

State of the City Update

Mayor Michael J. Villa

January 16, 2019

With an exciting 3 years serving as the Mayor of the City of Amsterdam now in the history books, I am pleased and eager to share a number of our successes and talk about some of the challenges that lie ahead.

First, I want to thank the common council for working pro-actively together this past year, a hands-on working relationship that I am confident will continue in 2019.

The same appreciation to the city's department heads, who step up to the plate daily to ensure that the internal business of the city is conducted professionally.

Financial Forecast

Great strides have been made by Controller Agresta and his staff. As we look ahead in 2019 the city will be current on all its financials, although the numbers are bleak, we finally have accurate figures allowing for us to plan accordingly. As you may have read in the media, we are exploring options for debt financing and making a Home Rule Request under Section 10.10 of the Finance Law. Pursuing this avenue will require the assistance of our State representatives, Assemblyman Santabarbara and Senator Amedore. For too many years the city's finances have been cloaked in darkness, this administration made a promise to fix the city's finances. The common council particularly Alderman Martuscello coordinated the effort to bring in outside help to assist the Controller's Office and put us on a path to have our financials current each and every year. Inheriting this enormous debt will be a challenge not only for our elected officials but for our tax paying constituents. As leaders we must provide the facts but we also must understand that pointing fingers will not solve the problems we face. Instead of looking back we must look ahead, Amsterdam has a future, but we must overcome this hardship we face, and we will. We continue our efforts to pursue foreclosures on a yearly basis.

To give you an idea of how important it is to conduct foreclosures on a yearly basis the following data is provided; we took ownership of 141 properties, far less than the 374 the last time around. In terms of total brought in by that process, as of right now, the taxes that were outstanding as part of this process were about 1.2 million, and the city took in almost 1,080,000 from the auction. So, we lost less than 200k in this process. Last time around it was a loss of 3.5 million. We are hopeful that this next one that we have started will allow us a break even, or possibly even take in more than was actually owed in taxes. In terms of our financials we are 100% current on bank reconciliations on a monthly basis, we are current with the state on annual financial filings, and hope to have our 2017/2018 audit done within the required 9-month time frame, our auditors are currently on site conducting the field work necessary to complete this audit on time. Scheduling for that is happening as we speak. The Controller's office continues to implement a new time keeping system that can save the city on average 2% of payroll each year when fully implemented. We are still negotiating with Police and Fire to get their staff online. The codes module is also making strides that will allow us access to valuable data as we continue to improve our city's appearance. Controller Agresta and his staff have worked closely with the Mayor's office and with the Common Council so we have the most accurate data as we approach the 2019 budget.

City Initiatives

There are many initiatives that are underway and many that we can look forward to in the near future. I have highlighted some of those for you below and will keep you updated on their progress.

Brownfields Opportunity Areas

Amsterdam's East End and Northern Neighborhood areas were formally designated as a BOA (Brownfields Opportunity Area) under the NYS Dept of State BOA program. This designation will provide large tax incentives to developers who redevelop old industrial sites within the designated BOA, and will serve as a major financial incentive for re-investment in the City.

Land Bank

The Land Bank, a cooperative effort with the City of Schenectady and Schenectady County, was successful in obtaining another major (\$2 Million) grant from the State Attorney General's office to address blight in the two Cities in 2018. This is on top of the \$3 million in funding that was received in 2016 and \$2 million that was received in 2017. To date, the Land Bank program has demolished 14 units of dilapidated housing on Division Street and Guy Park Avenue, 9 units on Forbes Street, 5 units on John Street and 2 units on Jackson Street, and has rehabilitated 13 units of housing in various neighborhoods in the City, at a cost of over \$900,000. The Land Bank is looking to demolish 7 unsafe structures on Academy and Union Street neighborhoods in the coming year.

City Hall Restoration

With a \$224,000 grant from NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, a project to rehabilitate the portico on the southeast side of City Hall was completed in 2018, and is a first step toward bring City Hall back to its former glory.

