



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

January 14, 2009

Dear Employees:

I am writing to update you about the City's current financial situation. As you are no doubt aware, we are facing extremely difficult financial challenges as a result of the deep recession affecting our national economy. I am asking for your ideas, patience, and cooperation as we plan for FY10, which begins in July.

As I said in my State of the City speech January 13, the City of Boston is projecting a budget gap of \$140 million for the coming fiscal year. This amount is staggering. \$140 million equals the combined budgets of approximately 40 City departments.

To close this gap, I will need the help of all of our employees. I have proposed to our unions a one-year wage freeze for all employees as a significant step to address this huge budget gap. This proposal would save \$55 million in FY10 and contribute substantially to minimizing the budget deficit. I hope our unions will seriously consider to this proposal and work collaboratively with the City to do whatever we can to preserve City services and the jobs of our employees.

At the same time, I have instructed department managers to identify cost-savings and other efficiencies that will reduce their proposed budgets for the next fiscal year. Our challenge is great, because one way or another, we have to close the gap.

Additionally, we are facing grim prospects in the current financial year. Governor Patrick has said publicly that he is seeking the authority to make mid-year cuts in FY09 local aid. We expect to hear more details within the next two weeks.

I am asking for your understanding. Our country and our state are confronting a economic crisis that is unprecedented in our lifetime, and Boston is feeling the impact. Over the years, especially in times of need, I have seen the generosity and cooperation of City employees. Now more than ever, I need your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston