

WE WON!

A huge **THANK YOU** to anyone, member or not, who wrote a letter, made a phone call, signed a petition and contributed money to our campaign to make sure no new property taxes were included in the 2009 budget, care of Mayor Shirley Franklin.

The unanimous vote by City Council ensures Mayor Franklin cannot veto line items now that it has been adopted. The City Council deserves tremendous credit for supporting the position of the Taxpayers.

NOW WHAT?

In response, the Mayor has issued a few statements, using rhetoric that would attempt to discredit City Council. We would like to respond:

Franklin: "I want you to know that I advised Councilmembers not to proceed in the manner they did...as this approach will mean additional service cuts and layoffs, including reductions in our sworn personnel in Police and Fire. The unanimous vote of City Council today ignored this advice," the mayor wrote. *Ch. 11*

It is untrue that the only option is laying off Police and Fire Department workers. She has ignored reports from Bain and Company and others advising that Atlanta engage in Marketization and Outsourcing. It is a statistical proven fact that the City would benefit immensely from managed competition and performance-based standards for every employee.

The Mayor seems to have setup a vote scenario that would have resulted in her winning favor with Police and Fire and ignoring Taxpayers, *again*, as well as ensuring that City Council be raked over the coals when they approved the Mayor's property tax increase. **It can't get any clearer that the Mayor does not favor the Taxpayers of the City of Atlanta.**

Franklin: "They have the authority to make the decisions they made today...I believe, however, that they have chosen the most risky possible alternative in balancing the budget," the letter said. ABC

What's risky is operating the City for the last six years in the negative. What's risky is not making strategically sound, financial decisions for the City and instead engaging in nepotism.

Franklin: "The City Council] and I have made hard budget decisions in the past and the result is the city is safer, cleaner and more efficient than when we took office in 2002. Though we have more improvements to implement, our hard work is not in vain. Let's not be pennywise and pound foolish," AJC

The city is not cleaner, safer and more efficient by any stretch of the imagination. The FBI continues to rank the City of Atlanta as one of the most dangerous in the country.

Franklin reacted angrily, saying that anyone who believes the city can cut an additional \$14.6 million without laying off current employees doesn't understand the operations of a city government. AJC

We would say the same of the Mayor. Her fiscal report card is an **F**.

Franklin: "The budget decision of the council today is among the worse I have seen in my almost 20 year professional career and it will have negative ramifications for the quality of life in this city, CL

We believe the Mayor is being melodramatic, employing scare rhetoric to hide her obvious defeat. Shirley Franklin, as Mayor of Atlanta, has produced negative ramifications to the quality of life in this city.

Franklin: "This is a risky choice in a bad economy, and the people of Atlanta will have to bear the burden of the council's decision to not do what is in the best interest of the residents." CL

The people of Atlanta have bearing the burden of bad fiscal decision making for longer than Mayor Franklin's administration. The fact that Mayor Franklin has perpetuated this trend and made it worse is an insult the Citizen's of Atlanta.

**Become a member of the FCTF and
help us work for the Taxpayers of
Fulton County and the City of Atlanta!**