



To The Citizens of Glendale:

Glendale's FY 2009 operating and capital budgets have been structured to sustain and enhance quality city services as well as continue prudent, strategic investments in our dynamic community. City Council's vision of 'one community' as expressed in our strategic goals and key objectives forms the foundation of our budgets. Those strategic goals, which we reaffirmed in November 2007, are listed below.

- One community with strong neighborhoods,
- One community focused on public safety for citizens and visitors,
- One community with quality economic development,
- One community with a vibrant city center,
- One community with an active partnership with Luke Air Force Base,
- A city with high quality services for citizens, and
- A city that is fiscally sound.

Providing you with the best level of public safety services is, and always will be, one of our highest priorities. In developing our FY 2009 operating budget, the City Council approved 41 new positions for our Police Department and 11 new positions for our Fire Department. With these additions, City Council has added a total of 178 new positions to our Police and Fire Departments since June 2006.

On September 11, 2007 Glendale held a special election at which you, our voters, passed Proposition 207. As a result, the rate for city sales tax dedicated to Public Safety services has been increased from one-tenth of one cent to one-half of one cent. The revenue collected from this tax can only be used by our Police and Fire Departments to fund additional positions, equipment and other items necessary for them to carry out their missions. Public safety positions currently funded out of the General Fund will remain in the General Fund as there can be no supplanting with the additional funds expected from the rate adjustment.

Your approval of Proposition 207 demonstrated the importance you also place on ensuring our Police and Fire Departments will always have the staffing and equipment they need. The revenue derived from the passage of Proposition 207 is providing the funding needed for all of the new public safety positions that will be added in FY 2009.

Another of the City Council's strategic goals is to help create and sustain strong neighborhoods. To achieve this goal, we have committed \$600,000 to the Neighborhood Improvements Grant program. This program was created to encourage older neighborhoods to plan and implement

projects that promote private investment for the preservation and improvement of physical conditions within the city. Since the inception of the Neighborhood Improvements Grant Program, \$8.09 million has been provided to fund 191 neighborhood requests. Accompanying private investment, through contributions of cash and sweat equity, totals an additional \$886,000.

Recognizing that commercial centers are often the “front door” to our neighborhoods, we have included \$150,000 in our FY 2009 budget to continue our long-running, highly successful Visual Improvement (VIP) Program. This program assists business owners in the renovation and improvement of the exteriors of their business properties. VIP has been the catalyst in helping to bring many properties up to current building code standards and at the same time improving the appearance of large, very visible parcels throughout our city.

Well maintained infrastructure is an important element of strong neighborhoods, and is critical for the attraction of quality economic development. To that end, funding will continue for our city's Pavement Management Program. Overlay work on arterial and residential streets will be possible with \$11.5 million in our capital program for FY 2009. The use of 2 inches or more of rubberized asphalt overlay on our arterial streets will double the life of those roadways to 15-20 years. Rubberized asphalt has the added benefit of minimizing road noise for the surrounding residential neighborhoods and business centers. Approximately 10-12 miles of arterial roads are planned for overlay work in FY 2009 with approximately 25 miles planned for residential streets.

We are also continuing our commitment to enhance the economic and social vitality of Glendale's “city center”. Our City Center area is defined in our General Plan as three square miles in size, bounded by 43rd Avenue on the east, 67th Avenue on the west, Orangewood Avenue on the north, and Maryland Avenue on the south. Two programs begun in FY 2008 that address this City Council strategic goal are the downtown beautification program and the Glendale Express shuttle between our historic downtown and the sports and entertainment district in western Glendale. Both of these programs will be continued through FY 2009.

A public investment completed in FY 2008 that moves us forward in creating a vibrant city center is our new downtown parking garage located at the southeast corner of 58th Avenue and Palmaire. This 600-space structure replaces a 140-space surface parking lot and includes 11,000 square feet of retail, restaurant, and office space. The garage's brick facade echoes Glendale's important historic heritage.

A second public investment in Glendale's city center that was completed in FY 2008 was a project totaling \$19 million of infrastructure, landscape, and streetscape improvements. This project brought improved important infrastructure and enhanced visual appeal to our Old Towne and Catlin Court areas.

Recently the City Council formally initiated work on a third public investment in our city center area. That project is a much-needed city court complex which will be built at 4715 W. Glendale Avenue. The contract for the design of the facility was awarded in February 2008. Funds for the



construction of the \$42 million building are included in the city's capital plan for FY 2009. We expect our new city court to open early in FY 2010.

During our November 2007 council retreat, City Council identified the need for a citywide redevelopment plan as one part of a multi-faceted effort to continue attracting quality economic development to Glendale. For FY 2009, we have committed ongoing funds for a new Redevelopment Program that will lead to the establishment of strategies to improve and enhance under-performing or under-utilized areas of the city. The purpose of this effort is to encourage local business growth that will benefit the Glendale community and generate higher levels of sales tax revenues.

Our FY 2009 capital budget also includes \$13.7 million for economic development related projects such as land acquisition, new development infrastructure, and redevelopment of older infrastructure. The overall goal of these capital projects is to attract high quality projects that create or retain well-paying jobs in Glendale, enhance the city's financial stability and attract new capital investment.

