

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS  
TROY, MICHIGAN  
MAYOR ETHAN BAKER  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022 AT 6:00PM**

THANK YOU, TARA, FOR YOUR EXTREMELY WARM AND GENEROUS INTRODUCTION THIS EVENING. SOMEDAY I HOPE I HAVE THE CHANCE TO INTRODUCE YOU, SO I HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE YOU AND YOUR LEADERSHIP OF THE TROY CHAMBER, AND OF COURSE, YOUR FRIENDSHIP.

AND ALAN! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WELCOMING US ALL HERE TO THE BEAUTIFUL AND AMAZING COLUMBIA CENTER! CAN I GET ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THIS GORGEOUS PROPERTY RIGHT HERE IN THE HEART OF TROY?! [APPLAUSE] WHEN I WAS SCOUTING LOCATIONS TO DO THIS YEAR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS, MY HEART AND MIND IMMEDIATELY WENT RIGHT HERE TO THE COLUMBIA CENTER. IT WAS THE DEAD OF WINTER, AND YET IT WAS STILL BEAUTIFUL, AND I KNEW IT WOULD EXCEED EVEN MY WILDEST EXPECTATIONS BY THE TIME MID-MAY ROLLED AROUND. WELL, HERE WE ARE, IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR BIG BEAVER CORRIDOR, AND I WAS RIGHT—ALAN, ALL OF YOUR TEAM HERE HAS MADE THIS A TRULY BEAUTIFUL AND SPECTACULAR LOCATION FOR THE 2022 TROY STATE OF THE CITY AND WE COULDN'T BE MORE GRATEFUL, AND FRANKLY IMPRESSED!

BACK IN FEBRUARY, I SHEEPISHLY WENT TO ALAN, WHO WEARS MANY HATS—THE HEAD OF KIRCO, THE OWNER OF THE COLUMBIA CENTER, OUR TROY DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CHAIR – AND OF COURSE SO MANY OTHER THINGS! – AND ASKED IF HE WOULD BE OPEN TO HOSTING US HERE THIS YEAR. IN TRUE ALAN FORM, HE JUMPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE CITY OF TROY IN ANY WAY, AND WAS QUICK TO START GIVING ME IDEAS. I'M NOT KIDDING, WITHIN 24 HOURS, ALAN WAS EMAILING ME CRITIQUES OF MAYOR MIKE DUGGAN'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS, AND PROVIDING ME WITH AMAZING INPUT ON HOW TO MAKE TONIGHT A SUCCESS. ALAN CARES DEEPLY ABOUT OUR CITY AND CONTINUES TO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND IN HIS PUBLIC SERVICE HERE. IN FACT, BECAUSE OF ALAN'S GENEROSITY, AFTER OUR ADDRESS HERE THIS EVENING, ALAN IS SPONSORING AN AFTERGLOW RIGHT BEHIND YOU IN THE PLAZA. STONEY RIVER WILL BE SERVING STEAK ROLLS AND DEVEILED EGG APPETIZERS AND

THE SIDECAR PONEY BAR WILL BE SERVING RED AND WHITE WINE, AND FLAVOR INFUSED WATERS. SO PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS AFTERGLOW HERE IN A LITTLE BIT, AND IF YOU SEE ALAN LATER THIS EVENING, PLEASE THANK HIM FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND FOR GRACIOUSLY OPENING UP THIS PHENOMENAL PROPERTY FOR OUR BENEFIT TONIGHT. BUT RIGHT NOW, PLEASE JOIN ME IN GIVING ALAN A WELL-DESERVED ROUND OF APPLAUSE. [APPLAUSE]

LAST YEAR, I BROUGHT THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS BACK AFTER A **SEVEN YEAR HIATUS**. AS A RESULT, I FELT COMPELLED TO BRING EVERYONE UP TO SPEED ON WHAT YOU HAD MISSED IN SEVEN YEARS! THERE WAS A LOT OF LOOKING BACK, AND A LOT OF INTRODUCING AND RE-INTRODUCING OF CITY STAFF, CITY STAKEHOLDERS, AND A TRUE FOCUS ON GETTING US CAUGHT UP. SOME SAY, IT MAY HAVE GONE A LITTLE LONG; AFTER ALL, I WASN'T NICKNAMED "**MAYOR McWORDY**" FOR NOTHING! IN FACT, COME TO FIND OUT, SOME IN CITY HALL THOUGHT MAYBE I COVERED ENOUGH LAST YEAR TO LAST US ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS! BUT, NO SUCH LUCK! WE'RE BACK AND WE'VE GOT AN EXCITING PROGRAM HERE FOR YOU TONIGHT. ONE THAT FOCUSES **MORE** ON TROY TODAY AND TROY TOMORROW, AND **LESS** ON YESTERDAY **BECAUSE WE ARE FINALLY IN A PLACE WE CAN DO THAT!** AND TONIGHT, WE'VE UPPED OUR GAME. WE'VE ADDED VIDEOS AND EVEN A LIVE MUSICAL PERFORMANCE!

SO, LET'S GET STARTED WITH SOME INTRODUCTIONS! **[CUE VIDEO 1 - CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCTION]**

WELL, AFTER THAT, SOME OF YOU PROBABLY THINK I'M NUTS, AND SOME OF YOU PROBABLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT WAS EVEN ABOUT, BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT—THAT WAS KINDA COOL, RIGHT?! AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T GO VIRAL FOR BEING TOO CRINGEY, I'LL CALL IT A WIN!! THE REALITY IS, WE'RE NOT AS DRAMATIC AS THE WEST WING, BUT WE DEFINITELY CARE ABOUT PUBLIC SERVICE AS MUCH AS THEY DID!

**EDNA, THERESA, REBECCA, ANN, DAVID, ELLEN, AND MARK**, PLEASE STAND AND SAY HELLO!  
[APPLAUSE]

I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE ALSO INCLUDED ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER **BOB BRUNER**, BUT IF YOU'VE SEEN ENCANTO, YOU KNOW---WE DON'T TALK ABOUT BRUNER! NEVER THE LESS, BOB, PLEASE STAND AND SAY HELLO ALSO! [APPLAUSE]

TONIGHT, THROUGHOUT THIS PROGRAM, YOU WILL SEE VIDEO CLIPS FROM EACH OF OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS. I ASKED THEM A SERIES OF QUESTIONS AND HAD THEM PROVIDE AN ANSWER FOR EACH—NOT KNOWING WHICH ANSWER WOULD BE ULTIMATELY CHOSEN. LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT IT WOULD BE SO DIFFICULT TO PICK WHICH VIDEOS TO PLAY! IT REMINDED ME, AGAIN, OF THE STRENGTHS OF EACH OF THEM AND ALL THEY BRING TO THE COUNCIL TABLE AND CITY.

EVERY ONE OF THEM SPOKE ABOUT OUR AMAZING CITY STAFF AND EMPLOYEES IN EVERY DEPARTMENT. THIS HERE FROM COUNCILMAN HAMILTON SUMS IT UP NICELY: **[CUE VIDEO 2: COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID HAMILTON - INNER WORKINGS OF TROY/STAFF]**

WE HAVE SEVERAL CITY EMPLOYEES IN ATTENDANCE TONIGHT. TROY POLICE CHIEF FRANK NASTASI, NEW TROY FIRE CHIEF PETE HULLINGER, ROB MALESZYK, AILEEN DICKSON, KURT BOVENSIEP, MARK ADAMS, CINDY STEWART, DENNIS TRANTHAM, JEANETTE MENIG, PHILIP KWIK, ALEX BELLAK, DEE ANN IRBY, KELLY TIM.

IF YOU ARE AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY OF TROY, PLEASE STAND UP SO THAT WE CAN APPLAUD YOU AND THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO MAKE TROY THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY! [APPLAUSE]

WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CITY EMPLOYEES, PLEASE HELP ME GIVE A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, CINDY STEWART. CINDY'S SKILLS ARE ON FULL DISPLAY THIS EVENING, AND SHE'S ALWAYS THERE WHEN I NEED HER! THANK YOU, CINDY! [APPLAUSE]

I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE OUR VERY TALENTED CITY CLERK, AILEEN DICKSON. AILEEN HAS WON NUMEROUS AWARDS THROUGHOUT HER TENURE, BUT I AM EXCITED TO SHARE

THIS EVENING THAT SHE HAS JUST RECENTLY WON THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERK'S CLERK OF THE YEAR! [APPLAUSE]

AILEEN IS A RESPECTED CITY CLERK, BOTH IN HER COMMUNITY AND THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN. SOMETHING TO NOTE THAT REALLY MAKES HER SPECIAL, THAT SOME MAY NOT KNOW, IS THAT SHE MAKES HERSELF AVAILABLE AS A RESOURCE FOR **NEW CLERKS AND PEERS FACING CHALLENGES** SHE HAS EXPERIENCE WITH, AND BEST FIELD PRACTICES.

I CAN PERSONALLY ATTEST TO AILEEN'S FOCUS ON MAKING SURE OUR ELECTIONS IN TROY ARE SAFE AND SECURE, AND I LOVE WATCHING HER LIGHT UP EACH TIME SHE HAS A NEW VOTER EDUCATION INITIATIVE. WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE HER!

