

Summary

The 2010 proposed budget reflects the first step in what will be a series of transformations in city services and finances. Although the budget includes several important steps toward fiscal equilibrium, there is a need for significantly more change in order to develop a realistic sustainability framework. Those changes will need to involve revenue diversification, fringe benefit modifications, ongoing wage freezes, and additional service delivery innovations. Policymakers need to embrace the city's fiscal crisis as an opportunity for changing the city's organizational model.

Informational Note:

At the time the 2010 Executive Budget was submitted, the Common Council had not acted on a proposed \$3.75 million increase for the Local Solid Waste Charge and \$1.6 million Snow and Ice Fee. The Comptroller has recognized this proposed increase as part of the 2010 revenue estimates. In the event the Common Council fails to adopt, in whole or in part, the proposed increases, the Mayor will recommend that certain service levels be reduced. In order of priority reduction, these service levels include:

- Funding for three weekend garbage collections, in order to ensure users weekly service: \$250,000
- Elimination of the new four week fall "Clean & Green" communitywide collection of bulky materials: \$170,000
- Elimination of two recycling bin routes with relatively low tonnage rates: \$150,000
- Elimination of the 4-cubic yard "outside the cart" allowance for weekly collection, effective April 1, 2010 instead of June 1, 2010 as proposed: \$425,000
- Elimination of the existing eight week spring "Clean & Green" communitywide collection of bulky materials: \$340,000
- Reduction of existing garbage collection frequency from its current service level during four winter months: \$560,000 (10 winter routes eliminated)
- Reduction of existing garbage collection frequency from its current service level in the remaining eight months: \$1,890,000 (10 routes eliminated full year)
- \$1.6 million in snow and ice control related services.

In the absence of amendments, these costs would fall to the tax levy.

The Mayor supports his proposed budget for solid waste service expenditures and the increase in the Solid Waste Charge as the appropriate budgetary action.