

CITY OF XENIA, OHIO

PRESS RELEASE

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CITY TO AVERT PUBLIC SAFETY LAYOFFS

New Union Contracts, Other Measures Provide Savings To Keep Jobs

Xenia, Ohio, August 18, 2009: The City of Xenia, the International Association of Firefighters Local 698, and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council are pleased to announce that negotiations have led to tentative agreements on new contract terms that will help ensure that scheduled layoffs in the Fire and Police Divisions can be scaled back. Due to diminishing tax revenues and a projected \$1.45 million deficit, the City announced earlier this month that layoffs, totaling 6 firefighters and 5 police officers, would be necessary to balance the FY 2010 budget.

Partnerships between the union bodies and the City have produced contractual savings that will eliminate a considerable portion of the projected deficit. The City will seek other cost reduction measures to make up the difference. While the deals result in no current staff being displaced, the Police Division will see its overall staffing reduced by 2 officers' positions.

City officials remind the public that while these collective bargaining deals combined with the passage of the renewal levy on August 4 help keep public safety services mostly intact for the short term, dramatic service reductions in other areas will still be necessary beginning this fall. Major service cuts in recreation activities, parks services, and street maintenance are forthcoming. The City will also move forward with layoffs of 9 full-time and 3 part-time administrative staff members; these reductions will begin after September 1st.

City officials have announced that they will approach the community with a request for additional tax funding early next year. Additional revenue will be necessary in order to sustain basic services, including public safety, beyond 2010.

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