Ways to Cut the Metro's Million Deficit

by Nancy Dermitzel

1. Stop allowing Metro employees to take any vehicles home. This excludes Directors (many vehicles are being used for personal travel);
2. Limit mileage on such vehicles for Directors and heads of departments;
3. Prohibit the use of any vehicle owned by the Metro for personal use;
4. Direct all employees that when they are using Metro vehicles not to sit with the motor running for 15, 30, 45, 60 minutes or longer while they wait for some of their crew to perform a job or while they wait for the day to end;
5. Turn off most of the lights in all government buildings at night. Hall lights in Metro buildings could be left on. (Currently many facilities have lights that are on long after meetings, cleaning, and closing.) Use energy-saving bulbs throughout Metro government;
6. Cut back on all of the lights around the City Hall building and the courthouse at 6th and Jefferson during Christmas and New Year's. There's no ~~need for the number of~~ lights ~~being~~ operated ~~or the length of time they are left on~~ past Christmas. The original reason why we Lit Up Louisville has passed because the emphasis to attract shoppers downtown is no longer ~~a need~~. Most stores are closed and have been replaced by clubs;
7. Refrain from purchasing any more decorative and expensive globe lights on post as installed at 4th and Broadway in the area by the Brown Hotel. They cost $50,000 each and some 6-10 were purchased;
8. Landscaping is wonderful but let's stop placing trees near bus stops which poses a safety threat as persons try to get on and off buses
9. Let's stop doing the beautification projects the Metro does near Derby time. Crews install flowers and greenery along Broadway and in other downtown areas, only to be left in place for only about two weeks. After Derby these plants are moved. As a taxpayer, I ask, "What is the cost of these plants and what happens to them after they are removed by city workers after Derby?" Wouldn't it be cheaper to plant perennials in the large containers and let them grow on their own? After all, don't people along Broadway deserve to have beautiful flowers in their areas of town?
10. Review all contracts that have been given to the same businesses year after year without any competitive bids. Shouldn't the Metro strive to be fiscally accountable as well as fiscally responsible?
11. Stop hiring back retired Department heads and giving them the same hefty salaries or larger ones. Instead, why not promote younger folks from within these Departments?
12. Stop all Departments from removing the lower-level staff under the pretense of cutting costs and instead reduce all salaries at the management level by two percent. Let's stop hiring friends and kin at hefty salaries in new capacities and in top positions.

Let's Place taxes on hotels & motels as well as sporting and entertainment events.