

Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez
Remarks: Second Budget Hearing
Thursday, September 22nd, 2011

- GOOD EVENING, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

- NOW THAT WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO HEAR FROM MANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, I'D LIKE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A BRIEF UPDATE YOU ON WHERE WE ARE WITH THE BUDGET.

- AS YOU ALL KNOW, THIS BUDGET REFLECTS OUR CHALLENGING ECONOMIC REALITY AND THE NEED TO FILL A GAPING \$409 MILLION SHORTFALL.

- DURING THE FIRST BUDGET HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 8TH, EACH OF YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE YOUR INITIAL CONCERNS ABOUT THIS BUDGET.

- IN THE WEEKS SINCE THEN, I HAVE MET WITH EACH OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY TO DISCUSS THOSE CONCERNS IN DEPTH, AND TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT OPTIONS THAT MEET OR MITIGATE THEM.
- BE ASSURED THAT I TAKE YOUR CONCERNS SERIOUSLY AND HAVE WORKED IN GOOD FAITH TO ADDRESS THEM.
- IN SOME CASES, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY FUNDS THAT WILL FULFILL YOUR REQUESTS.
- IN SOME CASES, PARTIAL FUNDING HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED, AND IN OTHERS THE REALITY IS THAT FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE.
- THE CHANGE MEMO THAT YOU HAVE BEFORE YOU OUTLINES AND QUANTIFIES THE FUNDING CATEGORIES AND PROGRAMS THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING.

- IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC ITEMS WITHIN THE CHANGE MEMO, JENNIFER CAN WALK YOU THROUGH THEM.
- BEFORE I CLOSE, I WANT TO REITERATE THAT I'VE DONE MY BEST TO ADDRESS YOUR CONCERNS.
- THE SIMPLE FACT IS THAT WE ARE TIGHTENING OUR BELT HERE AT COUNTY HALL, AND THAT MEANS DOING MORE WITH LESS. SOMETHING'S GOT TO GIVE.
- THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.
- I YIELD THE FLOOR AND AGAIN INVITE THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE CHANGE MEMO.
- THANK YOU.