



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 19, 2009

To: Michael Bell
Keith Wilkowski
President of City Council Joe McNamara
Members of City Council

Dear Mike:

In recent days I have read that both candidates for Mayor are opposed to raising revenues of the City of Toledo. That is exactly what Toledo City Council members have said and done for the past ten months. As a result, the City of Toledo, in spite of many of our employees now working a 32 hour week and taking a 20% cut in pay, all of our labor unions supporting cost reductions in 2009, and our Executive Exempt employees taking pay cuts from 10% to 40%, TOLEDO CITY'S BUDGET is \$7.7 MILLION IN THE HOLE. If Council accepts the \$3.2 million offer from First Energy Solutions our budget deficit will be reduced to \$4.5 million. If Council had passed a fair refuse fee increase, and 50% income tax credit ordinance early this year, Toledo would now have a balanced budget.

Ottawa Hills, Perrysburg, Bowling Green, Findlay, Cleveland and dozens of cities in Ohio and Michigan have tax credits in place to assure that all families pay a fair and equitable tax to the city in which they live. **BUT NOT TOLEDO!**

Our refuse fee is one of the lowest in Michigan and Ohio - \$8.50 per month if you don't re-cycle and \$1.00 per month if you do. We lost \$8.4 million this year because it is so low. As we move to automated refuse pick-up we'll cut our losses next year to \$5.4 million. That is \$5.4 million more than the City of Toledo can afford!

Mr. Bell, Mr. Wilkowski and members of Council, you are digging a very big hole for yourselves. Council is considering hiring both a Police and Fire class in 2010. Good idea – if you have the money to pay the new officers. You don't and won't – unless you increase the refuse fee and tax credit – or boost the payroll tax – which candidates Bell and Wikowksi say they are opposed to. Where will the revenue come from?

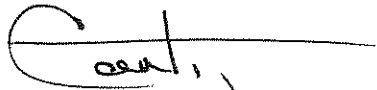
It is both amazing and tragic that you fail to comprehend the consequences of the recession we are in. A recession means – that doing what we once did is no longer affordable. We cannot take-in \$25 million less per year and still maintain the same manning level in police and fire departments.

Toledoans deserve the truth – not pandering political propoganda. We can approach Toledo's fiscal challenge realistically and truthfully – like Columbus, Findlay and

Bowling Green are doing by recommending increased revenue, or we can attempt to fool the public until the economic crisis overwhelms the City.

Toledo's looking for leadership – not political gamesmanship!

From Toledo – an International Award Winning City!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carty Finkbeiner", written over a horizontal line.

**Carty Finkbeiner
Mayor**

CF:lj