BENICIA INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

September 3, 2025

General Discussion- Membership Status

THE IOC HAS AN OPENING FOR ONE NEW MEMBER: The Committee discussed the upcoming interview of a potential new member. **OTHERS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED, MAY SEND AN EMAIL TO IOCBenicia@gmail.com**

Communication Subcommittee

There continues to be good interest the IOC activity on social media. Last month's NextDoor post had over 740 views in the first 48 hours and the Facebook page continues with a good number of followers. The group discussed, affirmed and agreed with the reasons given to those who raised the question last month with the decision to not share the results of the test of the evaluation tool beyond what was presented. The group continues to appreciate people talking the time to read the information and to share their reactions and questions.

Financial Analysis and Governance Subcommittees

Committee members met with the City Manager and Finance Director to review the rubric assessment tool. The discussion centered on the mission of the IOC and the definition of oversight, which had been the basis for creating the rubric. We defined our mission as reviewing the collection of tax revenues from the relevant measures, the allocation of those revenues consistent with the intent of the measures and reviewing the effectiveness of the management of those revenues in achieving outcomes. The goal of this work is to enhance the trust of the community with the work of the City.

From there we had a positive and productive dialogue. City officials stated that because Measure F is targeted to roads, revenues will likely be tied to specific projects and outcomes as suggested in the tool developed by the IOC. They also indicated that because revenues from measure C, the Quality of Life Measure and measures A, the Benicia Hotel Tax Measure and , B, The Public Safety and Essential Service Measure go into the general fund it will be more difficult to apply the criteria that have been developed. A conversation ensued regarding the nature of oversight and what reporting could be made available to the public regarding how the funds from these are being allocated to enhance understanding and trust. Some suggestions included creating a more ways to communicate the impact of the Measures, such as linking specific contributions to tangible outcomes and discussing to proportion of budget contributed by the revenue measures. There was also a discussion on budget planning and oversight, with discussions about impending implementation of a Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) process. The City Manager offered to brief the IOC on the system that is being implemented and the Committee agreed that it would be helpful for the City Manager to join a future IOC meeting to provide an overview of the new process.

Disclaimer:

This report has been prepared by the Benicia Independent Oversight Committee; a volunteer group formed in accordance with the provisions of 2024 Measures A, B & F. The IOC also covers 2014 Measure C. While the Committee operates independently of the City, its formation and purpose were established by voter approved tax measures. The Committee's goal is to serve the residents of Benicia by providing transparent, good-faith assessments of the City's financial performance.

The findings and ratings presented herein are based on publicly available information and the Committee's analysis. This report is intended solely for informational purposes and does not constitute financial, legal, or professional advice. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the Committee makes no representations or warranties, express or implied, regarding the completeness or reliability of the information provided. Readers are encouraged to conduct their own research and consult professionals as needed. The Committee assumes no liability for any decisions made based on this report.