

Overview of City of Midland Services and Budget

Midland City Council
Community Roundtable Discussions
January 10 – 13, 2005

1997 Focus Groups

- In 1997 the feedback from the 170 Focus Group participants said:
 - Reduce city costs and increase efficiencies by delivering services differently;
 - Apply user fees when necessary;
 - Use millage rate increases only if absolutely necessary and specify how the increase will be used.

1997 Focus Groups

- Since 1997:
 - Overall millage rate has averaged 11.79 (1997 millage rate = 11.6)
 - Tax appeal reserve, tax appeal defense, voter approved sanitary sewer debt millage have been the prime contributors to any millage rate increases.

1997 Focus Groups

- In 1997 the feedback from the 170 Focus Group participants said:
 - Maintain the quality and quantity of services provided by the City; find other ways to deliver service before eliminating a service.

1997 Focus Groups

- Since 1997 ...
 - The range and high quality of services provided by the City of Midland has changed very little with the exception of additional recreation opportunities:
 - Trilogy Skatepark
 - BMX Bike Park
 - Spraygrounds
 - Civic Arena

1997 Focus Groups

- Since 1997 ...
 - Efficiency changes in operations have taken place with little or no disruption of the service
 - Recycling contracted out, bi-weekly collection
 - Refuse route consolidation
 - Borrow-a-Truck / Borrow-a-Container

1997 Focus Groups

- Increase the revenue base through business development and expansion
 - Work with Midland Tomorrow
 - Project DAYTONA
 - Tax exempt
 - No additional tax burden

1997 Focus Groups

- More information and Communication from the City to the citizens
 - Website (www.midland-mi.org)
 - E-mail (cityhall@midland-mi.org)
 - CityHall News
 - MGTV Message Board, City in 15, special programming on community issues, cablecast City Council meetings and all boards & commission meetings
 - *At Your Service...* newsletter, Library's Government Information Center, MDN Decisions Midland ad
 - Citizen Comment Line – 837-3400

On-Line Access

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
 - Government is required to disclose public records upon written request
- On-line access to all public access
 - More access and convenience for *everyone...*