



# CITY OF CLEARWATER

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CITY MANAGER

The City Council  
City of Clearwater  
Clearwater, Florida

October 18, 2004

It is my pleasure to present to you the City Council's Adopted Annual Operating and Capital Improvement Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2004 and ending September 30, 2005. The City's gross budget across all City operations totals slightly less than \$341 million for the new fiscal year and the General Fund budget of \$102.5 million represents a conservative 3.3% increase over the 2003/04 budget. The adopted ad valorem property tax millage rate remains at 5.753 for the third consecutive year.

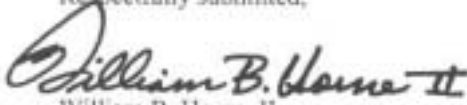
The 2004-05 budget is really about fiscal responsibility and a healthy review of our priorities. Some of our Florida and neighboring Pinellas communities are experiencing financial difficulties and heated debate in the adoption of their annual budget. Due to firm financial resolve and careful planning, our City has come through these trying times with only a slight bump in the road. Credit for this success results from the financial clarity and leadership that the City of Clearwater has put forth over the last decade of planning, a testimony to the hard work of this Council, previous Commissions, and the dedicated staff of this City.

As we have experienced in the last several weeks, through the events surrounding Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and most recently Jeanne, life can throw us a curve when we least expect it. As a consequence of these past few weeks, we may need to revisit our priorities in the upcoming year. We can now take these experiences and learn from them. One of my priorities in the new fiscal year will be to look carefully at our emergency operations procedures, our infrastructure, and our resources to determine how best to prepare our City to meet the challenges of these extraordinary, citywide emergencies in the future.

The City will continue to seek innovative strategies for generating revenues and for reducing expenditures. Cooperative efforts between local governments, Pinellas County, and the State and Federal governments to develop regional solutions is one way the City seeks to decrease expenditures and maximize revenues. This administration is committed to continuing joint efforts for addressing regional issues and seeking innovative strategies for meeting the demands and needs of our community.

In closing, I would like to express my personal thanks to the City Council, Department Directors, and the City employees for the considerable amount of time and effort that has been spent in the process of developing and adopting this budget.

Respectfully submitted,

  
William B. Home, II  
City Manager

FRANK HERRERA, VICE MAYOR  
BEL JOHNSON, COUNCILMEMBER

BRIAN J. AUSTINE, MAYOR



HOYT HAMILTON, COUNCILMEMBER  
CAROL A. PETERSEN, COUNCILMEMBER

"EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER"