

**STATE OF CITY ADDRESS:
“The Future Starts Now”**

February 4, 2014

Good afternoon!

Thank you for this opportunity. Special thanks to the Rotary for the invitation. We’ve accomplished so much in the twelve months since I last spoke with you about the State of our City.

Today you look around Jeffersonville and can’t help but see the progress we’re making. Our City is on the move!

This past year was a turning point. We unveiled the Pathway 2 Progress – five projects that will shape Jeffersonville’s future. Each project fills a void, solves a problem or bridges a gap for the city and its residents. Each project enhances Jeffersonville’s economic, cultural and quality of life experiences.

We saw construction start on the new Ohio River Bridges. After decades of talk, a new East End bridge is less than three years from becoming a reality. Once finished, the bridge will bring with it more growth and development to the River Ridge Commerce Center and our east end.

We energized our downtown by transforming vacant buildings into new museums. They were buildings slated to be torn down. With the arrival of the Vintage Fire Museum and the Clark County Museum, we’re taking a step towards creating the city’s first arts and cultural district.

As part of our effort, the Jeffersonville Public Arts Committee has been working on various projects. The most noticeable has used local artists to paint utility boxes throughout the city. We’ve also brought on a public arts administrator to come up with even more innovative ways to highlight art in the city.

In the last 24 months, we’ve seen nearly 2,500 new jobs come to Jeffersonville. With the arrival of new businesses like Amazon and Catamaran, Jeffersonville is bucking the trend.

Not only are new companies moving to Jeff, but existing businesses are expanding. The latest is Voss Clark. The steel manufacturer is investing nearly \$12 million to expand their operations in the Clark Maritime Center. It’s just one example of how we’re keeping jobs right here in Jeffersonville.

And our hard work is getting noticed. Jeffersonville was named the fourth best place in Indiana for job seekers. Our city was ranked among the best in the State to raise a family. Our strategy is simple – keep taxes low while making Jeffersonville a great place live and raise a family.

Economic development is more than tax abatements and incentive packages. To succeed in economic development, we must improve the quality of life for everyone. Companies are attracted to communities that are a good place to live, work and do business. Top quality schools, exceptional medical care, diverse recreational opportunities, good roads, clean water, and effective public safety are what make a location appealing.

We're investing in our future by improving the quality of life.

In 2013 we opened the new Vissing Park. The park is now a wonderful place for families to gather and enjoy some time together. It's filled with open green space along with basketball courts, baseball, softball fields, walking trails and playgrounds.

The new Woehrle Soccer Complex on Charlestown Pike will have six soccer fields - two of them for football including an artificial-turf field. And it's just the start. We hope to soon begin construction on an indoor athletic facility at the complex.

We preserved the last open green space along our Riverfront when we purchased land next to Duffy's Landing. We'll now expand the boat launch at Duffy's Landing and address safety concerns along Utica Pike.

It's a unique time for our city. We're starting to feel the impact of the Ohio River Bridges Project. We'll soon reap the benefits from the two new bridges. And now is the time to show potential investors and residents that Jeffersonville is a city full of opportunities. We must have the thoughtfulness and foresight to act responsibly and progressively while planning for our future.

And we are doing just that with a focus on job growth while improving the quality of life for everyone. We are revitalizing, renewing, reinvesting and rediscovering Jeffersonville. Our future starts now!

It starts with a new downtown marina. We must never forget that Jeffersonville is a river city. A renovation of the city's boat docks has been considered several times in the last two decades. Time has taken its toll on our current docks, leaving areas of our river's edge in disrepair. We are now putting a plan into action to maximize one of Jeffersonville's greatest assets – the Ohio River.

This summer construction will start on the new downtown marina that will include a complete overhaul of our boat docks. The number of slips will be increased. We will have transient slips to allow boaters to dock and shop, dock and dine and visit downtown Jeffersonville. A new fishing pier will extend 200 feet over the Ohio River.