PLEASE HELP ME CELEBRATE OUR AMAZING CITY CLERK, AND THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERK'S CLERK OF THE YEAR! [APPLAUSE]

WE ARE ALSO FORTUNATE TO HAVE MANY ELECTED OFFICIALS HERE THIS EVENING. WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, PLEASE STAND AND WAVE SO WE CAN APPLAUD YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE TO OUR GREAT CITY. COUNTY COMMISSIONER TOM KUHN, COUNTY COMMISSIONER PENNY LUEBS, JUDGE KIRSTEN NIELSEN HARTIG, JUDGE MAUREEN MCGINNIS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEN. PETERS' OFFICE, CONGRESSWOMAN HALEY STEVENS' OFFICE, SEN. MALLORY MCMORROW'S OFFICE, AND REP. PADMA KUPPA'S OFFICE.

AS I THINK ALL OF US ARE FULLY AWARE, THIS YEAR IS AN ELECTION YEAR FOR OUR FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY OFFICEHOLDERS. AS SUCH, WE HAVE A LOT OF CANDIDATES IN THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT. I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU THEY ARE ALL HERE JUST TO HEAR ME, BUT WE KNOW THEY ARE HERE BECAUSE TROY IS A CAMPAIGN BATTLEGROUND. **AND THAT'S A GOOD THING. TROY HAS BEEN RED. TROY HAS BEEN BLUE. BUT MOST OF THE TIME THE HEART AND SOUL OF OUR CITY IS PURPLE.** AND HERE IS MY WORD OF ADVICE TO THOSE CANDIDATES, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH. **DON'T TAKE TROY VOTERS FOR GRANTED!** TROY VOTERS ARE SMART, THEY ARE ENGAGED, AND THEY DON'T LIKE POLITICAL GIMMICKS AND TYPICAL ELECTIONEERING. **FOCUS ON YOUR STRENGTHS** AND YOU WILL HAVE GOOD LUCK THIS AUGUST AND NOVEMBER. WE'LL BE READY TO WORK WITH YOU WHEN YOU'RE SWORN IN—BECAUSE WE **VALUE** OUR

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND KNOW THE CITY OF TROY BENEFITS WHEN WE ALL WORK TOGETHER.

-----

AS WE ARE COMING OUT OF THE COVID ERA, WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE. WE KNOW THAT OUR LANDSCAPE LOOKS DIFFERENT THAN IT DID PRIOR TO COVID AND YET THE BONES OF TROY REMAIN WHAT THEY ARE AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN. WE ARE STILL KNOWN FOR OUR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY PARKS, AND RECREATION. OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY **IS THE LEADER** OF THE **COUNTY AND REGION**, AND WITH MORE THAN 6,000 BUSINESSES, LARGE, SMALL, AND ALL SIZES IN BETWEEN, WE CONTINUE TO BE AN ECONOMIC DRIVER IN THE COUNTY, REGION, AND STATE.

AND YET, WE STILL HAVE BIG PLANS FOR THE CITY OF TROY. AND THESE PLANS TAKE VISION, LEADERSHIP, AND BEING STEADFAST, EVEN IF THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT SEEMS EASIER TO RETREAT OR GIVE UP, OR EVEN JUST “COAST”. WE’VE LEARNED THAT TOO MUCH CHANGE, TOO FAST, CAN ALSO DO A LOT OF DAMAGE TO OUR COMMUNITY. IT’S THAT BALANCING ACT BETWEEN PROGRESS AND EVOLUTION, AND KEEPING TROY THE COMMUNITY OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES LOVE AND CHERISH THAT IS PROBABLY THE MOST DIFFICULT THING WE FACE WHEN PLANNING FOR THE LONG-TERM.

TROY HAS MOST DEFINITELY EVOLVED. A COUPLE OF OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE “TROY LIFERS” AND HAVE WITNESSED THIS EVOLUTION FIRSTHAND. COUNCILWOMAN ABRAHIM HAD THIS TO SAY: **[CUE VIDEO 3: COUNCIL MEMBER EDNA ABRAHIM – THE EVOLUTION OF TROY]**

ONE AREA OF OUR CITY THAT HAS EVOLVED, PROBABLY THE MOST, IS OUR BIG BEAVER CORRIDOR, AND THE TROY DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DISTRICT—OUR DDA— THAT RUNS FROM JUST WEST OF COOLIDGE TO JUST EAST OF ROCHESTER ROAD.

I AM IN **FREQUENT CONTACT** WITH **NATE FORBES AND STANLEY FRANKEL**, THE PRINCIPALS WHO OWN AND OPERATE THE **SOMERSET COLLECTION**. AS AN ASIDE, YES, **I THINK WE MIGHT**

**ACTUALLY HAVE SOME MOVEMENT ON THE KMART PROPERTY THIS YEAR, SO CROSS YOUR FINGERS AND HOLD YOUR BREATH!**

IN ONE OF MY RECENT MEETINGS WITH STANLEY FRANKEL, HE SHARED AN IMPORTANT STORY THAT GOES BACK TO THE BIG BEAVER OF THE 1960s. AS STANLEY'S FATHER, SAM, WAS BUILDING SAK'S 5<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, AND EVENTUALLY WORKING TO DEVELOP WHAT IS NOW THE SOUTH SIDE AT SOMERSET, HE WOULD FREQUENTLY HAVE TO BRING INVESTORS AND RETAILERS TO THE SITE. REMEMBER, IN THE 1960s, BIG BEAVER ROAD WASN'T YET GOLDEN, IT WASN'T YET A CORRIDOR, AND EAST OF COOLIDGE IT WAS PRETTY MUCH SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES AND FARMLAND. SO SAM FRANKEL, KNOWING THAT THE RURAL LOOK AT FEEL OF 1960s BIG BEAVER WOULD SPOOK POTENTIAL INVESTORS AND RETAILERS, ALWAYS APPROACHED TROY THROUGH BIRMINGHAM AND BLOOMFIELD HILLS. HE'D SAY: "OH, WE CAN'T GO ON BIG BEAVER FROM THE EAST—THERE'S JUST TOO MUCH DEVELOPMENT!"

SIXTY YEARS LATER, HERE WE ARE WITH OUR GOLDEN CORRIDOR AND **PERHAPS THE BEST COMMERCIAL DISTRICT IN ALL OF MICHIGAN! SAM FRANKEL'S FIB THEN, HELPED BUILD US INTO WHAT WE ARE TODAY!**

STANLEY IS ALSO QUICK TO REMIND ME THAT WHEN SAK'S FIFTH AVENUE HAD THEIR GRAND OPENING GALA IN 1967, THERE WERE LITERALLY COWS LOWING ACROSS THE STREET! I'VE OFTEN HEARD FORMER MAYOR JEANNE STINE TALK ABOUT HEARING THOSE SAME COWS WHEN SHE AND JACK MOVED INTO THEIR HOME ON BOULAN. RIGHT, JEANNE? LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, HOW ABOUT A WARM ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR OUR **MAYOR EMERITUS JEANNE STINE!** [APPLAUSE]

WE'RE GOING TO TALK MORE ABOUT JEANNE IN A LITTLE BIT, SO LET'S GET BACK TO THE DDA AND BIG BEAVER'S EVOLUTION.

WE ARE NOW UNDERTAKING THE RE-IMAGINING OF OUR DDA AND SURROUNDING BIG BEAVER CORRIDOR. WE ARE SEVERAL MONTHS INTO A DESIGN PROJECT TO UPDATE THE LANDSCAPING IN OUR DDA DISTRICT, AND FINDING WAYS TO RESPECT THE GLORY OF THE BIG BEAVER CORRIDOR PAST, BUT ALSO PREPARING TO TAKE IT INTO THE FUTURE! WE ARE LOOKING AT LANDSCAPE—THE TREES, THE SHRUBS, THE FLOWERS—AND ALSO THE HARDSCAPE. WE WILL

PHASE THIS PROJECT AND WORK TO ENHANCE THE PLACEMAKING OF OUR CITY, ALL THE WHILE MAKING THAT **GOLDEN CORRIDOR SHINE!**

THIS REDESIGN PROCESS IS BEING LED BY OHM ADVISORS, WHO JOIN US THIS EVENING, AND I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY IMPRESSED WITH THE AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT THEY HAVE UNDERTAKEN. ONE OF MY **FAVORITE** COMMENTS COMING OUT OF THAT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, ACTUALLY COMES FROM ONE OF OUR HOSTS THIS EVENING. **MATT KIRILUK** SAID SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF: “**FOCUS ON ATTRACTING PEOPLE, AND THAT IN TURN WILL ATTRACT BUSINESSES.**” I LOVE IT! IT’S **PEOPLE** FOCUSED AND IT WAS A BRILLIANT STATEMENT.

AS THE LANDSCAPE OF THE **BIG BEAVER CORRIDOR** EVOLVES, WE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO ENHANCE OTHER PARTS OF OUR CITY, MIMICKING THE DESIGN CHOICES MADE IN THE **DDA** AND PROVIDING A BEAUTIFUL CONTINUITY THROUGHOUT TROY. **BEAUTIFICATION** AND **PLACEMAKING** ARE NOT JUST FOR THE CURRENT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES. THEY ARE ESSENTIAL IN ORDER ATTRACT PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME. WE WANT THEM TO CHOOSE TROY AND WE’RE TAKING STEPS TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO SO!

**AND WE’RE OFF TO A GREAT START!** 2020 CENSUS NUMBERS SHOWED SOMETHING AMAZING. WHILE OVERALL POPULATION GROWTH IN MICHIGAN IS DOWN, **THE CITY OF TROY POPULATION IS UP!** WE’VE ADDED RESIDENTS, AND AT A LEVEL HIGHER THAN MOST OTHER SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES. AND I KNOW WHY. YES OUR **PUBLIC SAFETY, INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND LOCATION** ARE A DRAW—IN FACT, THOSE VERY THINGS DREW MANY OF US HERE, ME INCLUDED, AT SOME POINT IN THE CITY’S HISTORY. BUT IT’S MORE THAN JUST THE CORE CITY WE ARE. IT IS ABOUT OUR EVOLUTION AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE. WE ARE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING AND HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. WE ARE FOCUSING ON PROVIDING A BETTER **QUALITY OF LIFE** FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND THAT WILL **ALWAYS** ATTRACT PEOPLE.

