



CITY OF LAWRENCE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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DANIEL RIVERA
MAYOR & CEO

PRESS RELEASE

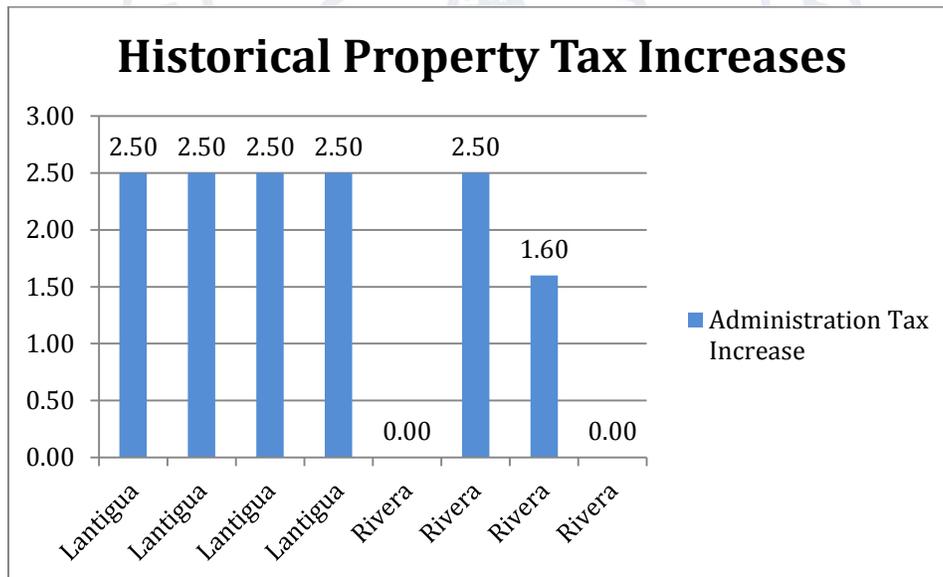
For Immediate Release

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**0% Tax Increase Proposed in Lawrence
Mayor Submits 4th Balanced Budget**

May 16, 2017, Lawrence, MA- Mayor Daniel Rivera announces the submission of his Fiscal Year 2018 budget. This is the Mayor’s fourth budget submission in his time as Mayor. “This budget continues my administration’s focus on making our city safer, bringing jobs to our community and supporting the turnaround effort in our schools,” said Mayor Daniel Rivera. “This is a bare bones budget that keeps with our values and doesn’t raise taxes on our taxpayers.”

First and foremost, the FY18 budget was submitted with **no increase in property taxes**.



Some more insight into the FY18 budget:

Police:

- It will fund 12 added police officers, bringing the total number of officers hired since Mayor Rivera took office to 23 net new police officers, and bringing the total number of officers on our police force to 145.

- Funding of two new civilian positions—a Director and Coordinator of Community Policing Liaison to support the Police Chief and the Mayor in Community Policing efforts. The two positions will focus the department’s efforts in dealing with missing and exploited children, domestic violence, community interactions and customer service.

Fire:

- Received a Federal SAFER grant that allowed the Mayor to hire 7 new firefighters. The FY18 budget maintains those 7 officers and funds the department with 124 sworn firefighters.
- Continued funding for the newly re-opened Bailey Street Fire Station, Engine 9 and the relocation of the fire prevention office to the Ames Street Fire Station.

Schools:

- 4th year in a row meeting required net school spending.
- Additional \$2.1M added to budget, not including an additional appropriation order for \$2.5M. If passed, we will have met net school spending, met required increase for transportation, met our increased leasing responsibility, increased our commitment to repairing our school building and infrastructure and helped fill some of the department’s budget gaps—all while keeping the School Department from laying off any staff.
- Fully funds the Adult Learning Center, which houses the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program in the city.

Collective Bargaining:

- The FY18 Budget funds many collective bargaining agreements signed by the previous administration as well as the six new collective bargaining agreements that have been settled during Mayor Rivera’s time in office.

Quality of Life Positions:

- Investments in long standing issues in the city that focuses on quality of life—positions included: Homeless Coordinator, Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, and new Clerks to support the Recreation Department, the Disability Commission and the Human Rights Commission.
- Continued additional support of the Bellevue Cemetery.

At the suggestion of the city’s overseer, the Mayor has funded the debt service year-over-year so as to be able to fund the FY2018 Capital Improvement Plan, which will go before the City Council in the near future.

“I look forward to working with the City Council to get this budget passed by June 30th, 2017,” said Mayor Daniel Rivera.

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