



May 11, 2006

Dear Elected Officials and Department Heads,

This year our Annual Budget Sessions will take place from Monday, August 7th through Wednesday, August 9th.

Our Auditor Sandy Newmann and her Financial Deputy, Brandon Knight, have advised Council to look at reducing 2007 budgets by 5%.

Capital needs should be requested through the Council's possible support of a bond issuance. At this point in time I am working with our legal advisors for a sound presentation of your bond requests that have been gathered by our County Commissioners on all your behalf. For this reason 4000 categories in your budgets should be zeroed out.

The Reclassification Project is nearing completion and this will have a significant impact on what continues to be an extremely high priority—the uplifting of our employees in their working conditions and compensation. An implementation of the findings will be of major importance with regard to the phasing in of raises. This is the Council's purview and my personal hope is that long after those of us currently serving on the Council are vanished from your memory, that all employees will remain cognizant of the goals established by conducting the project of examining the wage and salaries your hard work is deserving of.

I do not want to raise false hopes but I trust that from working with our Council legal advisor, Margie Rice, Councilman Michael Woods, and Councilwoman Sue West, on the Personnel Advisory Committee, that PAC will be diligent about beginning the implementation of proper and fair pay with a sound foundation to ensure this project was not invested in or pursued in vain. We will begin the phasing in of the findings this summer.

Finally, the discussion of the juvenile facility is still ongoing—albeit still mostly in the “concept” phase. All your work for County Government has fueled the confidence of those of us who believe in the concept and that we are all indeed collectively working towards sound planning, justice being served, health and the betterment of the human condition being fostered—with taxpayer dollars.

While you work with your Council liaisons on your budgets, please be assured that a vision for our citizens is something I strive for to be reflected in our budgets—your

budget must reflect your participation in that and I would rather know about your needs, your realities, struggles, and even some creative ideas. I know preparing your 2007 budgets with the anticipated 5% cut will dismay many of you but I expect to have thorough dialogue about it with you and my fellow Council members.

Please contact me with any questions. Sandy Newmann will be following up my letter with the timelines that are pertinent for your schedules.

Work sessions are being planned for further discussion of our annual budget session.

Thank you,

Sophia Travis