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POLITICAL AWARENESS

Councilman Held Community Forum, First to Discuss Budget

KANSAS CITY – City Councilman Troy Nash hosted a community forum on Saturday, January 18th at the Gregg Community Center, 1600 East 17th Terrace, offering constituents an opportunity to be informed of and voice their thoughts on the City's current \$15.8 million budget deficit.

Over 200 citizens representing all parts of the metropolitan area came to participate in the first of a series of seminars that will address Kansas City's budget and economy. The meeting, moved from a meeting room to the center's gymnasium due to the overflowing crowd, opened with a presentation on the status of the city's finances by Mr. Troy Schulte, Senior Analyst of the City's Finance Department. The presentation was

followed by a discussion on various budget issues that included charging citizens for trash pick-up, closing community centers, cutting from health-care centers, and eliminating or reducing overtime and pay raises.

"The overwhelming response to this meeting reaffirms my belief that we, the City Council, are not only affecting the bottom line, but communities, neighborhoods, families and individuals. That is why I will continue to hold these forums, to hear their voices, to make the right choices," said Nash.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd at noon at the Gregg Community Center, 1600 East 17th Terrace.