



September 28, 2022

**STATEMENT ON THE CITY OF FORT WORTH FY23 BUDGET
AND PROPERTY TAX RATE**

Yesterday, I made a bold move at the Fort Worth City Council meeting and motioned to LOWER THE PROPERTY TAX RATE which would have provided more property tax relief to YOU, the taxpayers of Fort Worth. That motion eventually failed with only me voting in favor. The FY23 budget then eventually passed with my vote AGAINST it being one of only two. I voted AGAINST the two subsequent votes for the property tax rate of 71.25 cents per \$100 (lower than the current 73.25 cents per \$100), because that effectively means YOU WILL BE PAYING MORE IN PROPERTY TAXES.

When I took office as your District 3 City Councilman, I committed to you – the taxpaying citizens of Fort Worth – to do what I could to provide an efficient, effective and transparent government. While I believe there are some great programs and services in the new city budget – many of which I have been fighting for since day one such as more Police and Fire and a revamped development services/permitting system – I have also been working with and around government budgets for 30+ years. That experience has given me insight that there is always room for additional cuts which do not affect essential city services. The fat is there, you just have to be willing to call it what it is and have the desire for a smaller, more efficient government.

My words from the council dais included that my belief in our council, management and staff meant I know we could work together to find the \$18 million (from a \$2.3 BILLION budget) in cuts which would have provided a further 2 cent reduction in the tax rate. Meaning YOU – as a tax paying citizen of Fort Worth – would receive additional property tax relief. In this time of rising interest rates, inflation and uncertain capital markets, I did not think it prudent to raise your property taxes. I've also heard from many of you that your property taxes continue to soar and you fear that you will one day be priced out of your home because you cannot pay your property taxes. This does not sit well with me at all.

There is no doubt that Fort Worth is growing and there are needs which should be addressed across the city. However, the correct balance must be struck so as a taxpaying citizen you still get the services you deserve, but also are not taxed out of your home. Thank you for this honor to serve on the Fort Worth City Council. I will continue to fight on your behalf against wasteful government spending and holding city management and staff accountable. You deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Crain

MICHAEL D. CRAIN
CITY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 3