

## **FY2010 Budget**

### Frequently Asked Questions

*How will ending the furlough impact me?*

Due to the furlough imposed in December, City employees were only working (and being paid) for 36 hours a week. With the elimination of the furlough, all City employees will return to a 40 hour work week. This will impact service levels directly. Among those impacts:

- Returns police and fire personnel to full time operations
- Returns recycling and yard waste pick-ups to weekly schedule
- Returns parks mowing cycle to nine days
- Adds recreational center programming at select recreational centers

*Why increase taxes during a recession?*

The City has managed to provide (and improve the quality) of its core services since 2002 despite flat revenue growth. In inflation adjusted terms, revenues for FY2010 will be below those generated in 2002 despite the fact that the City has grown by 25%. The recession has aggravated this situation to the point that we need to increase revenues. We have consistently reduced taxes since 2002, but this year we must – as we have in previous recessions – increase taxes so that we can provide basic services.

*How do you calculate the impact of the tax increase?*

The average home in the City of Atlanta has a market value of \$239,500. When you account for the homestead exemption and the methodology for determining taxable value, that average home will see an increase of \$238 per year or \$20 per month.

*Why can't you reduce personnel?*

The City has reduced general fund personnel from 5,617 in 2001 to 3,934 being proposed for FY2010. That is a 30% reduction in personnel at a time when the City was growing 30%. Over 74% of City personnel are now public safety personnel. Without reducing public safety personnel, there is little more that can be done to reduce personnel.

*What is non-departmental expense? Does the City really need this expense?*

Non-departmental expenses are primarily debt service payments for capital improvements that have already been made (roads, sidewalks, facilities, etc.). It is typically fixed in nature with no real choice on payment. It also includes City retiree medical payments and workers' compensation.