

# CITY OF GREENBELT

# CITY CONNECTER

Spring/Summer 2024

## NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES ROADSHOW GREENBELT PITSTOP



**Greenbelt, MD** - The National League of Cities (NLC) turned 100 this year and went on the road, visiting 100 cities across the nation. NLC visited Greenbelt where they met with Council and toured our historic Roosevelt Center. This initiative is part of NLC's year-long celebration, marking a century of commitment to advancing local government and advocating for the interests of cities, towns and villages nationwide.

"It is truly an honor for NLC to visit remarkable municipalities, like the City of Greenbelt, that have made significant contributions to the advancement of local government over the past 100 years," said Clarence Anthony, CEO and Executive Director of the National League of Cities. "Each of these cities has played a pivotal role in moving our local communities forward and has a unique story that showcases transformative change. As we celebrate and chart a course for the next 100 years, I am more excited than ever for the future of cities, towns, and villages and look forward to continuing important work together."

The final roadshow destination will be in Tampa, Florida, this November, where NLC will host its annual City Summit conference and culminating event.

### NLC Meets "Mother & Child"

NLC's pitstop included a tour of historic Roosevelt Center. Who could resist a photo with our Mother & Child statue?



New to the City of Greenbelt? As a thank you for choosing Greenbelt, email [info@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:info@greenbeltmd.gov) to receive a welcome gift.

# City Manager's Update & Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Brief

Dear Greenbelt Residents,

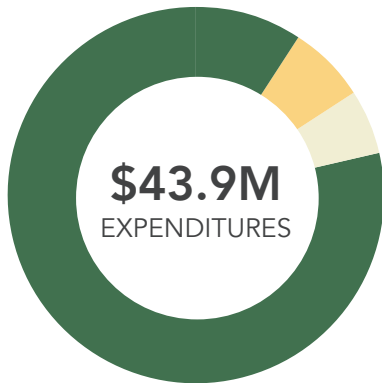
It is with great pleasure and honor that we present our **Fiscal Year 2025 budget**. This budget is the culmination of a dedicated team effort, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our directors and staff for their tireless work. Together, we have successfully closed a \$3 million deficit while continuing to deliver exceptional services to you, our residents.

This budget fulfills our commitment to paying fair and market wages to our staff. It fully supports the compensation study and includes funding to keep pace with inflation and market conditions by providing a 2% cost of living adjustment and up to 3% merit increases for our staff. This ensures that our employees are recognized and rewarded for their hard work and dedication.

Moreover, this budget addresses a critical aspect of our community's well-being by fully funding two Crisis Intervention positions—one in our police department and one in the CARES department— and a constituent services position to assist residents in connecting with resources offered by the City, County, and State. These positions are vital in addressing incidents of trauma and crisis within our community, aligning with the Council's vision and mission.

## BUDGET AT A GLANCE

*Total Overall Budget Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2025. When mentioning the "FY2025 Budget," we are referencing the 'General Fund.'*



general fund  
**\$38,016,000**  
86.54%

capital projects fund  
**\$2,649,200**  
6.03%

other funds  
**\$3,261,800**  
7.43%

In the FY2025 Budget, we introduced a strategic framework and Foundational Pillars that will guide our work, which aligns with the City Council's goals and will guide our work. These pillars are:



**Exceptional Services:** We remain committed to providing top-notch service to our residents, customers, and stakeholders.



**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** We aim to integrate tools identified in our DEI study to ensure we maintain diversity, equity, and inclusion for all who live, work, and play in our city.



**Collaboration & Partnership:** Building positive relationships with our constituents on local, state, and national levels remains a priority.



**Preparedness & Resilience:** We will become more proactive, preparing for worst-case scenarios and building a stronger sense of community and engagement.



**Sustainability:** Promoting green living and preserving our environment is crucial for our future.



**Smart Economic Development & Innovation:** Implementing mechanisms that help Greenbelt grow and stay competitive is essential.

The approved **FY2025 General Fund Budget** of \$38,016,000 represents a 5.1% increase over the adopted FY2024 budget. This budget, supported by revenues of \$38,031,200, reflects our commitment to operating on a balanced budget while maintaining high levels of service without increasing property tax rates.

We are also at a pivotal moment with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, making the best use of these limited funds to address immediate needs and lay the groundwork for lasting benefits. Our ARPA projects continue through December 2024 for direct services to our residents and through December 2026 for Capital projects, such as the Pool Deck repairs.

