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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

July 25, 2013
4:00 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Department Heads

FROM: The Honorable Greg Anderson, Chair Finance Committee

RE: **Finance Committee Budget Hearings, FY '13-'14**

We will begin our annual budget hearings on August 8, 2013. I look forward to working with you to move our city forward. This year represents a unique opportunity to create value for our citizens. As you prepare I thought it would be helpful to provide the following guidance:

On Tuesday the City Council voted to potentially increase the millage rate. This action does not automatically result in a tax increase. It is simply a prudent step to allow the Finance Committee flexibility in balancing the budget. Any revenue enhancement will require another vote; therefore, you should not assume that any funding will be restored.

We are allocating scarce resources. The Finance Committee will recommend a balanced budget to the City Council; accomplishing this goal will be an exercise in prioritization. You play a critical role in this effort. I encourage you to offer alternatives to the proposed budget if you have solutions that will better serve our community.

This year's budget hearings will be the most open and transparent in Jacksonville's history. For the first time ever, the hearings can be viewed in real time on Apple devices. They can also be viewed on PCs via the web. In addition, all handouts will be posted to the Council Budget web site. If you will be using a handout at the hearing, please provide it at least 24 hours prior to your presentation to the following addresses: LKrieg@coj.net; COWens@coj.net; REWelsh@coj.net.

We have a tight schedule, a larger committee, and much to cover. Please keep your comments brief and focused on mission critical items. Council members will have

already reviewed your budget. I encourage you to reach out to members of the committee ahead of your presentation to address your specific concerns.

I look forward to working with you.

GA/lk

CC: Council Members/Staff
Cheryl Brown, Director/Council Secretary
Jeff Clements, Chief, Research Division
Dana Farris, Chief, legislative Services Division
Carol Owens, Assistant Chief of Legislative Services
Kristi Sikes, Chief, Administrative Services Division
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