



February 20, 2009

Dear Community Partners:

Your help is needed to get the word out about and participate in one of three upcoming Community Budget Gatherings that will take place during the first two weeks of March.

Residents, representatives of community organizations, and business and property owners are encouraged to attend to learn about the financial challenges facing the City of Grand Rapids and to tell City Commissioners and City staff what services are most important to them, their organization and their neighborhood. The City's Chief Financial Officer will explain our current and projected fiscal condition, and I will provide an overview of City Services and what those challenges may mean for us. We will break into small groups where we will have discussions around the questions of:

- 1) How would you describe a high quality of life;
- 2) What City services or activities are most critical; and
- 3) What City services are less important?

And, then we will ask participants to assist in prioritizing services.

I encourage you to send at least one representative to one of the following meetings that have been scheduled in each of the city's three wards. If you can't attend the meeting nearest you, please feel free to attend either of the other two.

Wednesday, March 4, 2009	City High School (1400 Fuller, NE)
Monday, March 9, 2009	Union High School (1800 Tremont Blvd, NW)
Thursday, March 12, 2009	Ottawa Hills High School (2055 Rosewood, SE)

All meetings are scheduled from 6-7:30 p.m. and will be held in the library at each site. Signage will be provided to guide you to available parking and to the meeting room. Light refreshments will be served.

I look forward to meeting with you and our community to hear suggestions and ideas as we make the necessary decisions to see our city through these tough economic times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric R. DeLong".

Eric R. DeLong  
Interim City Manager