

Sandy Kline

From: Carol Abernethy
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 12:38 PM
To: Lilly Langer
Cc: Ken Pennoyer; Bill Strom; Ed Harrison; Jim Merritt; Jim Ward; Jim Ward (w) ; Kevin Foy; Laurin Easthom; Mark Kleinschmidt; Matt Czajkowski ; Sally Greene (w); Amy Harvey; Carlo Robustelli; Catherine Lazorko; Dwight Bassett; Mayors Intern; Roger Stancil; Sabrina Oliver; Sandy Kline; Bruce Heflin; Flo Miller; Ralph Karpinos; Toni Pendergraph
Subject: Email RE: budget cuts

Thank you for your email. A copy has been forwarded to each council member and senior staff members.

Carol Abernethy
Executive Assistant
Town Manager's Office

-----Original Message-----

From: Lilly Langer [mailto:LillyLanger@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 11:49 AM
To: Town Council
Cc: Anderson Thomas
Subject: budget cuts

Dear Mayor,

I understand the meeting tonight in City Hall will be focused primarily on the budget and valuation of residential property. I am proposing the following for consideration. First, the adoption of a maximum percent by which one's taxes can be raised per year. It is my opinion, that residents need to feel secure that they can continue to reside in their homes. Having moved here from Miami in 2004, which has a maximum of 4% by which one's residential tax can be raised per year, we have been shocked by 58% tax increase in our tax bill in just 4 years. Our taxes in 2004 were \$6,123 and in 2008 our taxes were \$9,678, while the market value of our 26 year old home has decreased and many features of the home have depreciated. Our case is not unique and, while we have submitted a request for reconsideration to the Tax Assessor, we have been informed by folks who have done the same in the past, that there is little hope of a lowered valuation. Everyone feels so vulnerable and that they are being taxed without representation. With an unrealistic valuation, a reduction in the tax rate still leaves folks concerned that the rate will be increased in the future.

Second, I would propose discontinuing free bus service. Those who use public transportation (possibly including school buses) should be the ones who pay for it. I agree that it would be wonderful to provide as many free services as possible to everyone, but I do not feel that it should be at the expense of skyrocketing residential taxes. Most towns and cities charge riders a fee.

Our federal government is taking steps to try to protect homeowners from losing their homes. Our country places a high priority on home and family, I'm hoping the Town of Chapel Hill and Orange County will do the same by making sure that the residents feel secure that they

have chosen a town in which they can afford to live out their lives.

At this point, it is generally agreed that we need to cut costs, and find ways to fund the budget that doesn't put 70% burden of the funding of the budget on the shoulders of the residents now and in the future.

Most sincerely,

Lilly Langer
106 Sandy Creek Trail
Chapel Hill
(919) 929-1689