

**STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
TROY, MICHIGAN
MAYOR ETHAN BAKER
WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023 AT 6:00PM**

THANK YOU, TARA, FOR THAT ENERGETIC AND WARM, AS ALWAYS, INTRODUCTION! SERIOUSLY, I CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON YOU STARTING OUT AN EVENT WITH A BANG AND CERTAINLY GETTING EVERYBODY LISTENING!

BOB, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ALWAYS CONSISTENT, ALWAYS EMPATHIC, AND INCLUSIVE INVOCATION. PASTOR BOB CORNWALL HAS A HUGE HEART AND I UNDERSTAND WHY HE IS OUR TROY POLICE CHAPLAIN. IT FEELS STRANGE TO APPLAUD YOU FOR AN INVOCATION, BUT I'M GOING TO DO IT ANYWAY!

WHAT A TREAT TO HAVE OUR TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD HERE WITH US THIS EVENING TO PRESENT THE COLORS. THE HONOR GUARD IS COMPRISED OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS FROM EACH OF OUR 6 FIRE STATIONS. THEY ARE HIGHLY TRAINED IN THE ASPECTS OF DRILL AND CEREMONY, AND FUNERAL DETAILS. THE TEAM FORMALLY REPRESENTS THE TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT AT EVENTS THAT REQUIRE A DIGNIFIED DISPLAY AND PRESENTATION OF OUR NATION'S FLAG. THANK YOU FOR ADDING THIS REVERENT PIECE TO THIS EVENING'S EVENT!

FOR ANYONE THAT KNOWS ME, MUSIC IS A MAJOR PART OF MY LIFE—AND NOT JUST MINE, BUT MY ENTIRE FAMILY'S LIFE TOO. THE ORCHESTRAL MUSIC SHARED HERE THIS EVENING BY THE TROY METRO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HAS BEEN TOP NOTCH, AND WHAT A BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR COUNTRY TO HAVE THEM PLAY THE NATIONAL ANTHEM WHILE THE HONOR GUARD PRESENTED THE COLORS. THANK YOU, TROY METRO SYMPHONY!

AND NATE, I AM EXTREMELY THANKFUL FOR YOU LETTING US BE HERE THIS EVENING, AND FOR YOUR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY. YOUR TEAM HERE IS SECOND TO NONE AND THERE SHOULD BE NO WONDERING WHY SOMERSET IS AT THE VERY TOP OF RETAIL EXPERIENCES IN THE COUNTRY. I HAVE A LOT MORE TO SAY ABOUT SOMERSET A LITTLE BIT LATER, BUT FOR NOW, THANK

YOU! THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE AND FOR SHARING THIS OUTSTANDING PLACE WITH US-- WHICH IS AN UNDENIABLE PART OF WHAT MAKES TROY SHINE. PLEASE HELP ME THANK NATE FORBES AND SHOW HIM SOME LOVE!

WELL, HERE WE ARE FOR OUR 2023 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – OR MAYBE IT’S MORE OF AN EVENT? OR HOW ABOUT EXTRAVAGANZA?! WELL, MAYBE NOT... BUT ALAS, HERE WE ARE AND I’M READY TO GET ROLLING, SO LET’S START WITH THIS: [CUE 1 – INTRODUCTION (HOC)]

[AFTER VIDEO FINISHES, CUE 2 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

LAST YEAR, MY INTRODUCTION VIDEO WAS AN HOMAGE TO THE WEST WING. I FELT THE SPIRIT OF AARON SORKIN’S IDEALISM, AND HIS ELEVATING THE POLITICAL WORLD TO SUCH A HIGH AND HONORABLE PLACE. WELL, THIS YEAR’S AN ELECTION YEAR IN THE CITY OF TROY, SO HOUSE OF CARDS FELT MUCH MORE APPROPRIATE! 😊

OKAY, I’M TOTALLY KIDDING AND YOU ALL KNOW IT. AS MUCH AS THIS MAY GET ME INTO HOT WATER DURING AN ELECTION YEAR, IT’S UNDENIABLE THIS COUNCIL WORKS WELL TOGETHER... THERE’S NOT THE TYPICAL BACKBITING OR FACTIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED IN YEARS PAST... AT LEAST THAT I’M AWARE OF! JOKES ON ME MAYBE? 😊 BUT IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, I DO WANT TO TAKE A MINUTE HERE TO INTRODUCE AND TALK ABOUT OUR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

MAYOR PRO TEM REBECCA CHAMBERLAIN-CREANGA IS HERE AND THERE’S NO DENYING REBECCA’S PASSION FOR OUR CITY – QUITE FREQUENTLY SHARING ON SOCIAL MEDIA HOW SHE “LOVES WHERE SHE LIVES” – AND YOU KNOW WHAT? SHE MEANS IT... EACH AND EVERY TIME SHE SAYS IT—WHICH IS A TESTAMENT TO HER ABILITY TO EMBRACE EACH PART OF OUR CITY, TO CELEBRATE IT, AND TO MAKE SURE IT IS ALWAYS WELCOMING TO ALL WHO COME HERE. REBECCA, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

COUNCIL MEMBER EDNA ABRAHIM IS HERE AND I AM ALWAYS THANKFUL TO HAVE EDNA’S PRESENCE IN A ROOM. EDNA HAS FOUND A WAY TO TRANSCEND POLITICS IN HER ROLE,

WINNING SUPPORT, ACCOLADES, AND RESPECT FROM MEMBERS OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND REPRESENTING ALL DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, SEEMINGLY WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT. WHEN EDNA SPEAKS, PEOPLE LISTEN, AND I'VE BEEN BLESSED TO SERVE WITH MY COUNCIL-SIS FOR THE PAST 7 AND A HALF YEARS. EDNA, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

COUNCIL MEMBER THERESA BROOKS IS HERE AND AS ALWAYS, SHE'S HERE LOOKING CALM, COOL, AND AS PUT TOGETHER AS EVER—THERESA DOES THIS AS A MOM OF 3 SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN, AND WHILE RUNNING HER OWN FULL TIME MEDICAL PRACTICE. DR. BROOKS CONSISTENTLY LOOKS FOR SOLUTIONS IN CITY GOVERNMENT AND WILL ALWAYS SEEK ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CLARIFICATION WHEN SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT, AND WE'RE BETTER OFF FOR IT! THERESA, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

COUNCIL MEMBER ANN ERICKSON GAULT IS HERE AND JOINS ME AS THE OTHER LAWYER ON COUNCIL. WITH THAT COMES A DIFFERENT MINDSET, AM I RIGHT, ANN? WE LAWYERS LOOK AT EVERYTHING WITH SKEPTICISM AS WE'RE OFTEN PAID TO FIND THE HOLE IN WHAT IS PRESENTED TO US. BUT THAT SKEPTICISM HASN'T KEPT ANN FROM WORKING FOR PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS AND FROM BRINGING TO THE TABLE A WELL-REASONED ANALYSIS. I'VE SEEN IT FROM THE COUNCIL TABLE, I'VE SEEN IT IN CLOSED DOOR SESSIONS, AND I CAN TELL YOU ANN IS TIRELESS IN HER EFFORTS TO ALWAYS FIND THE BEST POSSIBLE SOLUTION. ANN, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

COUNCIL MEMBER ELLEN HODOREK IS HERE AND CONTINUES TO BE AN INDEPENDENT VOICE AT THE COUNCIL TABLE. IT'S FUNNY, ELLEN HAS BEEN ON CITY COUNCIL FOR ALMOST **10 YEARS** AND YET WHILE MANY PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY KNOW ELLEN IS A COUNCIL MEMBER, MOST KNOW HER FROM HER TIME **BEFORE** COUNCIL—AS A MOM IN OUR AMAZING SCHOOLS, AS A BAND MOM, AS A CITY EMPLOYEE, OR AS AN ADVOCATE FOR OUR TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY, PLUS ALL OF HER CORPORATE EXPERIENCE. ELLEN'S TIES TO THIS COMMUNITY ARE **DEEP**, AND HER VOICE BEHIND THE SCENES IS OFTEN MORE POWERFUL THAN ANYTHING SHE SAYS FROM THE TABLE. SAYING THAT OUT LOUD ACTUALLY SOUNDS A LITTLE SCARY, BUT ELLEN, I MEAN THAT ALL IN A POSITIVE LIGHT! ELLEN, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID HAMILTON UNFORTUNATELY COULD NOT BE HERE THIS EVENING, BUT DAVID'S LOVE OF OUR CITY IS CLEAR. HE AND EDNA ARE THE TWO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL WHO GREW UP IN TROY, LEFT FOR COLLEGE AND CAME BACK, AND IT'S SO APPARENT HOW MUCH DAVID LOVES HIS HOMETOWN AND THAT BLEEDS INTO EVERYTHING HE DOES IN HIS ROLE HERE ON COUNCIL. HE'S NOT HERE TO ACCEPT IT, BUT WHEN HE WATCHES THIS, LET DAVID FEEL YOUR ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

NOW THAT I'VE INTRODUCED ALL OF COUNCIL, THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY THE BLOOPERS REEL! BUT ALAS, THERE IS NO BLOOPERS REEL THIS YEAR – LAST YEAR'S STILL LIVES ON IN MY HEART THOUGH, AND IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT, IT'S ON MY YOUTUBE CHANNEL! 😊 IT'S WORTH THE 2 MINUTES! I PROMISE!

