

# City of Fall River Massachusetts



**ROBERT CORREIA**  
*Mayor*

February 5, 2009

Tim Oliveira, AFSCME Local 3177  
Michael Coogan, Fall River Firefighters Association  
Michael Pereira, Fall River Police Union  
Alan Saucier, Fall River Superior Officers  
Doug Teoli, Teamsters Union  
Thomas Davenport, LAW  
Shurron Machamer, FREA  
John Santos, FRAA  
Pat Paragon, Fall River School Department Clerks' Union  
Russell Costa, Fall River School Department Custodial, Nurses, & Cafeteria Workers Union  
Kelly Barboza, Fall River School Department Paraprofessional Union

## **Dear Employees of the City of Fall River:**

I am writing to you today to prompt an open discussion regarding the budget shortfalls facing the City of Fall River. Last week, Governor Deval Patrick notified municipalities across the Commonwealth that Local Aid was to be cut for the remainder of this fiscal year. For Fall River, this amounts to a cut of \$2,890,146 between now and the close of the fiscal year on June 30, 2009. He also filed his FY 2010 budget with the State Legislature on the same day and this document proposes a \$6,271,271 Local Aid reduction for Fall River. This FY 2010 Local Aid cut, in combination with other financial factors influencing FY 2010, presents the City of Fall River with a minimum FY 2010 budget gap of \$7,567,026.

The cuts necessary to close both the FY 2009 and FY 2010 budget shortfalls would begin with a minimum layoff of 175 municipal employees. A layoff of this magnitude would be catastrophic and have a detrimental impact on every employee and citizen of Fall River. Therefore, I am placing before you a proposal that with your cooperation would effectively close the budget gap facing Fall River over the next seventeen months. This proposal is based on the understanding that the impact of laying off an employee is

Agreement on this proposal combined with other expense savings identified by the City will effectively close the budget gap and eliminate the need for layoffs between now and June 30, 2009.

I am also asking that all of the Collective Bargaining Units representing the various employee groups of the City of Fall River consider the following proposal as a means of closing the FY 2010 budget shortfall and potentially avoid layoffs for FY 2010.

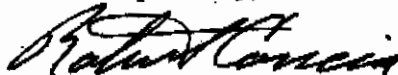
- A 10% reduction in base pay for all City employees.
- The elimination of Master Health Plus for all City employees.
- Mandated direct deposit for all City employees.
- Suspension of School Department wage increase.

Agreement on the FY 2010 proposal combined with other cost saving measures to be explored by the City will potentially close the budget gap and lessen the likelihood of the need for layoffs in FY 2010.

It is my hope that you will take my proposal back to your membership and have an open discussion with them regarding the issues facing the City. I look forward to hearing your feedback and ask that all collective bargaining units respond to the above proposals by February 12, 2009.

I firmly believe that through our mutual cooperation, we can weather this economic storm together and emerge as one when conditions improve.

Respectfully,



Robert Correia  
Mayor