchtime or when the snow is deep and you'll see many, many people walking their dogs, strolling with friends and just taking in the scenery. The Savikko Park shelters and ballfields are well used, even when the weather's wetter and colder than usual. Trails from the Treadwell Mine to Outer Point keep us fit and contribute to mental health. The boat harbor and ramps, including North Douglas, help us fish and enjoy our surrounding environment. Mount Jumbo Gym provides space for families with toddlers, basketball players, the annual island Halloween party called the Ghost Walk and other groups and events. Treadwell Arena hosts skating and hockey games. We could go on about road and utility maintenance, city buses and other programs and facilities. But our main message is that Douglas Island and its residents should see no more than fair, proportional reductions in the budget. We understand this is not the best time to ask for investments in our long-ignored cemeteries, one of the Douglas Advisory Board's chief priorities. But the municipality does budget for Evergreen Cemetery and there's no reason the many gravesites on the island are excluded. (We've shared information showing most island cemeteries are on city property, though we know you've been told otherwise.) A partial solution is to issue the

Request for Interest for nonprofit groups that would partner with the city to make improvements. That was authorized at a May 2024 Committee of the Whole, but it's been largely ignored by city staff, except for recent interest from Parks and Recreation. A local nonprofit organization is considering coordinating such efforts and quick municipal action on the RFI could get this work going. Thank you for your consideration, The Douglas Advisory Board.

- Keep Eaglecrest affordable
- I am writing to ask the CBJ to pause evictions and the demolition of Telephone Hill until the Assembly has a credible plan for the Hill's future, including costs and benefits. I am a Juneau resident of voting age.
- I am signing this petition to ask the CBJ to pause evictions and the demolition of Telephone Hill until the Assembly has a credible plan for the Hill's future, including costs and benefits. I am a Juneau resident of voting age. And please start a formal Process Improvement Program to reduce waste and improve services within the CBJ operations.
- Conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis before demolishing Telephone Hill. CBJ's estimated development cost is ~1.5x more per square foot than standard Juneau sites— and that excludes the \$9M for demolition/site prep plus \$0.8M in consulting fees already spent, with more to come if demolition proceeds. The true total cost makes this project financially untenable for affordable housing.
- Raise taxes as much as possible to keep services. When taking cuts, please prioritize keeping services aimed at the poorest citizens (like buses, libraries, playgrounds, emergency and youth shelters) and cutting services that serve our wealthiest citizens (like Eaglecrest).
- Our public transit system is top notch. CBJ and the Assembly are to be commended for its well thought out transit system - its reliability, bus schedules and well trained drivers. Thank you! Please keep the transit system a top priority! On another topic, I do not think the City should spend \$5.5 million on the Telephone Hil project. This money would be ill-spent.
- #1 - Mendenhall River Flood Protection needs to be right at the top along with basic services.... Roads, Police, CCFR, Water and Sewer and BRH. RELEASE all the millions that have been squirreled away for the new JAC Building and the new CBJ Offices!

- Save vital housing and historical buildings and 5.5 million dollars by NOT demolishing Telegraph Hill!!!
- I wish CBJ would cut some of the budget funding tourism, rather than our local services. The budgets funding tourism increase every year while funding for local items are often reduced. New items funding tourism seem to be added to the budget each year as well. The timing is also wrong for canceling hundreds of visitor center volunteers. Then creating new hired positions for the visitor centers (at the airport kiosk, library kiosk and transit center at the Mt Roberts tram station). Thank you for serious consideration of public comments.
- We must prioritize existing infrastructure (sewer, roads, pools, parks, Eaglecrest, skating rink) over "wants" - EXTRA \$2m for the Goldbelt building (seriously?) telephone hill, grants/loans to outfits that DONT provide affordable housing in the end (how will you keep VRBOs from buying ALL of the future apartments on telephone hill for cash over asking?) Operate responsibly is all we are asking.
- The people of this city gave you clear guidance on what direction we wanted the budget to go. It's now almost March and not one decision has been made yet to cut anything. Stop doing surveys and wasting more money and time and start doing the job leaders are elected to do. Being a leader is not conducting surveys and starting more committees. It's about making decisions through representation. And tell the city manager to come out of hiding. We've never had a city manager that is so removed from the people. I will not support any more taxes or bonds until the city starts showing fiscal discipline. Stop trying to please everybody and start making tough decisions. If it's not a core service then stop.
- Convert Barlett to a medical non-profit teaching university #1 idea
- I applaud the Assembly for rezoning sites and providing \$2M for 43 affordable units—this empowers local developers and delivers results. Don't waste \$5.5M + \$21M CIP demolishing Telephone Hill. The site is financially unfeasible for affordable housing development, and the interested outside developers want FREE land. Please do not REPEAT the mistake on Ridgeview
- The deadline for taking the community survey was not well advertised so I missed it. I heard from many people that it was flawed anyway and presented false choices, so please revise the survey accordingly and open it up for a second round of input. For example, my understanding is that obvious potential sources of new revenue we're not included as options, such as revoking the property tax breaks for retired people. Juneau is dying from a family perspective and is headed toward being a retirement community supplemented

