



Internal Memorandum

Elected Officials-Executive
Mayor-President's Office (1200)

TO: City-Parish Council Members and
the Citizens of Lafayette City-Parish

DATE: July 26, 2016

FROM: Joel Robideaux

SUBJECT: FY 2016-2017 Budget Message

I am pleased to present to you a balanced budget for the fiscal year 2016-2017. Since taking office in January, I am proud of the early accomplishments we've achieved, some of which are highlighted below.

Budget Priorities: Just weeks after taking office, my administration began a comprehensive review of the budget to address the gap created by the decline in sales tax revenue. While I am confident Lafayette will return to the thriving economy we enjoyed in recent years, it will take time. Our diverse economy had minimized the impact of an ailing oil and gas industry. With continued projections of low oil and gas prices, our full economic recovery will be delayed. It is my commitment to provide a fiscally responsible budget that contemplates the needs of our constituents.

Bond Savings: Under the guidance of CFO Lorrie Toups, LCG was successful in refinancing three City Sales Tax Bond issues, producing savings of more than \$9.4 million to be realized over the next ten years. I take seriously the responsibility to run government efficiently and to build trust. My administration will continue this type of due diligence in pursuit of reducing cost to local government.

University Avenue: As a major gateway to the city, parish and university, my administration has identified the redevelopment and revitalization of University Avenue as a priority project. In its current condition, the University corridor does not reflect the quality of place our citizens deserve and it does not appropriately welcome our visitors to Lafayette. While we certainly have a lot of work ahead of us, I believe we can create a corridor of economic prosperity and quality of life that represents what makes Lafayette so special.

Animal Shelter: In keeping the commitment to move Lafayette forward, my administration has partnered with Target Zero, a national nonprofit organization which works with community animal shelters. Along with Target Zero, we have outlined a plan to implement best practices to decrease animal euthanasia and increase the rescue and adoption rates, with the goal of achieving a "no kill" status for the Lafayette Parish Animal Control Center by 2020.

Working Together: There are many people working diligently behind the scenes to bring Lafayette Parish closer together. I am fortunate to have a team of experienced, subject matter experts as Department Directors and administrative staff. Together we are working to understand the opportunities and challenges of a complex consolidated government. My staff and I have also made it a priority to reach out beyond the walls of City Hall to improve constituent services. We regularly meet with elected officials and their staffs across the parish and state, as well as local business and civic leaders, to ensure continued understanding of parish-wide needs.

I thank CFO Lorrie Toups and her staff for their effort and expert input while preparing this proposed budget. Strong first steps have us moving in the right direction and building momentum. I believe we can make our great community even better by honestly addressing our challenges.

Sincerely,

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

Joel Robideaux
Mayor-President