

Town of Forest Heights

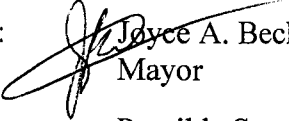
5508 ARAPAHOE DRIVE
FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20745-1998
(301) 839-1030 — (301) 749-8378
Fax (301) 839-9236

JOYCE BECK
Mayor

June 22, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Forest Heights Town Council
All Forest Heights Town Staff

From:  Joyce A. Beck
Mayor

Re: Possible Suspension of Forest Heights Town Business and Operations

Please be advised that due to the action of Councilmen George Wiggers, Ward I; Clifton Atkinson, Ward II; Worthington Ross, Ward III; and Larry Stoner, Ward III, following a public hearing on the Mayor's Proposed FY-06 Budget on Wednesday, June 22, 2005, it is likely that all administrative, public safety and environmental services will be suspended effective July 1, 2005 and until Forest Heights Town Council has adopted a Fiscal-Year 2006 Town Budget.

I extended numerous invitations to the Town Council to participate in the development of the proposed FY-06 Budget; comment on the budget; and/or make changes to the budget PRIOR to tonight. They each declined my invitation for participation and/or comment or changes. They each are aware, from participation in the development and adoption of budgets under the previous administrations that a budget must be presented to the State by July 1, in order to receive funding.

The reason given by Mr. Wiggers, who moved to postpone the vote until June 24, 2005, was that he "needs more time to study the budget." Mr. Wiggers has had as much time to study the budget, participate in the makeup of the budget, comment on the budget and/or change the budget as you have. Despite my objections to their holding a meeting to vote on my proposed budget in my absence, - I cannot attend a meeting on the budget prior to the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1, 2005, - the four of them voted to vote in my absence.

The four Council members (Wiggers, Ross, Stoner and Atkinson) comprise a "Political Block." Blocks such as this are formed in order to prevent progress on actions intended by the executive officer of an entity. The "Block" is supporters of the past administration and is intent on preventing my administration from administering the business of the Town. In short, they will harm the health and well being of the Town as an affront to, and in protest of, my election to the office of Mayor.

Until I have been able to determine legal measures that I can take, or until the Council adopts a budget, the State cannot collect taxes and Forest Heights can not be funded. We will not be able to pay salaries or fund (i.e. trash collection) contracts.

It is with regret that I advise you to prepare to be furloughed effective July 1, 2005 until we have an FY-06 Budget.

Cc: Town Attorney
State Department of Assessments and Taxation
Town Residents