### **Shooting at Schrom Hills Park and Public Safety Enhancements:**

On April 19, 2024, a distressing shooting occurred at Schrom Hills Park, where five young adults were injured during a “senior skip day” gathering. This incident profoundly affected our community, but we are relieved that all victims survived and are on their paths to recovery. In a robust response to enhance public safety, the Greenbelt Administration and City Council have approved the acquisition of two camera trailers and a License Plate Reader system that will cover the majority of the city’s entrances. These steps reflect our steadfast commitment to safeguarding all who live, work, and visit Greenbelt. We recognize that safety is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement. Therefore, we are also making significant investments in social services and recreational services, which are vital for fostering a supportive and engaged community. We will continue to invest in our Crisis Intervention Team efforts and the CARES teams, which have shown great promise in addressing situations that require a compassionate and coordinated response.

### **Advancing Our Commitment: Phase II of JEDI Initiative:**

As I reflect on the feedback from the recent Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Audit with our employees, it is clear that we face significant challenges within our organization that require urgent attention and remediation. These findings have highlighted areas we must improve to ensure a respectful and supportive environment for all our employees. I deeply regret any distress or discomfort these issues may have caused, and I am committed to addressing these concerns transparently and thoughtfully.

This summer, we are launching Phase II of our JEDI initiatives, focusing on actively engaging with you, our residents, to gather your feedback and experiences. This phase is crucial for us to understand the specific needs and expectations of our community, enabling us to implement meaningful changes that will foster a more inclusive, equitable, and supportive Greenbelt. I encourage each of you to participate in this process as we strive to enhance our city’s social fabric and ensure that all community members feel valued, heard, and respected.

### **Fire and EMS Summer Staffing Plan Update:**

The current Fire and EMS Summer Staffing Plan involves reallocating 55 firefighters from four stations, including 24 firefighters from the Greenbelt Fire Station. Despite our efforts, the judge denied our Temporary Restraining Order regarding this plan. However, our commitment to finding a sustainable solution supporting our career and volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel remains steadfast in providing critical fire/EMS coverage for our residents.

We deeply value the work of our Fire and EMS teams and understand the significant challenges they face. There are no easy solutions to our staffing shortages and the overworked conditions of our personnel. We care deeply about their well-being and the safety of our residents.

The current staffing plan relies heavily on volunteer Fire and EMS personnel, who are simply not available in sufficient numbers to fill the gaps in coverage effectively. This situation jeopardizes the reliability and effectiveness of our emergency response services.



We remain dedicated to working collaboratively with Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County Leadership to develop solutions that address these challenges. From the moment we were informed of this plan on June 7th, we have been committed to ensuring that our fire and EMS personnel receive the support they need and that the safety of our residents is not compromised.

City Council has made it clear that we will utilize every resource to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. We will continue to explore all possible avenues and work tirelessly to advocate for a plan that meets the needs of both our emergency responders and residents.

In conclusion, I want to express my profound gratitude to everyone involved in this budgeting process. A special thank you to the Police Department and the Career and Volunteer Firefighters. Your dedication and hard work are the backbone of our success and ensure the safety and well-being of our Residents.

To our residents, the City Council, and all city employees, thank you for your passion and commitment to making Greenbelt a thriving community.

Together, we celebrate our diversity and draw strength from our cooperation. We are united in our journey, and by sharing together, we enrich the lives of all who call Greenbelt home. Thank you!

Together in strength,

**Josue Salmeron**  
City Manager, City of Greenbelt

# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and You! DEI Audit Is Entering Phase II

The City of Greenbelt is beginning Phase II of our justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) audit, and we're eager to engage with our community to gain insights into how the city impacts the Greenbelt Community. We want to hear from the people who live in the city of Greenbelt. Tribesy, a consulting group that specializes in JEDI assessments, will talk to different groups of people in the community. They will use focus groups, surveys, and site visits to neighborhoods to hear from everyone in the community. They especially want to hear from people who might not usually get asked about their opinions, like those who have been left out of conversations before. By doing all of this, the city can figure out what's going well and what needs to change to make things equitable for everyone.

**Take Our Questionnaire!** Before we dive into Phase II, we value your input in shaping our planning approach. Please spare a moment to share your thoughts by completing this brief questionnaire located at the URL below or by scanning the QR code located to the right.

