



## CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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### **City Announces Proposed Layoffs**

Bainbridge Island, WA, January 28, 2009 – Six City of Bainbridge Island employees were informed this week of the administration’s intent to lay them off as part of the city’s response to the continuing economic downturn, City Administrator Mark Dombroski said today. “We deeply regret that the need to reduce expenditures has impacted the city’s workforce. We have made a committed effort over the past several months to preserve our employee base and maintain the appropriate skills sets to serve this community,” Dombroski said. “Unfortunately, the current economic reality has made this step unavoidable.”

The proposed layoffs are part of a larger package of \$2.3 million in proposed reductions which the city administration will present at tonight’s City Council meeting. “The current economic volatility makes it critical for the city to maintain close scrutiny of our revenue stream, and to adjust our budget and expenditures accordingly,” Mayor Darlene Kordonowy said. “Under Mark’s leadership, staff have been working since December to develop a detailed cash flow analysis. This is allowing us to pinpoint revenue challenges and to identify the most appropriate areas for reductions.”

The proposed layoffs are primarily in the areas of building and development services, planning and engineering, all of which have seen a falloff in activity as the real estate market has slowed over the past year. A reduction has also been proposed for information technology support services. Additional anticipated reductions include significant cuts in professional services, limited term and seasonal staff, elimination of all staff training except that needed to maintain licenses and certifications, and sharp cuts in allocations for advertising and public outreach.

Dombroski has been working closely with representatives of the International Association of Machinists, the union which represents most city employees, to keep city staff informed of developments. “Good communication is essential at such a time,” he said. “My door is open for any staff who have questions, concerns or ideas about additional solutions for addressing this challenge.”

The city will continue to monitor revenues and expenditures on a month-to-month basis, and additional reductions may be required.

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