

City Council Budget Workshop #1
April 13, 2009

Mayor's Remarks:

Good Morning,

Welcome to the first in a series of three City Council Workshops focused on our City budget for fiscal year 2009/2010.

Commissioners, it is no overstatement when I say that our nation, our state and our City faces a financial challenge like none we have ever experienced -- because of what has happened to our American economy.

In the coming months, local governments everywhere are going to be faced with incredibly hard decisions.

We are no exception.

Where we will strive to be different, however, is in how we rise to this challenge.

We will attack this task with creativity and innovation.

We will explore every solution that could potentially save our City money and save jobs.

We will keep our residents and our City staff members informed... every step of the way.

Commissioners, in years past, most of the formal City Council budget work was done in July as part of what we call "Budget Camp."

We have opted to reinvent "Budget Camp" this year as series of three workshops.

Commissioners, these sessions will let you see every detail of the process.

They will also allow you to give increased input and guidance to our staff.

These workshops will help take us go from big picture... to small.

From challenge... to solution.

- Today's opening workshop will focus on laying out our budget challenge in detail. Our City CFO and Deputy CFO will lay out our revenue estimate picture for this year. They will also give us the outlook for years ahead – and precisely why we are facing a scenario in which we will have to act to scale back our government.
- Our June workshop will give us a chance to explore the draft budget reduction recommendations that our staff has put together.

- Our final workshop, slated for the second week in July, will serve as the platform for my annual Mayor's Budget address. It is at this time that we will formally present our budget plan... our solutions.
- The City Commission will host two public budget hearings in September – and at the conclusion we will formally adopt a budget.

As I stated earlier, today we begin by laying out our challenge, in detail.

Commissioners, let's get to work.

Our City CFO Rebecca Sutton and Deputy CFO Ray Elwell will begin today with a presentation on our financial outlook.