



ENGAGE MORGAN HILL

A conversation about services, funding, and priorities.

www.EngageMorganHill.org



Community Advisory Group

Background:

The City of Morgan Hill has recently initiated an extensive outreach and engagement process with the Morgan Hill community. Named simply and appropriately, **Engage Morgan Hill** is a conversation about services, funding and priorities. The focus of this process is both educating and engaging the community regarding what services the city provides, how City services are provided, and the funding sources/options for services as we look toward the future. Additionally, **Engage Morgan Hill** will provide a deeper understanding of the City budget, finances, revenue sources and expenses. While educating the community, the intent is also to listen and provide an opportunity for the community to be part of the decision-making progress to ensure the City's fiscal sustainability in the future.

The City of Morgan Hill provides high quality service for a low cost. In fact, comparing Morgan Hill to other cities in the County, the City of Morgan Hill collects the lowest taxes per capita of any other city. The City has been very thoughtful in the way we deliver services so that we have been able to provide our residents more with less. We have been able to do this in a variety of ways, including:

- Keeping our staffing lean (The City of Morgan Hill currently has lower per capita staffing than we did 10 years ago).
- Innovative partnerships with organizations like the YMCA to provide recreation services, Cal Fire to provide fire safety, and Silicon Valley Clean Energy to provide energy resources alternatives.
- Attracting the best and the brightest to work for Morgan Hill not because we pay the most, but because we have a reputation of being innovative and team oriented.
- City employees share in paying for pension cost increases and new employees having reduced pension benefits.
- Actively and successfully pursuing grants.
- Smart economic development guided by the Economic Blueprint.

Despite the City's efforts, just like all California cities, we have challenges ahead:

- After deferring maintenance of City facilities and roads during the recession the City has a lot of catching up to do.
- Despite reductions to pension benefits, the City won't see the savings for many years while minimum wage, health insurance, and legacy pension costs keep increasing.
- New legislation and regulations are taking away local control.
- Over 82% of the City's Discretionary General Fund Expenses are dedicated to police, fire, and street maintenance services.

In order to meet the challenges ahead we need to come together as a community, share ideas, educate ourselves, and make informed decisions about how to move forward for a sustainable future. The Engage Morgan Hill Community Advisory Group will have a key role in making this happen.

Roles/Responsibilities:

Members of the Engage Morgan Hill Community Advisory Group are meant to be representatives of the community at large.

Requirements:

- An open mind
- A commitment to the process and regular attendance at meetings
- A commitment to be respectful of differing opinions
- An ability to dig in and learn about City services and how they are provided
- An interest to understand the City's budget, including how City services are funded, and the challenges that lie ahead
- A willingness to develop solutions and provide input for future decisions
- A commitment to gather and share information with your neighbors and other community members

Commitment:

- Attend 2-hour meetings every 3 - 4 weeks for approximately one year
- Continue to stay engaged and attend other meetings (City Council, Planning Commission, Community Meetings)
- Read materials and be prepared to contribute to a review of City's financial information
- Attend City Council meetings and Commission meetings as needed to learn more about a specific topic.
- Time on your own to research topics further, as you see necessary
- To represent your community to the best of your ability

Contact:

Maureen Tobin
Communications and Engagement Manager
Maureen.tobin@morganhill.ca.gov
408.310.4706 office
408.406.4076 cell