YOU CAN SEE HOW WE ARE EVOLVING AND PLANNING WITH OUR APPROVED BUDGET. EACH YEAR, OUR CITY’S PRIORITIES ARE BEST FOUND IN THE BUDGET AND ON **MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**, COUNCIL APPROVED THE **FISCAL YEAR 2022/23 ANNUAL BUDGET** AND THREE-YEAR PROJECTION.

THE 2022/2023 BUDGET INCLUDES A TOTAL BUDGET OF \$198.1 MILLION BETWEEN ALL FUNDS, WITH \$67.2 MILLION IN THE GENERAL FUND, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR SERVICES TO RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES. SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26.9 MILLION INCLUDE MAJOR AND LOCAL ROAD MAINTENANCE, REFUSE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL, AND RECYCLING ACTIVITIES, AND LIBRARY OPERATIONS.

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS TOTAL MORE THAN \$34.3 MILLION—A HUGE RE-INVESTMENT IN OUR CITY! THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND IS GREATLY IMPACTED BY THE OVER \$13 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING THE CITY IS RECEIVING FROM VARIOUS FEDERAL PROGRAMS. THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA), WITH FUNDING OF \$8.2 MILLION, WILL ALLOW US TO HELP FUND OUR CURRENT CAPITAL PLAN AND TO ENHANCE OUR CIVIC CENTER AREA. THE ARPA FUNDS WILL FUND OUR INDUSTRIAL STREETS WITH \$2.3 MILLION, PURCHASE A FIRE TRUCK FOR \$1.4 MILLION, AND WILL PRIMARILY FUND THE STINE COMMUNITY PARK PAVILION PROJECT WITH \$4.5 MILLION, WHICH I WILL DISCUSS HERE IN A LITTLE BIT. THE MAJORITY OF THE REMAINING FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BE FOR THE EXPANSION OF ROCHESTER ROAD WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR BETTER TRAVEL AND EXPERIENCES FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS ALIKE.

THIS BUDGET MAINTAINS THE PRIORITIES OF CITY COUNCIL, WHICH REPRESENT THE PRIORITIES OF OUR CONSTITUENTS, THROUGH SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS IN WHAT MATTERS MOST TO OUR COMMUNITY: \$12.8 MILLION FOR INVESTMENT IN THE MAJOR AND LOCAL STREETS WE USE EVERY DAY, INCLUDING AN ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION CONTRIBUTION FROM THE GENERAL FUND. \$8 MILLION FOR CONTINUING THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CITY PARKS, TRAILS, AND PATHWAYS. \$4.0 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY CENTER THAT SERVES THE MORE THAN 87,000 RESIDENTS OF TROY. \$4.3 MILLION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENSURE THAT OUR FIRST RESPONDERS ARE AVAILABLE, TRAINED, AND EQUIPPED TO HANDLE ANY SITUATION.

WE CONTINUE TO ADDRESS STAFFING LEVELS THROUGHOUT OUR CITY GOVERNMENT.

**REMEMBER DURING THE GREAT RECESSION, THE CITY CUT 1/3 OF ITS EMPLOYEE WORKFORCE.** AND VERY FEW OF THOSE JOBS HAVE BEEN REPLENISHED. WHILE THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR HOW LEAN WE HAVE RUN OUR CITY STAFF, WITH SUCH GREAT EFFECTIVENESS FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS, WE KNOW IT IS NOT SUSTAINABLE AND IT **MUST BE ADDRESSED.** THIS NEXT



FISCAL YEAR, WE WILL SEE AN ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEE IN OUR PLANNING DEPARTMENT, AND CHANGES IN OUR BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

CITY HALL WILL ALSO SEE THE ADDITION OF A NEW COMMUNICATIONS TEAM MEMBER AND THIS NEW PERSON WILL TIE TOGETHER THE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES OF OUR VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS AND HELP US HAVE A UNIFIED CITY VOICE. THIS NEW POSITION WILL ALSO FOCUS ON ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND WORKING TO ENSURE ALL VOICES ARE HEARD AND REPRESENTED IN OUR CITY, WHICH IS A CONTINUATION OF THE WORK WE HAVE BEEN DOING ON COUNCIL. WITH OUR NEW COMMUNICATIONS STRUCTURE, I COMMIT TO PUSHING FOR A NECESSARY PR CAMPAIGN FOR THE CITY OF TROY, ENSURING WE CONTINUE TO BE A PLAYER IN THE REGION ON ALL LEVELS, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGEMENT TO CHART A COURSE THAT MAKES SENSE FOR TROY TODAY, TROY TOMORROW, AND TROY IN THE FUTURE.

ADDITIONALLY, WE WILL ADD POSITIONS IN OUR ESTEEMED POLICE DEPARTMENT, WHICH INCLUDE TWO ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS, ONE POLICE CAPTAIN FOR SUCCESSION PLANNING, AND TWO ADDITIONAL CIVILIAN POSITIONS FOR INCREASED SERVICE LOADS. WE CONTINUE TO INVEST IN OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE WE KNOW THEY NEED OUR SUPPORT AND OUR CITY IS PROUD OF ITS HEAVY FOCUS AND INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SAFETY. OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. THIS PAST OCTOBER THEY IMPLEMENTED THEIR NEW BODY WORN CAMERAS TO GREAT SUCCESS AND ARE CURRENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF HIRING A SOCIAL WORKER—SOMETHING WE ARE ALL VERY SUPPORTIVE OF, AS WE KNOW MENTAL HEALTH PLAYS A ROLE IN EVERY ASPECT OF OUR POLICE WORK. IT'S NOT AN EASY TIME TO BE A POLICE OFFICER, BUT HERE IN TROY WE LOVE OUR TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICERS. PLEASE JOIN ME IN GIVING THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE AND LET THEM KNOW HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THEM! [APPLAUSE]

WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE MIDDLE OF NATIONAL POLICE MEMORIAL WEEK. TOMORROW MORNING WE MEET OUTSIDE OF THE TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 10:00AM FOR THE POST-COVID RETURN OF OUR ANNUAL POLICE MEMORIAL CEREMONY. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND, AND I'M CERTAIN MANY OF YOU WILL BE THERE!

I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT HERE TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT OUR TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY IN GENERAL. NEXT MONTH IS GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH. IT ALMOST GOES WITHOUT SAYING — BUT I THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE — THAT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE IS TOP OF MIND FOR RESIDENTS, (GUN OWNERS AND NON-OWNERS ALIKE), FAITH LEADERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND POLITICAL LEADERS HERE IN TROY AND THROUGHOUT OUR REGION... **IMPORTANTLY, ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.** THIS CITY COUNCIL HAS SPOKEN TO THE IMPORTANCE OF GUN SAFETY, RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP, AND OUR SUPPORT FOR OUR OWN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THEIR PARTNERS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES, THE COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVEL. VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC HAVE BEEN PROCLAMATIONS AND COUNCIL COMMENTS. BEHIND THE SCENES, PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING AND WORK TO PREVENT VIOLENCE IS A CONTINUING PRIORITY. **IF YOU WONDER IF WE THINK THIS IS IMPORTANT, THE ANSWER IS MOST ASSUREDLY YES.**

---

AS YOU KNOW, PUBLIC SAFETY CONSISTENTLY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY OF OUR RESIDENTS IN SURVEYS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONVERSATIONS. OUR SWORN AND UNSWORN POLICE OFFICERS ARE A KEY PART OF THAT SAFETY, AND WE ALSO CAN NEVER FORGET OUR BELOVED FIRE DEPARTMENT. BETWEEN OUR FULL TIME FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFF AND OUR AWESOME VOLUNTEERS, WE HAVE THE LARGEST FIRE DEPARTMENT IN OAKLAND COUNTY. I MENTIONED WE HAVE A NEW FIRE CHIEF – CHIEF HULLINGER – WITH US THIS EVENING, AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, IT WAS VERY MOVING TO SEE MANY OF THE CHIEF’S BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM STATION 6 SNEAK INTO COUNCIL CHAMBERS A COUPLE WEEKS AGO TO WATCH HIS OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION VOTE. OUR FIREFIGHTERS ARE A FAMILY, AND THEY ARE OUR NEIGHBORS, EVENLY DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT OUR CITY, WITH CHILDREN IN OUR SCHOOLS, AND FULLY EXPERIENCING WHAT IT MEANS TO BOTH LIVE AND WORK IN TROY. WE ALSO ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS, **AND ON JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>,** WE WILL OFFICIALLY DEDICATE THE TROY FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL AT FIREFIGHTERS PARK—A BEAUTIFUL AND FITTING TRIBUTE.

OUR BUDGET REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN OUR CITY, AND THIS MAYOR AND COUNCIL ARE IN LOCKSTEP WITH GIVING THE RESOURCES OUR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS NEED TO CONTINUE TO SUCCEED AND KEEP US SAFE.