I'M VERY FORTUNATE TO SERVE WITH THIS COUNCIL. I KNOW FIRSHAND THE VALUE EACH OF YOU PLACE ON ETHICS AND GOOD CHARACTER. WE'VE WORKED HARD FOR OUR NEW ETHICS ORDINANCE AND WE CONTINUE TO PUSH OURSELVES AND EVOLVE. OUR COMMUNITY CHANGES AND WE MUST ALWAYS BE READY TO CHANGE WITH IT. AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE, WE ARE CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR WAYS TO BE BETTER, TO BE THE BEST REPRESENTATIVES WE CAN BE FOR ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. I SUSPECT WE'LL CONTINUE TO EVOLVE IN OUR OUTSIDE TRAINING—FROM IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING TO COMMUNITY PLANNING AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN! I KNOW THIS COUNCIL HAS A YEARNING TO LEARN, AND TO GROW, AND I GREATLY VALUE THAT ABOUT YOU—THE PEOPLE I HAVE SERVED WITH THROUGH SOME HISTORICAL TIMES.

ALSO WITH US THIS EVENING ARE SOME OF THE BEST MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES IN THE COUNTRY! I'LL START WITH OUR CITY MANAGER, MARK MILLER, WHO I BELIEVE IS THE PERFECT YIN TO MY YANG. MARK HAS EMPOWERED ME TO BE THE MAYOR I THINK THE CITY OF TROY SHOULD HAVE AND I HOPE THAT HE FEELS THAT I, ALONG WITH COUNCIL, GIVE HIM THE TOOLS HE NEEDS TO SUCCEED TOO. MARK, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

AS A SIDENOTE, IF MARK SUDDENLY STANDS UP AND MOVES AROUND A LITTLE BIT, KNOW THAT IT'S BECAUSE HE'S RECENTLY HAD HIP SURGERIES AND HE NEEDS TO MOVE AROUND—IT'S NOT A SILENT PROTEST OF ANYTHING I'M SAYING!

OUR CITY ATTORNEY LORI GRIGG BLUHM IS HERE AND WHILE LORI DOESN'T LIKE THE SPOTLIGHT, SHE CERTAINLY IS GETTING A LOT OF POSITIVE ATTENTION LATELY. LORI IS THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF IMLA – THE INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL LAWYER'S ASSOCIATION, AND WAS JUST RECENTLY NAMED TO THE MICHIGAN LAWYER'S WEEKLY HALL OF FAME FOR 2023! LORI, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

AND I GUESS I SHOULD MAKE THE SAME DISCLAIMER ABOUT LORI! I BELIEVE SHE IS DOUBLE-BOOKED THIS EVENING WITH ANOTHER IMPORTANT MEETING... SO IF YOU SEE HER LEAVE, SHE'S NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE SILENT PROTEST WITH CITY MANAGER MILLER!

WE HAVE SEVERAL CITY EMPLOYEES WITH US HERE THIS EVENING AND THEY REPRESENT ALL SECTIONS OF OUR CITY GOVERNMENT. WE ARE TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE THE EMPLOYEES THAT WE HAVE—THIS TEAM IS PHENOMENAL AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD HUGE TURNOVER DUE TO RETIREMENTS IN ALMOST ALL DEPARTMENTS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE ARE OPERATING AT FULL SPEED PERFORMING AT LEVELS THAT RIVAL ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. SO I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE CITY EMPLOYEES WITH US THIS EVENING. WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, PLEASE STAND UP (WHICH I KNOW IS EXTREMELY PAINFUL FOR MOST OF YOU AS YOU WORK SO HARD TO STAY "BEHIND THE SCENES"), AND WHEN I FINISH, I WILL ASK FOR ALL OF US TO GIVE YOU A BOISTEROUS ROUND OF APPLAUSE. SO, IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER:

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER BOB BRUNER, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ROB MALESZYK, COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR CINDY STEWART, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, BRENT SAVIDANT, CITY ASSESSOR KELLY TIMM, BUILDING OFFICIAL SALIM HUERTA, CITY CLERK AILEEN DICKSON, CITY TREASURER RENEE HAZEN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR KURT BOVENSIEP, FACILITIES & GROUNDS OPERATIONS MANAGER DENNIS TRANTHAM, CITY ENGINEER SCOTT FINLAY, CONTROLLER DEE ANN IRBY, FIRE CHIEF PETE HULLINGER, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR JEANETTE MENIG, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR ALEX BELLAK, POLICE CHIEF FRANK NASTASI, PURCHASING MANAGER EMILY FRONTERA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER MEG SCHUBERT, AND OUR BRAND NEW COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR TORRI MATHES.

ALRIGHT, LET'S DO IT – LET'S GIVE THE BEST MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES IN THE COUNTRY A BOISTEROUS APPLAUSE AND THANK YOU!

THERE'S ONE CITY EMPLOYEE I WANT TO TAKE AN EXTRA MOMENT WITH HERE. EVERYONE HERE KNOWS THIS PERSON, AND IN FACT, JUST LAST WEEK SHE CELEBRATED 25 YEARS AS A CITY OF TROY EMPLOYEE. CINDY STEWART IS SOMETHING SPECIAL AND THERE IS NO DENYING HER IMPACT ON OUR CITY. THROUGHOUT HER TENURE HERE IN TROY, CINDY HAS WORKED WITH A HANDFUL OF CITY MANAGERS, SIX MAYORS, AND COUNTLESS CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS. CINDY, IT'S MY HONOR TO WORK WITH YOU ON A DAILY BASIS IN OUR RESPECTIVE ROLES, AND YOU HELP TO MAKE ME A BETTER MAYOR. CINDY, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO SO THAT WE CAN ALL GIVE YOU A LITTLE EXTRA LOVE AND ATTENTION!

ONE LAST COMMENT ABOUT OUR CITY EMPLOYEES. TO MY FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS, I WILL REMIND US ALL THAT IT IS UP TO US TO SET POLICIES THAT WILL HELP MARK AND HIS TEAM ATTRACT AND RETAIN THE BEST TALENT FOR OUR CITY. WE ALL KNOW THE EMPLOYMENT MARKET IS CHANGING, SOMETIMES DRAMATICALLY, IN THIS COUNTRY. I KNOW EACH OF YOU ARE WELL IN TUNE WITH THIS, BUT LET'S COMMIT TO STAYING STEADFAST IN OUR DESIRE TO CREATE "OPERATION ATTRACT & RETAIN THE BEST" CITY EMPLOYEES. SOUND GOOD?

WE HAVE SEVERAL DIGNITARIES REPRESENTING TROY WITH US THIS EVENING. I'LL ASK YOU TO STAND WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME AND WE'LL DO ONE BIG GROUP APPLAUSE. STATE SENATOR MIKE WEBBER, REPRESENTATIVE SHARON MACDONNELL, REPRESENTATIVE TOM KUHN, COUNTY COMMISSIONER DAVE WOODWARD, COUNTY COMMISSIONER PENNY LUEBS, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM SENATOR GARY PETERS' OFFICE AND CONGRESSWOMAN HALEY STEVENS' OFFICE. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED REPRESENTATION OF TROY AND FOR ALL YOU DO FOR US AT THE COUNTY, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVEL.

WE ALSO ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE SOME DIGNITARIES HERE THIS EVENING THAT DO NOT REPRESENT THE CITY OF TROY, BUT WHO HAVE A VESTED INTEREST IN MAKING SURE TROY SUCCEEDS, AND ALSO, WHOM I CONSIDER FRIENDS! PLEASE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO

STERLING HEIGHTS MAYOR MIKE TAYLOR, MADISON HEIGHTS MAYOR ROSLYN GRAFSTEIN, CLAWSON MAYOR PAULA MILLAN, BIRMINGHAM COMMISSIONER PIERRE BOUTROS, FORMER WESTLAND MAYOR BILL WILD, AND CHIEF OF STAFF TO ROCHESTER HILLS MAYOR BRYAN BARNETT, THE VERY TALENTED MARIA WILLET!

OUR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES ARE A KEY COMPONENT TO HOW WE OPERATE. SEVERAL BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE HERE THIS EVENING, AS WELL. THESE RESIDENTS ARE VOLUNTEERS AND QUITE OFTEN DEDICATE A TON OF TIME TO OUR GREAT CITY. IF YOU SERVE ON ONE OF OUR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, PLEASE STAND SO WE CAN RECOGNIZE YOU, AS WELL!

AND NOW FOR A SMALL BIT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE. LAST WEEK AT AN EVENT, ONE OF OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS CAME UP TO ME AT THE END AND SAID, “WE ALL SHOULD BE MARRIED TO BETHANY!” I’M FAIRLY CERTAIN SHE WASN’T TAKING A POLYGAMIST TACK, BUT INSTEAD WAS RECOGNIZING WHAT I’VE KNOWN FOR NEARLY 26 YEARS. MY WIFE BETHANY IS SOMETHING EXTREMELY SPECIAL, AND WE ARE ALL LUCKY TO HAVE HER HERE AS THE FIRST LADY OF TROY! BETHANY, PLEASE STAND AND SAY HELLO – YOU MAKE ME SHINE AND THERE’S NO DENYING HOW MUCH YOU ARE LOVED HERE IN THIS CITY!

