



**CITY OF TRENTON**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**W. Reed Gusciora**  
*Mayor*

May 11, 2022

Kathy McBride, City of Trenton Council President  
319 E. State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608

Subject: Refusal to Consider City Budget

Council President McBride:

I write regarding your refusal to consider this Administration's proposed FY 2022 budget unless a budget officer is hired to "explain" the Administration's budget submission. Your position is misplaced and amounts to nothing more than a delay of the business of the City, which our residents as well as the State demand to be conducted on a timely basis.

There is nothing in the Faulkner Act or the City Code that requires the Administration to employ a budget officer, and certainly not as a prerequisite to the City Council considering the proposed City budget. Indeed, in the five (5) budgets submitted by this Administration to City Council, a budget officer was only involved in the first one, in 2018. The last four (4) budgets, including the past three approved by City Council have been prepared and presented without a budget officer and have been approved by DCA. In fact, in the first meeting concerning the introduced budget, you and Business Administrator Cruz agreed to remove the position of budget officer from the budget since, in your words, "there are only nine months left and that decision should be left to the next administration."

If there are specific questions about the budget, kindly share them and we will provide detailed responses. However, given that the proposed budget is \$400,000 higher than last year and this is the **third consecutive budget with a zero percent local tax increase**, your unwillingness to even consider the budget let alone pass it is unconscionable. Council Leadership's lack of financial acumen and its propensity to think in political terms rather than what is good for the residents of the City is duly noted.

**By copy of this letter to the NJ Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services**, should Council continue to refuse to consider the City Budget, we are respectfully requesting a **Financial Monitor** be imposed so that the proposed budget for the 2022 Calendar Year be duly adopted.

The handling of the City Clerk situation and now, the troubling news regarding questions over the residency qualifications of one of the Council Members, has already caused enough harm to the City – I am hopeful that we will not see a similar state of affairs with the budget that should be responsibly and timely considered.

Regards,



W. Reed Gusciora, Mayor

Hon. Sheila Y. Oliver, Lieutenant Governor, Commissioner DCA  
Hon. Shirley K. Turner, Senator 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Hon. Verlina Reynolds Jackson, Assemblywoman 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Hon. Anthony Verrelli, Assemblyman 15<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Jacqueline Suarez, Esq., Director, Division of Local Government Services  
Hon. Members of City Council  
Arch Liston, Chief of Staff  
Adam Cruz, Business Administrator  
Wesley Bridges, Law Director