



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Springfield to Host Financial Forums

SPRINGFIELD, OH— (March 17, 2017)—The City of Springfield will be hosting several Financial Forums throughout the month of April. The forums are open to all residents of Springfield and will include a brief presentation regarding the City's financial status and the upcoming temporary 0.4% earned income tax on the May 2 ballot, as well as provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions.

"As a City, it is our responsibility to keep our residents informed," said City Manager, Jim Bodenmiller. "Since the City is currently in a difficult financial position, we have decided to host these forums to address any questions our residents may have."

The forums will be held in the City Hall Forum, located at 76 East High Street in Springfield. There will be three forums: April 6th from 5:30-6:30 p.m., April 19th from 6:30-7:30 p.m., and April 27th from 10:00-11:00am. Various City officials will be in attendance including: City Manager, Jim Bodenmiller; Police Chief, Steve Moody; Fire Chief, Nick Heimlich; Finance Director, Mark Beckdahl; Service Director, Chris Moore; and Deputy City Manager, Bryan Heck.

The City's temporary 0.4 percent earned income tax was narrowly defeated in the November 2016 election, forcing the City to begin enacting the Springfield Services Reduction Plan. Police, fire, and other service reductions made in 2017 include the closure of Fire Station #5, the elimination of one fire and one EMS response unit, the closure of the Johnny Lytle Community Police Substation and the elimination of community police and fire programs, such as the citizens police academy, staff layoffs, and reductions to parks and recreation funding.

If the issue passes, the City will reopen Fire Station #5 and the Johnny Lytle Community Police Substation, restore one fire and one EMS unit, add six additional police officers to combat violent crime and the heroin epidemic, and dedicate a minimum of \$2 million per year towards improving our neighborhood streets.

"It is critical for the City of Springfield to find a solution to its current financial situation to avoid additional reductions in services or programming," Bodenmiller said. "It is my hope that these community forums will give our residents the information they need to make an informed decision on May 2."

For more information about the City of Springfield, visit www.springfieldohio.gov.

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