EIGHT YEARS AGO, WHEN I FIRST WAS ELECTED TO CITY COUNCIL, THIS IS WHAT MY FAMILY LOOKED LIKE: [CUE 3 – 2015 FAMILY PICTURE]

LOOK AT THOSE BABIES! AND NO, I’M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT ME! OUR THREE KIDDOS HAVE BEEN GROWING UP BEFORE ALL OF OUR EYES. WE COULDN’T BE PROUDER OF EACH OF YOU— AND I’M SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU HERE AND TO HAVE YOU EACH BE AN EXTENDED REPRESENTATION OF ME, AND AS A RESULT OF MY “TITLE”, A REPRESENTATION OF OUR CITY. MOMMY AND I LOVE YOU ALL VERY, VERY MUCH! ARDEN, CANAAN, AND AVEN, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

[CUE 4 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

I HAVE PURPOSELY TAKEN SOME TIME TO START THINGS OFF HERE WITH INTRODUCTIONS, SOME OF THEM LENGTHY, BUT ALL IMPORTANT. THE STATE OF OUR CITY GREATLY DEPENDS ON ALL OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCED HERE THIS EVENING, AND CERTAINLY MANY, MANY OTHERS. I HAVE NEVER SHIED AWAY FROM TALKING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS, AND I WON'T DO IT THIS EVENING. THESE RELATIONSHIPS MATTER—MY RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, AND YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER. THESE RELATIONSHIPS STRENGTHEN US AND EMBOLDEN US TO DO GREAT THINGS, AND WHILE WE HAVE SPENT SEVERAL MINUTES HERE SIMPLY “INTRODUCING”, I WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW HOW VALUABLE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU IS TO MY ROLE AS MAYOR, TO THE ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF OUR CITY, AND ULTIMATELY TO TROY'S SUCCESS.

SO LET'S GET INTO IT.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS REALLY SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT? WHAT MATTERS? WHAT DOESN'T? HOW MUCH OF THE BAD DO I INCLUDE WITH THE GOOD? THERE'S NO QUESTION WE'VE FACED TRIUMPHS AND ALSO SOME DIFFICULTIES SINCE LAST YEAR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS, BUT WHAT DO I FOCUS ON? A STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS IS JUST AS MUCH A RECAP OF THE YEAR WE'VE HAD AS IT IS A PROJECTION OF WHAT WE WANT FOR THE NEXT YEAR—PUTTING THE ENERGY OUT IN THE UNIVERSE OF THINGS WE WANT TO ACCOMPLISH AND THE DIRECTION I'D LIKE TO SEE THE CITY TAKE.

LAST YEAR, I SHARED WITH YOU ABOUT HOW I HAD INADVERTENTLY STATED AT A CHAMBER EVENT THAT “TROY IS THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD!” WELL, THIS YEAR, AT THE SAME EVENT, I ALSO INADVERTENTLY STATED THAT TROY IS “BORING”. IS IT POSSIBLE BOTH ARE ACCURATE STATEMENTS? I AM HERE TO MAKE THE CASE THAT IT IS AND THAT I STAND BY BOTH!

LET ME BE CLEAR: TROY IS NOT ACTUALLY BORING IN THE SENSE THE WORD IS OFTEN USED. IT'S A VIBRANT CITY THAT I BELIEVE IS AS ABOUT AS “PERFECT” AS YOU CAN GET FOR A CITY IN THE MIDWEST. WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE NEED TO THRIVE AND TO SUCCEED. A VERY STRONG BUSINESS BASE, THE BEST RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS IN A QUINTESSENTIAL AMERICAN WAY, HIGH PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS, A RICH DIVERSITY ACROSS ALL

DEMOGRAPHICS, FAMILY-FRIENDLY AMENITIES AND PARKS, 1000+ ACRES OF DEDICATED GREENSPACE, THE BEST RESTAURANT OPTIONS IN METRO DETROIT, AND A LOCATION THAT IS BOTH CENTRALLY LOCATED AND ALSO SUFFICIENTLY QUIET. WE MAY NOT HAVE THE NIGHTLIFE OF ROYAL OAK, OR THE QUAIN SMALL DOWNTOWN FEEL OF BIRMINGHAM, BUT THAT IS OKAY. WE ARE UNIQUELY TROY AND I AM PROUD OF THE CITY WE ARE!

AS FOR THE “BORING” PART OF TROY... WELL, WE’VE WORKED REALLY HARD TO RID OUR CITY OF THE DRAMA THAT EXISTED JUST A FEW YEARS AGO. WE’VE WORKED REALLY HARD TO MAKE OUR CITY CONSISTENT IN HOW IT MAKES AND ENFORCES LAW, HOW WE WORK WITH NEW BUSINESSES MOVING INTO TROY, AND HOW WE GOVERN IN GENERAL. WE ARE SLOW-MOVING AND PREDICTABLE AND I AM THANKFUL FOR IT! IT ALLOWS US TO MAKE WISE DECISIONS AND TO GOVERN WITH AN EVEN HAND AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD AROUND US CAN SEEM UNSTABLE AND OVERLY REACTIVE. WE DON’T TAKE THE BAIT HERE IN TROY. WE DO OUR BEST TO TAKE THE HIGH ROAD AND TO STAY ABOVE THE FRAY. SO, FOR SOME, THAT MAY BE “BORING”. BUT FOR ME, I CALL THAT PROGRESS!

BUT WHAT IS TROY? A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, I WAS WORKING ON THIS ADDRESS AT THE STARBUCKS NEAR MY HOUSE. FOR SOME OF YOU IN THIS ROOM, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TIME AND MONEY I SPEND AT THAT STARBUCKS! BUT THAT’S BESIDE THE POINT... SO, I’M SITTING AT MY FAVORITE TABLE, LAPTOP OPEN, AND I LOOK OUT THE WINDOW. THIS IS WHAT I SEE: [CUE 5 – CHICKEN]

OKAY, SO I SEE THIS GUY. EXPENSIVE WIRELESS HEADPHONES ON, A ROOSTER ON HIS LAP, A STARBUCKS DRINK, BUSY CROOKS ROAD BEHIND HIM, THE MET PROPERTY IN THE DISTANCE READY FOR RE-DEVELOPMENT... AND I THINK, OH MY GOD – THIS IS TROY IN A NUTSHELL! WE’RE CITY. WE’RE COUNTRY. WE’RE BUILT OUT. WE’RE GROWING. WE’RE BORING. WE’RE EXCITING. YOU CAN’T DEFINE US AS ONE WAY—WE ARE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE... AND THAT’S PART OF OUR BEAUTY! AND STRENGTH!

[CUE 6 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

WE ARE A BIG CITY WITH A NEIGHBORHOOD FEEL. WE'RE A WELCOMING CITY. WE LEAD WHERE APPROPRIATE; WE FOLLOW WHERE APPROPRIATE. WE ARE THE CITY OF TOMORROW, TODAY. AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, THERE IS AN OPTIMISM IN OUR CITY THAT GIVES ME THE STRENGTH EACH DAY TO GET UP AND WORK AS YOUR MAYOR. OUR RESIDENTS ARE OPTIMISTIC; OUR BUSINESSES ARE OPTIMISTIC; AND OUR CITY GOVERNMENT MUST MATCH THAT OPTIMISM AND LEAD ACCORDINGLY. WE ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED AS A LEADER IN OAKLAND COUNTY, AND THE REGION, TO FOCUS ON THE OPTIMISM THAT EXISTS IN OUR COMMUNITY AND TO RECOGNIZE THE STAKEHOLDERS OF OUR CITY WANT US TO LEAD WITH THAT SAME OPTIMISM AND POSITIVITY. PEOPLE HERE IN TROY ARE YEARNING FOR THAT SENTIMENT FROM ITS POLITICAL LEADERS AND IT IS UP TO US TO ANSWER THAT CALL.

I'M OPTIMISTIC AND I ASK EACH OF YOU TO SHARE IN THAT OPTIMISM WITH ME AND PUSH PAST THE NEGATIVITY AND DARKNESS THAT INUNDATES US IN THE NEWS. IT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE OF OUR CITY WANT AND DESERVE, AND WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY HERE. WE CANNOT LEAD ON EVERYTHING, BUT WE CAN LEAD ON THIS. ARE YOU WITH ME?

SO LET ME SAY THIS HERE: FRIENDS, THE STATE OF OUR CITY IS ...OPTIMISTIC!... AND YES, OF COURSE THE STATE OF OUR CITY IS STRONG!

LET'S TALK SOME BRASS TACKS AND FINANCIALS. THE CITY CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN OUR "AAA" BOND RATING FROM STANDARD & POORS. THE PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET IS WITHIN CITY POLICY THAT CALLS FOR A RANGE OF 20-30% FOR GENERAL FUND UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE. THE CITY CONTINUES TO INVEST INTO THE LONG-TERM WELL-BEING WITH OVER \$31.6 MILLION IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL 2024. IN THE PAST YEAR, THE CITY HAS RECEIVED TWO GFOA AWARDS FOR THE BUDGET AND ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT. THROUGH DISCIPLINED FINANCIAL CONTROL, THE CITY ONCE AGAIN WAS UNDER BUDGET BY OVER \$4.9 MILLION FOR GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES.

THE CITY OF TROY HAS APPROXIMATELY 27,544 RESIDENTIAL PARCELS WITH AN AVERAGE MARKET VALUE OF \$388,500. THE TOTAL CITY OF TROY 2023 STATE EQUALIZED VALUE TOPS \$8.1 BILLION, WHICH PLACES US AS THE FOURTH LARGEST TAXABLE VALUE IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

I'VE SAID IT FREQUENTLY, BUT THE CITY OF TROY IS NOT ONLY THE LARGEST CITY IN OAKLAND COUNTY, IT IS ALSO AN ECONOMIC DRIVER FOR THE COUNTY AND REGION. OVER 17% OF ALL OAKLAND COUNTY JOBS ARE IN TROY, AND THERE ARE OVER **\$7.8 BILLION DOLLARS** OF PAYROLL RUN ANNUALLY COMING OUT OF TROY! THAT IS AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER!

