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2010 BRAMPTON CITY BUDGET APPROVED

BRAMPTON, ON: Brampton City Council today approved its 2010 Budget. Challenged with an economic climate that is impacting the City's revenue stream, the approved budget focuses on continuing to fund critical programs and services to meet the expectations of residents while deferring spending, where possible, to future years. The 2010 City of Brampton's current budget is \$408.2 million with a capital budget of \$241.4 million.

There are three components (Region, City and Education) to the overall tax bill of which the City of Brampton's portion is 40%. For 2010, the City requires a budget increase of 2.9% over 2009 levels to meet its operating and capital commitments, less than half of the increase approved last year. This means that, based on the City's share of the overall tax bill, the City of Brampton is increasing taxes by 1.1% or an approximate \$42 on an average residence assessed at \$310,000.

Starting early in the year, City Council established parameters and objectives for the 2010 budget process, including stimulating the local economy and labour market; targeting scarce resources to meet immediate priorities; and insulating taxpayers as much as possible from the economic pressures the City faces. At its Fall Workshop in October, Council confirmed its service levels and program priorities.

"We have worked very hard to deliver on public priorities in this budget," says Regional Councillor Gael Miles, Chair of the Budget Committee. "These include enhancing transit services, providing recreational opportunities and ensuring community safety."

"2010 is expected to be a difficult year for families and businesses who are continuing to struggle," says Mayor Susan Fennell. "Council's objective is to find the proper balance between controlling spending and limiting tax increases, while addressing increased demands we face as a Provincially designated high-growth municipality."

2010 Budget highlights include:

- construction of Fire Station 212 in southwest Brampton
- implementation of the Züm bus rapid transit system
- planning and design of new Works Yards
- widening and construction of City roads
- improvements for Parks and Recreation
 - Federal / Provincial infrastructure stimulus funded projects
 - continued asset repair and replacement program
- improvements to customer service – launch of City web portal

For more information on the 2010 Budget, please visit www.brampton.ca/service_plan/

About Brampton: The 11th largest city in Canada, Brampton has a successful, well-diversified economy and is home to more than 8,000 businesses. The City continues to retain a Triple 'A' credit rating by Standard & Poor for the third consecutive year, reflecting its debt-free position, exceptional liquidity levels and excellent economy. The City's 2009 operating budget is \$400.8 million and approved funding for its overall capital program stands at \$700 million. Brampton celebrates its diverse population that represents people from more than 175 distinct ethnic backgrounds who speak over 70 different languages. Offering more than 6,000 acres of parkland, Brampton takes pride in being the Flower City of Canada and won the 2008 International Communities in Bloom competition. It is also the first city in the GTA and one of only 10 in North America to have been designated as an International Safe Community by the World Health Organization. For more information visit www.brampton.ca

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