by Coast Guard and cruise tourists. My family is being squeezed and leaving Juneau for somewhere more affordable and family-friendly down south is becoming a more and more attractive option.

- While the housing shortage is a serious issue, the residents voted to CUT CBJ budget on housing because of the bad decisions such as Ridgeview and Telephone Hill. Do the Assembly members know that there is a mining tunnel under Telephone Hill? Did any subject matter expert say it can support high-density housing? Local respected architects did say it is a "challenging location of construction." Yet the Assembly is ignoring its voters voice from the budget survey to proceed with spending \$5.5M to demolish a historic neighborhood for an aspirational goal against the experts perspective. If the city proceeds, this will not only reduce the voters' trust in your fiscal responsibility but will make it look very bad to any investors. Who spends millions of \$ without doing a cost-benefit analysis? That sounds like gambling!! Please PAUSE demolition and get developers proposal and weigh in the options
- I participated in the budgeting practice at the Mendenhall Library on 2/24. I was frustrated with the premise of the exercise; I do not think the community begrudged the cost of city government or subsidizing resources that directly impact our quality of life, which was the focus of the exercise. I think the community is frustrated with expenditures that do not positively impact our community or run contrary to voter input. Why are we spending \$10 million to clear Telephone Hill in the HOPES of finding a contractor to build there? Why are we giving affordable housing grants without accountability? Are we making the best use of our resources and managing well the assets we have without looking to begin new projects which will only add to our required overhead? What is being done to increase revenues from existing programs, i.e., summer use for Eaglecrest and Treadwell Arena? If these issues aren't solutions, is the city transparent about why these won't work? There is gondola debacle, renovating the Goldbelt Building for City Hall instead of using FDMS. Perhaps these have been wise choices, but the public has not been given all of the necessary information to understand them.
- SAVE TELEPHONE HILL!!!!
- Please expedite the demolition of houses on Telephone Hill. Juneau needs higher density residential development in its urban center. Thank you.
- CBJ's budget priorities are nonsensical, wasteful and unrealistic. You know it. We know it. We see what you're doing. You are wasting our money on your pet peeve projects. You

are too stubborn to admit you're wrong and change course. You are destroying the very fiber of this once great, historical town.

- I think it is ridiculous the city is spending \$5 million to tear down telephone hill when there is a multimillion short fall in the city budget. The city is having to cut down on other services so it can afford essentials when it continues to waste money on non-needed projects. I have city stairs to my house which are continuing to fall apart and are dangerous on 3rd street which the city refuses to fix. I do not have any other access to my house or property other than these stairs and I constantly worry when they will collapse but the city would rather focus on tearing down historical homes.
- I am firmly opposed to the city spending millions to demolish the current housing on Telephone Hill. Yes, I know they have “dream” and that it’s, in their words, “bold.” But it is a loose plan that has no selected developer, no actual budget, and no actual numbers on what housing comes out of it. So, their actions are actually based on hope, not data, and they are reckless, not bold. The city has so many better options if it wants to support new housing. Giving land to for-profit developers and using everyone’s tax dollars to heavily subsidize its development is a HARD NO from me.
- Given that the Army Corps of Engineers pulled out of flood mitigation efforts and that there is \$10M-\$12M budget gap in FY2027, please consider priorities very carefully. There is NO rush to demolish Telephone Hill. No developer stepped up to present a design. Please RESERVE THE TELEPHONE HILL DEMOLITION FUNDING FOR FLOOD RESPONSE AND MITIGATION. There is an URGENT THREAT to existing houses in less than SIX MONTHS! Thank you for your careful considerations and fiscal responsibilities
- It is disappointing that the Assembly and the administration choose to ignore common sense and public input by committing to spending vast amounts when no one has demonstrated willingness to commit to building affordable housing. What good is listing priorities if no one in City Hall is willing to commit to those priorities?
- My main concern is the process by which the Telephone Hill demolition was pushed forward, especially given the significant cost and the fact that it removes existing housing without a solid, funded plan for redevelopment. I want to be transparent that I have not attended or listened directly to Assembly, Mayor, or Manager meetings on this issue, but I have been following the coverage in local media. From what I have seen, there has not been a clear or logical explanation for why the City is moving forward with a demolition plan that could cost around \$10 million—particularly at a time when Juneau is facing both a financial challenge and a housing shortage. This raises important questions about

