Office of the City Manager
5440 Fulton Industrial Blvd
City of South Fulton, Georgia 30336

Ruth C. Jones
Interim City Manager

TELEPHONE 470-809-7700

September 29, 2017

Dear Distinguished Citizens of the City of South Fulton,

Over the past couple of months, the Office of the City Manager has been working in a productive and transparent manner to fulfill its fiduciary responsibility; which requires my office to present the Mayor and Council with a recommended proposed budget for the FY 2018. During this process, multiple budget meetings were advertised and held with the Mayor and Council, department heads and the public.

This letter is being written in response to allegations made on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, that my office in some way has embezzled and shielded money from the public for later use to hire staff through efforts of cronyism. At no time, has anyone in the office of the City Manager engaged in any such illegal, unethical behavior or activity.

As stated during multiple budget meetings, by my office, the budget is an estimation of anticipated revenues and expenditures and is a working recommendation from the City Manager to the Mayor and Council that may change up until the point of adoption. A recommended 2018 Tentative Budget of $65,080,926 was presented to Mayor and Council on Friday, September 15, 2017. After 5:00pm on the same day, an email was received from Fulton County Finance with a revised invoice for the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The department impacted in the revision was Police due to the transition of Code Enforcement. At that time, it was realized we had double budgeted Code Enforcement for 7 months in the Police Department. ($1,867,700-$1,720,357 = $147,343 x 7 months = $1,031,401). On Monday, September 18, 2017, meetings were held with both Police and Community Development Services to verify. On Tuesday, September 19, 2017, a public hearing was held for the Millage Rate, and Budget at 10 am. At that time, the presentation was made to include the recommended changes to the budget, which are detailed as follows:

CHANGES SINCE SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

1. **Decreased the allocation for Executive Search Firm from $145,000 to $95,000**
2. **Decreased the allocation for Fire Rescue by $1,200,000.**
3. **Reallocated $1,000,000 from Police to Community Development Services for Code Enforcement.**

As with any public hearing and work session, adjustments may be made to the budget up until it is adopted and approved. My office at that time was directed to add a Budget Manager, Grant Manager and to fund 7 Council Aides, as well as to increase the travel, training and office supplies lines for the Mayor and Council. Prior to the 6pm hearing, on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, the staff of the City Manager's office realigned the budget to reflect the additions.

Finally, at the 6pm hearing on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, the City Manager's Office was directed to increase the City Clerk's budget to cover the Clerk's Speakers Que and Agenda Management software. All reallocations during this time, resulted in the adoption of the City of South Fulton FY 2018 Balanced Budget of $65,080,926. It is my hope that this detailed information regarding the creation of the FY 2018 Balanced Budget puts to rest the false and malicious allegations that my office in some way has embezzled and/or shielded money from the public for later use to hire staff through efforts of cronyism.

Yours in Service,

Ruth C. Jones

Interim City Manager
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