The marina is just one way we're enhancing our riverfront. Over the next couple of years, we're going to finish our part of the Ohio River Greenway. It's just another way we're making Jeffersonville a more walkable and bikeable community.

We'll soon open the first city park in Jeffersonville's annexed area. We are turning one of the city's longest eyesores – the corner of Allison Lane and Middle Road – into a family park. While the brownfield wasn't suitable for commercial and residential development, it was an ideal location for walking paths, a playground and recreational space for everyone. Community gardens are the cornerstone of the new Allison Brook Park, giving residents and neighbors a sense of community and something they can be proud of.

This year we'll see the Big Four Bridge finally open bringing thousands to our downtown shops and restaurants. Between June and October of last year, more than half million people had already crossed the pedestrian bridge.

There's no doubt that watching the progress of the Big Four Bridge on the Indiana side has been frustrating for everyone including me. But it will be worth the wait. It's such an important project for our city. We want to make sure it's done right.

Construction is underway at Big Four Station – a park at the foot of the bridge with two blocks of green space, a playground, pavilion and water feature. Along with the new streetscape improvements on Chestnut Street, our downtown is on the verge of great things.

Private development is already happening near Big Four Station. The old Rose Hill School is well on its way to becoming condo and retail space. We have new restaurants downtown with more in the works. People are investing in our downtown because of what the Big Four Bridge means to the future of Jeffersonville.

We can attract even more private investment. Now is the time to develop Colston Park along Mullberry. The Parks Department no longer utilizes the park. Keeping the land vacant isn't the best. It's prime real estate for private development. Let's make it happen!

With the opening of the Big Four, we're bringing back the Steamboat Days Festival later this year. It's part of the Belle of Louisville's 100th year celebration.

After nearly a decade of underperforming, Veterans Parkway is finally taking shape. One restaurant, Boombozz Pizza is open, with another – Culvers – set to open next month. Plans have been approved for a new 750,00 square foot Menards that will anchor our side side of Veterans Parkway.

We're moving forward with revitalizing 10th Street. It's time to upgrade 10th Street by creating wider lanes and adding a turning lane. Improving this major thoroughfare will deal with more traffic to River Ridge and other businesses along the way. With new sidewalks, landscaping and lighting, we'll make 10th Street more pedestrian friendly. Over the next several months, land acquisition will start for the project with construction scheduled in 2016.

For too long now, people have talked about developing 10th and Spring. We're finally making it happen. We've chosen a private company to develop the city's gateway entrance. The developer has committed to build three restaurants, two hotels and a park.

And with all of the growth happening, we are investing in our infrastructure. With River Ridge developing quicker than expected and the new east end bridge just under construction, we must ensure that Highway 62 can handle the traffic. I'm working with state officials to make improvements to Highway 62 including turning lanes at Utica-Sellersburg Road.

As you can see it's an exciting time in Jeffersonville. We're making great progress.

But we can't do it alone. It takes everyone – the mayor, city council, residents, businesses and community leaders – working together to build a better Jeffersonville.

And while our agenda is ambitious, we're pursuing it with the same fiscal discipline that has helped us come out of the recession with a budget surplus. We ended last year with a surplus of \$9 million.

We're paying for city projects with cash on hand. When we came into office two years ago, we had started with about \$1.8 million in our TIF districts. Today our TIF districts have a balance of more than \$13 million.

We're doing more with less and we're doing it without raising taxes. We will continue to live within our means without burdening the taxpayer.

We've accomplished a lot – but we have much more to do. The State of our City is stronger than ever – but I believe it can be even stronger, and together, we'll make it stronger.

We make it stronger by moving forward. We do it by finishing what we've started. **Our future begins now!**

In our first two years, we've proven that our economic development and quality of life strategies are working. So, the question before us today is where do we go next?

Are we going to be content with what we've accomplished? Or are we going to build upon our momentum?

LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING! There is no challenge too big. No problem we can't solve. The possibilities are limitless.

Thank you for allowing me to serve and let's keep working to make our city the very best it can be.