

Christopher A. Coons
County Executive

Jeffrey W. Bullock
Chief Administrative Officer



December 18, 2008

Dear Employees:

Last month, I announced a series of cost-cutting measures to address our declining revenue situation. As I said at the time, further actions would be necessary to tackle this problem, and today I am announcing the next round of budget and service reductions that will help us save money in the months ahead. Our financial picture for the future continues to be a bleak one, and we are acting to responsibly manage and further reduce the expenses of this government during the economic downturn.

Since my last announcement on November 13, our projected revenue for the year has fallen by another \$2 million, increasing our deficit for the current fiscal year to \$32 million. This continued loss of revenue has increased the urgency with which we must take steps to reduce spending.

Attached you will find the additional cost-saving measures that will be made public today. These reductions across all areas of government will help us save nearly \$2.5 million over the final six months of the FY2009 budget. Please note that the increased employee healthcare share line item has been previously announced and goes into effect on January 1, 2009.

These are hard decisions, and I am thankful for the work of the general managers and our employees to cut spending while continuing to meet the obligation for services to the residents of our county. However, it is important to emphasize that while these steps help close the gap in this year's budget, we will need to make even harder decisions as we prepare next year's budget. Without making significant reductions and increasing revenue, we will be unable to continue the current level of services that residents expect and rely upon.

I appreciate the ideas and efforts put forth recently by employees to help cut costs. We will need to continue to be creative as we look at all areas of government to improve efficiency and reduce our costs, as our budget shortfall continues to grow.

County employees will be invited to attend a meeting after the New Year to discuss where we are headed in the next several months, and a time and date will be announced shortly.

I know that the holidays this year are filled with more worry and uncertainty than in years past, and I would much rather be discussing happier news. Thank you for your continued service, and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris', is placed below the word 'Sincerely,'.