



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

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Atlanta City Council
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
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Dear Colleagues:

The City of Atlanta faces the difficult challenge of crafting a reasonable and fair budget that delivers services to all of our citizens and makes good on our obligations. We are called to do so in a time of economic uncertainty, and in the wake of decisions and actions that have left us with scarce resources to meet our needs. The pain of this time ripples across the lives of our employees and their families, and we are charged to seek solutions that will impact every resident of Atlanta. Our collective pain and collective responsibility is no easy burden. As the voice of the people, the City Council is understandably concerned and is necessarily asking the tough questions required to protect the public's trust.

We must ask tough questions, but we have the higher obligation to do so with decorum, civility and respect. The City Council sits as the representatives of our constituents, and we do them no service when we replace thoughtful inquiry with hostility or probing analysis with *ad hominem* attack. We owe our citizens more.

As the President of the Atlanta City Council, I am responsible for preserving order and maintaining control of the Council chambers and offices. I hold this mandate with honor. Today and in the coming days, I call upon each of us to conduct ourselves with the dignity befitting our posts. We have invited the members of the Executive Branch to come before us and present their budgets. As guests in our chambers, we are honor-bound to show them the due respect owed to colleagues in the public's service. Any less is unconscionable.

I trust that we will all act in the appropriate manner; however, should the need arise, I pledge to employ the full weight of my office to ensure that decorum is maintained. We can not ask less of ourselves than we do of others. I appreciate your support as we exercise our duty to be good and thoughtful stewards of the public coffers.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Borders
President
Atlanta City Council President

c: Shirley Franklin, Mayor
Elizabeth Chandler, City Attorney