OUR CITY CONTINUES TO BENEFIT FROM A HISTORY OF CONSERVATIVE BUDGETING AND LONG-TERM PLANNING. WE ARE NOT WITHOUT RISKS AND CONCERNS, HOWEVER. WE'VE ALL SEEN INFLATION HIT OUR PERSONAL POCKETBOOKS IN A MANNER MANY OF US HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED IN OUR ADULT LIVES. THE CITY IS NOT IMMUNE TO THIS PAIN, AND OUR TEAM IS CONSTANTLY MONITORING THE EFFECTS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ON HOW THE CITY OF TROY OPERATES. WHILE WE TOUT THE LOWEST PROPERTY TAX MILLAGES IN THE AREA, WE ARE CONSISTENTLY HEARING OUR RESIDENTS CALL FOR MORE AND MORE SERVICES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS. WE'VE DONE A SOLID JOB AT ANSWERING THESE CALLS, BUT AT SOME POINT, THERE WILL BE A RECKONING OF SORTS AND WE NEED TO BE PREPARED.

AS A DONOR CITY IN A DONOR COUNTY, I'M THANKFUL FOR THE WORK CONGRESSWOMAN HALEY STEVENS HAS DONE TO BRING SOME FEDERAL FUNDING BACK TO HER DISTRICT AND OUR CITY. WE CELEBRATE THE \$3 MILLION DOLLARS IN OUR TAX MONEY THE CONGRESSWOMAN HAS SUCCESSFULLY FOUGHT TO BRING HOME FOR US.

SO WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US? WELL, IT LEAVES US IN AN UNQUESTIONABLY STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION FROM A BUDGET STANDPOINT. WE HAVE A GROWING TAX BASE, SOLID RETURNS ON OUR INVESTMENTS IN AN UNSTEADY TIME, AND ALSO A VERY SHARP FINANCIAL TEAM AT CITY HALL WORKING COUNTLESS HOURS TO ENSURE OUR CITY'S FINANCIAL SUCCESS. BUT I ASK EACH OF YOU TO THINK ABOUT THE TYPE OF CITY YOU WANT TO CALL HOME—WHETHER AS A RESIDENT OR BUSINESS—AND TO THINK ABOUT WHAT WE NEED AS A CITY FROM

AN INVESTMENT STANDPOINT. AS I SAID, OUR RESIDENTS ARE CONSISTENTLY ASKING US FOR MORE AND MORE SERVICES AND BETTER AMENITIES AND WE WANT TO PROVIDE THEM IN A FINANCIALLY PRUDENT MANNER, AND IN A WAY THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH TROY'S LONGSTANDING FINANCIAL REPUTATION. THAT TAKES THOUGHTFULNESS AND A LOT OF PLANNING.

AS WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE OF TROY'S BUDGETING AND PLANNING, THERE IS ONE THING THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE. PUBLIC SAFETY IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY AND THAT WILL REMAIN A CONSTANT. OUR RESIDENTS DEMAND IT. OUR BUSINESSES DEPEND ON IT. AND OUR CITY GOVERNMENT IS RIGHT THERE IN LOCKSTEP WITH ALL OF YOU. SO IF YOU THINK AS HIGHLY AS WE DO ABOUT OUR PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENTS HERE IN THE CITY OF TROY, WILL YOU JOIN ME IN STANDING AND APPLAUDING THEM IN A WAY THAT IS WORTHY OF WHAT THEY DO FOR US?

AS I JUST SAID, PUBLIC SAFETY IS PRIORITY NUMBER ONE IN THE CITY OF TROY. AND MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE JUST GONE THROUGH AN UNPRECEDENTED TIME WITH OUR TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT AS OF TODAY, WE ARE THREE DAYS INTO OUR NEW FIREFIGHTER INCENTIVE PLAN, DESIGNED TO INCENTIVIZE AND RETAIN OUR NEARLY 140 "VOLUNTEER" FIREFIGHTERS, WHO CONSISTENTLY PUT SERVICE BEFORE SELF AND PROTECT OUR CITY'S PEOPLE AND ASSETS. BUT LET'S TAKE A STEP BACK FOR A MINUTE, SO THAT WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY LOOK TO THE FUTURE...

AFTER OVER FOUR DECADES, THE **IRS FORCED US TO TERMINATE** OUR EXISTING VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS INCENTIVE PLAN AND TRUST, AND COMPELLED US TO CREATE A WHOLE NEW PLAN—ALL IN A MATTER OF MONTHS. AS THE UNDERSTANDABLE FEAR, FRICTION, AND CONCERN SPREAD THROUGH EACH OF THE SIX FIRE STATIONS, THOSE SAME ADJECTIVES ALSO DESCRIBED THE MOOD AT CITY HALL. THIS RAN THE RISK OF BEING THE BIGGEST CRISIS FACING OUR CITY IN MANY YEARS. IT HAD THE POTENTIAL TO DECIMATE OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND LEAVE THE CITY IN AN UNPROTECTED AND VERY VULNERABLE STATE.

SO WE JUMPED INTO ACTION. AS WE DEALT WITH A COMBINATION OF OPERATIONAL, LEGAL, AND EMOTIONAL COMPONENTS, WE ALL PLAYED OUR ROLES AND DID OUR BEST TO STAY IN OUR OWN

LANES THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS. FIREFIGHTERS WERE NOTIFIED OF UPCOMING CHANGES, THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER INCENTIVE COMMITTEE WAS CALLED INTO REGULAR MEETINGS WITH CITY MANAGEMENT, LEGAL COUNSEL, AND WITH ME REPRESENTING CITY COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS. IN MY ROLE AS MAYOR, I TIRELESSLY MET WITH, OR TALKED TO, FIREFIGHTERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE CITY, LISTENING TO THEM AND TAKING THEIR INPUT BACK TO CITY MANAGEMENT. OVER THE COURSE OF THREE MONTHS, ACTUARIAL DETERMINATIONS WERE MADE FOR PAYOUTS, FINANCIAL PLANNING WAS DONE TO ENSURE OUR FIREFIGHTER AND RETIREE PAYOUTS WERE FULLY FUNDED, AND A NEW INCENTIVE PLAN WAS DRAFTED AND RE-DRAFTED BASED ON THE INCENTIVE COMMITTEE FEEDBACK AND REQUESTS. ON APRIL 17TH, CITY COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO TERMINATE THE OLD PLAN AND TRUST, WHICH AUTHORIZED THE PAYOUTS, AND THEN UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO CREATE THE NEW PLAN. THE NEW PLAN WAS WHOLEHEARTEDLY RECOMMENDED BY CITY MANAGEMENT, FIRE CHIEF HULLINGER, THE INCENTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, WHO WERE CHOSEN BY THEIR PEERS FROM EACH OF THE SIX FIRE STATIONS, AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS THEMSELVES.

SO AS I SAID, WE ARE NOW THREE DAYS INTO THE NEW PLAN, AND WE ALL HAVE COMMITTED TO CLOSELY MONITOR ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND TO **BE PREPARED TO MAKE TWEAKS AND CHANGES, IF NECESSARY.** OUR NUMBER ONE GOAL WITH THIS PLAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO INCENTIVIZE OUR FIREFIGHTERS TO STAY IN THE DEPARTMENT, TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AT A TIME WHEN THEY MAY BE PULLED TO LEAVE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THIS NEW PLAN WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INCENTIVES TO DO JUST THAT, SO THAT WE CAN KEEP OUR MOSTLY “VOLUNTEER” DEPARTMENT INTACT AND CONTINUE TO ALLOW THE CITY TO INVEST SUBSTANTIAL CAPITAL IN THE BEST EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR OUR FIREFIGHTERS. IN FACT, INCLUDING BUDGETING FOR FISCAL YEARS 23 AND 24, SINCE 2012, THE CITY OF TROY HAS INVESTED OVER \$14,000,000 IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT. LET ME TELL YOU, EVERY PENNY SPENT HAS BEEN WORTH IT—AS OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT REMAINS HIGHLY RATED, KEEPING OUR INSURANCE RATES LOWER. HAVING THE VOLUNTEER STYLE DEPARTMENT WE HAVE HAS ALLOWED US TO SPEND AT THIS LEVEL TO ENSURE OUR FIREFIGHTERS HAVE THE VERY BEST.

AS I LOOK BACK, THIS EXPERIENCE WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAS CHANGED ME. IT HAS CHANGED HOW I LOOK AT LEADERSHIP, FRANKLY. ENTERING INTO PUBLIC SERVICE, YOU START OUT WITH WANTING TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY- TO BE OF PERFECT SERVICE. THEN, SLOWLY, YOU REALIZE THAT YOU CAN'T MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY, AND, AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE MAJORITY, WELL, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH. THEN, MAYBE SOME STOP THERE. FOR ME, IT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH. I STILL WANTED TO DO MORE. I HAD SOME SLEEPLESS NIGHTS IMAGINING WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR THE FEW PEOPLE WHO WERE CONSIDERED OUTLIERS IN THE MATTER. I WANTED TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THESE PEOPLE TOO. I MET WITH THEM. I SAT IN THEIR WORRIES AND CONCERNS. AND STILL, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT, EVEN THEN, I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY. BUT TRYING COUNTS. WE CAN'T BE PERFECT IN PUBLIC SERVICE, BUT WE CAN BE WILLING TO REALLY LISTEN AND TAKE THE PUNCHES WHEN WE NEED TO - EVEN WHEN IT MIGHT NOT "MATTER" TO THE OUTCOME THAT THE MAJORITY NEEDS. I'M THANKFUL TO GROW IN THESE UNDERSTANDINGS AS WE MOVE INTO THE FUTURE.

