



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAYOR NUTTER DELIVERS FIRST BUDGET ADDRESS TO COUNCIL

Philadelphia, February 14, 2008 - Mayor Michael A. Nutter today delivered his Fiscal Year 2009 budget to City Council. It includes \$3.97 billion in spending and calls for new fiscal investments to improve public safety, enhance educational opportunities, create healthy and sustainable communities, and encourage job creation and economic growth.

In a message to the citizens of Philadelphia, Mayor Nutter wrote, "This plan seeks to uphold our responsibility of fiscal stewardship while providing for the needs of our citizens. In producing this plan, my administration has strived to make the tough choices to meet the needs of our citizens and to make smart investments to secure the future of the City."

Among the initiatives proposed by the administration are the following:

- The Police Department will spend \$5.6 million to hire more police officers as part of a five-year goal of spending \$78 million for additional officers. By June 2009, the City will have 400 more patrol officers on the street.
- The City plans to spend an additional \$5 million per year to increase funding for the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership, a program that provides intensive services to youth who have been identified as the most likely to kill or be killed.
- The budget for Emergency Medical Services will increase by \$3.8 million in the new fiscal year to cover the costs of staffing increases for 40 new firefighter EMS medics and overtime for current staff. The funding will enable the Fire Department to deploy two additional EMS vehicles.

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- The City will increase funding to Community College of Philadelphia by \$4 million per year for five years.
- The Philadelphia Cultural Fund will receive \$2 million in new funding to assist neighborhood organizations and multicultural arts groups.
- The City will spend \$6.5 million in the Fiscal Year 2009 to provide weekly, single-stream recycling to all Philadelphians. Over the next five years, the City plans to spend \$25 million in an effort to dramatically increase recycling.
- The City proposes to spend an additional \$3 million in the Public Health Department.
- A \$1.5 million increase for the Fairmount Park system as part of a more than 40 percent increase in funding to the park over five years.
- \$10 million over the next five years to establish a 311 Call System and PhillyStat, a management tool to track citizen service requests and monitor government performance.

Accompanying the proposed 2009 budget is a Five Year Plan that projects City spending and revenue estimates through 2013. The final year of the plan shows a \$35 million fund balance.

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