



## City of Spokane

August 31, 2010

Re: 2010-2011 Budget

Dear Bargaining Unit Leaders:

In my presentation to the standing labor-management group on August 10, 2010, I requested a response from all bargaining units regarding my proposals to balance both the 2010 and 2011 budgets by today, August 31. Although no budgetary solutions have been finalized, I know that each of you has already met at least once with the City's negotiation team to discuss those proposals.

I write today to thank you for the cooperation you have already shown by making these meetings a priority, and to request your continued commitment to this process.

I also want to take this opportunity to reassure you that this will be an equitable process among all of the bargaining units.

I understand that several of you (and your members) have questioned whether the savings from contract concessions within a bargaining unit would be applied to benefit that unit's members, as opposed to being redistributed across the General Fund. Let me personally assure you that I intend to apply all savings achieved by a particular bargaining unit's participation to protect as many members of that bargaining unit as possible from layoff.

Conversely, any bargaining units that do not participate in the budgetary solution will unfortunately leave their members exposed to layoffs effective at the end of the last pay period of 2010.

Additionally, I will encourage the City Council to pass a resolution confirming its support of this equitable solution, so you can be further assured that your efforts will directly benefit your members.

***"Spokane – Near Nature, Near Perfect"***

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To give impacted employees as much time as possible to prepare, I have set October 1 as the date that layoff notices will be issued, if they are needed. Of course my hope is that we will continue to work together over the next month to solve our budgetary challenges without resorting to layoffs. If we are successful, we will preserve jobs of our fellow employees, retain critical services for our fellow citizens, and ultimately position Spokane for recovery.

I remain willing to provide any information you and your members may need to understand the cause of our current situation, and the strategy used to make departmental across-the-board cuts and layoffs a last resort. If my personal presence would be helpful, I will prioritize my schedule to meet with you and your members.

Again, I thank you for your continued cooperation in this difficult process.

Sincerely,



Mary B. Verner  
Mayor

cc: (via email)      Mark Vietzke  
                             Kristy Pettit  
                             Joe Cavanaugh  
                             Justin Bingham  
                             Dan Brown  
                             Steve Braun  
                             Ernie Wuthrich