



Haverhill

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MAYOR INTRODUCES \$163.6 MILLION "RESTORATIVE BUDGET" **"CLEAN STREETS, SAFE STREETS, GOOD SCHOOLS"**

Mayor James J. Fiorentini today introduces a \$163.6 million dollar restorative budget for the next fiscal year.

In contrast to previous budgets that have called for sharp cutbacks in spending, closing fire stations and turning off street lights, this budget calls for restoring some, but not all, services that have been cut over the last decade. The Mayor noted that many of the service restorations in the budget would not have been possible without the \$2.4 million in Hale debt assistance provided to the city by the State. He credited State Representative Brian Dempsey with the funds and said "without Representative Dempsey, many of these budget restorations would not be possible."

Fiorentini stated:

"From the time the Hale debt hit us over a decade ago, we have had to make a series of budget cuts to keep our City fiscally solvent. We were able to build up our financial reserves from 2004 until 2008, only to have to made a second series of cuts from when the recession hit.

"Over the years, we have had to cut 26% of our work force. Today, we have the fewest number of employees in City Hall per capita of any city in the State.

"This budget is able to restore some of the necessary services cut over the years. The budget also sets aside over \$1.5 million in reserves for the next rainy day that is sure to come someday. This budget restores some services today and saves money for tomorrow."

In preparing the budget, the Mayor cut \$600,000 from the budget requests given to him by department heads. "We have to maintain fiscal stability and provide for today while saving for tomorrow."

In announcing the budget and restoration of services, the Mayor noted that many of these budget restorations would not be possible without the \$2.4 million in Hale debt assistance provided to the City. "Thanks to Representative Dempsey we are able to restore some of the services that were cut from 2003 to 2008."

The budget includes a \$4.6 million increase for public education which Fiorentini called "our highest budget priority and the key to a good future."

The budget also calls for adding three (3) additional police officers, bringing the complement to the highest level since the start of the recession.



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“Continuing to keep our citizens safe is always a top priority”, said Mayor Fiorentini. “Crime is down three (3) years in a row, but we want to add officers to help maintain our current trend.”

“This would not have been possible without the additional assistance provided to the City by Representative Dempsey.”

The budget re-opens the public library on Sundays during the school year for the first time in over a decade.

“Our library is one of our greatest treasures, said Mayor Fiorentini. “Sunday used to be our busiest day. Since the Hale debt hit over a decade ago, we have not been able to keep it open on Sunday. We are thrilled to be able to bring back Sunday openings.

The budget re-opens, on a trial basis, a portion of the Rte. 110 park along River Street that has been closed for almost two decades. “As we move forward to recognize the river as one of our top assets in the City, we are working so that people can get to use it.”

The budget also calls for adding funding for parks, playgrounds and highways to give residents more “quality of life” services.

“Our goal has always been the same” said Mayor Fiorentini. ‘Clean streets, safe streets, good schools.’ This budget works to improve all three and to restore services in those key areas.