priorities and decision-making. Why move forward with such an expensive demolition without a concrete plan to replace the housing that will be lost? It is difficult for many in the community to understand the motivation behind this decision or who ultimately benefits from it financially. More broadly, it seems there may be a significant communication gap between CBJ, the Assembly, and the public. Greater transparency about the reasoning, costs, and long-term plans for the site would go a long way toward building trust and helping residents understand the path forward.

- Please, instead of spending so much on T. Hill, please use that money, at this time, on protecting houses in the Valley against flooding. For example!
- Quit spending money that we don't have. Focus on the basic things our community needs. Our population is declining, maybe our government should be downsizing, instead of inventing new projects that are unnecessary. The people that are year around residents are tired of playing 2nd fiddle to the tourists.
- 1-We need to put forward good salaries for teachers so we can keep the best people. 2- We need to enhance school curricula to provide the best learning environment for students. That includes things like art, music, theater, wood shop, mechanics, after school activities; i.e. : we need to invest in our youth. And that does NOT include testing to standards, but actual learning. 3-CBJ should prioritize the housing monies available to properties more suitable and cost effective for creating housing without crowding the downtown areas or taking up industrial spaces. (And no "Sweetheart deals like whatever happened to that Duran construction near Glacier Gardens) 4-I would like to see size and number limits on tourism ships and buses. The cattle herd conditions of packed sidewalks and streets, packed visitor centers and packed stores and restaurants does Not lend itself to a fine experience in Juneau. It degrades the environment as well. 5-Streets and roads maintenance, summer and winter, are essential due to the geography of our land. Places here are just not within walking distance for most people. 6-I would really like the CBJ to explore the option of acquiring a certified garbage incinerator. I believe there are ways to clean emissions with stack scrubbers and newer technologies for this issue. The cost might be offset by taking (for a fee) garbage from towns around Southeast in need of help with their trash disposal.
- Save the history of Telephone hill, and the millions of dollars that will be wasted. Use those millions to get teachers their contracts. Work on less extravagant housing solutions
- Please do not spend our precious tax dollars on the destruction of Telephone Hill when there are so many other pressing issues to be dealt with.

