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*Done by
Stonham
Janice
12/15/08*

Bernard F. Lynch
City Manager

TO: Mayor Edward "Bud" Caulfield
And
Members of the Lowell City Council

FROM: Bernard F. Lynch, City Manager 

DATE: December 5, 2008

RE: **CC MOTION OF 11-25-08 BY COUNCILOR RITA MERCIER
"REQUEST THAT THE MANAGER PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE
RESTRUCTURING OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND INSPEC-
TIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT."**

I write in regards to the above-mentioned motion. As Councilors are no doubt aware the City, Commonwealth, nation, and the world are in the deepest financial crisis since the Great Depression. This financial crisis is stressing the delivery of basic services that we have all taken for granted. The City did not enter the financial crisis in a strong financial position which makes dealing with the crisis even more challenging.

The FY2009 budget that I submitted to the Council and which was adopted by a unanimous vote laid out the prospect of restructuring City departments and functions. The budget overview reads: "The Administration continues to look at restructuring departments and functions in order to streamline operations, become more efficient, improve service, and reduce costs. The Administration is confident that restructuring will improve efficiencies and save money over time." This was written before the gravity of the financial crisis was known.

The financial crisis makes it incumbent on the Administration to explore all opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and to deliver better service at lower cost to the taxpayer. To this end the Administration is exploring restructuring and efficiency improvements throughout the City government. A reorganization of Health and Inspectional Services is not imminent and is simply one of several we are evaluating.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you.