

CITY OF XENIA, OHIO

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Resolution introduced for November Ballot issue to address Police and Fire manning and reopen Fire Station No. 2

Xenia, Ohio, 07/15/10: The Xenia City Council has introduced a resolution to place an issue on the November Ballot that will restore the positions eliminated in the Police and Fire Divisions and reopen Fire Station No. 2. Because of the failure of the levy in May, the City was forced to eliminate six (6) Police Officer positions and six (6) Firefighter positions and close Fire Station No. 2. The decision to make these reductions was only made as a last resort because of reductions in the City of Xenia revenues including local and state shared taxes. The City of Xenia has tightened its fiscal belt and reduced the total workforce in the past year by 21 full-time positions. This reduction follows a workforce reduction of 15 full-time positions in 2003 bringing the total to 36 full-time positions eliminated in the past few years.

At the July 8th City Council meeting, a petition was presented to the Council requesting a ballot initiative that would add six Police Officers and *nine* Firefighters to the City Safety Forces, and require the maintenance of these positions regardless of the size or financial position of the City of Xenia. This petition was given careful consideration but has been rejected by the Council because there was no funding source attached to the petition for the proposed positions and it restricts the ability of the City to respond to future fiscal or other emergencies. If this initiative were to be approved without additional funding for the positions the City would be **bankrupt** by 2013.

The Levy to be placed on the November ballot, if passed, will allow the City to re-hire the Police Officers and Firefighters, re-open Fire Station No. 2, and provide a half million dollars in street improvements per year to the City, along with specific Capital improvement projects, such as replacement of the retaining wall at Shawnee Park. The Xenia City Council carefully considered all of the options available prior to placing this request on the ballot. The City Council continues to look for ways to save the taxpayers money and looks forward to working with this group to pass the November Levy. With the passage of this Levy, we can re-hire the Police Officers and Firefighters that have been laid off and improve the safety and security of our Citizens.

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