- I believe that the city should not waste millions of dollars on demolishing Telephone Hill when CBJ seems to have only the barest “concept of a plan” (in the words of our illustrious commander in chief). The city is dealing with a major budget shortfall given the mill rate cap and the removal of sales tax on food and utilities. As a property owner, taxpayer and super voter, I believe that spending lots of money on Telephone Hill is a bad idea at this time.
- Permanent flood solution, garbage, septic upgrades, save Telephone Hill.
- Why are we spending over 5.5 million on Telephone Hill when there are over 300 homes in the valley facing flooding conditions that could use those \$\$ to help prevent their homes from flooding? Creating how many new apartments on Telephone Hill is going to help replace the potential of loosing 300 homes.
- Maximize revenue from cruise ship tourism by increasing any/all legally allowed fees or taxes such as a higher passenger head tax, tourism related permit fees.
- Please do not fund the destruction of Telephone Hill.
- We need to put a pause on all the 'extras' AKA remodeling of the new city hall space-move into the space as is, not with a 20,000,000 + moving and remodeling budget. That’s literally insane. The school district moved out of 3 schools and did it with basically no budget. 2) DO NOT bulldoze Star Hill. All of Juneau knows you are doing this out of spite at this point. There isn't a bidder, its going to cost SO much money to destroy the homes, for what? Its a bad plan. Its time to back off of it. 3) Use our budget towards financing our schools and basic services. Find a way to revamp and increase the money the city gets from cruisers to fund the services they put a strain on, like our EMT, fire fighters and road damage. We need to actually benefit from tourism, not just a few millionaire business owners. Please show me you can think with independent brains and not CBJ brainwashed status quo mind think.
- Instead of demolishing developed land and displacing residents with no plans in store for rebuild, can the city offer public land for sale? There hasn't been any CBJ land sales posted on the CBJ land sales page for quite some time. Offer people some affordable land and they will build houses! Housing is a major issue in this city, and unfortunately, the city has not been helpful in affording buildable lot options to the working public. Giant unaffordable chunks of land don't do any good for anybody except developers. Offer small to moderate sized lots that average income families can purchase and build on. This city NEEDS buildable areas opened up so housing options can happen. Invest in subdivision development with these funds and sell affordable lots to working class

people! If you want people to stay here and move here, encourage the working man to build, rather than adding to people being priced out of paradise!

- Lawmakers, please don't forget your important role in the municipal processes. Legislative roles (assembly members), you are designed to parrot your constituents. Managers and Directors, you check and balance the legislators. And if all else fails, there are the courts (a sign that one of the first two branches over/understepped. I know each of you do your best and would not hold your positions, otherwise. Please don't allow the small print of Telephone Hill cloud your collective responsibilities.
- When the voters try to reign in the CBJ's spending the first thing that's always cut is the things that hurt the voters the most. Instead of scratching telephone hill they'll cut out the overtime for snowplow operators. That's ridiculous. The city's budget has swollen by almost 50 percent in the last six years while our population has declined. To focus so much energy on affordable housing is a mistake. We have a fast-aging population where the valley is full of seventy year olds living by themselves in a three-bedroom house. In ten years this problem will alleviate itself naturally.
- Please analyze [1] the income that could be generated by selling houses on Telephone Hill, [2] the number of housing units that could be on T.H by keeping existing houses [13 housing units] plus 36 new units per Preliminary Concept D so total units 50;- [3] and the total cost of the current project: at least \$5.5 million for demolition; acknowledge \$3.5 million for road construction; and then the amount to fill in the construction feasibility gap. Then ANALYZE the amount per unit from the current project versus what you would have to pay to sell the houses and add new units to what is already there. You can save millions of dollars and put that toward other housing projects or other priorities. I can just see you having to close a library or some other vital service because you spent millions of dollars on this speculative project. Please do NOT continue to ignore 1,000 of your constituents who said to stop the bulldozers until you have a plan with the costs and benefits of demolition and the entire current project.
- Read your survey results. Listen to your community. STOP spending money on non-priority areas. We said NO to a new city hall. You didn't listen. You are tearing down telephone hill for millions. Use that money to flood fight (a true emergency). Stop the bleeding at Eaglecrest. Ditch the Gondola. There is a growing community unrest in your lack of leadership and reckless spending. Put money into keeping Juneau safe, welcoming to young families and get out of the way to let businesses thrive and industry flourish. Stay in your lane. Essential City management only.