---

**I'M IN MY SEVENTH YEAR IN CITY GOVERNMENT** – THE FIRST FOUR YEARS I WAS A CITY COUNCILMAN, AND NOW I'M IN YEAR 3 OF BEING MAYOR. AS SUCH, THIS IS THE SEVENTH BUDGET I'VE APPROVED, EACH WITH A VARYING PROCESS TO GET THERE. WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE OUR CURRENT CFO, ROB MALESZYK, WHO WITH BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR EXPERIENCE DOES AN EXCELLENT JOB OF HONING IN ON THE IMPORTANT BUDGETARY ISSUES FOR US TO SEE.

WHILE OUR CITY'S FINANCES ARE IN GOOD SHAPE TODAY, AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND THE RE-INVESTMENT OUR CITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES WILL NEED TO KEEP US MARKETABLE AND THE QUALITY CITY WE ALL EXPECT, THERE ARE SOME EARLY WARNINGS SIGNS. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS KNOW THE ISSUES, BUT HERE IS THE BOTTOM LINE: WE HAVEN'T EVER FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE GREAT RECESSION. WE'VE MANAGED TO MAKE DO WITH CUTTING AND DEFERRING MAINTENANCE, BUT THE REALITY IS, WE DON'T HAVE THAT LUXURY MUCH LONGER.

AS A POINT OF REFERENCE, IN THE 2007/2008 BUDGET, THE CITY COLLECTED CLOSE TO \$37 MILLION IN GENERAL FUND TAXES. FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, WE ARE ESTIMATING WE WILL COLLECT ABOUT \$38 MILLION IN GENERAL FUND TAXES. SO IT'S TAKEN FIFTEEN YEARS TO RECOVER FROM THE GREAT RECESSION AND GET BACK TO THE SAME REAL DOLLARS WE COLLECTED IN TAXES IN 2007. BUT WAIT, THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE EQUATION. **HAS ANYONE HEARD OF SOMETHING CALLED INFLATION?** ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION, THAT \$37 MILLION FROM 2007 IS EQUIVALENT IN PURCHASING POWER TO ABOUT \$51,591,250.20 TODAY, AN INCREASE OF \$14,591,250.20 OVER 15 YEARS. SO IN REALITY, WE'RE COLLECTING ABOUT \$15M LESS THAN WE WERE IN 2007.

SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TODAY? IT MEANS WE HAVE TO BE VERY SMART AND **REALLY THINK ABOUT WHAT WE VALUE IN THIS COMMUNITY.** THE REALITY IS, WE HAVE CAPITAL NEEDS AND WE

HAVE OPERATIONAL NEEDS THAT ARE NOT GETTING MET WITH OUR CURRENT FINANCIAL STRUCTURE. AS SUCH, THIS COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGEMENT TEAM KNOWS PART OF OUR LONG RANGE PLANNING WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE FINANCIAL LEVEL. I AM CONFIDENT WE CAN DO IT THOUGH. AND WE'LL DO IT IN A WAY THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING PRINCIPLES—PRINCIPLES THAT WERE IMPLEMENTED LONG BEFORE ANY OF US WERE ON COUNCIL—AND ALSO WITH **TRANSPARENCY** SO THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS FULLY AWARE OF ALL OPTIONS, AND WILL HAVE THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS AT THE BALLOT BOX.

I SAY ALL THIS BECAUSE THESE ARE THE FACTS AND FIGURES WE ARE WORKING WITH AS WE PLAN FOR THE LONG TERM AND TROY'S FUTURE, AND I WANT OUR RESIDENTS TO BE WELL-INFORMED.

I'M ABLE TO TALK ABOUT OUR BUDGET AND SHARE THESE NUMBERS BECAUSE WE CONSISTENTLY WIN AWARDS FOR OUR BUDGETS AND BUDGETING PROCESS. IN FACT, YEAR AFTER YEAR, THE CITY OF TROY RECEIVES THE "TRIPLE CROWN" FROM THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION FOR BEING AWARDED THE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING, POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARD, AND THE DISTINGUISHED BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD. **IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING WE ARE ONLY ONE OF TWO MICHIGAN CITIES TO RECEIVE THE TRIPLE CROWN, AND FRANKLY, IT'S SOMETHING I'M VERY PROUD OF.**

LIKE I SAID, OUR BUDGET REFLECTS OUR PRIORITIES, AND THE BUDGET WE JUST APPROVED MOST DEFINITELY HIGHLIGHTS THOSE PRIORITIES WELL. MAYOR PRO TEM ERICKSON GAULT SUMS UP OUR PRIORITIES AND OUR GREAT CITY QUITE WELL. HERE SHE IS. **[CUE VIDEO 4 MAYOR PRO TEM ANN ERICKSON GAULT - WHY TROY IS GREAT]**

TONIGHT'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF TROY AND OUR TROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE PARTNERSHIP GOES FAR BEYOND TONIGHT. I AM IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH TARA, SHEILA, SIDNEY, SURAB, AND JODY, AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES WE HAVE IN TROY TODAY, AND WORK TO ATTRACT

EVEN MORE TOMORROW. LAST YEAR WE DID OVER **FIFTY RIBBON CUTTINGS** AND HELD NUMEROUS JOINT EVENTS, BOTH IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY. **BUT WE** ARE NOT THE IMPORTANT PART OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY—THE BUSINESSES ARE! AND I'D LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT A FEW OF THEM THIS EVENING.

WITH US TONIGHT IS **BOB CHAPA**, FROM **SIGNARAMA**. I'M VERY EXCITED THAT **SIGNARAMA** IS **QUADRUPLING** ITS FOOTPRINT IN TROY TO MORE THAN 80,000 SQUARE FEET THIS YEAR. THIS EXPANSION IN PHYSICAL SPACE CORRELATES TO **EXPANSION OF JOBS** AND I'M SO HAPPY FOR **BOB** AND HIS TEAM, AND ALSO SO HAPPY THEY ARE STAYING IN TROY! THANK YOU, **BOB!**  
[APPLAUSE]

ALSO WITH US THIS EVENING IS **MIKE WILLIAMS** FROM **CADILLAC PRODUCTS**. **CADILLAC PRODUCTS** HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR EIGHTY YEARS AND LAST YEAR WE CELEBRATED THEIR **PROTEC-USA** DIVISION WITH A RIBBON CUTTING AT THEIR AMAZING MANUFACTURING FACILITY WHERE 100% MADE IN THE USA PPE MEDICAL GOWNS WERE BEING PRODUCED—ALL FOR OUR CRITICAL FRONT-LINE WORKFORCE. IT WAS QUITE AN EVENT CELEBRATING AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS HERE IN TROY. **MIKE**, THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO TROY AND FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING TO KEEP OUR FRONT-LINE WORKERS SAFE! [APPLAUSE]

ONE OF FORMER COUNTY EXECUTIVE **BROOKS PATTERSON'S** BEST AND LASTING LEGACIES IS BASED RIGHT HERE IN TROY. **AUTOMATION ALLEY** IS TRULY UNIQUE. IT'S WORLD RENOWNED AND IT'S RIGHT DOWN THE STREET FROM US HERE. I AM EXTREMELY PROUD TO HAVE FORGED A RELATIONSHIP WITH CURRENT PRESIDENT **TOM KELLY**, AND WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE VICE PRESIDENT **CYNTHIA HUTCHINSON** JOIN US THIS EVENING! [APPLAUSE]

JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, PRESIDENT **BIDEN** ANNOUNCED THE **AM FORWARD** INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE BY PAIRING LARGE MANUFACTURERS WITH **US-BASED** SUPPLIERS TO HELP THEM MORE EXTENSIVELY USE **3D PRINTING** TECHNOLOGY. AND IN OUR VERY OWN BACKYARD, **AUTOMATION ALLEY** IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF THIS MOVEMENT. AS A GLOBAL INDUSTRY 4.0 KNOWLEDGE CENTER AND AN **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING HUB** TO THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, **AUTOMATION ALLEY** HELPS COMPANIES OF ALL SIZES NAVIGATE

THROUGH CHANGING TECHNOLOGIES TO ENSURE THEY STAY IN BUSINESS AND ACCELERATE THEIR JOURNEY TO INDUSTRY 4.0 SUCCESS.

AND ONE OF THE PROGRAMS WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE TODAY IS THEIR PROJECT DIAMOND, WHICH WAS BORN OUT OF THE PANDEMIC AND IS HELPING SMALL MANUFACTURERS GET EXCITED ABOUT AND EMBRACE 3D PRINTING. FRANKLY, EVERYONE LOVES TO TALK ABOUT IT, BUT WE GET TO SAY IT'S RIGHT HERE IN TROY THAT IT'S BEING IMPLEMENTED! PROJECT DIAMOND (WHICH STANDS FOR DIGITAL, INDEPENDENT, AGILE, MANUFACTURING ON DEMAND) WAS DRIVEN BY OAKLAND AND MACOMB COUNTIES IN 2020 THROUGH CARES ACT FUNDING TO ACCELERATE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND STRENGTHEN SUPPLY CHAINS FOR DEVELOPING PPE BY GIVING STATE-OF-THE-ART 3D PRINTERS TO SMALL MANUFACTURERS ACROSS THE REGION. PARTICIPATING MANUFACTURERS ARE USING THE 3D PRINTERS TO EXPAND THEIR PRODUCTION OF A VARIETY OF INDUSTRIAL PARTS AND PRODUCTS, BUT ALSO TO JOIN TOGETHER AND BEHAVE AS A HUGE TIER 1, ALL MAKING THE SAME PARTS, WHEN NEEDED, ULTIMATELY ENHANCING INDUSTRY 4.0 MANUFACTURING CAPABILITIES IN MICHIGAN AND THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. MOST RECENTLY, IN JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS, THEY PRINTED THOUSANDS OF TOURNIQUET PARTS TO HELP SAVE LIVES IN UKRAINE. TODAY, THE PROJECT DIAMOND COMMUNITY IS 300 MANUFACTURERS STRONG. THE LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE IS TO EXPAND PROJECT DIAMOND AND FACILITATE THE CREATION OF A SELF-GOVERNING, OPEN, AND SCALABLE MARKETPLACE OWNED BY ITS MEMBERS AND IMPLEMENTED USING THE DECENTRALIZED PRINCIPLES OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY POSITIONING OUR LOCAL MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY FOR CONTINUED AND ONGOING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

AUTOMATION ALLEY IS IMPACTING THE CITY OF TROY, OAKLAND COUNTY, THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, OUR ENTIRE COUNTRY, **AND THE WORLD!** [APPLAUSE]

HONESTLY, ALL OF OUR BUSINESSES HAVE SIMILAR STORIES OF IMPACT AND AWE, AND I WISH I COULD HIGHLIGHT AND SHARE ALL OF THEM WITH YOU! OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY PLAYS SUCH A LARGE ROLE IN MAKING TROY WHAT IT IS, AND WHAT IT WILL ALWAYS BE, SO THANK YOU!