Preserving Luke Air Force Base has been a long-standing goal for the City of Glendale. City Council continues to support this strategic goal in FY 2009 by providing funds to continue a consulting contract to protect the base's mission as a key component of our nation's defense and security.

Our strategic goal of keeping Glendale “a city with high quality services for citizens” will be furthered with the new branch library planned as a part of our municipal campus at 83rd Avenue and Bethany Home Road. In January 2008, City Council approved the contract for architectural and interior design. Funds for the construction of the new facility are included in the FY 2009 and FY 2010 capital budget.

Another project that will enhance service delivery to citizens is the relocation of our Community Action Program's offices to a more accessible site. Our Community Action Program helps citizens become self-sufficient while they are experiencing a financial hardship or crisis in their lives. Some of the services provided include temporary assistance with utility bills and financial assistance for appliance repairs, home repairs, and telephone bills.

Transportation needs are being addressed proactively through our Glendale Onboard (GO!) Transportation Program. The GO! Program incorporates long-range projects that improve mobility both locally and regionally. The GO! Transportation Program is funded with our city's dedicated one-half cent sales tax that you and other Glendale voters approved in 2001.

Since the inception of the GO! Program, construction of thirty street/intersection, nine bicycle-pedestrian, two transit, and five airport projects have been completed. Projects under construction include seven street/intersection and two bicycle-pedestrian projects. Transit options have continued to improve with extensions and increases in hours of operation and frequency on

existing bus routes. Additionally, new services have been added such as neighborhood circulators and a taxi-subsidy program. Capital projects planned for FY 2009 include enhanced bus stops and shelters, design of the Northern Parkway, continued improvements along the 67th Avenue corridor, Grand Avenue access enhancements and beautification, and further implementation of smart traffic signals.

To make using public transit easier and, therefore, a more viable option, we recently opened a Park and Ride facility at 99th and Glendale Avenues. This facility has 392 available parking spaces. The site offers express bus service to and from Phoenix, a drop-off/pick-up location, security during business hours, bike racks, and a bike locker. Future plans allow for an additional 254 parking spaces.

There is no doubt that Glendale is both progressive and aggressive in maintaining the quality of our existing facilities and services and well as providing for the continually expanding wants and needs of all in our community. Your well-being and satisfaction with our city is City Council's paramount goal. To do all that we have planned and all that we see on our horizon, we must remain fiscally sound and we have stated that as one of our strategic goals.

Strong financial management is the foundation for the city's overall financial health and continues with our FY 2009 operating and capital budgets. Glendale was recognized again for its strength in this area, as evidenced by the Government Finance Officers Association's annual award to the city's Management and Budget Department and Finance Department for outstanding budget and financial reports. In addition, the city has enhanced its traditionally strong bond rating because of the city's prudent fiscal management practices.

This is a troublesome time for our national economy and our state economy. Yet, it is important to City Council to continue our efforts to reduce the tax burden on you, our citizens. Following on last year's 10 cent reduction in our city property tax rate, we will lower your property tax another 2.5 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. This means our overall property tax rate will decrease to \$1.5951 for FY 2009.

These decreases have been largely made possible by the new commercial development occurring in Glendale over the last few years. While the residential real estate market in the metropolitan area is in transition and valuation decreases are expected through FY 2010, we are experiencing a robust growth in commercial development. Of the \$442 million of development currently permitted in Glendale, \$412 million is attributable to non-residential projects.

Several years ago City Council directed that Glendale's tax base be diversified and that more emphasis be placed on commercial, office, and industrial development. That action is helping us weather the current economic situation better than most municipalities. The revenue from new development is providing the resources needed to meet today's rising costs in providing existing services and also giving us the opportunity to continue to expand our offerings to you, the citizens of our city. It is clear, then, why City Council has made "one community with quality economic development" one of our strategic goals.



Glendale's Sports and Entertainment District, which is developing at an unparalleled rate, is the area most responsible for the generation of new revenues in our city. Westgate City Center, which opened in November 2006, already includes 2.8 million square feet of retail, lodging, restaurants, entertainment and office uses. Another 1.35 million square feet of development is completed and open in Zanjero, the mixed-use development just north of Westgate. The next phases of both Westgate and Zanjero are under construction at this time.

Rightpath Limited, the developer of Zanjero, has received zoning to move forward with Main Street which will also include entertainment, retail, office, and residential communities along with resort and golf amenities. Main Street is adjacent to Glendale's new Cactus League Spring Training Stadium. In February 2009 the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago White Sox will establish our stadium as their home for spring training baseball games. Rightpath Limited also recently became the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at our Glendale Airport. Rightpath's enhancements to the 20-year-old FBO facilities include improved and expanded amenities that will increase the level of service available to corporate and private travelers.

These and other notable private and public investments have greatly enhanced Glendale's economic vitality, have added significantly to our employment base, and are contributing to the financial resources needed for us to continue to serve you, our citizens, at the highest level of quality.

The councilmembers and I are pleased to present our FY 2009 budgets to you. We pledge our continued commitment to making Glendale a "city of choice, not chance" for all residents and businesses. Thank you for your confidence and support.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Scruggs
Mayor