



Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation

Non-Profit Advocate Of Lower Property Taxes In Atlanta/Fulton County

501(c)3 Non-Profit Advocate of Lower Property Taxes in Atlanta/Fulton

June Vol. 2 2009

What Every City Taxpayer Should Expect From The Next Atlanta Mayor

The City of Atlanta is facing the most serious problems, i.e., the City Bonds have been downgraded to one rank next to “Junk Bonds”; there is a \$1.2 billion shortfall in the City’s Pension Funds, with the City spending an astoundingly high \$100 million annually to reduce this shortfall; the cost of replacing the City’s Sewer & Water Infrastructure has escalated from \$3.2 billion to \$4.1 billion, with water bills unaffordable to poor and moderate-income families; a 2009 audit of the Finance Department by Deloitte & Touche indicated the department “in disarray”; a 2009 audit of the Atlanta Watershed Management Department revealed “\$50 million in delinquents and a failure to collect millions more every year”; a 2009 audit of the Fleet Management concluded that “there are \$11.2 million in cost over-runs”; a recent study of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport stresses that “cronyism continues to dominate contracting and purchasing to the disadvantage of the taxpayers”.

What The Taxpayers Expect From Atlanta’s Next Mayor?

An Update of the City’s Turnaround Plan: The City’s Turnaround Plan was brilliantly performed pro-bono in 2002 by Bain & Company. There is a desperate need for an updated Turnaround Plan as well as a City Management Review by one of the major management consulting firms. The City needs an updated professional plan to be implemented by Atlanta’s next Mayor.

Significantly Reduce The City’s Budget: The City’s Turnaround Plan of 2009 recommended studying whether to outsource 12 City services including Garbage Pick-Up, Fleet Management & Maintenance, Information Systems, Airport Management & Operations, Parks & Recreation, Non-Sworn Policing, Road Maintenance, Wastewater Treatment and Water. In the last eight years, not one of these services has been outsourced. Atlanta’s next Mayor should give outsourcing – with guidelines - a priority to significantly reduce the City’s Budget. In addition, the City’s Turnaround Plan recommended Performance-Based Metrics to weed out the under-performing employees. This, too, has never been implemented and should be implemented without delay by Atlanta’s next Mayor. A third step to significantly reduce the City’s Budget is for the next Mayor to appoint a Professional Oversight Committee of Volunteer CPA’s and Professional Engineers to review the City Budget line-by-line to recommend significant reductions, including a better solution to the \$1.2 billion shortfall of the Pension Funds and value-engineering the \$4.1 billion cost of the Sewer & Water Infrastructure.

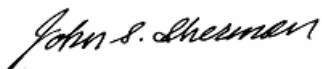
The City of Atlanta Needs Professional City Management: Atlanta lacks professional City Management! The next Mayor must appoint a highly professional City Manager and highly professional department heads. Even a City as small as Bal Harbour, Florida employed a professional City Manager with a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. To turn-around the City of Atlanta, Atlanta’s next Mayor must assemble the best and the brightest in the critical positions of Chief of Staff, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, City Attorney, Human Resources, Planning & Community Development, Police and Fire, Watershed Management, etc.

Atlanta’s Next Mayor Must Work Closer With The City Council: “I have met with the Mayor one-on-one only twice during the last eight years.” This is a comment that I have heard from eight of the fifteen City Council Members. The next Mayor must have a much closer relationship with the City Council.

Listen Carefully To “The Voice Of The People”: During the last eight years, the Mayor and her Senior Staff have taken umbrage at any criticism. The next Mayor should listen to “The Voice Of The People” and act accordingly.

Atlanta has the potential of greatness. However, there is a crying-need for a Mayor with courageous leadership and highly professional management. These are the qualities which the taxpayers expect of their next Mayor.

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