

City of Orlando Budget Workshop
6/22/09

Mayor's Introduction

Good Morning,

Welcome to the second of three Orlando City Council Workshops on the 2009/2010 Budget.

In a few minutes our Business and Financial Services staff is going to give us a detailed update of where we are in the process -- and the steps ahead as we work toward setting the millage rate and delivering a balanced budget.

Commissioners, I want to restate the challenge before us as basically as I can:

The global economic crisis combined with the effects of state-imposed revenue limitations have drastically reduced the City's anticipated revenues for the next several years and left our budget in a state of "structural imbalance."

This means our City will see an increase in costs and a decrease in revenues for the foreseeable future.

So the challenge we face is not just reducing our budget for this year.

As responsible stewards of the taxpayer's money, we must scale back our budget for the long haul.

One time solutions are not going to work.

We're not going to miraculously find quick fixes.

We are going to have to make some very painful choices.

This is going to be one of the most difficult tasks we may ever face as elected office holders.

In April, our senior management team began this process by submitting their 12 percent reduction recommendations for each department in the City of Orlando.

I know each of you have been briefed on these budget reduction packages.

- Today, we are going to formally look at these reduction measures.
- We are also going to look at our budget gap – and why this year is different than past years.
- We will be briefed on what actions are available to us as a City Council to balance the budget.

- Finally, we will look at the steps we need to take between now and the fall.

I want to thank our City CFO Rebecca Sutton and Deputy CFO Ray Elwell as well as every member of their team for their excellent work during this most difficult of budget seasons.

I invite Rebecca and Ray to begin their presentation.