



# City of Desert Hot Springs

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### City of Desert Hot Springs Embarks on New Citizen Based City Services and Financial Plan

**Desert Hot Springs, California (November 8, 2012)** – Mayor Yvonne Parks today announced that she is appointing Mayor Pro Tem Jan Pye as Chair of the City’s Finance Committee to lead a citizen based effort to determine the proper service levels for City services in the future. “I have asked Mayor Pro Tem Pye to expand the Finance Committee to the maximum extent possible to draw residents and representatives of business in the City to the table to review City services, desired level of services, cost to provide those services, and how those services should be funded and prioritized in the future.”

Mayor Pro Tem Pye commented that, “This is a ground up planning process that will provide the City Council with the Citizen’s vision and priorities for City government. It is often a tough choice to make between police and parks and recreation and cultural amenities. We need to develop a Financial Master Plan for the future. This process will be the ultimate experience in transparency in government.”

The Finance Committee invites you to participate and become an active member. The first Finance Committee meeting will be on Thursday, 6:00PM, November 15, 2012 at the Carl May Community Center located at 11711 West Drive, Desert Hot Springs. The Finance Committee will meet every third Thursday. The meetings will be working meetings that are interactive and informative and community participation is strongly encouraged. City officials will provide information on the City’s current financial condition and the many challenges facing the City in the next five years. The Committee’s round table forum is an excellent opportunity for residents and businesses to provide input and feedback into these critically important decisions on the Community’s future.

“Desert Hot Springs residents and businesses are strongly encouraged to join City officials and others concerned about the financial future as we embark upon charting the City’s future course of action to maintain critical Public Safety, Public Works, Economic Development, and Quality of Life City services.”, said Parks.

“This citizen based planning effort has been critical to land use planning in the past and shows great promise in fiscal planning as well”, said Parks. “First, it is a good idea, and second citizen engagement is the new way of doing business in these new economic

realities. People should get what they are paying for and they are willing to pay for what they want.”

The City’s citizen engagement effort is assisted by a leadership grant from the Davenport Institute of Pepperdine University who will train citizens and officials in "Public Engagement: The Vital Leadership Skill in Difficult Times".

If you have any questions about the Finance Committee please go to the City’s website, [www.cityofdhs.org](http://www.cityofdhs.org), fill out an application to provide contact information and come to the Carl May Community Center on November 15 prepared to work on the City’s Financial Master Plan. Additional information can be gathered by contacting Kristie Ramos at 760-329-6411 x260 or [kramos@cityofdhs.org](mailto:kramos@cityofdhs.org).

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*Any questions regarding this press release should be directed to Jeanine Plute, Management Analyst, at (760) 329-6411, Ext. 304.*