ALONG THOSE SAME LINES, LAST FALL I WAS TALKING TO TARA AND I TOLD HER I WANTED TO DO SOMETHING TO FOCUS ON OUR TROY BUSINESSES. THIS, OF COURSE, WAS MUSIC TO TARA'S EARS AND LO AND BEHOLD, FOCUS TROY WAS BORN. WE'VE BEEN TOURING BUSINESSES, MEETING WITH OWNERS, MANAGEMENT, AND EMPLOYEES, AND ARE REALLY LEARNING SO MUCH. THE FOCUS TROY BUSINESS TOUR IS HIGHLIGHTED ON THE CHAMBER WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA, AND IT HAS QUICKLY TURNED INTO A GREAT TOOL FOR ALL OF US.

RECENTLY I WAS A GUEST ON THE CHAMBER'S "MEMBERS ON THE MIC" PODCAST AND AMONG OTHER THINGS, WE TALKED ABOUT FOCUS TROY. IF YOU HAVE THE CHANCE, PLEASE CHECK IT OUT EITHER ON YOUTUBE OR YOUR FAVORITE PODCAST PLATFORM. I THINK IT HIGHLIGHTS HOW WELL THE TROY CHAMBER AND THE CITY WORK TOGETHER. THE RELATIONSHIPS ARE REAL AND TO OUR TROY BUSINESS COMMUNITY, KNOW THAT YOU HAVE CHAMPIONS AT THE CHAMBER AND AT CITY HALL.

THE TRUTH IS, **I CHALLENGE ANY BUSINESS TO FIND A BETTER CITY TO LOCATE IN THAN RIGHT HERE IN TROY, MICHIGAN. AND I MEAN THAT.** OUR LOCATION, OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, OUR FOCUS ON FAMILIES AND QUALITY OF LIFE, ALONG WITH OUR HARD-WORKING AND SMART EMPLOYEES PUTS US HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE ALL OF THE COMPETITION. WE ARE A **GLOBAL CITY**. WE DRAW BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, ACROSS ALL INDUSTRIES. SO WHETHER YOU'RE FROM **TOKYO OR SHANGHAI, NEW DELHI OR DUBAI, BRUSSELS OR BERLIN**, OR ANYWHERE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE. AND YOU WILL THRIVE HERE.

----

AS WE LOOK TOWARD TROY'S FUTURE, I INTEND TO PUSH FOR A BIGGER AND BETTER FOCUS ON PUBLIC ART AND THE ARTS IN GENERAL. I THINK PERHAPS TROY'S ONLY PIECE OF "PUBLIC ART" IS THE CORPORATE HEAD THAT SITS AT THE INTERSECTION OF TOWN CENTER DRIVE AND CIVIC CENTER DRIVE. **I WOULD LOVE TO SEE A CAMPAIGN HERE TO BRING MORE ART INTO PUBLIC SPACE** AND I KNOW THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. CERTAINLY AS WE LOOK TO THE EVOLUTION OF OUR DDA, PERHAPS THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO INCLUDE PUBLIC ART, BUT MY GOAL WOULD BE TO HAVE A CITY-WIDE PLAN, AND I KNOW COUNCIL SHARES IN THIS VISION.

THE DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS (THE DIA, AS IT IS MORE COMMONLY KNOWN) CHOSE TROY AS ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL ROUND OF INSIDE|OUT, WHICH BRINGS HIGH-QUALITY REPRODUCTIONS OF MASTERPIECES FROM THE DIA'S COLLECTION TO THE STREETS AND PARKS OF METRO DETROIT. THE REPRODUCTIONS FOR THE SUMMER AND FALL THIS YEAR WERE JUST INSTALLED IN TROY AND WILL BE ON VIEW THROUGH THE END OF OCTOBER. OUR COMMUNITY WILL HAVE EIGHT REPRODUCTIONS CLUSTERED WITHIN WALKING OR BIKE-RIDING DISTANCE OF EACH OTHER THROUGHOUT THE CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX, THE STAGE NATURE CENTER, THE TROY HISTORIC VILLAGE, AND BOULAN PARK.

IMAGINE HOW COOL THIS WOULD BE IF IT WAS PERMANENT, WITH MIX OF ARTWORK AND SCULPTURES. **LET'S FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, COUNCIL!** ARE YOU WITH ME? IN FACT, I'M EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CITY HAS JUST PURCHASED A SCULPTURE THAT WILL BE DELIVERED THIS WEEK AND INSTALLED AT SYLVAN GLEN LAKE PARK IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE!

PUBLIC ART AND THE ARTS IN GENERAL HAVE PROVEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN TO BE A HUGE BENEFIT FOR CITIES. NOT JUST FOR ART LOVERS, BUT FOR **EVERYONE**, AS IT INCREASES PLACEMAKING AND CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE BUSINESSES WANT TO LOCATE AND PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE. THIS **HAS** TO BE PART OF OUR STRATEGY MOVING FORWARD, AND I AM THRILLED TO SHARE THE COUNCIL TABLE WITH SIX OTHERS WHO SHARE THIS LOVE OF THE ARTS, EVEN THOUGH A COUPLE OF THEM ARE ENGINEERS!

AND SPEAKING OF ENGINEERS, I LOVE THAT TROY HAS A BEAUTIFUL MIX OF **STEM** FOCUSED STUDENTS IN OUR SCHOOLS, AND ALSO AMAZING PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS. SOME OF THEM DO **BOTH!** I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING WITH STUDENTS FROM THE TROY ARGONAUTS, THE MIDNIGHT CREATORS, OTHER ROBOTICS TEAMS, AND AMAZINGLY TALENTED STUDENTS OF ALL TYPES ON DIFFERENT TEAMS. WE MUST ALWAYS CELEBRATE OUR **STEM** STUDENTS AND THE WORK THEY ARE DOING TO ADVANCE ENGINEERING AND AI. WE KNOW TODAY'S **STEM** STUDENTS IN TROY WILL BE THE TECHNOLOGY LEADERS OF THE FUTURE.

WE ALSO KNOW THAT OUR EXTREMELY TALENTED PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS IN TROY CONTINUE TO HAVE SUCCESS OUTSIDE OF TROY. JUST LOOK AT TROY HIGH GRADUATE AND



TONY AWARD WINNING SUTTON FOSTER, AS SHE CURRENTLY STARS ON BROADWAY IN THE MUSIC MAN OPPOSITE HUGH JACKMAN. **TROY STUDENTS CAN REPRESENT!**

WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF SUPPORTING OUR PERFORMING ARTS AND ARTISTS IN THE TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT. ONE OF MY FAVORITE ANNUAL EVENTS – WHICH IS THANKFULLY BACK AFTER COVID! – IS THE TROY HIGH ORCHESTRAS ANNUAL GALA CONCERT. **I SWEAR TO YOU,** IF YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES YOU'D THINK YOU ARE IN ORCHESTRA HALL DOWNTOWN OR AT ANY OTHER MUSIC CENTER IN A MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA. IT'S NO SURPRISE THE TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT WAS RECENTLY NAMED A 2022 BEST COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION—FOR THE FIFTEENTH YEAR IN A ROW!

THE PERFORMING ARTS ARE ALIVE AND WELL IN THE CITY OF TROY—ALTHOUGH WE LACK A PROPER VENUE TO SHOWCASE SUCH AMAZING TALENT. AS WE LOOK AT PLANNING FOR TROY'S FUTURE, **I DO HOPE A PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION.** AS A MAYOR WHO LOVES OUR PERFORMING ARTS AND KNOWS THE VALUE IT BRINGS TO A COMMUNITY, I CAN THINK OF NOTHING MORE SPECTACULAR THAN PROVIDING OUR CITY AND RESIDENTS WITH A VENUE TO SHOWCASE OUR TALENT.

TONIGHT, I'M VERY EXCITED TO HAVE TROY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ALEXIS GEARTY PERFORM FOR US. ALEXIS RECENTLY STARRED IN TROY HIGH'S PRODUCTION OF MAMMA MIA AND THE MOMENT I HEARD HER SING THIS NUMBER, I IMMEDIATELY KNEW I WANTED IT TO BE PART OF TONIGHT'S STATE OF THE CITY. SO PLEASE WELCOME ALEXIS TO THE STAGE!

