

Dear Engage Gwinnett Committee Members:

We want to take the opportunity once again to thank each of you for your commitment to our work on the Engage Gwinnett Citizens Committee and the serious attention you have given to the process thus far. Your dedication and willingness to serve is a tribute to all Gwinnett citizens and to the community spirit that has led to Gwinnett County's positive reputation both here and abroad. As our **November 19 meeting** approaches and we delve even deeper into the charge we were given as a committee for the future of Gwinnett County, we would like to provide a brief look at where we are going in the weeks and months ahead.

In order to provide the Board of Commissioners with informed budget recommendations for the next five years by our deadline of early April 2010, we will proceed as a committee by deliberating the following questions:

- What do we aspire Gwinnett County to be in 2030 and how will we get there? Do we aspire to be an "International Gateway" community or a "Middle of the Road" community as defined in the Unified Plan?
- What services and service levels are needed and should be provided by county government to fulfill these aspirations? What is worth keeping?
- What should Gwinnett County Government be doing, what should it stop doing, and/or what public-private opportunities exist?
- What are our highest priorities and how can Gwinnett County do a great job in fulfilling them for our citizens?
- What are the current and projected costs associated with priority services and what are the funding sources? How best can the money be spent? What are the best funding strategies?
- What are the consequences, alternatives, and trade-offs to changes in service levels?

As you are aware, we are in phase one of the process as we look at services, service levels, and costs of funding for preferred services. As a result of Work Group discussions and committee requests, the information to be provided over the next couple of meetings includes (but is not limited to):

- Budgets for work group departments for 2008, 2009, and proposed for 2010
- Projected capital budgets for future fiscal years – 2010-2015
- Level of service associated with those budgets
- State and federal minimum level of service and or funding requirements
- The opinion from department director/constitutional officer's on the desired level of service and the cost to provide that level of service
- Any comparative analysis that each department has done already against other service providers and municipalities

When we enter phase two of the process and begin to look at revenue and funding sources, we will address the following (not a complete list; just what we know now):



Citizens Committee
on the Future of
Gwinnett County

- Funding mechanisms for each of the Work Group departments
- What funding mechanisms can be changed, how much they can change (i.e. SPLOST)
- Current and potential economic development efforts to attract new industries and jobs as well the expansion of existing industries
- What are the revenue strategies that can be considered

In order to be accurate, consistent, and responsible with valuable and costly resources, the **process for obtaining and distributing information** for Engage Gwinnett is:

“ALL information requested by the Committee and or Work Groups must be approved by the group and submitted to the Co-Chairs by an elected group representative. The request for information will be delegated to the most appropriate resource person for response. Information obtained will be distributed to all Committee and or Work Group members concurrently.”

For the foreseeable future, we will begin and end our meeting in plenary sessions so members can stay abreast of the progress of the Work Groups. The Work Groups will meet in separate rooms so presentations and discussions can be recorded and played on engagegwinnett.com and TVgwinnett. We have received tremendously positive responses to the transparency of this process and will continue our best efforts in making presentations and information available to all citizens.

Thank you again for your service and we look forward to the next five months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Michael Levensgood".

Mike Levensgood, Co-Chair
Engage Gwinnett

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill McCargo".

Bill McCargo, Co-Chair
Engage Gwinnett