- I disagreed with the way the survey was done as it is not possible to prioritize from a list like that. I would say the top priorities for CBJ should be the economy, especially making tourism work for our city, and maintenance so that we do not have costs like we do now for things too long ignored. As for Telephone Hill, it is completely irresponsible to spend money we don't have on a project we don't have with no plan in sight. Thank you.
- The city need to take care of the third street stairs which begin at the end of the street. They are unsafe, falling apart, and are a hazard to the residents who depend on them to access their homes. The city is more consumer with tourist and other projects they day-to-day issues with residents.
- Please reconsider your decision to destroy Telephone Hill a beautiful piece of Juneau history. You don't have a plan and the structure of the site will not support 155 units! Parking?? You have no plan. Many of my friends envision it a green place for people to gather as well as the present houses be occupied again.
- Christine Woll has said the CBJ is facing a \$12 million budget deficit. The Assembly should pause their demolition plans for Telephone Hill and reallocate the \$5.5 million to lessen the cuts that will affect all year-round Juneau residents. It's simple math and common sense. Don't punish the taxpayers - table the project and reallocate the money. It would be a win for the Assembly.
- I do not support the assembly's decision to demolish the Telephone Hill neighborhood.
- Please leave Telephone Hill off your agenda This is a ridiculous waste of energy. Focus on the kids. Focus on quality and availability of childcare in our town. Focus on the schools.
- 2% pay cut for all employees. Have one Marketing /Communications department to serve all departments. Borough income tax-deductible on Fed taxes?
- Start with full funding for essential salaried services like police, firefighting, road maintenance, water, schools, sewers, etc. Then full funding for other salaried positions. With what is left, fund programs for the homeless, youth, others in need. Next, capital projects for essential infrastructure (streets, sewers, water, etc., not IT). If anything left, put it into savings for emergency spending. Redoing Marine Park is a waste of money. Demo at Telephone Hill is a waste of money. New City Hall is a waste of money.

- Stop any action on Telephone Hill. Stop the gondola project. Take care our sewer treatment plant, water, roadways. Have a pontoon bridge in storage for an emergency second crossing. Focus on local food production. It's called triage people... now is the time. Do a few things well, rather than many things poorly. Keep our libraries and pools and parks...folks need emotional survival in these times.
- It is my impression that we are overextending in many ways in our community. This is jeopardizing essential services of library, police, fire department, hospital, and schools, airport, and road maintenance. In a budget crisis, we are proposing to unnecessarily expand a park, build a new unneeded ferry terminal, extend the N Douglas hwy to build an unneeded new cruise ship dock, and make an unneeded second crossing of Gastineau channel.
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I attended the CBJ retreat in December 2025, completed the 2026 Compass survey and attended the Compass workshop at the valley library because I am sincerely interested in learning how the budget works and understanding exactly what the Assembly is facing. Finding cuts that will consistently decrease CBJ expenses on an annual basis is critically important, but that effort should not preclude careful reconsideration of very expensive projects that are currently experiencing changing circumstances. I appreciate the Assembly's willingness to do the hard work to find long term budget cuts, but when facing dire financial shortages, the first step is to pause movement on expensive, risky projects. When the gondola was proposed, there was pressure to act quickly to catch a fleeting opportunity, so the decision to purchase was made without careful calculation of the full cost of getting it up and running. Rushing to act without sufficient knowledge turned out to be a catastrophic mistake. Demolition on Telephone Hill is not currently an urgent need, as lots of new housing has recently been made available with at least 10 new units in downtown Douglas, a whole new neighborhood above the Pioneer Home, one multi-unit building finished and another under active construction near Fred Meyer. Even more housing is also in the pipeline, thanks to your re-zoning success last year. Given these new conditions, it is not prudent to rush to destroy existing housing when you have no contractor secured. The final price of development on that difficult terrain should be expected to follow the same trajectory we have seen with the gondola. Ignoring new information and forging ahead with old plans is reckless and irresponsible at a time when our budget is precarious and we struggle to find long-term cuts. There is no guarantee the demolition will result in your vision of new housing on the hill. The essential first step is to write the demolition subsidy into a building contract and secure a builder. Failure to follow this sequence is to gamble with money we do not have. Now is the time for careful, conservative steps. Do not rush this option, especially considering the overwhelming opposition from thoughtful, respectful residents who are begging you to

slow down. Imagine tearing down houses up there this spring, only to discover you still have no builder willing to take on the project. You will be remembered for wasting 5 million dollars, creating an ugly, unstable hole above the transit center, and evicting good souls from the heart of our beautiful home. Is that the legacy you want? Please, please hit pause on this pipe dream, until you can get the necessary commitments to ensure that it does not become another fiasco. We cannot afford any more big mistakes. I would also request that you stop all funding for the gondola, as it too is very unlikely to ever provide any revenue, especially with Goldbelt now getting to receive some of the revenue. Overall, stop taking risks with big ticket items. When my finances are hurting, I don't go to Vegas. I start by pausing any new big purchases. Next is shaving down my monthly expenses. Just be responsible with the money you collect from us. No more pipe dreams. No more wishful thinking, make-believe wild risky ventures! Proceed slowly and carefully with new projects. Get real information, not pie-in-the-sky fantasies. Evolve plans as the environment evolves.