**[CUE ALEXIS GEARTY – LIVE PERFORMANCE “WINNER TAKES IT ALL”]**

THANK YOU, ALEXIS! JUST LIKE I THOUGHT—YOU CERTAINLY DIDN'T DISAPPOINT! ISN'T SHE FANTASTIC?! WE ARE GOING TO HEAR MORE FROM ALEXIS AND HER FELLOW MAMMA MIA STARS DURING THE AFTERGLOW, SO MAKE SURE YOU STICK AROUND!

---

ONE OF THE BEST PARTS OF BEING MAYOR IS GETTING TO MEET WITH THE STUDENTS OF OUR CITY. THEY ARE ALWAYS ENGAGED AND ALWAYS TEACHING ME SOMETHING. I CONSISTENTLY SAY THAT BECAUSE OF THESE STUDENTS TROY'S FUTURE IS BRIGHT! AND DON'T YOU AGREE OUR TROY STUDENTS DESERVE A LIBRARY THAT SUITS THEIR EXCEPTIONALISM?

WHEN THE VOTERS OF TROY RENEWED THE TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY DEDICATED MILLAGE AND INCREASED IT TO ALLOW FOR ADDED SERVICES AND RENOVATIONS, ALL OF US ON COUNCIL TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND REALIZED WHAT WONDERFUL THINGS WERE TO COME FOR OUR LIBRARY. SURE ENOUGH, LAST SUMMER, THE TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY ONCE AGAIN OPENED ITS DOORS ON FRIDAYS AND NOW SERVES THE COMMUNITY A FULL SEVEN DAYS A WEEK. IT WAS A LONG TIME COMING AND SOMETHING WORTH CELEBRATING! THE LIBRARY CONTINUES TO EVOLVE. THE TEAM HAS CREATED A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT TO BRING THE TPL OUTSIDE OF THE LIBRARY DOORS TO PROVIDE OUTREACH AROUND THE CITY. THIS TEAM PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, SENIOR CITIZENS, SCHOOLS, AND MORE!

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN DECADES, THE YOUTH SERVICES PORTION OF OUR LIBRARY IS GOING TO BE RENOVATED! THE CURRENT FURNITURE DATES BACK TO THE MID 80S AND IT SHOWS! REMEMBER, THE YOUTH SERVICES SECTION OF OUR LIBRARY IS THE ORIGINAL TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDING DATING BACK TO 1971. WHEN THE LIBRARY EXPANDED IN THE 1980S, THAT ORIGINAL FOOTPRINT BECAME OUR YOUTH SERVICES AREA. NOW, NEARLY FORTY YEARS LATER, THE YOUTH OF OUR CITY ARE GOING TO HAVE A **BRAND NEW** YOUTH SERVICES AREA!

WE WANT OUR TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BE ONE OF THE MANY REASONS PEOPLE MOVE TO TROY, AND WHILE OUR LIBRARY SERVICES HAVE LONG BEEN TOP NOTCH, IT'S TIME WE ARE ABLE TO RE-INVEST INTO THE BUILDING ITSELF!

**[CUE VIDEO 5 – COUNCIL MEMBER THERESA BROOKS – TROY SCHOOLS/TAX RATES/WHY PEOPLE COME]**

COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS JUST MENTIONED HER FAMILY AND LIKE THERESA, MY FAMILY CHOSE TO COME TO TROY. IF YOU'D ALLOW A POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE, I WANT TO INTRODUCE MY FAMILY TO YOU ALL ONCE AGAIN—BECAUSE IT'S MY FAMILY THAT GIVES ME THE STRENGTH (AND ALSO THE FREEDOM) TO WORK SO HARD AS YOUR MAYOR. SO, BETHANY, ARDEN, AND CANAAN, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO—AVEN COULDN'T BE WITH US TONIGHT, AS SHE IS IN DRESS REHEARSAL FOR A PRODUCTION OF ENCANTO! [APPLAUSE] I LOVE YOU ALL SO MUCH!

AS MORE PEOPLE CHOOSE TROY TO LIVE, WORK, AND PLAY, THE DEVELOPMENT IN OUR CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A LARGE ROLE. WE ARE CURRENTLY OVERSEEING THE CONTINUATION OF A REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT BOOM IN THE CITY OF TROY. AND WE SEE A HEAVY TILT TOWARDS NEW RESIDENTIAL AND A LOT OF REHABILITATION AND REINVESTMENT OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES. AND WE HAVE LEARNED SOME LESSONS FROM THE PAST. TODAY, WE ARE WORKING HARD TO HAVE OUR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BE MORE NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY DRIVEN. WE ARE SEEING A SHIFT, WHERE DEVELOPERS ARE BEGINNING TO ADAPT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WORK BETTER WITHIN EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS, AND LISTEN TO WHAT COUNCIL, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGING. WHILE SOME OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IS STILL CERTAINLY MOVING AT A PACE FASTER THAN WHAT RESIDENTS WOULD PREFER, I AM CONFIDENT WE ARE DOING A BETTER JOB TODAY THAN WE WERE THREE OR FOUR YEARS AGO.

WE CONTINUE TO UPDATE OUR MASTER PLAN, FOCUSING ON THE BIG BEAVER DISTRICT AND NEIGHBORHOOD NODES. OUR PLANNING COMMISSIONERS HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK ON THIS PROCESS, AND EVEN HAVE A SUBCOMMITTEE OF MEMBERS FOCUSING ON EACH INDIVIDUAL NEIGHBORHOOD NODE. ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS, THE PLANNING COMMISSIONERS AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS WENT ON NEIGHBORHOOD NODE "WALK AND TALKS" DOING AN IN PERSON DEEP DIVE OF CERTAIN NODES WITHIN OUR CITY. AS THE YEAR PROGRESSES, I LOOK FOR THIS MASTER PLAN UPDATE TO CONCLUDE AND FOR THE CITY TO BE IN BETTER SHAPE BECAUSE OF IT.

---

TONIGHT, OUR INVOCATION HAD FOUR DIFFERENT FAITH COMMUNITIES REPRESENTED. AMIN HASHMI OF THE ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION OF GREATER DETROIT, BOB CORNWALL, OUR TROY POLICE CHAPLAIN, ED CHEZICK OF CONGREGATION SHIR TIKVA, AND NARAYANASWAMY SANKAGIRI FROM BHARATIYA HINDU TEMPLE EACH SHARED A PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND THIS EVENING.

TROY IS VERY PROUD OF ITS DIVERSITY, WHETHER THAT DIVERSITY RELATES TO YOUR FAITH, YOUR ETHNICITY, OR EVEN YOUR VIEWPOINT. OUR CITY COUNCIL AND CITY STAFF WANT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU BELONG HERE IN THE CITY OF TROY AND WE ARE **ALWAYS** GOING TO WELCOME YOU. AS COUNCILWOMAN CHAMBERLAIN-CREANGA SAYS HERE, TROY IS “WHERE YOU BELONG.” **[CUE VIDEO 6 – COUNCIL MEMBER REBECCA CHAMBERLAIN-CREANGA – WHERE YOU BELONG]**

OUR RESIDENTS, THE PEOPLE OF TROY ARE WHAT MAKE TROY WHAT IT IS. WE ARE A CARING COMMUNITY, A GIVING COMMUNITY, AND A COMMUNITY FULL OF LOVE AND POSITIVITY. THERE IS A LOT OF HATE IN THE WORLD TODAY, BUT DAY AFTER DAY I WITNESS THE GOOD IN PEOPLE, RIGHT HERE IN TROY, AND IT’S SOMETHING WE ALL SHOULD BE PROUD OF AND WE SHOULD CELEBRATE.

WE ARE BLESSED IN THIS CITY TO HAVE HEALTHCARE HEROES WORKING AND LIVING HERE DAY IN AND DAY OUT. WE ARE NOW MORE THAN TWO YEARS INTO COVID, AND AGAIN, I MUST RECOGNIZE OUR HEALTHCARE HEROES RIGHT HERE IN THE CITY OF TROY. IF YOU ARE HERE THIS EVENING FROM ONE OF OUR HOSPITALS OR WORK IN THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY, PLEASE STAND SO WE MAY AGAIN APPLAUD YOU AND GIVE YOU OUR GRATITUDE FOR ALL YOU ARE DOING FOR US! **[APPLAUSE]**

EARLIER I MENTIONED OUR PLANNING COMMISSIONERS AND ALL OF THE WORK THEY ARE DOING TO UPDATE OUR MASTER PLAN. WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE A VERY DEDICATED GROUP OF RESIDENTS WHO VOLUNTEER COUNTLESS HOURS ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION. AND WE HAVE SEVERAL OTHER BOARDS AND COMMITTEES WITH MEMBERS APPOINTED EITHER BY THE MAYOR OR BY CITY COUNCIL. THEY ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS AND THEY ALL DO VERY IMPORTANT

WORK THAT HELPS OUR CITY PROPERLY FUNCTION. THESE VOLUNTEERS REPRESENT A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES AND ARE OFTEN LIONS OF THEIR OWN FIELD. AND FOR THE MOST PART, THEY ARE ALL TROY RESIDENTS! I'D LIKE TO ASK ALL OF YOU OUT THERE WHO SERVE ON ONE OF OUR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES TO PLEASE STAND SO WE CAN APPLAUD YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE! [APPLAUSE]

WE REALLY ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A DIVERSE—IN ALL WAYS—POPULATION. AND I DO BELIEVE THIS RICHNESS IS WHAT GIVES TROY A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE ON SO MANY LEVELS. IT ALLOWS US TO SUCCEED WHERE OTHERS CANNOT AND IT GIVES US THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE REACHING HIGHER AND HIGHER.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED AT A TROY CHAMBER EVENT LAST MONTH. I MISTAKENLY SAID WE HAVE ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROPERTY VALUES IN THE **COUNTRY!** I MEANT TO SAY **STATE – WHICH IS TRUE BY THE WAY!** EVERYONE HAD A FIELD DAY WITH THIS AND, BY THE END OF THE EVENT, MY STATEMENT MORPHED INTO **TROY BEING THE BEST CITY IN THE WORLD!** AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THE MORE I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT A BAD STATEMENT AND IT MIGHT NOT BE AS FAR-FETCHED AS WE JOKED LAST MONTH! TO CONTINUE TO STAY COMPETITIVE, TO EVOLVE, AND TO CONTINUE TO ATTRACT RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES, WE **HAVE** TO THINK BIG, AND WE HAVE TO HAVE LEADERS WHO BELIEVE **WE ARE THE BEST CITY IN THE WORLD.** YOU KNOW WHY? THERE IS A SAYING OFTEN QUOTED, "SHOOT FOR THE MOON. EVEN IF YOU MISS, YOU'LL LAND AMONG THE STARS." WHO IS TO SAY THE MOON IS NOT IN REACH FOR US? AND IF IT IS NOT, TROY STILL WILL BE OUR SHINING STAR!

