

April 13, 2006

**Press Release: Louisville City Council Endorses Financial Recommendations**

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The Council of the City of Louisville has endorsed twenty-four (24) of the twenty-nine recommendations received from the Blue Ribbon Finance Committee. The remaining five recommendations are still being discussed and considered. This endorsement is part of the outcome from a two-day goal-setting retreat of Council that took place March 30 and March 31, 2006. The Blue Ribbon Finance Committee met from July through November of 2005 and presented their recommendations to Council in report form on December 19, 2005.

Among the endorsed recommendations are several actions the City has already undertaken. These actions include modifying the process for scheduling overtime in the police department, increasing water and sanitary sewer rates significantly, inspection of sanitary sewers to reduce inflow and infiltration, and looking into contracting a private company for park maintenance.

The Council endorsed Blue Ribbon Committee recommendations to continue or enhance ongoing efforts to communicate city efforts and activities to the public, to continually seek to enhance revenues through job growth or from properties, to control rising health care costs, and to continue to explore ways to combine or restructure existing positions.

Several additional measures will begin in the next few weeks. These actions include City Manager visits to all major employers in the city, continuing to explore cooperative purchasing opportunities with other entities, increasing the rates billed for emergency medical transportation, improving the security of the city's water treatment facility, asking the voters to remove the requirement that 25% of all income taxes be deposited into an account for water and sewer capital improvements, increase the license plate fee from \$10 to \$15, and reporting city action on these recommendations to the community.

A few more of the endorsed recommendations require no city action at this time. These recommendations include creating no new positions with the exception of an economic development position, conducting the financial audit of the city every two years as permitted by law rather than annually, conduct a feasibility study of the requirements to use the basement of city hall for additional office space, future utility rate increases should seek to make the utilities independent of income tax revenues, and the future formation of a "what if" committee with the township to consider merger.

Recommendations that the city increase the tax credit to 85% or higher in 2007, to sell the Juilliard Senior Center, the Parks Garage, and the Wilson Park Garage were tabled for further review and discussion. The Council also determined that additional discussion

was needed prior to making any decisions regarding the recommendations that the senior bus service be terminated if it is not self-supporting in two years and the senior program be eliminated if it cannot become self-sufficient either through fees or the creation of a district or authority encompassing all of Louisville and Nimishillen Township. For further information regarding City actions on the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Finance Committee, please contact City Manager Tom Ault at (330) 875-3321 during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).