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MAYOR REDD DIRECTS CABINET TO REDUCE DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS BY 24 PERCENT

Cost Savings Needed To Close \$28 Million Projected Deficit For FY2011 Budget

Camden – Facing nearly a \$28 million deficit for the FY2011 city budget, Mayor Dana L. Redd today directed her cabinet to reduce their departmental budgets by 24% through labor cost reductions, revenue generators, financial concessions, consolidation or shared service agreements, wage and spending freezes, and any other innovative cost saving measures that will achieve that goal.

“The economic realities facing Camden and municipalities throughout New Jersey are dire and inescapable,” Mayor Redd said. “With reductions in revenue collections and state aid, I will need to make tough but necessary decisions to establish fiscal accountability, transparency, and responsibility in our budget process. I fully understand the sacrifices that need to be made, but I will not propose a budget that will anticipate any last minute bailout from Trenton. If we want to restore integrity and confidence in our government, we need to begin with an honest and forthright budget process.”

To ensure transparency and collaboration, Mayor Redd meet with City Council President Frank Moran, City Vice-President Curtis Jenkins, various union leadership, and several civic and non-profit organizations to address the fiscal circumstances the City is facing and to elicit feedback and suggestions.

In addition to the 24% department budget reductions, the City of Camden will apply and compete for Transitional Aid to Localities (TA), a program run by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. The TA program has strict eligibility requirements in order to be considered for funding. For more information on the requirements and application process, please visit <http://www.state.nj.us/dca/lgs/lfns/lfnmenu.shtml> and click on the 2010-14 link.

“Every option is on the table,” Mayor Redd said. “Working together, we will be able to propose a budget that is fiscally responsible while still maintaining and preserving essential services that our residents and businesses expect.”

The Mayor will formally introduce the FY2011 budget to City Council at the August 10th council meeting.

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