- Please pause spending for the Telephone Hill tear down project given resource scarcity and possibility of boondoggle and swollen costs, and also please take this opportunity to increase tax revenue by proposing reinstatement of previously removed taxes, creating new city taxes, or finding other public funding sources. Thank you for your work. I believe it is okay and good for us to hold each other financially accountable for creating the community we want to live in. Thank you.
- Do not waste money on building on telephone hill. Use one of your other properties that don't need this much money spent to prepare the site. Sell off the homes to the highest bidders. CBJ does not have the money to waste on this. There are still empty lots that could be built on around the existing homes.
- Please do not spend our tax dollars to destroy Telephone Hill. We have too many other pressing needs!
- Please stop moving forward with the demolition of homes on Telephone Hill. This is a huge mistake we cannot afford to make.
- With development around Eaglecrest, Goldbelt Aani, and second crossing priorities... please consider additional housing at base of Eaglecrest/north Douglas
- Stop demolition of Telephone Hill. Allow the community to weigh in via survey and or workshops. Reassess.

- Capital City Fire and Rescue firefighters and EMTs protect the lives of every Juneau resident, yet they are being asked to do so at wages that cannot sustain a family in one of Alaska's most expensive cities. A starting salary of \$58,502 sounds reasonable in isolation — until you measure it against Juneau's cost-of-living index of 127.8, healthcare costs that rank among the highest of any city in the nation, and a housing market where the average home sale price has led Alaska for two consecutive years. In real purchasing power, that starting wage translates to roughly \$45,800 in national terms — the lowest among comparable fire departments in the Pacific Northwest. Seattle starts its recruits at over \$98,000. Portland starts at \$83,929. Juneau is not asking its firefighters to live somewhere cheap; it is asking them to survive somewhere expensive on wages that reflect neither the cost of that sacrifice nor the value of the service they provide. The retirement picture is even more troubling. Alaska is the only state in the nation that eliminated defined-benefit pensions for public safety employees. Since 2006, Juneau's firefighters and EMTs have been enrolled in a defined-contribution plan — a 401(k)-style account with no guaranteed income at retirement. A state analysis found that municipal public safety members under this system have only a 6% chance of achieving financial security in retirement. Six percent. Meanwhile, Seattle firefighters retire under LEOFF Plan 2, a lifetime defined-benefit pension. Portland firefighters receive Oregon PERS benefits designed to deliver roughly 45% of final salary after 25 years of service. These are the departments competing with Juneau for the same applicants. When a candidate weighs a career in public safety, a guaranteed pension is not a luxury — it is a fundamental part of the compensation that makes a dangerous, physically demanding profession sustainable over a lifetime. Juneau cannot afford to lose this fight for recruitment and retention. The men and women of Capital City Fire and Rescue run toward emergencies the rest of us run from. They work 56-hour weeks, respond to cardiac arrests, structure fires, and wilderness rescues, and they do it knowing their retirement security is uncertain and their wages do not keep pace with the cost of living here. The Assembly should immediately pursue a meaningful wage adjustment that reflects Juneau's true cost of living and actively support state legislation — such as HB 22 — to restore a defined-benefit pension for Alaska's public safety workers. Anything less is a broken promise to the people who protect this community every single day.
- We need more money to fund the services we love about Juneau. Here is what I suggest:
 1. Act on the recommendation from the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) related to Proposing a Gross Smelter Return Tax for the Purpose of Endowing a Juneau Permanent Fund.
 2. Look into creating a "vacation home tax" or use property tax exemptions that favor full-time residents, to target non-Alaska residents who own "vacation" homes in Juneau.
 3. "Look into mansion taxes," imposing a higher rate on properties sold above a certain threshold, asking wealthy buyers or sellers to contribute more to CBJ's budget.
 4. Begin exploring municipal tax structures that target extremely

high-income earners (7 figures and above) 5. Consider congestion pricing or tolls targeting the tour bus companies during the summer cruise season. Those funds can be put towards maintaining our roads/infrastructure. 6. Look into implementing a vacancy tax or vacant property tax structures to incentivize landlords and investors to either sell, rent out, or rehabilitate units, rather than "sitting on them." 7. Consider increasing our port fees used by the Cruise industry. Target funds from private yachts that visit Juneau via boat mooring/docking taxes, transient Vessel Fees, or per-foot docking fees. 8. To help fund Airport services, we should look at land and departure fees targeting private jets.