<https://forms.office.com/r/eWt3XNOLDZ>

If you prefer a paper copy, please print this form and feel free to drop it off or mail it to us at

Tyra Smith  
25 Crescent Rd  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Tribesy Community Assessment



## Greenbelt City Council Meetings Streaming on Facebook & YouTube



**Emmett V. Jordan**  
*Mayor*



**Kristen L.K. Weaver**  
*Mayor Pro Tem*



**Jenni Pompei**



**Silke I. Pope**



**Danielle McKinney**



**Rodney M. Roberts**



**Amy Knesel**

Mondays & Wednesdays  
7:30 pm, Council Chambers



[facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt](https://facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt)



[youtube.com/cityofgreenbeltmaryland](https://youtube.com/cityofgreenbeltmaryland)



[greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](https://greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV)



## Quarterly Electronics and Styrofoam Recycling

Electronics Recycling and Styrofoam Recycling are held quarterly, on the fourth Saturday of the month; everyh January, April, July and October.

The next event will be held on July 27, 2024, from 9 am - 12 pm at the Public Works Yard located at 555 Crescent Road.

Paint recycling is \$5 per can and is only available during the January and July recycling events.

**NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs NO Tube TVs.**

Alternatively, people can recycle electronics, paint, and hazardous waste every week at the County's facility. For more information visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/environment/waste-recycling/facilities>.



## Greenbelt Nursery Project

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program is excited to bring back the Greenbelt Nursery Project! This program provides up to 6 at-home bi-weekly nursing visits from university-level student nurses for women in their second or third trimester, and children newborn to age 3. Student nurses provide child development assessments and provide social service referral, diapers, formula, wipes, baby hygiene supplies, adult hygiene supplies and other baby products.

Family must live in Greenbelt, have eligible children ages newborn to 3 years old, children who wear diapers.

With up to two 6 bi-weeklyhome visits from nursing students.

Please contact Brendy Garcia for more information at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

## City of Greenbelt Advisory Boards and Committees Seeks Volunteers

The City of Greenbelt Advisory Boards/Committees seeks volunteers to serve as members!

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

Want to help plan City elections? Want to share your knowledge in horticulture? Want a cleaner, greener Greenbelt? Help make a difference in Greenbelt by advising City Council on topics that matter to you!

If interested and for additional information, don't hesitate to contact the City Clerk, Bonita Anderson, at (301) 474-8000 or submit your application online by visiting the website <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/boards-committees>.

## Postal Customer



## Welcome to City Council, Amy Knesel

After an active and deliberate search, Greenbelt City Council has selected Amy Knesel to its vacant seat: “On behalf of the City Council, we welcome Amy Knesel to the Council of Greenbelt,” said Emmett Jordan, Mayor of the City of Greenbelt. “She is very active in Greenbelt, and we felt she best fit the position. This entire process has been bittersweet, as we all have recently lost Ric Gordon, one of our beloved members of the Greenbelt community. Today, we welcome Amy, and look towards working together to help meet the needs of our residents, stakeholders, and partners in local and state government.”

## Stay Informed of City News & Events

The City of Greenbelt has numerous ways for the community to stay connected and informed, no matter your comfort with technology.

- Pick up your copy of the Greenbelt News Review for our weekly informational advertisement listing current events, programs, and Council meeting schedules.
- Watch meetings at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV), Comcast Channels 71 and 996, and Verizon Channel 21. Now streaming on [Facebook/cityofgreenbelt](https://www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt) and [YouTube/cityofgreenbeltmaryland!](https://www.youtube.com/c/cityofgreenbeltmaryland)
- If you’re into social media then check us out @cityofgreenbelt on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Want to be instantly alerted of any emergencies or weather alerts? Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/alerts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/alerts) to sign up for emergency texts.
- Looking to stay updated on city events, programs, and more? Sign up for emails and texts by visiting [www.greenbeltmd.gov/updates](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/updates) and choose from a list of notifications such a council meetings, recreational activities, the Artfans newsletter, crime alerts, and more.

## Sign-Up for Emergency Alerts & City News Alerts!

Make sure you’ve signed up for important City news alerts & emergency alerts by visiting [www.greenbeltmd.gov/alerts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/alerts) or using the QR code to the right.



### CITY CONTACT NUMBERS

<b>City Manager’s Office</b>	(301) 474-8000	<b>Recreation</b>		<b>Public Works</b>	
<b>City Clerk</b>	(301) 474-3870	Aquatics & Fitness	(301) 397-2204	Refuse	(301) 397-2204
		Community Center	(301) 397-2208	Recycling	(301) 397-2208
<b>Police Department</b>	911	Recreation & Parks	(301) 397-2200		
Emergency	(301) 474-5454	Springhill Lake Rec	(301) 397-2212	<b>CARES</b>	(301) 345-6660
Non-Emergency	(301) 474-7200	Youth Center	(301) 397-2200	Assistance in Living	(301) 345-6660