IN MY NEARLY 8 YEARS IN TROY CITY GOVERNMENT, THERE HAVE BEEN CERTAIN EVENTS OR PERIODS OF TIME THAT HAVE DEEPLY AFFECTED ME AND MY ROLE. WHETHER THAT WAS AS A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, A CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR, OR THE MAYOR. I SUPPOSE THAT'S PART OF BEING A SERVANT LEADER—LISTENING, TESTING MY OWN RESILIENCY, FACING CHALLENGES, AND HOPEFULLY LEARNING FROM THOSE CHALLENGES TO GROW. THIS PERIOD OF TIME WILL IMPACT HOW I LEAD MOVING FORWARD, AND I **KNOW FIRST HAND** THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR MANY OTHERS IN CITY HALL. I WITNESSED CITY EMPLOYEES WHO WERE COMING INTO CITY HALL BEFORE SUN-UP AND NOT LEAVING TO WELL AFTER SUN-DOWN...ON A REGULAR BASIS. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THAT LEVEL OF SERVICE, AND WE RECOGNIZE DEEPLY THE IMPACT THAT HAS HAD, AND WILL HAVE, ON THEM MOVING, AS WELL AS MYSELF AND COUNCIL MOVING FORWARD.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE WERE ABLE TO FIX A PROBLEM THAT HAS EXISTED WITHIN OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR DECADES, AND WHILE IT DEFINITELY DIDN'T HAPPEN AT A TIME WHEN WE WANTED TO DO IT, IN THE END, WE WORKED TOGETHER, AND CAME TOGETHER AS A TEAM—CITY COUNCIL, CITY ADMINISTRATION, OUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER INCENTIVE COMMITTEE, AND

THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS THEMSELVES--TO GET THE JOB DONE AND TO BETTER PROTECT OUR FIREFIGHTERS, OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND OUR CITY IS A WHOLE.

MOST OF THE KEY PLAYERS INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS ARE HERE WITH US TONIGHT. PLEASE, IF YOU WERE INVOLVED IN THIS INCENTIVE PLAN CRISIS AND SOLUTION, PLEASE STAND UP SO THAT WE CAN APPLAUD YOU. I KNOW WE HAVE INCENTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND SOME FIREFIGHTERS HERE WITH US, OUR ALWAYS IMPRESSIVE FINANCE TEAM, AND OF COURSE OTHER MEMBERS OF CITY ADMINISTRATION. PLEASE STAND SO WE CAN THANK YOU!

AND JUST TO REMIND ALL OF YOU WHY THIS WAS SUCH AN IMPORTANT FOCUS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, I WANT TO SHARE THIS OUTSTANDING VIDEO PREPARED BY OUR TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT. [CUE 7 – TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT VIDEO]

[AFTER VIDEO – CUE 8 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

OF COURSE, THE OTHER MAJOR ARM OF TROY'S PUBLIC SAFETY IS OUR TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT. LOOK, IT CONTINUES TO BE A DIFFICULT TIME TO BE A POLICE OFFICER IN THIS COUNTRY AND NO MATTER HOW BELOVED A POLICE DEPARTMENT IS, AS OURS IS HERE IN TROY, IT IS JUST A DIFFERENT WORLD. OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYS A COMMUNITY POLICING, PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH IN BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION EFFORTS. THE TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT HOSTS OVER 200 EVENTS AND PROGRAMS EACH YEAR WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO HIRE QUALIFIED POLICE OFFICERS. IT'S THAT WORD – QUALIFIED – THAT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US. WE WANT NOTHING BUT THE BEST HERE IN TROY, AND OUR POLICE LEADERSHIP REFUSES TO LOWER STANDARDS JUST TO FILL POSITIONS. IT MAY TAKE LONGER TO FILL THESE POSITIONS, BUT ALL OF US CAN REST ASSURED KNOWING THAT THE POLICE OFFICERS THAT DO GET HIRED, ARE HIRED WITH THE HIGHEST OF QUALIFICATIONS. IT'S WHY OUR TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT IS SO SUCCESSFUL AND SO BELOVED IN OUR COMMUNITY.

MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH AND I WANT TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT AS IT RELATES TO MENTAL HEALTH.

IN JUNE OF 2022, AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH CO-RESPONSE TEAM WAS FORMED CREATING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TROY POLICE AND THE OAKLAND COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK (OCHN). THE AGREEMENT WAS MADE IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES ARE ENHANCED BY HAVING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, REGIONALIZED FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, AND THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS THROUGH THE CREATION OF THE CoRe CRISIS OUTREACH PROGRAM. CoRe CRISIS OUTREACH PROGRAM IS THE CO-RESPONSE MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVE, WHICH CONTRACTS AN OCHN SOCIAL WORKER TO WORK WITH THE MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF TROY. INTERVIEWS FOR THE CO-RESPONDER CLINICIAN WERE CONDUCTED IN JULY, 2022 AND KEN STEIN WAS SELECTED. AFTER A BACKGROUND CHECK, KEN STEIN WAS HIRED BY OCHN IN SEPTEMBER, 2022 AND FINALLY BROUGHT ON BOARD WITH THE TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN OCTOBER, 2022. KEN STEIN CURRENTLY WORKS FOUR (10-HOUR) SHIFTS PER WEEK, SCHEDULED FROM 10:00AM – 8:00PM. HIS ROLE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY ROAD PATROL OFFICERS WHO HAVE LEARNED TO LEAN ON HIM AND REQUEST HIS PRESENCE DURING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CALLS.

I'D REALLY LIKE TO SHARE A RECENT EXAMPLE OF KEN'S PERFORMANCE AND SUCCESS. THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY MUST ALWAYS BE ADDRESSED AND WE, AS LEADERS, SHOULD NEVER SHY AWAY FROM FOCUSING ON IT AND HIGHLIGHTING IT WHERE APPROPRIATE.

RECENTLY, TROY POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WERE DISPATCHED TO A REPORT OF A SUICIDAL PERSON AT A RESIDENCE. A THIRD-PARTY 911 CALLER WHO WAS CALLING ON BEHALF OF THE HOMEOWNER STATED THAT SUBJECT WAS INSIDE THE RESIDENCE AND WAS MAKING SUICIDAL STATEMENTS. OFFICERS ARRIVED ON SCENE AND ATTEMPTED TO MAKE CONTACT, BUT WERE UNABLE TO GET THE SUBJECT TO COME TO THE DOOR. A CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) TRAINED OFFICER WAS ABLE TO MAKE PHONE CONTACT WITH THE SUBJECT. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND CRISIS NEGOTIATORS ARRIVED ON SCENE AND SET UP A PERIMETER AROUND THE RESIDENCE. TWO DIFFERENT CIT TRAINED OFFICERS ALONG WITH KEN STEIN SPOKE TO THE SUBJECT OVER THE PHONE. DURING THIS TIME, THE SUBJECT WAS OBSERVED INSIDE THE RESIDENCE, WALKING AROUND WITH A HANDGUN IN HIS HAND. AFTER 4-

HOURS OF NEGOTIATIONS, A CIT OFFICER WAS ABLE TO CONVINCED THE SUBJECT TO COME OUT OF THE RESIDENCE WITHOUT THE HANDGUN. THE SUBJECT WAS TAKEN INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY AND TRANSPORTED TO ROYAL OAK BEAUMONT BY ALLIANCE MOBILE HEALTH AMBULANCE. KEN STEIN ALSO RESPONDED TO THE HOSPITAL AND PETITIONED THE SUBJECT FOR EVALUATION. KEN STEIN SPOKE TO THE ROYAL OAK BEAUMONT STAFF SOCIAL WORKER WHEN WRITING THE PETITION AND ALSO FOLLOWED-UP THE NEXT DAY. KEN STEIN'S INVOLVEMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTED IN THE SUBJECT RECEIVING LONG-TERM CARE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS.

OUR CHIEF OF POLICE, FRANK NASTASI SAYS IT BEST: "KEN HAS BEEN A GREAT ASSET TO HELPING PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY. THE FOLLOW-UP WORK HE DOES ENSURES OFFICERS REMAIN IN-SERVICE AND PATROL OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, BUSINESSES, AND PLACES OF WORSHIP."

UNFORTUNATELY, KEN COULDN'T BE HERE WITH US THIS EVENING, BUT HE WILL SEE THIS! LET'S THANK HIM FOR ALL HE IS DOING IN THE MENTAL HEALTH FIELD HERE IN TROY!

ANOTHER KEY COMPONENT TO PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE WORK DONE BY OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT. OUR ROADS, OUR SIDEWALKS, OUR WATER AND SEWER LINES—EVEN OUR FACILITIES AND GROUNDS. THE OUTSTANDING WORK DONE BY OUR DPW PLAYS A ROLE IN KEEPING US SAFE. I WAS REMINDED OF THIS IN EARLY MARCH WHEN WE HAD THE HEAVY SNOW AND ICE STORM THAT CAUSED MASSIVE POWER OUTAGES, TOPPLED TREES, AND CREATED UNSAFE SITUATIONS ON MANY OF OUR ROADS AND PUBLIC AREAS. ASIDE FROM THE STANDARD SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL, OUR DPW TEAM WAS OUT IMMEDIATELY WITH CHAINSAWS IN HANDS, WORKING TO ENSURE OUR PUBLIC SAFETY IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MANNER. AND MANY OF YOU MAY NOT KNOW THIS, BUT OUR DPW DIRECTOR KURT BOVENSIEP WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN WORKING WITH SOCCRA TO BEGIN YARD WASTE PICK-UP A FULL TWO WEEKS EARLY. THIS WORK IS ALSO PART OF OUR PUBLIC SAFETY FOCUS IN TROY, AND I BELIEVE ANOTHER SHINING EXAMPLE OF TROY.

