



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL

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November 12, 2008

Dear Friends:

I know many of you are concerned about Mayor Nutter's proposed budget cuts. These cuts include library, Fire Company and pool closures. Please know that I share your concerns and recognize the impact that these cuts will have on your quality-of-life.

However, while I share your concerns and will speak for you to the Mayor and his Administration, you will not see me at the number of protests, rallies and meetings that have been scheduled to protest these cuts. At all of those events, I am certain there will be no shortage of promises and eloquent words.

Personally, I believe that actions speak louder than words.

To date, I have taken the following actions in an effort to address the budget crisis (beginning January 1, 2009 and extending to the end of fiscal year 2009):

- I have taken a voluntary salary reduction of 5%.
- My office has returned any unused staff salary to the General Fund.
- Most of my staff has agreed to take 5 unpaid furlough days or return 5 vacation days.
- I have foregone the use of any city vehicle.

These actions return over \$50,000 to the General Fund. These savings, however, are only a fraction of the looming deficit.

Regarding the proposed service reductions, specifically, I have requested an independent study prior to the closure of any fire company (letter attached). I am also requesting detailed information that breaks down the services provided by libraries that are slated to close, a breakdown of the services provided by libraries that will remain open and an analysis of the closest facilities that are to serve the affected neighborhoods. At the least, we all deserve an explanation on why these facilities were targeted and what alternatives may exist.

While I recognize service cuts may be necessary, we must also look at new and innovative ways to generate revenue. To that end, I will:

- Advocate for a new street furniture contract that could generate millions per year by permitting advertising on certain publicly owned property (i.e. bus shelters).
- Attempt to hold the State responsible for fully funding the First Judicial District (approximately \$120 million).
- Explore the potential for naming rights on libraries, pools and recreation centers.
- Examine the City's property tax structure, including the 10-year tax abatement.

Finally, in 2004, we all remember Michael Nutter and me working as partners to protect our services. At that time, Mayor Street used the closures to leverage Council to advance his agenda.

Today's circumstance is different. We truly are facing a budget crisis and without specific and decisive action, Philadelphia will crumble. This fiscal crisis is as much Council's problem as it is the Mayor's. Only by all of us working together can we reach a resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank DiCicco', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Frank DiCicco

1st District Councilman