City Council Leadership Retreat
Sample Preparation Questions
for electronic response
during the sessions

Budget

- What would you like to see the Council review process look like this year?
- What can we do differently this year so that we can have a successful budget process and more productive work session?
  - Do Councilmembers prefer each Department present their budget/programs or rely on staff to pass this information on as was done last year?
- How would Councilmembers like to set budget priorities going forward after this year?
  - Give specifics- working sessions prior to Mayoral budget presentation?
  - Liaisons/staff attempt to receive information from Councilmembers?
  - Two-by-two meetings to gather information from members?
- What areas do you want a deeper understanding of or a deeper dive into?
  - For example, prior to new requests, the Administration promised to provide status on previously funded programs, program progress, timeline, and status on funding.

Effective Utilization of Council Standing Committee Meetings

- What suggestions do you have to help make Council Committees more effective?
  - Ex. Following Rules of Procedure; Rules for presentations; other suggestions; Meeting schedule,
- What do Committee Members need to be successful?
- What does staff (Clerk's office, CCoS and Liaisons) need to be successful?
  - Enforcing rules of procedure for efficiency and transparency
- Would Committee Chairs agree to soliciting feedback through public surveys relative to their stakeholder groups for public engagement?
- How do we improve the boards for discussion of issues for policy decisions and priorities?

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Effective Council Meetings

- What are the things we like about the Formal Council Meetings?
- How can we improve the Formal Council Meetings ?
- What are the things we like about the Informal Council Meetings?
- How can we improve the Informal Council Meetings ?
- How do you prefer to receive information with regard to agenda items?
- Should agendas be set with time limits?

Public Engagement

- What can we do to improve the visibility and user friendliness of our meetings?
- What can we do to improve proactive public engagement?
- What are other ways to engage the public more effectively?
- Do you think it is worth investing energy and time into creating greater visibility and more effective public interaction?
- How do we improve the representation on our boards, and improve the nomination and vacancy shortfalls?

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