



Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street, Room 150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

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Over 500 Pack Mayor Mallory's Budget Forum Standing-Room-Only crowd calls for the restoration of cuts

Cincinnati – Mayor Mark Mallory heard from hundreds of citizens tonight at a public forum that he sponsored on the recommended 2007/2008 Cincinnati City budget. Citizens from all parts of Cincinnati spoke passionately for over four hours about the need to restore funding to many city services and programs. Citizens packed the Cincinnati State Conference Center, many of them waving homemade signs and erupting in applause often.

"I am excited about the amount of emotion that I saw here tonight. Our citizens believe in Cincinnati and they want to see it become a better place," Mayor Mallory said. "Before I make my recommendations on the budget, I wanted to know what the citizens think of it. This budget is going to have a significant impact on people's lives; it must reflect the priorities that are important to residents.

The Mayor scheduled the forum to give citizens an opportunity to share their thoughts on the recommended budget, both positive and negative, and offer suggestions on potential changes. Vice Mayor Jim Tarbell, Councilman Cecil Thomas, and Councilman David Crowley also attended the forum to hear from citizens.

The City Manager gave the Mayor the recommended budget on Monday and the Mayor has 15 days from then to transmit the budget and his comments to City Council. The Mayor is going to use the citizen input to help develop his recommended changes to the budget that he will deliver with the recommended budget to Council on Monday.

"I hope that I am able to make some significant and meaningful changes. I may not be able to make everyone happy, but in the end, I am going to do my best to recommend a budget that will grow and strengthen our city," Mayor Mallory said. "I want everyone to remain involved in the process. I encourage you to call the Council Members and let them know what you want to see in the budget."

Citizens spoke in favor of a variety of city issues, programs, and policies. Popular topics included the recreation budget for swimming pools, arts funding, the Office of Environmental Management, and human services, funding for programs that help citizens in a variety of ways. Neighborhood leaders also spoke against cutting funding to the community councils and closing of two community centers.

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