



Office of the Mayor-President

City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge

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BOBBY SIMPSON
Mayor-President

December 11, 2002

Honorable Members of the Metropolitan Council:

On November 5th of this year, in accordance with the provisions of our local charter, I presented to you my proposed spending plan for the year 2003. After discussions with Councilmembers and employee representatives, I recommend the following amendments to the 2003 Annual Operating Budget.

The proposed budget amendments, as well as amendments to the allotment of positions, are summarized below:

General Fund:

Baton Rouge Police Department - Included in the proposed budget was \$1.2 million dollars for a police pay raise that gave a 10.5% increase to entry-level Police Officers and a smaller increase to the other commissioned officers. After considering the recommendation of the Board of the Baton Rouge Union of Police and looking towards the largest possible benefit for all police officers, I request that the final budget redistribute the \$1.2 million as an across-the-board raise of 4% for all commissioned officers and a 2% increase for the noncommissioned classes, with the communications personnel increase to remain as recommended.

Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center - At the request of Councilman Sharper and after an in-depth review by my CAO Paul Thompson and the Finance Department, I am proposing that the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center budget be realigned to fund the vacant Outreach Worker position; this employee will also serve as a computer lab instructor at the Center. As a result of this realignment, an additional \$15,000 is requested to fund a temporary employee, contract student workers, computer software, and building repairs, with these items being funded from Fund Balance-Undesignated in the General Fund of which approximately \$6,500 will result from excess 2002 self-generated income that is reserved for the Center's use.

Special Funds:

Community Development - Included under the Office of Community Development will be a six-month temporary allotment for an Urban Development Director to allow a new Director to train under the existing Director before his retirement in the summer of 2003. The proposed funding source is the federally-funded Community Development HOME Program.

Through the joint participation of the Council and the Administration in the ongoing budget process, we will continue to answer the challenges and develop the opportunities

Page 2
Honorable Metropolitan Council Members
December 11, 2002

Special Fund (Continued):

for the citizens and this government. If I, or any member of my staff, can be of further assistance to you during these final budget deliberations, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Simpson", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bobby Simpson
Mayor-President