- Focus on what the private sector cannot do, public safety, streets, water/sewer, & k-12 education. Jettison optional things that may be good, like recreational facilities (Eagle Crest, pools, skating rink, etc.), & city run greenhouse
- Education, parks and rec, street maintenance. I think if you're in a financial deficit you shouldn't be putting more toward gondolas and a new city hall.
- First, I'm really disappointed that workshops were not in larger venues like the high schools or offered over a longer period of time. It's clear CBJ does not actually want input. Second: STOP SPENDING on anything other than actual necessities. Police, Fire/EMS, and infrastructure should be your top priorities. People will start dying soon if we don't get CCFR some staff and decent pay because they'll have to choose what is a priority and that means someone doesn't get help. If you can't support the existing infrastructure, STOP trying to make more housing until you can support what you have.
- Streets, roads, bridges, and sidewalk maintenance is a key concern with needing to update and maintain current equipment and train a team. Without cleared and safe roads, literally everything shuts down in any city. Fire and police are next on the list of musts. Falling in line from there is a hospital that can provide the basics and send you off to another larger more specializing medical hospital. As well, a safe public bus system is another important piece. Bare bones services, these would be the most important that literally serve all people. Next, I would priority children's education. Budget cuts suck, so when it comes right down to it, these are the most basic and needed services.
- How come there is enough money to tear down the houses on Telephone Hill but not enough money for snow removal?
- I would like to see focus on supporting libraries in Juneau. I realize they only generate revenue by library cards and fines however libraries are an integral part of a stable and healthy community. They are a safe place for all citizens of any age. They are a place of

learning, solitude if needed, help on a variety of CBJ topics and a nonjudgmental place to gather and meet. Of course Most importantly is reading starting at a young age as all their reading programs do and activities. Cutting libraries or librarians or eliminating any libraries is a sign of a community failing its citizens in being kinds and learned and well educated.

- Do not spend millions on demolishing the houses on Telephone Hill. Keep the housing intact and invest in developing affordable housing elsewhere.
- I think you need to trim the fat more, and find ways to be more efficient with the resources that you have, rather than take away from anything that Juneau people need. Furthermore, I am astonished that the Assembly is still planning to demolish Telephone Hill without a plan! It is outrageous that the public feedback has been ignored. There are other places that make much more sense for denser housing, where there could actually be PARKING, for example. Please at least let developers dream, and WAIT until there is a plan before leveling the dang hill! I believe that CBJ should preserve the history of our sweet downtown Juneau. Telephone Hill is also an indirect tourist attraction, if you ask me. When ships arrive in Gastineau Channel and see Alaska's capital city, there in the center is a lovely green area, with bushy trees and historical homes. Juneau can look like any other city in southeast Alaska, just level the hill, or cover it with apartment buildings, there ya go.
- Assembly members should table the demolition of Telephone Hill neighborhood and reallocate that money to address the budget shortfall.
- Please don't destroy Telephone Hill! It is a jewel in Juneau's crown! 👑
- Don't fund destroying Telephone Hill.
- Leave telephone hill alone, save millions.
- Preserve the charm of the hill. Do not give in to contractors who only care about profits.
- Please don't tear down those beautiful homes and let them keep their homes, some places should be left alone.
- Please don't waste money we don't have demolishing Telephone Hill. We have core services to pay for.