AS I'VE SAID, NOW SEVERAL TIMES, OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IN THE CITY OF TROY IS PUBLIC SAFETY—THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE. IT SEEMS THE NEXT LEVEL OF PRIORITIES, AS EXPRESSED BY OUR RESIDENTS BOTH IN SURVEYS AND INFORMALLY, IS A CONTINUED FOCUS ON QUALITY OF LIFE. WHETHER THAT'S RECREATION – ACTIVE OR PASSIVE – PARKS, GREENSPACE, AND ALL OF THE “FEEL GOOD” THINGS THAT MAKE PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE IN TROY. WE CONTINUE TO MAKE HEADWAY IN OUR PARKS AND OUR TRAILS, BUT THERE IS DEFINITELY SOME CONCERN ABOUT OUR RECREATION PROGRAMS, NOT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY, BUT CERTAINLY FOR RESIDENTS OVER A CERTAIN AGE.

TONIGHT, I AM HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT I AM CREATING THE MAYOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TROY SENIORS. IT WILL BE AN INFORMAL GROUP, NOT A CITY-SANCTIONED OFFICIAL BOARD AND COMMITTEE, AND THAT INFORMALITY WILL ALLOW US THE FLEXIBILITY WE NEED TO MEET AND DISCUSS HOW WE MAY BE BETTER ABLE TO SERVE OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS. I AM ASKING FRIENDS OF TROY SENIORS PRESIDENT, BILL RHODES, WHO IS WITH US THIS EVENING, TO HELP ME PUT THE RIGHT PEOPLE AROUND THE TABLE.

OUR FULL TIME RECREATION TEAM IS ALSO WORKING HARD TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR SENIORS. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OAKLAND COUNTY GRANT MONEY THAT IS COMING FOR USE IN OUR SENIOR SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER, AND ALSO I'M THANKFUL THE RECREATION TEAM HAS SCHEDULED AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING FOR OUR SENIORS AT 1:30PM ON MAY 23RD, WHICH WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FORMALLY SHARE THE PLANS FOR USING THE GRANT MONEY, AND ALSO HEAR THE IMPORTANT FEEDBACK FROM OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS.

I BELIEVE ALL OF THESE STEPS WILL TAKE US IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH OUR TROY SENIORS, AND I ALSO KNOW THAT THEY WON'T HESITATE TO TELL ME IF WE'RE FALLING SHORT!

WELL, HERE WE ARE IN THE SOUTH ROTUNDA OF THE SOMERSET COLLECTION—AND FRANKLY, MANY PEOPLE IN THIS STATE AND THE MIDWEST KNOW OF THE CITY OF TROY **BECAUSE OF SOMERSET**. LAST YEAR, I TALKED QUITE A BIT ABOUT SAM FRANKEL AND HIS VISIONARY DEVELOPMENT OF BIG BEAVER ROAD AND COOLIDGE HIGHWAY. IN FACT, I WANTED TO PUT

THESE IMAGES UP ON THE SCREEN TO SHOW THE DEVELOPMENT CHANGES OVER THE PAST SIXTY YEARS. [CUE 9 – SOMERSET COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT CHANGES]

I'M JUST FASCINATED BY THAT GROWTH!

ONE OF SAM'S SONS, STANLEY FRANKEL, IS HERE WITH US THIS EVENING – PLEASE SAY HELLO, STANLEY! [APPLAUSE] EACH TIME I MEET WITH STANLEY, I FEEL LIKE I'M GIVEN A GIFT—HE OPENS MY EYES AND MIND TO SO MUCH OF TROY'S HISTORY.

SOME OF YOU MAY REMEMBER I TOLD THE STORY LAST YEAR ABOUT THE COWS LOWING ACROSS THE STREET FROM SAK'S AS PEOPLE WERE ATTENDING THE GRAND OPENING GALA IN THE 60S. I'M NOT SURE IF THE FRANKEL FAMILY, AND THEN LATER WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FORBES FAMILY KNEW WHAT KIND OF IMPACT THIS PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT WOULD HAVE ON THE CITY OF TROY. I'M NOT SURE ANYONE REALLY COULD. BUT THERE'S NO DENYING ITS IMPORTANCE AND THE VALUE IT BRINGS TO US ALL HERE.

[CUE 10 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

QUITE OFTEN I FIND MYSELF IN THE POSITION OF TRYING TO EXPLAIN SOMERSET TO SOMEONE WHO ISN'T FROM AROUND HERE. THEIR FIRST ASSUMPTION IS THAT IT'S "JUST A MALL", BUT WE ALL KNOW BETTER. I USUALLY END UP EXPLAINING THAT IT'S A BIT LIKE HAVING OUR VERY OWN 5TH AVENUE IN NEW YORK OR RODEO DRIVE IN BEVERLY HILLS. CLEARLY, I'M NOT ALONE IN MY THINKING. [CUE 11 – 5TH AVENUE AD]. I CAME ACROSS THIS AD FROM THE 1960S AND LOOK WHAT IT SAYS!

[CUE 12 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

SERIOUSLY, BECAUSE OF SOMERSET, TROY, MICHIGAN HAS SOME OF THE FINEST SHOPPING IN THE WORLD! AT A MEETING WITH NATE AND SOME OTHERS LAST MONTH, HE QUICKLY RATTLED OFF SOME OF THE NOTABLE NEW STORE OPENINGS OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS AND SOME THAT ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND COMING SOON: BALENCIAGA, DIOR, MONCLER,

DIPTYQUE, PRADA, SAINT LAURENT... TO NAME A FEW. IT WAS AT THAT POINT THAT THOSE IN THE KNOW STARTED TO NOD THEIR HEADS IN RECOGNITION OF THE STORES, WHILE THE OTHERS CHUCKLED, AS IT SEEMED OUR MEETING HAD SUDDENLY CONTINUED IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE!

I WAS LOOKING BACK THROUGH HISTORICAL NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND I CAME ACROSS THIS ONE. [CUE 13 – DOWNTOWN MICHIGAN]

THIS WAS IN THE DETROIT NEWS IN THE SUMMER OF 1996 AS SOMERSET NORTH WAS ABOUT TO OPEN. THE MESSAGING IS CLEAR—THE WORLD CLASS SHOPPING THAT USED TO BE IN DOWNTOWN DETROIT, NOW LIVES HERE IN TROY. WELL, NEARLY 30 YEARS LATER, IS THIS RIGHT HERE DOWNTOWN MICHIGAN? REGARDLESS, CAN WE ALL JUST ADMIT THAT THIS IS DOWNTOWN TROY? AND THAT IS OK? CAN WE JUST ADMIT IT? WELL, I CAN, AND I'M NOT ASHAMED TO SAY IT! 😊

[CUE 14 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

IN LATE MARCH, I COMMISSIONED SOME DRONE FOOTAGE FROM RICK BOVENSIEP, WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF OUR FIREFIGHTERS. HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL IMAGE BEHIND ME AND ON THE SCREENS, AND ALTHOUGH SOMERSET ORIGINALLY KICKED HIM OFF THE PROPERTY WHEN HE SENT UP HIS DRONE—SECURITY HERE DOESN'T MESS AROUND!—HE WAS QUICKLY ALLOWED TO COME BACK AND FINISH THE JOB—THANKS TO KATE AND HER FABULOUS TEAM! THIS VIDEO WAS DONE BEFORE IT REALLY STARTED LOOKING LIKE SPRING, BUT CHECK OUT THE BEAUTY OF THIS PLACE FROM THE SKY.

[CUE 15 - DRONE FOOTAGE VIDEO]

AS THIS VIDEO COMES TO AN END, LOOK AT THAT KMART HEADQUARTERS PROPERTY JUST SITTING THERE—VACANT FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS NOW. NATE AND STANLEY, IN CASE YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN, THE MOST COMMON QUESTION WE GET ASKED IS “WHAT’S GOING ON WITH THE KMART PROPERTY?!”. WELL, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT SOMETHING WILL BE COMING SOONER RATHER THAN LATER REGARDING THE POSSIBLE RE-DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER KMART

HEADQUARTERS. AND IF AND WHEN IT DOES, YOU CAN BET THERE WILL BE CITY-WIDE CELEBRATION!

[CUE 16 – DEFAULT SLIDE].

DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT OUR CITY IS ALWAYS A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION—WHETHER AT COUNCIL MEETINGS, IN SOCIAL MEDIA, OR JUST NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR. LATER THIS MONTH, WE WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN THE REQUIRED 63-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OF OUR MASTER PLAN UPDATE. IT WILL BE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS, YOUR IDEAS, AND WHAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON FOR TROY’S MASTER PLAN. THE REALITY IS, THIS 63-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS REALLY THE CLOSING CHAPTER OF A YEARS-LONG DATA AND INFORMATION GATHERING PERIOD. WE HAVE HEARD FROM RESIDENTS ACROSS ALL LEVELS OF THE CITY SHARING WHAT THEY LIKE ABOUT OUR MASTER PLAN, AND FRANKLY, WHAT THEY OFTEN HATE. OUR PLANNING DEPARTMENT, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND OUR COUNCIL HAVE TAKEN THIS ALL TO HEART AND HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARD THIS MASTER PLAN UPDATE FOR A LONG TIME. WELL OVER A YEAR AGO, OUR PLANNING COMMISSIONERS WENT “INTO THE FIELD” AND TOURED SEVERAL OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD NODES, WHICH HAVE TENDED TO BE THE HEAVIEST STICKING POINTS IN OUR MASTER PLAN AND PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT. AFTER THE PLANNING COMMISSION TOOK THEIR FIELD TRIPS, COUNCIL FOLLOWED. THEY WERE EYE OPENING, AND ELICITED REALLY FRANK AND PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS BOTH AS A LARGE GROUP AND IN SMALLER GROUPS. I LOOK FORWARD TO FINALIZING THIS STATUTORILY REQUIRED MASTER PLAN UPDATE, SO THAT OUR RESIDENTS FEEL HEARD AND DEVELOPERS HAVE A CLEAR POLICY DOCUMENT TO USE IN PLANNING.

