



TEMPLE TERRACE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE UNION HELPS CITY WEATHER TOUGH ECONOMY

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL – 10/8/09) – Crafting a comprehensive municipal budget was no easy task this year because of the nation’s troubled economy. But, Temple Terrace had an ally, receiving much-needed help from the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council.

With the City facing a \$1.2-million budget shortfall as the new fiscal year approached, the union’s membership voted to forgo wage increases this year to help Temple Terrace through tough economic times.

The union was in the middle of a three-year contract, so members could easily have left the document untouched. Instead, they rolled up their sleeves and went to work to do what was best for Temple Terrace.

Union President Mark Dekle called the move “monumental” and “unprecedented.” The City Council agreed, and Tuesday night council members gave police officers a round of applause as they voted to accept a new three-year contract, commencing next October.

“The officers and supervisors did this with the knowledge that many of them will incur an increase” in health-care costs in the coming months, Dekle noted.

Temple Terrace Police Chief Kenneth Albano said the negotiation process established “a new spirit of trust and cooperation” between the police union and City officials.

“There was give and take on both sides,” Albano said. “I really want to commend the city manager and council members. Their support was essential in getting this done.”

Mayor Joe Affronti thanked union members during Tuesday night’s council meeting, saying, “We really appreciate what you’ve done. It means a lot to our City.”

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