



## LOOKING FORWARD

- **City-Edge** – Mesa’s current financial and business (computing) systems are based on 30-year old legacy mainframe technology. Well past its planned and useable life, the City began reserving funds to replace the current system. This is a multi-year project. The system changes driven by this upgrade will ultimately affect every City employee, our vendors and in large part all the citizens of Mesa.
  - Request for Proposals (RFP) released.
  - Council approval anticipated in summer 2010.
- **November 2010 Home Rule Election** – The State mandate that changed Mesa’s election cycle to the fall also impacted the City’s cycle for Home Rule elections. Requiring renewal every four years, a successful Home Rule election allows the City Council to establish expenditure amounts each year rather than being restricted to a state formula-based spending limitation. Approved most recently on March 11, 2008, the new election cycle now requires renewal of Home Rule as part of the November 2010 election prior to its normal expiration so that the protection will not lapse.
- **Other November 2010 Election Items**– The potential list is long and may possibly include:
  - Revenue bond questions for water, wastewater, natural gas and electric
  - Public Safety and Transportation projects eliminated from the 2008 General Obligation Bond Election
  - Other items, such as a 613 exemption.





## CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES

- **Managing for the New Economy** – The financial slide that began in spring of 2008 grew into a full-fledged recession during the third and fourth quarters of the calendar year. Proactive response by the City resulted in eliminating \$60M in expenditures and strategic operational consolidations, for example:
  - Initiated Fire TRV pilot to provide for more efficient mobile response to emergency medical calls and reserving larger crews and equipment for fire-related response.
  - Consolidated Planning, Building Safety, Code Enforcement, Environmental and Water Conservation programs into the “Development and Sustainability Department,” allowing for inter-department cross-training, retaining building inspector expertise and providing heightened focus on sustainable development.
  - Strategic service and staffing adjustments made to keep all libraries open and PD made adjustments to focus on sworn officer duties and their presence in Mesa.
- **Effective Forecast Modeling**-- Proactive budget adjustments and expert forecasting also allowed the City to minimize the number of necessary personnel reductions and to continue on firm financial footing, based on the projected improvements beginning in late 2009 and continuing slowly through 2010.
- **Public Safety and Transportation Investments** –Overwhelming voter approval in November 2008 of the Public Safety and Transportation General Obligation bond questions initiated the process that would ultimately add a secondary property tax as the dedicated repayment source for the approved General Obligation Bonds. This marked the first time since fiscal year 1944/1945 that property taxes were collected for City purposes.
- **SR 802 Advancement** – Approved to offer the initial \$20M bond package to the market, this innovative arrangement will ultimately provide \$45M in resources to advance the land acquisition and design of the first mile of the “Gateway Freeway” by a full four years.
  - Highways Project Anticipation Notes or HPANs will be secured by City excise taxes and structured so as not to financially impact the City of Mesa.
  - SR 802 advancement project improves future eligibility for advancement of construction funding if it becomes available.
- **Success obtaining grants** – Staff has successfully pursued and received nearly \$60M in grants as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), including region leading awards for both COPS and FEMA grant allocations. In addition, Build America Bonds were used to sell \$59.9M of utility system revenue bonds, with an overall interest savings of \$12,500,000 when compared against “standard” rates.

