



PAM IORIO  
MAYOR

August 3, 2006

Honorable Chairman  
and Members of City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to present for your consideration the Recommended Annual Budget for the City of Tampa for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2006 and ending September 30, 2007.

“A Commitment to the Basics” is this year’s budget theme and it reflects our on-going pledge to provide quality essential services to the people we serve. For the 18th year in a row, there will be no change in the millage rate.

As we build our budget, each year we start with the needs of Police and Fire - public safety always comes first. Our crime rate continues its dramatic decline and we must properly fund the Police Department to ensure they have the staff and the tools to continue their outstanding work. Tampa Fire Rescue continues to need more personnel to meet the needs of growth. The Police and Fire Departments combined will receive 23 additional personnel this year.

We then look to improvements for our Parks and Recreation budget - a department that touches lives in a very positive way. We have more than 160 parks in our city and we are proud of our recreational programming that provides quality services for all citizens. This year funding is included for renovations and improvements to pools, playgrounds, multipurpose courts, trails and centers.

A commitment to the basics is also reflected in steady increases in our “Investing in Neighborhoods” program. This year \$6.2 million will be allocated to resurface streets, build and repair sidewalks, replace signage and install traffic calming devices. This number represents a 13% increase from last year and a 138% increase since the start of our administration. Another \$2 million will go for other important transportation improvements such as traffic signal installation and intersection improvements.

Our budget totals \$728 million. Enterprise funds - Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste and Parking operate like a business and do not receive general fund dollars - account for \$249 million. There will be no fee increases in any of these funds.

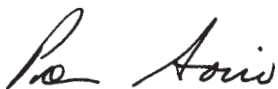
We are especially proud of the progress being made with our five-year Stormwater program. Last year the council and the administration implemented a program that has been long overdue - a five-year program that is addressing long-standing drainage problems throughout our city. Work is either underway or has been completed on 19 projects and as we bring the fiscal year 2006 to a close, we are adding nine additional projects for the new fifth year of the program in fiscal year 2011.

A commitment to the basics also means a commitment to the long term financial health of our city government. I have been concerned that our city does not have adequate reserves to sustain us and provide funding for critical relief efforts should a catastrophic event, such as a hurricane, hit our community. Last year we started a restricted reserve fund and this year we are adding \$5 million for a total of \$8 million. Our goal for this Emergency Reserve Fund is \$15 million and we will, as funds are available, allocate monies each year to reach that goal.

This year's budget reflects what we have heard from our citizens over the past years. They have told us that they want quality basic services and projects that improve neighborhoods. This budget reflects our commitment - a commitment to the basics - a commitment to deliver outstanding services to enhance the quality of life of our great city.

Thank you for your continuing support as we work together to serve the people of Tampa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Iorio".

Pam Iorio