



# News Release

Date: February 13, 2009  
To: All Media  
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**Re: NHC Response to Financial Crisis**

(New Hanover County)— New Hanover County Manager Bruce Shell announced plans today to address the financial crisis affecting families, businesses and local governments nationwide. In addition to budget cuts that have been taking place throughout the current fiscal year, Shell announced additional measures ranging from an early retirement incentive plan to mandatory furloughs throughout county government.

While the plan does hold the possibility for an involuntary reduction in force, the extent of such a measure will be influenced by the number of employees participating in the early retirement option. In an effort to reduce the number of involuntary terminations which may be required, the following early retirement incentives will be offered. The early retirement plan is completely voluntary.

Should an involuntary reduction in force be needed, any regular employee who is separated from county employment will be eligible for up to 240 hours of severance pay.

In addition to the early retirement, Shell announced the closing of non-emergency county operations on Monday, April 13 and Friday, May 22. Non-emergency personnel will not be paid for those two days. All employees will take a minimum of 40 hours of unpaid time before June 15. Employees will work with their supervisors to ensure service to citizens remain at its current level.

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