MANY OF YOU HAVE COMMENTED ON THE FACT THAT I APPEAR TO BE "ALL OVER" THE CITY BECAUSE YOU SEE MY SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS. AND YES, I'LL ADMIT, I DO SPEND A TON OF TIME REPRESENTING THIS CITY AS YOUR MAYOR AND DOING **EVERYTHING** I CAN TO MAKE SURE ANYONE WHO GOOGLES TROY SEES A MAYOR WHO CARES, AND A MAYOR WHO IS **PROUD** OF HIS CITY AND ITS BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE. WE WANT TROY TO LOOK **FRESH AND ALIVE** WHEN SOMEONE IS LOOKING AT IT FROM OUTSIDE OUR BORDERS. IT MAKES US MARKETABLE AND ATTRACTIVE TO BUSINESSES AND PEOPLE ALIKE. IN A DDA MEETING LAST MONTH, WE HAD A DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW EVERYTHING IS BEING DESIGNED AND BUILT TODAY TO BE

“INSTAGRAMMABLE”. THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A MINUTE! THERE’S NO MISTAKING SOCIAL MEDIA IS PLAYING A ROLE IN DRIVING ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, AND FRANKLY, WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES IF TROY IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO BE “**INSTAGRAMMABLE**”. I’M NOT SURE WE ARE, QUITE YET, BUT I THINK WE’RE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. AS WE CONTINUE TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE, WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO MAKE TROY A PLACE THAT LOOKS GOOD IN PERSON AND ONLINE, AND WHEN WE DO THAT, BUSINESSES WILL WANT TO MOVE HERE AND PEOPLE WILL WANT TO SPEND TIME HERE—SHOPPING HERE, EATING HERE, AND RECREATING HERE.

BUT WE HAVE TO THINK BIG AND WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO CAPITALIZE ON EXCITEMENT. WITH US THIS EVENING IS MARIO KIEZI, WHO IS THE NEW OWNER OF THE OAKLAND MALL—OR “THE OAKLAND” AS I THINK MIGHT BE THE UPCOMING NEW NAME. I HAD THE CHANCE TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH MARIO AND TOUR THE MALL LAST MONTH. MARIO THINKS BIG. AND MARIO IS BUILDING AN **EXPERIENCE** AND I TRULY APPLAUD HIS ENERGY AND PASSION. IN MANY RESPECTS, BUILDING AN EXPERIENCE AND THINKING BIG ARE PRECISELY WHAT WE NEED TO DO THROUGHOUT ALL OF TROY TO STAY COMPETITIVE. MARIO KNOWS ALL ABOUT BEING “INSTAGRAMMABLE”; ALTHOUGH I THINK HIS PLATFORM OF CHOICE IS TIKTOK! HAVING MARIO HERE MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY THIS STATE OF THE CITY HAS ANY SHOT OF BEING ON TIKTOK, SO FEEL FREE TO TIKTOK AWAY, MARIO! WE APPRECIATE YOUR BIG THINKING HERE IN TROY!

SPEAKING OF BIG THINKING, AS WE LOOK TOWARD TROY’S FUTURE AND BUILDING THE TROY WE WANT AND THE TROY WE NEED, WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO SEIZE ANY MOMENT AND BUILD ON ANY MOMENTUM. A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, AND A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS, IS MY FELLOW MAYOR, FRANCIS SUAREZ, MAYOR OF MIAMI. I SPEAK OF HIM BECAUSE MAYOR SUAREZ HAS SEIZED A MOMENT IN MIAMI, AS HE HAS RELENTLESSLY POSITIONED MIAMI TO BE A NEW TECH AND FINANCE CAPITAL. AS A RESULT, TECH COMPANIES HAVE MOVED FROM SILICON VALLEY TO MIAMI AND FINANCE GIANTS HAVE MOVED FROM NEW YORK TO MIAMI WHICH IS QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE FEAT.

I HAVE WATCHED FRANCIS LEAD THIS MOVEMENT – IN FACT, I THINK HE REFERS TO IT AS THE “MIAMI MOVEMENT”-- AND I’M HERE TO TELL YOU, THAT HERE IN THE CITY OF TROY, WE ARE READY TO SEIZE ANY MOMENT. YOUR CITY COUNCIL AND I HAVE THE PASSION AND ENERGY TO LEAD, AND WE ARE READY TO THINK BIG AND POSITION TROY TO BE AT THE TOP FOR

GENERATIONS TO COME. MAYOR FRANCIS SUAREZ WANTED TO SEND THIS MESSAGE TO OUR CITY. **[CUE VIDEO 7 – MAYOR FRANCIS SUAREZ]**

AS KIND AS THE MAYOR IS IN THOSE EMBARRASSINGLY GENEROUS COMMENTS ABOUT ME, I WOULD RATHER BRIEFLY TURN OUR ATTENTION TO THE **BACKGROUND** WE SAW BEHIND HIM **IN HIS VIDEO** – PALM TREES, OCEAN AND ALL! JUST SO WE’RE CLEAR, THAT WASN’T ONE OF THE VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS WE ARE USED TO SEEING DURING ZOOM MEETINGS, IT WAS THE REAL THING! CAN YOU IMAGINE?

---

I’VE CLEARLY MADE A POINT OF THINKING BIG THIS EVENING AND LOOKING TOWARD TROY’S BRIGHT FUTURE. BUT WE ALSO HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE AND REMEMBER WHAT’S IMPORTANT IN THE HERE AND NOW. CERTAINLY, OUR PARKS AND GREENSPACE REMAIN TOP OF MIND FOR TROY RESIDENTS. ALONG WITH PUBLIC SAFETY, OUR RESIDENTS CELEBRATE OUR PARKS AND TRAILS, AND WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY REMAIN A HIGH PRIORITY FOR COUNCIL. **LET ME TELL YOU—THEY ARE!**

WE ARE ABOUT TO OFFICIALLY OPEN PHASE 3 OF THE TROY TRAILS AT JAYCEE PARK AND KURT BOVENSIEP IS HARD AT WORK IN THE PLANNING STAGES ON PHASE 4, AND MAYBE EVEN PHASE 5! PEOPLE LOVE OUR TRAILS AND I REALLY DO GIVE A TON OF CREDIT TO KURT. WHAT PEOPLE DON’T OFTEN REALIZE IS THAT KURT WALKS THESE POTENTIAL TRAILS IN THE PLANNING STAGE, WITH AN EYE FOR WHAT WOULD WORK, BUT ALSO WHAT WOULD PRESERVE THE MOST TREES AND NATURAL FEATURES. AN ARBORIST AT HEART, KURT HAS ACTUALLY ADJUSTED TRAIL LOCATIONS AND BENDS AND TURNS TO AVOID MATURE TREES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TO BE REMOVED. ISN’T THAT AMAZING? I THINK IT IS!

WE ALSO HAVE RECENTLY APPROVED EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS TO OUR SYLVAN GLEN LAKE PARK, AND ARE IN THE DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF A VERY IMPORTANT ALL INCLUSIVE PARK, WHICH WILL ALLOW RESIDENTS OF DIFFERING ABILITIES TO PLAY TOGETHER, AS OPPOSED TO SEPARATELY.

NEXT THURSDAY, WE'LL OFFICIALLY DEDICATE THE **JEANNE M. STINE COMMUNITY PARK** ON TOWN CENTER DRIVE IN THE HEART OF OUR CIVIC CENTER CAMPUS. THE CONVERSION OF A 5-ACRE FORMER PARKING LOT INTO AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARK IS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE. THIS PARK WILL BE THE NEW HOME OF OUR TROY FARMER'S MARKET ON FRIDAYS DURING SUMMER. IT WILL OFFER MOVIE NIGHTS UNDER THE STARS FOR FAMILIES OF ALL AGES. AND IT WILL BE FOR OUR **COMMUNITY**, HOSTING EVENTS AND BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER. BUT DON'T JUST HEAR IT FROM ME, LET'S HEAR FROM FORMER MAYOR STINE HERSELF **[CUE VIDEO 8 – FORMER MAYOR JEANNE STINE ]**

THANK YOU, JEANNE. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO NAME THIS NEW PARK AFTER YOU, AND TO HAVE YOU HERE THIS EVENING. **[APPLAUSE]**

WHILE WE OPEN THE JEANNE M. STINE COMMUNITY PARK NEXT WEEK, THERE IS EVEN MORE ON THE HORIZON AND IT IS VERY, VERY EXCITING. WE KNOW OUR RESIDENTS WANT OUR CIVIC CENTER CAMPUS TO BE FOR COMMUNITY USE AND NOT PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT. AND WE KNOW THAT OUR RESIDENTS HAVE LONG ASKED FOR MORE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPTIONS AND GATHERING SPACES—SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.

