



CITY OF JONESBORO

April 27, 2010

Finance Committee Members
Jonesboro City Council
Jonesboro, AR

Madam Chairman & Members of the Committee:

Please find attached a narrative explaining the administration's desire for this Committee and the Full Council to support and refer to the citizens an ordinance for approval that would levy a one-half cent sales tax dedicated to public safety for a period of four years.

In order to meet the demands of both the Election Commission and the State of Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration, I am asking that this be considered and read over three separate Council meetings (May 4, May 18, and June 1). This would allow us to call for a Special Election on Tuesday, August 10, 2010. If we are successful and the citizens approve the measure, this date will give both the County Clerk and DF&A time to certify and approve the process, allowing us to begin collections on January 1, 2011.

What we have attempted to do in this narrative is walk you through the rationalization for the recommendation; from the anticipated 2010 year-end fund balances and excess revenues all the way through to the anticipated reductions in expenses it will take to balance the 2011 budget without the additional revenues, culminating with the recommendation and justification for the one-half cent tax for four years.

Today and throughout this process, members of the administration will be available to answer questions and discuss rationale with members of your committee, the Council, and the citizens of Jonesboro. We want you and everyone impacted by this decision to know that we are committed to continuing prudent management of the resources we are entrusted with; and that we are not asking for any more than we feel is absolutely necessary to maintain and position ourselves for current and future public service measures. I just do not feel that the anticipated reductions you will find outlined in this narrative were ones that should be made without giving the citizens an opportunity to have their voices heard.

I thank you in advance for your support and I look forward to working alongside you as we educate our citizens about this most important matter facing our city.

Sincerely,