



FORT WAYNE CITY COUNCIL OFFICE
Legislative and Research Services

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July 22, 2008

Mayor Tom Henry
Suite 900
City-County Building

RE: 2009 City Budget

HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mayor Henry,

First, let us say we appreciate your request for Councilmembers to send you ideas and suggestions for reducing the city's 2009 budget. In these challenging financial times we look forward to working with the executive branch as you and your staff structure the new budget. The 2009 budget will fulfill our promise to the citizens of Fort Wayne that we will provide necessary services efficiently while continuing to be good stewards of all our resources.

Although there have been recent suggestions to look at reducing the homestead credit or raising taxes, it is imperative that in order to make informed budget decisions that we council members first know that all departments have taken the necessary steps to reduce costs wherever possible.

The best job that the City Council can do with respect to passing a good 2009 budget comes from your leadership as our Executive. We will look at the budget you present and challenge spending where it may seem unreasonable. As always, Councilmembers will have lengthy discussions with some department heads. We will suggest cuts, make compromises and in the end pass a budget that we believe is fair to the Fort Wayne taxpayer.

A sound budget in government is no different than a sound budget in our personal life. We all must learn to live within our means.

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2009 budget

We look forward to reviewing the 2009 city budget you will be presenting to City Council in the coming weeks as well as a continued good relationship with you and all city staff.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Didier, President

Liz Brown, Council at-large

Martin A. Bender, Council at-large

Cc: Pat Roller
Media