SO AS WE OPEN THE NEW PARK NEXT WEEK, WE ARE ALREADY PLANNING FOR ITS EXPANSION! LAST YEAR, OUR CONGRESSWOMAN, HALEY STEVENS, CAME TO US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDS FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, AND SHE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING \$1.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS BACK TO OUR CITY FOR THIS SPECIAL PROJECT. WE ARE A DONOR CITY, IN A DONOR COUNTY AND FRANKLY, IT'S NICE TO GET SOME DIRECT RETURN ON THE MONEY WE SEND TO WASHINGTON, DC!

WELL, COMBINING THOSE FUNDS WITH A PORTION OF OUR ARPA MONEY, WE ARE ABLE TO DEVELOP THIS TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPANSION OF THE JEANNE M. STINE COMMUNITY PARK --- WITH A **COMMUNITY PAVILION** AND A **STATE OF THE ART ICE SKATING RIVER! CHECK IT OUT!** **[CUE SLIDE - PAVILION PARK]**



WITH AN AGGRESSIVE TIMELINE, WE ARE HOPING TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THIS STUNNING COMMUNITY AMENITY IN THE FALL OF 2023!

**THIS CITY COUNCIL IS FOCUSED ON BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITY!**

AS THE CITY HAS GROWN, SO HAVE ITS CHALLENGES OVER THE YEARS. WE WORK THROUGH THEM, AS A COUNCIL, AS A COMMUNITY, AND WE ARE CONSTANTLY LEARNING AND EVOLVING. THE LESSONS LEARNED AND THE GROWTH ARE KEY TO OUR CITY'S SUCCESS. COUNCILWOMAN HODOREK IS IN HER 9<sup>TH</sup> YEAR ON CITY COUNCIL, AND SHARES THIS MESSAGE ABOUT THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR CITY. **[CUE VIDEO 9 – COUNCIL MEMBER ELLEN HODOREK – FORM OF GOVERNMENT]**

THE PROPER BALANCE IN A COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT IS SO IMPORTANT, AND IT'S ALSO NOT ALWAYS EASY TO FIND. BUT IF WE STAY IN OUR OWN LANES, WE END UP WORKING BETTER TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THIS COUNCIL IS FOCUSED ON GOOD GOVERNANCE, BRINGING MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES TO THE TABLE AND USING THE QUESTION "WHAT IS BEST FOR THE CITY OF TROY AND OUR ROLE IN THIS REGION" TO GUIDE US. WE ARE WORKING WITH OUR COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES, EACH RECOGNIZING OUR OWN ROLE IN THE PROCESS. KNOWING OUR ROLES HAS NEVER BEEN MORE EVIDENT THAN WHEN WORKING TO **ALLEVIATE THE NOISE POLLUTION CAUSED BY THE I-75 RECONSTRUCTION**. WE HAVE COORDINATED WITH OUR REPRESENTATIVES AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT – CONNECTING OUR RESIDENTS WITH THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND RECOGNIZING WHAT ROLE WE CAN EACH PLAY TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM TOGETHER.

THIS YEAR WE PASSED TROY'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE ETHICS ORDINANCE, AND WHILE I DON'T EXPECT THE ENFORCEMENT COMPONENTS WILL NEED TO BE UTILIZED ANY TIME WITH THIS CURRENT COUNCIL, I AM COMFORTED KNOWING THAT THE NEXT TIME THERE IS AN ISSUE OF ETHICS IN TROY CITY HALL, A FUTURE COUNCIL WILL HAVE THIS ETHICS ORDINANCE TO RELY ON AND WILL HAVE THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO SWIFTLY CORRECT THE ISSUE AT HAND.

WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE STRIVING FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE — WITHOUT THIS, NOTHING ELSE CAN HAPPEN. THE BIG IDEAS AND FUTURE PLANNING I’VE SPOKEN ABOUT TONIGHT WON’T BE FEASIBLE WITHOUT GOOD GOVERNANCE AT ALL LEVELS. IT’S UP TO US IN CITY HALL TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN—EACH OF US ON COUNCIL AND EVERYONE ON CITY STAFF. I KNOW WE CAN DO IT AND I ASK ALL OF YOU TO COMMIT TO IT AGAIN!

LOOK, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. I **GENUINELY** LIKE THE PEOPLE I SERVE WITH. YES, SOMETIMES I TEASE THEM—I DO LOVE A GOOD LAUGH—BUT I HOPE THEY EACH KNOW HOW MUCH I VALUE THEM AND RESPECT WHAT THEY EACH BRING TO THE TABLE. SO, IN THE VEIN OF “I DO LOVE A GOOD LAUGH”, I HAVE THIS SHORT CLIP FOR YOU. WHEN I SAW IT THE FIRST TIME, I SMILED THE ENTIRE TIME AND I JUST WATCHED IT AGAIN THIS MORNING, AND I HAD THE SAME SMILE. THESE ARE THE COUNCIL MEMBERS I KNOW AND I LIKE, AND I WANT OUR COMMUNITY TO SEE THEM THIS WAY TOO. **[CUE VIDEO 10 – SURPRISE OUTTAKES REEL]**

YOU HAVE A CITY COUNCIL THAT IS WARM, IS **HUMAN**, AND AS HARD AS THEY WORK FOR THIS CITY, THEY ARE ALSO A LOT OF FUN!

TROY IS IN A VERY GOOD PLACE. WE ARE STABLE. WE ARE CIVIL. WE ARE EVOLVING. WE ARE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS AND CONTINUOUSLY PLANNING FOR A **BIGGER AND BRIGHTER** FUTURE. WE ARE SUPPORTING OUR AMAZING BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND ARE DRIVEN TO HELP OUR CITY SUCCEED AT ALL LEVELS. SO AS WE ENTER A NEW FISCAL YEAR, WE HAVE SO MUCH GOOD ON THE HORIZON. **[SLOW!!!]** TROY IS THRIVING AND WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE! AND BECAUSE OF ALL THE THINGS I’VE SHARED THIS EVENING; ALL THE BUSINESSES WE’VE CELEBRATED, ALL OF THE RELATIONSHIPS WE’VE BUILT AND WE FOSTER, ALL THE **PEOPLE** WHO FORM THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY, I SAY, AGAIN, WITHOUT AN ABSOLUTE DOUBT, **THE STATE OF OUR CITY IS STRONG! [APPLAUSE]**

AS I BRING THINGS TO A CLOSE HERE, I DO WANT TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS, AGAIN, TO ALAN KIRILUK, HIS TEAM AT KIRCO AND THE COLUMBIA CENTER, TARA TOMCISK-HUSAK, SHEILA DENSTAEDT, AND THEIR TEAM AT THE TROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, CINDY STEWART, THE TEAM AT CMN TV FOR HELPING TO

PRODUCE TONIGHT’S EVENT FOR THE AUDIENCE HERE IN PERSON AND THOSE WATCHING ON TV OR THE INTERNET, OUR TROY POLICE CHAPLAIN BOB CORNWALL, AMIN HASHMI, ED CHEZICK, AND NARAYANASWAMY SANKAGIRI, WHO DEMONSTRATED A PIECE OF OUR FAITH DIVERSITY WITH TONIGHT’S INVOCATION, THE VERY TALENTED TROY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR ALEXIS GEARTY, WHO WOWED US WITH HER IMPECCABLE VOCALS, MY FRIEND MAYOR FRANCIS SUAREZ FROM MIAMI, A TROY SCHOOLS ALUM AND FUTURE STAR HEMANTH TADEPALLI FOR HIS HELP IN PRODUCING THE CITY COUNCIL INTRODUCTION VIDEO, TO MY FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS, WHO EACH BROUGHT THEIR “A GAME” WITH THEIR INDIVIDUAL VIDEOS, AND WHO CONTINUE TO WORK SO WELL TOGETHER AS A GROUP ON BEHALF OF THE CITY, TO EVERYONE AT CITY HALL AND THROUGHOUT THE CITY DEPARTMENTS, WHO WORK DAY IN AND DAY OUT TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES THIS COUNCIL SETS, AND DO IT WITH CLASS AND INTEGRITY; TO ALEXIS, MIA, CAROLINE, KIARA, AND VARUN FROM TROY HIGH’S MAMMA MIA WHO ARE ABOUT TO PROVIDE THE ENTERTAINMENT FOR OUR AFTERGLOW, AND OF COURSE TO BETHANY AND OUR THREE WONDERFUL CHILDREN—WHO WE ARE ALL WATCHING GROW UP—I COULDN’T DO ANY OF THIS WITHOUT BETHANY AND WE KNOW THIS CITY HAS A FAVORITE BAKER (AND IT’S NOT ME!).

AND TO ALL OF YOU WATCHING, WHETHER AS A TROY RESIDENT, A TROY BUSINESS OWNER, OR BOTH, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO TO MAKE THE CITY OF TROY ALL THE GOOD THAT IT IS AND WILL ALWAYS BE!

THANK YOU, EVERYONE! GOODNIGHT AND GOD BLESS!!

NOW, PLEASE, GRAB A BITE, GRAB A DRINK AND STICK AROUND FOR A LITTLE BIT AS THE STARS OF TROY HIGH’S SPRING MUSICAL MAMMA MIA ENTERTAIN US!

[END]