



SICTA Alert – February 4, 2008

Mayor's 2008 Budget The Administration has proposed their 2008 budget, and the Council will introduce a budget resolution in early March. In anticipation, **SICTA has been reviewing the budget on your behalf.** We are providing our budget review and the Mayor's proposal which you can read using the following links:

SICTA's Budget Review:

www.sicta.org/research/SICTA%20Budget%20Analysis%202008-01-282.pdf

Mayor's Budget Package:

www.sicta.org/research/SEA%20ISLE%20CITY%20BUDGET%202008-01-15.pdf

Budget news is shocking, as the Mayor proposes a tax increase of 18% (\$1.8M).

Last year, Commissioners under the old form of government signed labor contracts with large salary increases and uncommonly high benefit costs. Additionally, our neglected City infrastructure and problems with State pension systems have all come home to roost in this year's budget.

The **Mayor's proposed tax increase of 18% (\$1.8M)** is the product of an increase in our assessed values of 33%, accompanied by lowering the tax rate only 11%.

This **tax increase covers increased spending of 8% (\$1.2M)** as well as the loss of other revenues (\$0.6M). There appears to be **no proposed operating efficiencies** of any significance with spending of over \$24M.

If you think it important to **break this tax and spend cycle**, you need to let our government know how you feel. **Write to the Mayor and/or Council** at their email addresses:

Mayor Leonard Desiderio:	mayorlen@seaislecitynj.us
Council President Michael McHale:	mmchale@seaislecitynj.us
Councilor William Kehner:	wkehner@seaislecitynj.us
Councilor Frank Edwardi:	fedwardijr@seaislecitynj.us
Councilor John Divney:	jdivney@seaislecitynj.us
Councilor Mary Tighe:	mtighe@seaislecitynj.us

Good news? Well, the new **Council budget workshops were a breath of fresh air** this year. The Administration presented detailed information on each line item, and an open, public discussion on them was the best that we have seen in a long time. The new government has created an improved review process, but it is the results that count.

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