[CUE 17 – BRENT’S SLIDE]

BRENT SAVIDANT IS OUR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND AT A RECENT DDA MEETING HE SAID SOMETHING THAT REALLY RESONATED WITH ME. HE SAID, “WE DON’T HAVE FARM FIELDS ANYMORE, BUT WE HAVE A TON OF PARKING LOTS!”

THIS IS A PROJECT AT 295 KIRTS WHERE A DEVELOPER IS CONVERTING THE VACANT 3-STORY, 102,000 SQUARE FOOT OFFICE BUILDING INTO 90 APARTMENTS. TWO ADDITIONAL 55-UNIT APARTMENT BUILDINGS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED WITH THE EMPTY PARKING LOT. SO WE GO FROM THIS FIELD OF CONCRETE, WHICH WE ALL CAN AGREE IS UGLY AND NOT ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND, TO THIS: [CUE SLIDE 18 – FORUM FLATS].

TROY IS A REGIONAL LEADER IN THE CONVERSION OF EMPTY OFFICE BUILDINGS INTO RESIDENTIAL UNITS. OUR PLANNING COMMISSION RECENTLY APPROVED ANOTHER OFFICE TO RESIDENTIAL CONVERSION ON CROOKS ROAD NEAR BIG BEAVER. IT'S A TREND THAT APPEARS TO BE CONTINUING AND WE WELCOME IT. CONVERSION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS KEEPS THOUSANDS OF TONS OF BUILDING MATERIALS OUT OF LANDFILLS. THEY REMOVE OLDER AND UNDERPERFORMING SPACE FROM THE OFFICE MARKET, THEREBY STRENGTHENING THE MARKET. AND THESE TWO PROJECTS ALONE WILL ADD 344 NEW RESIDENTIAL HOUSING UNITS TO THE TROY HOUSING MARKET.

[CUE 19 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

FROM A POLICY STANDPOINT, I ASK MY FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CITY ADMINISTRATION TO REALLY THINK ABOUT THESE CHANGES. WE ARE ADDING HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS TO OUR BIG BEAVER CORRIDOR AND DDA DISTRICT. WHAT IS THAT GOING TO MEAN FOR OUR CITY? WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE AS PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN AN AREA THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN POPULATED WITH DAYTIME OFFICE USE. WHAT DO WE NEED TO ADD? WHAT DO WE NEED TO CHANGE? AND WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO MAKE SURE THOSE NEW RESIDENTS HAVE THE SAME QUALITY OF LIFE IN PLACE THAT THE REST OF US DO? SO I CHALLENGE ALL OF US TO THINK ABOUT THIS AND TO BE SMART IN HOW WE PLAN FOR THE NEXT 5 TO 10 YEARS. IF WE DON'T, WE COULD FIND OURSELVES PLAYING CATCH-UP AND POTENTIALLY MISSING SOME AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES NOT JUST FOR OUR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES, BUT THE CITY AS A WHOLE.

WHILE OUR MASTER PLAN PRIMARILY FOCUSES ON PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT, THE CITY OF TROY CONTINUES TO MAKE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AS WELL.

WE CANNOT RISK LETTING TROY NOT SHINE AS IT SHOULD. WE MUST ALWAYS INVEST IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, YES, BUT WE ALSO MUST INVEST IN OUR CURB APPEAL. I'VE DISCUSSED HOW THE DDA HAS BEEN PLANNING AND DESIGNING A MAJOR LANDSCAPING RENOVATION TO OUR DDA DISTRICT, WHICH IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE GOLDEN CORRIDOR OR OUR BIG BEAVER DISTRICT. THE DDA IS ABOUT TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF THE WORK, WHICH WILL FOCUS ON THE DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE—DDI—EFFECTIVELY THE BIG BEAVER AND I-75 INTERCHANGE. [CUE 20 – DDI RENDERINGS]

THESE RENDERINGS SHOW WHAT THE FINISHED PROJECT WILL LOOK LIKE. THE CITY HAS WORKED WITH OHM THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS AND THEY CONTINUE TO LEAD THIS PROJECT WITH A LOT OF INPUT FROM DDA CHAIR ALAN KIRILUK. IN FACT, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ALAN! HE IS HANDS ON. EVEN LAST WEEK WHEN I WAS LEAVING THE DDA MEETING, I LOOKED OVER AND THERE WAS ALAN HAND DRAWING TREES INTO THE DDI PLANS! ALAN, YOU GRACIOUSLY HOSTED LAST YEAR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS AT THE COLUMBIA CENTER—CAN YOU PLEASE STAND AND SAY HELLO? [APPLAUSE]

[CUE 21 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

WE DON'T JUST FOCUS ON OUR DDA AND BIG BEAVER EXPERIENCE. THE REST OF OUR CITY NEEDS THE SAME LOVE AND ATTENTION. WE LOOK THROUGHOUT OUR CITY FOR ENHANCEMENTS—PLACEMAKING—WHICH MEANS MANY DIFFERENT THINGS TO MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE. WE ARE LOOKING AT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR CITY SIGNAGE, FOR PARKS, FOR CITY FACILITIES, AND FOR THE SIGNAGE AROUND THE PERIMETER OF OUR CITY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR **PUBLIC ART** AND WAYS TO BRING A SENSE OF HOME AND PLACE TO OUR PUBLIC SPACES. SOME PLACEMAKING PROJECTS MAY BE SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A \$1,000 BENCH—OTHERS MAY BE MORE LIKE OUR UPCOMING **\$10 MILLION PAVILION AND ICE SKATING AMENITY**, WHICH I AM HAPPY TO SAY IS MOVING ALONG. AND SO LONG AS THE STARS CONTINUE TO LINE UP, WE WILL BE ICE SKATING THERE THIS WINTER! TAKE A LOOK!

[CUE 22 – TROY PAVILION]

AFTER VIDEO FINISHES, [CUE 23 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

I HATE TO JINX ANYTHING, BUT I TRULY AM EXCITED ABOUT THIS PROJECT. IT'S THE BIGGEST CAPITAL PROJECT THE CITY HAS DONE IN MORE THAN **20 YEARS** AND IT IS SOMETHING OUR RESIDENTS HAVE WANTED FOR JUST AS LONG!

AS WE MOVE INTO THE CONSTRUCTION AND EVENTUAL OPERATION OF OUR NEW PAVILION AND ICE SKATING AMENITY, IT'S TIME TO BE LOOKING AT WHAT IS NEXT? WE KNOW THERE IS A LONG LEAD TIME REQUIRED FOR PLANNING CIVIC BUILDINGS AND CAPITAL SPENDING. THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENT POTENTIAL OPTIONS. CERTAINLY, WE ALL KNOW OUR TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY IS IN NEED OF MAJOR RENOVATIONS, AND I KNOW THE LIBRARY TEAM IS FEVERISHLY EVALUATING WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH CURRENT FUNDING. MOST OF YOU KNOW I'M A HUGE ADVOCATE FOR A **PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**, OR AT THE VERY LEAST A PUBLIC AMPHITHEATRE OR BANDSHELL THAT COULD HIGHLIGHT THE **BEAUTIFUL MUSICIANS** WE HAVE LOCALLY, AND ALSO THOSE WANTING TO PERFORM HERE. WOULDN'T IT BE NICE FOR THE **TROY METRO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** TO HAVE A "HOME"?

AND, OF COURSE, THE TIME GETS CLOSER AND CLOSER TO WHEN WE NEED TO ADDRESS OUR AGING TROY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER. I THINK IT MAY BE TIME TO REIMAGINE OUR AQUATIC CENTER FOR THIS NEXT GENERATION. A FEW WEEKS AGO, COUNCILMEMBER HODOREK SHARED WITH ME SOME PICTURES FROM WHEN HER NOW ADULT CHILDREN WERE ACTUAL CHILDREN – IN FACT IT WAS BEFORE HER SON GREG WAS EVEN BORN. [CUE 24 – ELLEN PICS - TFAC]

THERE THEY WERE SWIMMING AND HAVING FUN AT OUR TROY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER. SO I'M LOOKING AT THESE PICTURES, AND IT DAWNED ON ME. OUR TROY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER LOOKS EXACTLY THE SAME TODAY AS IT DID IN 1992 WHEN IT OPENED. MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO NOW. IS THAT A GOOD THING? THERE IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING TO BE SAID ABOUT TRADITION AND CONSISTENCY, NO QUESTION, AND I LOVE THAT FAMILIES TODAY CAN HAVE THE SAME EXPERIENCE AT THE AQUATIC CENTER THAT THEY COULD 30 YEARS AGO WHEN IT

OPENED. BUT AS WE REIMAGINE OUR CITY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION, SHOULDN'T WE LOOK AT WHAT THE TROY FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER SHOULD BE? I BELIEVE WE SHOULD AND I KNOW THERE ARE OTHERS WHO SHARE THAT SENTIMENT. I ASK COUNCIL TO CONTINUE TO THINK ABOUT THIS FROM A POLICY STANDPOINT, AND FOR CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH US ON A REALISTIC PLAN FOR MOVING FORWARD.

SO THANK YOU, ELLEN, FOR SENDING THESE PICTURES. WHILE THE AQUATIC CENTER HAS BEEN ON MY MIND FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS, YOUR PICTURES DEFINITELY SPARKED SOMETHING NEW. AND YES, THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS IN TROY'S HISTORY WHERE ONE OF OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS IS SHOWN IN A BATHING SUIT!

