



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

33% Budget Cuts for District 5 Office

Birmingham, Alabama, June 23, 2009 – The loss of operating revenues previously generated by Jefferson County's occupational tax impacts everyone from its employees to the citizens we are paid to serve. Those we ask to make significant sacrifices to adjust for the current financial crisis should not be required to do so by those who are not willing to share the burdens.

Therefore, I have approved plans to reduce the District 5 remaining FY09 and total FY10 operating budgets by 33% in accordance with what the Jefferson County Commission has mandated from its other operations. In addition to returning 20% of my own compensation to the County, I have reduced staff by one-third. Remaining public servants in my office have volunteered participation in the leave-without-pay options approved by the Personnel Board as needed and as if they received the same benefits as merit system employees. No travel by anyone in the District 5 office will be paid with County funds. All other expenses have been reduced to the absolute minimums necessary to service the needs of constituents.

Jefferson County citizens face serious legal and financial difficulties for the foreseeable future. I believe officials elected by them must share in the painful remedies essential to restoring Jefferson County's economic health and promise to continue my record of fiscal accountability.

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If you would like more information please contact the Office of Commissioner Jim Carns at 205.325.5503.