

City committee refuses to cut flower budget

By Katherine Harding; G&M, 10 Feb 2004

A city committee refused yesterday to make controversial cuts to its budget, including scaling back on planting flowers in public parks.

"Coming out of the last six years, where parks and recreation has been beggared, I think it's about time that we were front and centre on the agenda for the city," said Brian Ashton, chairman of the economic-development and parks committee. The committee saved close to \$9.5-million.

"We need policing, but we also need basic services," he said, referring to the \$650-million police budget. The recommendation has to be endorsed by the budget advisory committee before heading to council.