



CITY OF ATLANTA

SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

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Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Today I presented the City's first quarter General Fund financial results to the City Council. We are projecting a \$50-60 million revenue shortfall for the fiscal 2009 budget. The cause is a rapidly declining economy that has led to a 12 percent reduction in our revenues.


Our nation is in the midst of a serious economic downturn. Times are likely to get worse before they get better. We have been forced to make dramatic and unpopular decisions to meet the economic challenges that we currently face. I know that you will continue to deliver the same quality and efficient service to residents that you have in the past.

As a result of the revenue reduction, we have to take several immediate steps to reduce our expenses. First, we are implementing a hiring freeze effective immediately in all General Fund departments. Second, we will implement a 4 hour weekly furlough for all General Fund employees. This furlough will begin in December and extend through June 2009.

These actions will close about half of the gap we face. I have asked the City's Chief Operating Officer, Greg Giornelli to develop a plan for closing the remaining gap. It is likely those measures will include job cuts and service reductions.

I appreciate your continued hard work and I recognize that you have family obligations to meet as well however the City must operate in the black. Again thank you for your efforts and service to the City of Atlanta.

Sincerely



Shirley Franklin