[CUE 25 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

MANY OF US MOVED TO TROY FOR OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. EDUCATION IS A HEAVY FOCUS FOR OUR RESIDENTS, AS EVIDENCED BY OUR HIGH ACHIEVING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OUR EXTREMELY EDUCATED WORKFORCE. OF COURSE, DR. MACHESKY IS HERE THIS EVENING, OUR TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT. RICH, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO! [APPLAUSE] WE THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU DO DAY IN AND DAY OUT TO KEEP TROY SCHOOLS CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG THE **BEST IN THE STATE!**

BUT EDUCATION IN TROY ISN'T RESTRICTED TO ONLY K-12 EDUCATION. THIS YEAR, WALSH COLLEGE IS CELEBRATING ITS CENTENNIAL. 100 YEARS OF WALSH! CHECK THIS OUT! [CUE 26

– WALSH COLLEGE VIDEO]

[AFTER VIDEO ENDS, CUE 27 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

I'M THANKFUL WE ARE JOINED BY DR. SUZY SIEGLE THIS EVENING, WALSH'S CEO, CHIEF ENERGY OFFICE, AND CHIEF CHAMPION. I'M VERY GRATEFUL THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH AND STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WALSH COLLEGE AND THE CITY OF TROY. SUZY, PLEASE STAND UP AND SAY HELLO!

AND NOW, SOME VERY EXCITING NEWS! THIS SUMMER, THE TROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL MOVE ITS HEADQUARTERS TO THE WALSH COLLEGE CAMPUS IN A BEAUTIFUL, BRAND NEW OFFICE SUITE. I'D LIKE TO THINK I WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THIS MOVE, SO I'M PROPOSING TO SUZY AND TARA THAT THIS BE THE NEW LOOK FOR WALSH. [CUE 28 – ETHAN/WALSH]

IS THAT A FIRM MAYBE?? OK, FINE...

[CUE 29 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

BUT SERIOUSLY, AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL, THIS IS A "FIRST IN THE NATION" MOVE—NEVER HAS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAD ITS HEADQUARTERS IN A MAJOR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, LIKE WALSH. THIS IS A ONE-OF-A-KIND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CHAMBER AND WALSH, AND WHAT BETTER WAY FOR WALSH TO START ITS NEXT 100 YEARS!

I REALLY DO THINK THIS IS SOMETHING SPECIAL. IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE FOR THE TROY CHAMBER TO CHOOSE WALSH AS THEIR HOME. TOGETHER THEY WILL PROVIDE WORLD CLASS EDUCATION AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

AND LET ME TALK A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE TROY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. MANY OF YOU HERE ARE TROY CHAMBER MEMBERS, AND YOU ALREADY KNOW THE BENEFIT OF WHAT THIS TEAM CAN DO. AS I AM IN MY FOURTH YEAR AS MAYOR, TARA IS ALSO IN HER FOURTH YEAR AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE CHAMBER. IN A STRANGE WAY, I FEEL LIKE SHE'S MY "RUNNING MATE", AS SHE WAS HIRED JUST BEFORE I GOT ELECTED MAYOR. I FIRST MET TARA ON THE WINDY ROOFTOP OF THE 888 BIG BEAVER PARKING STRUCTURE, DURING A GRILLIN' WITH THE PREZ CHAMBER EVENT. TRUTHFULLY, AS IS OFTEN THE CASE WITH TARA, I WASN'T INITIALLY SURE WHAT TO THINK! BUT I QUICKLY LEARNED ALL OF TARA'S STRENGTHS AND I'VE WATCHED HER LEAD THE CHAMBER IN SUCH A POWERFUL WAY.

AND, OF COURSE, SHE IS MY GO-TO ON BUSINESS ISSUES HERE IN THE CITY OF TROY. [CUE 30 – FOCUS TROY]

FOR ABOUT A YEAR AND HALF, WE HAVE BEEN DOING OUR “FOCUS TROY BUSINESS TOURS” AND I CANNOT BEGIN TO TELL YOU HOW IMPACTFUL THEY HAVE BEEN. HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR A BUSINESS, SPEAK WITH THE LEADERSHIP, AND FRANKLY, JUST LISTEN AND LEARN HAS BEEN VERY MEANINGFUL. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THESE TOURS WITH TARA, AND AS SHE OFTEN SAYS AT EVENTS: IF YOU’D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR BUSINESS FEATURED IN OUR FOCUS TROY BUSINESS TOURS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO [TARA@TROYCHAMBER.COM!](mailto:TARA@TROYCHAMBER.COM)

[CUE 31 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

AS WE ALL KNOW, THE CHAMBER IS FAR MORE THAN JUST TARA. SHE HAS BUILT A TEAM THAT I THINK COULD TAKE ON ANY CHALLENGE, PLAN ANY EVENT, AND DO IT ALL WITH EASE AND CLASS! SO TARA, SHEILA, SYDNEY, EVAN, AND JODY, PLEASE ALL STAND AND LET ME AND ALL OF US HERE CELEBRATE YOU!

ONE MORE THING ABOUT THE CHAMBER. **[CUE 32 – DREAM TEAM]**

THIS PICTURE IS FROM THE 2021 STATE OF THE CITY. IT’S WHAT I OFTEN CALL MY “DREAM TEAM”. I REALLY DO SPEND A LOT OF HOURS WITH THESE THREE WOMEN. THANK YOU, TARA, SHEILA, AND CINDY FOR HELPING ME MAKE THE CITY OF TROY SHINE! YOU’RE THE BEST!

[CUE 33 – DEFAULT SLIDE]

WELL, YOU CAN SEE WHY I AM SO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE CITY OF TROY. AS I LOOK OUT AT ALL OF YOU HERE TONIGHT, AND I LOOK BACK ON ALL THE THINGS I’VE TALKED ABOUT THIS EVENING...AS I REFLECT ON ALL OF THE EXPERIENCES I’VE HAD IN OUR CITY OVER THE PAST YEAR—WITH EVERY RESIDENT, EVERY BUSINESS OWNER, EMPLOYEE, AND EVERY STUDENT—IT IS NO WONDER WHY I CAN UNEQUIVOCALLY SAY THE STATE OF OUR CITY IS STRONG! TROY CONTINUES TO BE THE CREAM OF THE CROP—A PLACE OF POSITIVITY, A PLACE OF HOPE, AND A

PLACE OF SUCCESS. WE CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON ALL CYLINDERS AND TO BE THE DRIVING ECONOMIC FORCE FOR OAKLAND COUNTY. AS A PART OF THE FABRIC OF OUR CITY, YOU EACH HAVE A LOT TO BE PROUD OF PLAYING A ROLE IN TROY'S STORY. I'M VERY EXCITED ABOUT TROY'S FUTURE. I KNOW THAT IF WE CONTINUE TO LEAD WITH THE OPTIMISM AND WARMTH OUR RESIDENTS NEED AND WANT, THERE IS NOTHING WE CANNOT ACCOMPLISH HERE IN TROY! YOU HAVE MY COMMITMENT TO BE TROY'S BIGGEST CHEERLEADER, TROY'S BIGGEST CHAMPION, AND A MAYOR THAT WILL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO ENSURE TROY'S LONG-TERM SUCCESS! WE HAVE A TEAM IN PLACE AT CITY HALL THAT IS RIGHT THERE WITH ME, AND WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER, THE SKY IS THE LIMIT!

AS I BRING THINGS TO A CLOSE HERE, I DO WANT TO GIVE SPECIAL THANKS, AGAIN, TO MY FRIENDS HERE AT THE SOMERSET COLLECTION—KATE MILLEA AND HER TEAM, AND OF COURSE NATE FORBES AND STANLEY FRANKEL. FROM THE TROY CHAMBER, TARA TOMCISK-HUSAK, SHEILA DENSTAEDT, AND THEIR SUPERSTAR TEAM, 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, AND ESPECIALLY CHRIS AND NATHAN WHO EDITED MY INTRODUCTION VIDEO AND EASILY TOOK THE IMAGES AND SLIDES I SENT AND TURNED THEM INTO A MASTERPIECE. TO LOCAL TROY BUSINESS ADVANCED LIGHTING & SOUND FOR MAKING SURE OUR AUDIO VISUALS HERE AT SOMERSET WERE PERFECT, TO SHAWN POLITO WHO IS MAKING SURE THIS IS STREAMING LIVE FROM HIS CITY HALL PRODUCTION BOOTH. TO WILLIAMS SONOMA AND MICI ITALIAN WHO ARE ABOUT TO HOST OUR AFTERGLOW, AND TO BOB CHAPA AND SIGNARAMA, WHO GENEROUSLY PROVIDED THIS BACKDROP SIGN FOR ME TO USE TONIGHT AND INTO THE FUTURE. TO OUR TROY POLICE CHAPLAIN BOB CORNWALL FOR YOUR INVOCATION, AND OUR TROY FIRE DEPARTMENT HONOR GUARD FOR HONORING US WITH YOUR PRESENCE AND HONORING OUR COUNTRY WITH YOUR PRESENTATION, TO THE VERY TALENTED TROY METRO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND THEIR CONDUCTOR TRAVIS COOK. THIS BEAUTIFUL ORCHESTRA HAS BEEN IN TROY SINCE 2016 AND IS A NON-PROFIT ORCHESTRA MADE UP OF VOLUNTEER MUSICIANS. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THEM, GO TO TROYMETRO.ORG OR LOOK THEM UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA. TO MY FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS 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; AND OF COURSE TO BETHANY AND OUR THREE WONDERFUL CHILDREN—I COULDN'T DO ANY OF THIS WITHOUT YOU, HONEY, AND THE PEOPLE HERE TONIGHT AND IN THIS CITY LOVE YOU!

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!

SO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING YOUR MAYOR, AND GOOD NIGHT FROM "DOWNTOWN MICHIGAN!"