



CITY OF ATLANTA

SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335-0300
TEL (404) 330-6100

December 9, 2003

Council President Cathy Woolard
Members of the Atlanta City Council
City Hall 2nd Floor Suite 2900
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30335

Dear President Woolard and Members of Council:

I hereby return with my veto, Ordinance #03-O-2145.

On December 1, 2003, the Atlanta City Council adopted Ordinance #03-O-2145, which includes an amendment to the Water and Wastewater Revenue Fund Tentative Budget. The amendment proposes to cut \$25 million from the operational expenses of the Department of Watershed Management and to reduce the fund by the same amount.

The City of Atlanta has a legal and moral obligation to provide clean drinking water and safe wastewater for its citizens and all users and for those who live near the rivers and streams in Georgia. Our city charter mandates that we protect the public health and welfare. We also have entered into two Consent Decrees with the EPA and received Consent Orders from EPD whose conditions must be met. In addition, the City must continue to operate the drinking water system under federal and state law and guidelines. The effects of this budget reduction include the fact that the City will not be able to adequately fund the required management, operation and maintenance systems as required under the Consent Decrees and by our legal obligations.

The buck stops with me as Mayor. I understand the importance of operating with fiscal responsibility and restraint, and I have consistently acted in this fashion while increasing transparency and effective government operations. Accordingly, since 2002, my administration with City Council approval, has implemented cost cutting measures totaling \$165 million, significantly reduced personnel and secured record

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Council President Cathy Woolard
Members of Atlanta City Council
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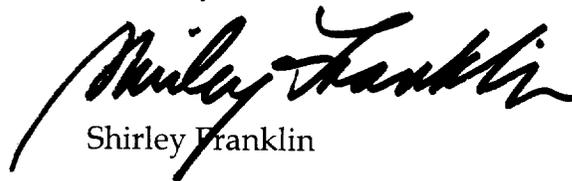
levels of *pro bono* professional services, all the while instituting conservative financial controls and improving financial management. Shortly after I took office in 2002, I acted swiftly to close an \$82 million budget gap and to recover from a negative cash reserve in the general fund of \$7 million in early 2002. Since 2002, I have worked to reduce the Program Management Team budget within the Department of Watershed Management (approved by the previous Mayor and City Council).

The proposed cuts to the operations of the Watershed Department would not be evidence of fiscal prudence or adherence to the City's obligations under federal and state law. The City of Atlanta must operate within the regulations and guidelines of the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Homeland Security Act. The proposed cuts would be cuts to essential services for the citizens of Atlanta.

Amending the tentative budget for the Watershed Department by cutting \$25 million fails to recognize the critical issues facing the City in 2004. The consequences of adopting the proposed cuts in the Watershed Budget are grave, and I cannot in good conscience support this action. We must provide the quality of service expected by our citizens and mandated by our responsibility for the public health, and it is too late to retreat from our promises.

Based on the rationale as outlined in this letter, I urge you to sustain my veto of Ordinance #03-O-2145.

Sincerely,



Shirley Franklin

A SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE BY

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2004 WATER AND WASTEWATER
REVENUE FUND TENTATIVE BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the Department of Finance has established tentative estimates for 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has submitted the 2004 budget recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Tentative Budget shall be effective until a final budget is adopted in 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA as follows:

SECTION 1: That the following revenue estimates of 2004 revenues shall be used for the 2004 Water and Wastewater Revenue Fund Tentative Budget:

Water and Wastewater Revenue Fund.....\$ 248,336,709

SECTION 2: That the 2004 estimated anticipations and appropriations for the Water and Wastewater Revenue Fund herein, based upon the estimates of revenue for 2003 and the projections for 2004 based upon the September, 2003 water and wastewater rate study, be and are hereby adopted as specified herein.

SECTION 3: That this Tentative Budget shall remain in effect until replaced or modified by a “Final” budget adopted under provisions of the City Charter and the 1937 Budget Law.

SECTION 4: That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith be and are hereby waived.

RCS# 5228
12/01/03
11:08 PM

Atlanta City Council

Regular Session

03-O-2145

2004 WATER AND WASTEWATER TENTATIVE
BUDGET
ADOPT SUB AMEND

YEAS: 9
NAYS: 4
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 3
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 0

NV Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	Y Mitchell
N Starnes	N Fauver	Y Martin	NV Norwood
Y Young	N Shook	Y Maddox	Y Willis
Y Winslow	N Muller	Y Boazman	NV Woolard

03-O-2145

RCS# 5286
1/05/04
2:55 PM

Atlanta City Council

Regular Session

03-O-2145

2004 WATER AND WASTEWATER
TENTATIVE BUDGET
OVERRIDE VETO

YEAS: 9
NAYS: 6
ABSTENTIONS: 0
NOT VOTING: 1
EXCUSED: 0
ABSENT 0

Y Smith	Y Archibong	Y Moore	N Mitchell
N Starnes	N Fauver	Y Martin	Y Norwood
Y Young	N Shook	Y Maddox	Y Willis
N Winslow	N Muller	Y Boazman	NV Woolard

03-O-2145

03-0 -2145

(Do Not Write Above This Line)

AN ORDINANCE BY:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2004 WATER AND WASTEWATER TENTATIVE BUDGET.

ADOPTED BY

DEC 0 1 2003

COUNCIL

Substitute As Amended
FILED BY 1/5/04 Mchen
CITY COUNCIL to override
JAN 05 2004 Mayor's veto
FALLOD Due to a
lack of 2/3 majority
vote

- CONSENT REFER
- REGULAR REPORT REFER
- ADVERTISE & REFER
- 1st ADOPT 2nd READ & REFER
- PERSONAL PAPER REFER

Date Referred 11/17/03
 Referred To Finance/Executive
 Date Referred
 Referred To
 Date Referred
 Referred To

First Reading

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Referred to _____

Committee FIN/Exec
 Date 1-25-03
 Chair Steve M. Holt
 Actions Abst
 Fav, Adv, Held (see rev. slide)
 Other

Members
Devin Starns
Cap. Tomoko Day
Christ Mueller

Refer To

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Actions _____
 Fav, Adv, Held (see rev. slide)
 Other _____
 Members _____

Refer To

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Actions _____
 Fav, Adv, Held (see rev. slide)
 Other _____

Members _____

Refer To

Committee _____
 Date _____
 Chair _____
 Actions _____
 Fav, Adv, Held (see rev. slide)
 Other _____
 Members _____

Refer To

FINAL COUNCIL ACTION

2nd 1st & 2nd 3rd
Readings

Consent V Vote RC Vote

CERTIFIED

CERTIFIED
 DEC 0 1 2003
 JAN 0 5 2004

CERTIFIED
 DEC 0 1 2003
 JAN 0 5 2004

MAYOR'S ACTION

VETO

DEC 9 2003
