



CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager

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Attachment for Item #

May 12, 2009

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

Attached please find the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Impact Statement for the Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. O'Brien", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael V. O'Brien
City Manager



ECONOMIC AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- The elimination of 5 staff positions in this department will reduce staffing levels by 17% from Fiscal Year 2009.
- A consolidated one-stop economic/neighborhood development office is sustained.
- The timeframe for the completion of many projects will be extended considerably.
- Business assistance for Worcester-based enterprises will be sustained.
- Business attraction and business marketing efforts will be eliminated.
- Attendance at monthly meetings of local business associations, neighborhood groups and organizations will be eliminated.
- General marketing of the City of Worcester will be reduced to web-based and email-based activity.
- New City-owned and City-assisted state property dispositions will be eliminated. Those currently in the pipeline will be maintained.
- A plan to expand and utilize the Worcester Redevelopment Authority cannot proceed at current resource levels.
- One-stop permitting of events and activities within the City will be transitioned to the City Manager's office when possible.
- Support to cultural events and activities will be reduced and in some cases eliminated.
- There will be an increase in response time for all departmental correspondence, interdivisional assignments, research requests, reports, and responses to City Council orders.
- There will be a decrease in the capacity to handle resident inquiries and disburse information and referrals regarding City services.
- Telephone coverage for all three divisions may be automated often times during the day as 2 administrative and clerical positions were eliminated. Remaining clerical and administrative staff 2 will be required to attend meetings and assume additional responsibilities that will limit their ability to provide consistent telephone and reception coverage.
- Planning/Regulatory Services daily telephone & walkup customer service desk hours of operation may be reduced.
- The number of scheduled Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings annually will be reduced.
- There will be reduced agenda sizes for regulatory board meetings.
- Application review time will increase.
- There may be a delay in response time for final regulatory action from boards.
- The number of Interdepartmental Review Team (IRT) meetings will be reduced.
- Mapping services will be reduced.
- Pending/requested Zoning Ordinance amendments may be delayed.