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MAYOR PRESENTS BALANCED 2010 BUDGET PROPOSAL TO CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard presented his proposed 2010 Budget for the Consolidated City this evening before a full meeting of the City-County Council. The Budget is balanced, with revenues exceeding expenditures, and it includes $16 million to be put into a rainy day fund for the City.

“This budget reflects our belief that Indianapolis can and should be a taxpayer affordable city – one that crunches government, not citizens, to make ends meet,” said Mayor Ballard. “If we are to be successful as a city, both next year and in the next 50 years, we must create an economic climate now in which ordinary citizens can afford to live and live well. And we must do so despite tough economic times.”

In 2010, the City will feel the full effects of property tax caps championed by Mayor Ballard in 2008 before the Indiana General Assembly. While the property tax caps brought much-needed relief for Marion County taxpayers, they had a dramatic impact on the City’s revenue structure. This change, coupled with a decline in income tax revenue and the general effects of a down economy created a $40 million shortfall at the beginning of the budgeting process.

The funding gap was closed by city and county agencies’ commitment to create efficiencies, remove duplicative services and further reduce wasteful spending. At the outset of the budgeting process, each agency was asked submit budget requests for no more than 95 percent of their 2009 appropriations. Within that 95 percent, agencies were asked to develop creative, sustainable solutions to maximize resources and continue providing fundamental services.

“Our goal, as it was in 2009, was to target ways to save money through efficiencies without cutting services to the taxpayers,” said Controller David Reynolds. “Despite tough economic times, this budget sets forth a responsible plan by which we can continue serving citizens of Marion County.”
The City’s use of the IndyStat and the Six Sigma processes, among others, allowed city leaders to identify the effectiveness of departmental processes and determine funding allowances based on results.

A copy of the proposed 2010 Budget is available at http://www.indy.gov.

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