- No to demolishing Telephone Hill. No to cascade point! Yes to homeless, yes to compassion.
- We need to come up with a plan for the dump. Drop this ridiculous fight on telephone Hill and sell off the lots to the highest Bidders. Use the lot that you own across the street from the state museum and put that out there for a developer to build an apartment building our condos. It's site ready. It meets all the criteria of accessibility. It's proximity to the Coast Guard dock, downtown and shopping makes it a solution for people that wouldn't even need a car.
- Do not fund demolition of Telephone Hill homes. Figure out how to sell the homes and parcels to private parties in units that don't require city replatting or at least minimal replatting.
- Listen to the community and reallocate the 5.5 million to demolish Telephone Hill to pay for HALF of the anticipated budget cuts that will affect all Juneau residents.
- Use the \$5.5 million that is currently slated to Telephone Hill destruction with zero plan towards resources that of JUNEAU can use due to the budget deficit.
- Don't fund demolition of Telephone Hill.
- Do not fund tearing down property on Telephone Hill! There's better use for funding.
- Reallocate the 5.5 million to demolish Telephone Hill and pay HALF the anticipated budget cuts that will affect all Juneau residents.
- I have lived in Juneau for nearly 50 years. I guess when you build a construction for the number of units you had proposed for the site you will have to tell the people they cannot have cars. There seems to be no adequate access for that many vehicles plus their friends coming to visit that you have proposed.
- Cut out projects that are a money pit like the Eagle Crest issues. Stop giving bonuses and raises to staff who haven't earned their stripes or put in the time. Maybe even stop doing these surveys because it's just for show and more waste of Juneau tax dollars. It's not like CBJ leadership is going to listen. It will go in one ear and out the other. There have been professionals like lawyers, contractors, people who know about 106 Review, yet not one question from the council about what Juneau residents have brought forward. Unwilling to listen to reason. I think a majority of the board needs reminding that you represent the will of the people.

- Don't waste money demolishing Telephone Hill! Fill the shortfalls.
- Use the 5.5 million for Telephone Hill demolition to fund one half of CBJ's budget cuts!
- Reallocate the \$5.5 million designated for widely opposed demolition of Telephone Hill and use it to PAY HALF of the budget cuts. Use it for Juneau's municipal needs NOT DEVELOPERS!
- This is not a good time to be bold and daring. Please reallocate the 5.5 million for Telephone Hill demolition towards paying off the budget shortfall.
- Don't keep spending money that the people of Juneau doesn't want to spend. Complete the projects one at a time.
- We are in a global war over oil & lng—too much uncertainty and economic vulnerability. Please pause demolishing Telephone Hill before getting a commitment from a developer. Thank you
- Pay snow removers with (Telephone Hill) money.
- Do not waste millions of dollars on demolishing Telephone Hill. Make money instead, by selling the properties as-is with the original platting under the condition that whoever ends up owning the properties must retain the historic character. Make the neighborhood part of the downtown historic district. Place interpretive signs explaining the historic significance of the area and how to walk to it on the cruise ship docks. And place more site-specific interpretive signs outside of the seven historic buildings. Use the millions of dollars it would take to demolish the Hill for more important and necessary things like flood control, schools, street maintenance, sewage treatment, snow removal, public health and safety, Bartlett hospital, etc.
- CBJ needs to get better at reading the room. In this climate of shrinking dollars and widespread need, please step back and reconsider, not plowing ahead torpedoes be damned.
- Fund Eaglecrest and the Gondola Project. Reconsider Renninger Park (\$14 million for a skateboard park serving? Skateboarders and outdoor pickleball courts that will be unusable in inclement weather - instead open Marie Drake Gym for year round indoor pickleball).

- Food security and connectivity to the rest of the state and the country.
- Don't waste money on demolishing telephone hill until there is a plan. Maintain it for the history and views.
- Please leave Telephone Hill alone and waste the money on something else. I'm using the word waste since this assembly seems to do an excellent job of doing just that!
- Do NOT demolish our historic telephone hill and downtown green space. Show the community you have the courage to change course and be fiscally responsible.
- Snow removal, *traffic enforcement*, parks & rec. Buy some red light and speed cameras for Pete's sake!
- Give the 5.5 million dollars to the city and then half the dept would be paid
- Get out of Eaglecrest and the gondola nightmare!
- Please do not waste any more money towards the destruction of Telephone Hill. thanks.
- Stop the demolition of Telephone Hill. Leave a beautiful touch of history and green space in our City. Allow the people to buy back their homes that they were kicked out of.
- Parks and Recreation: pools, arboretum.
- Use the Telephone Hill money to fix budget cuts.
- I hope the Assembly will consider using the Telephone Hill demolition money to address the budget shortfall. Use for Juneau. NOT imaginary developer.