



LYNNE RILEY EMAIL UPDATE

A message from Commissioner Lynne Riley - Fulton County District 3

November 22, 2009

Fulton County 2010 Budget Process

The 2010 Proposed Fulton County Budgets were officially presented to the Board of Commissioners by the Budget Commission during its November 18th meeting. The Budget Commission is comprised of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, the County Manager, and the Finance Director.

The proposed 2010 General Fund operating budget is \$517.6 million, which represents a reduction of \$148 million from the approved 2009 General Fund budget. Achieving these reductions will require the elimination or significant reduction of numerous programs and services, and the elimination of an estimated 500 personnel. As a result, the Budget Commission requested across the board expenditure reductions, and the proposed budget is based on the Board of Commissioners taking no additional action to minimize the impact on service and on the workforce.

However, the Budget Commission provided a number of alternatives for the Board of Commissioners to consider in reaching these substantial cuts and is recommending a scenario that includes reducing departmental budgets by \$86 million and taking other actions to reduce expenditures by \$44 million. During a budget workshop on Thursday November 19th the Board of Commissioners voted for this scenario (Scenario B) for *planning purposes only*. Any and all recommendations and revisions, including a possible millage rate increase, must be approved by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners by January 31st. At this point no final actions have been taken. A copy of the budget work session presentation and details of the budget scenarios are posted on my website www.LynneRiley.com.

Additional details of other Fulton County funds budgets for 2010 are also posted on my website.

It is critical that I hear from you, the taxpayers of Fulton County, on your preferences for 2010 service delivery. I will not support a tax increase in 2010 for any reason, but your input is needed in decisions the Board of Commissioners will make during the budget review process.

Please watch for a survey I will distribute in early December that will allow you to provide me with direction on how to represent your interests in the revision process of the 2010 budgets.

Status Update - Atlanta/Fulton County Library Facility Master Plan

The Atlanta/Fulton County Library Facility Master Plan - Phase I continues to move forward. The plan is divided into two phases: The first phase involves building 8 new libraries and expanding two existing libraries, and the second phase will renovate the 23 existing libraries. At this point, plans to build a new Central Library are not in motion due to the lack of a fund-raising initiative.

An integral part of Phase I is the selection of the Master Plan Program Manager. The Program Manager will be recommended by the Selection Committee and presented for approval by the Board of Commissioners no later than the December 16th Commission meeting.

In addition, Phase I includes site selection for the new libraries in the system. Currently, the Fulton County Land Division is reviewing a number of prospective sites for each library. The Library Board of Trustees plans to personally review all sites identified as feasible by the Land Division, then submit their recommendation to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. Likewise, the naming of each future library branch will be approved by the Board of Commissioners. The Site Selection Criteria that is being used by the Land Division is listed on the library website at <http://www.af.public.lib.ga.us/>.

In November of 2008, the voters of Fulton County overwhelmingly approved the issuance of bonds to fund the Library Facility Master Plan. These bonds are planned to be issued in the first half of 2010.

Additional information on the Library Facility Master Plan can be found on the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System website. Jonathan Coulborn is the District 3 team liaison for the Library Facility Master Plan, and he will be happy to answer any questions on this project at (404) 612-8213.

Coming Soon: Fulton County Water/Wastewater On-line Services

Fulton County finance and information technology personnel are putting the finishing touches on a new customer service web application that will allow Fulton County water and sewer customers to review their account and pay their bills online. This project, called **E-Care** will be rolled out in two phases.

Phase 1, which can soon be accessed, will allow water/sewer customers access to information that is included in their account. This will initially consist of: meter reading history, consumption history, billing history, and a comparison of your street average consumption. An ongoing upgrade will eventually add the ability to view transaction history.

Phase 2 will allow water and sewer customers to pay their bills online. An awarding of a contract to provide Phase 2 on-line payment services is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Commissioners during the December 2nd meeting. The Fulton County Managers office indicates that it will take approximately 45-60 days from Commission approval to fully implement Phase 2. I will keep you informed via future updates as this service rolls out.

Bringing Firearms Licensing Services Closer to Home in North Fulton

State Representative Chuck Martin (R-47) brought to my attention an issue regarding North Fulton residents trying to renew or obtain firearms licenses and having to drive to downtown Atlanta to go through the process.

Firearms licenses must be applied in person at the offices of the Fulton County Probate Court. Following fingerprinting and background check services performed by an authorized public safety department, the Probate court is responsible for the issuance of firearms licenses.

Following the incorporation of the City of Sandy Springs, the Fulton County Police department no longer has an office at the North Fulton Annex available for citizens to use their services for fingerprinting and background checks required for firearms licensing.

I recently met with Fulton County Probate Judge Pinkie Toomer, Rep. Martin, Alpharetta Public Safety Director Gary George, and Fulton County and City police officials. Judge Toomer expressed interest in furthering this discussion and outlined initiatives, listed below, to move this process along:

Citizens may appear to apply for a license or renewal license at the North Fulton Annex Probate Court office on Roswell Road in Sandy Springs. Applications must be made in person.

Fingerprinting and background checks could be conducted by an appropriate law enforcement agency (certified and approved by GBI/FBI) with an electronic finger printing machine (LifeScan).

Information gathered would be forwarded to the Fulton County Probate Court for final approval.

My office will work with the cities of Roswell, Sandy Springs and Alpharetta to assist in providing Judge Toomer with the appropriate certification documentation so North Fulton residents can be provided with this service through their local police departments.

I will follow the progress of this initiative closely, and will announce the launch of the police department service locations when they are ready to provide fingerprint and background check services.

I offer my best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday to all. We have much to be thankful for, and many blessings and bounty to share with our neighbors.

It is a privilege to represent you on the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Please call on the District 3 Team any time we may be of service.

Lynne Riley
Fulton County Commission - District 3

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Feel free to forward this information to your neighbors and friends. Our office is in the continuing process of updating contact information, and we would appreciate your assistance in enhancing our methods of communication with all interested citizens. Please forward any changes to your contact information at your earliest convenience or advise us if you wish to be removed from this e-mail database.