



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 2010

City Unions Forgo Wage Increases

MOUNT VERNON – On Wednesday, March 3rd, the Mount Vernon City Council approved the collective bargaining agreement with the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), Local 1983. In recognition of the city's continuing budget challenges, IAFF members voted February 12th, to approve a three year contract with a 0% wage increase in 2010 and wage reopeners for 2011 and 2012. They also agreed to other language that will save the City over \$50,000 per year in overtime.

The IAFF is joined by the Teamsters unions, Local 231, which represents Parks, Public Works and Municipal Court Clerks, which agreed to forgo their negotiated 3% cost of living allowances for 2010. In addition the Teamster employees will take sixteen hours of unpaid furlough in 2010. The Teamster agreement saved the City \$100,000 this year. The only bargaining group that did not agree to forgo their negotiated cost of living increase is the Police Guild.

"I know this has not been an easy year for our employees and I am grateful for their support," said Mayor Norris. "I appreciate the IAFF and Teamster's leadership and their willingness to collaborate with the city during this unprecedented financial time."

In addition, there have been no cost of living increases for any city managers or non-union employees in 2010. These employees are working a reduced work week in 2010, which results in a 1.25% decrease in pay.

For further information, contact:

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