Mohawk Valley Gateway Overlook

With a \$325,000 grant from the New York State Department of State, and another \$325,000 from New York State DOT, the City is undertaking enhancements to the MVGO. These include amenities such as bathroom facilities, and art work for the MVGO. At present, two major pieces of art work have been installed and the third and final piece is scheduled in the Spring of 2019. Bathroom facilities are also expected to be completed in 2018.

West End Storm Drainage Improvements

With funding provided through the Governor's Office for Storm Recovery, almost \$1.4 million in storm drainage improvements in the City's West End have been completed.

Water Quality Improvement Project

With a \$183,000 grant from the New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation, improvements are being made at the Wastewater Treatment

Plant. An effluent chlorination system will be installed, which will reduce potential contamination of the Mohawk River. This project is expected to be completed this year.

Dove Creek Flood Walls

With grant funding from FEMA, reconstruction of the flood walls along Dove Creek will be undertaken. This project, estimated at \$1.4 million is currently expected to commence construction during the spring of 2019.

Sewer System Improvements - EFC Funding

The City was awarded \$5 million in funding to undertake improvements to the City's aging sewer system in 2016. To date several projects have been completed including sewer reconstruction on Sloane and Sanford Avenues, Forest Avenue, Route 30 and Pershing Road. In addition to addressing the crises that the City has faced during a very challenging 2016 and 2017, this funding focuses on major upgrades to the City's sewer pump stations. Failures at these pump stations have been a major factor in discharges of untreated waste, and major capital investment in these is required to bring these stations up to current standards, and provide a high degree of reliability.

Water System Improvements - EFC Funding

The City received \$5.5 million in EFC funding for water system improvements in 2017. This funding is being used to make various critical improvements at the Water Treatment Plant, repaint the Locust Avenue and Tecler water towers, and to address problems with the water distribution system. This work will continue in 2019.

Zombie Property Funding

The City has been awarded a \$150,000 grant through the Local Initiatives Support Corporation. A building coordinator has been hired to undertake a wide range of activities; including building conditions surveys, coordination with the building inspectors, outreach to property owners who are in danger of foreclosure, and dealing with lenders. This grant also pays for outside counsel to bring code violators to court, resulting in a dramatic increase in code violators being held accountable. This grant is helping the City more effectively deal with blight throughout the City.

Sentinel Project

During 2017, construction activities were completed at the Sentinel, an assisted living facility at 10 Market Street. This \$12 million project, assisted with a \$750,000 CDBG grant, and \$800,000 from ESD is currently in the rent up stage and will result in a wider range of housing choices in the City. To date the project has led to the creation of 55 full time jobs and 11 part time jobs.

Former Wrestling Hall of Fame

With a \$500,000 Restore NY grant awarded to the City, combined with private sector investment from Cranesville Properties, this set of buildings are undergoing a major restoration and serve as an incentive to reinvestment in downtown Amsterdam.

Microtel Hotel

A \$1.2 million grant was awarded in the 2017 CF A round for the construction of a new three story - 64 room Microtel by Wyndham Hotel. The Hotel would be located near the Florida Business Park offering upscale business friendly rooms. We look forward to the successful completion of this project.

Chalmers Site

A \$1.0 million grant was awarded in the 2017 CF A round for the mixed use redevelopment of the former Chalmers Knitting Mill site on Amsterdam's South Side. The redevelopment of the Chalmers site was also given a major boost when the City was awarded a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Grant.

Microenterprise Grant Program

The City received a \$200,000 grant in 2016 to assist small businesses and start-up businesses. Thirteen businesses applied to participate in the program, and eleven have been deemed eligible and will be receiving financial assistance to start up or expand their businesses. A total of 10 businesses have received assistance and have created a total of 14 jobs.

Tourism, Marketing and Recreation Department

- Revenue from vendors and sponsors continue to grow every year. 2018 is the highest to date.
- Events and programs have increased from 12 in 2016, 17 in 2017, to 20 in 2018. In 2019 we have 26 events scheduled.

Events

- New Year's Eve Festival – New event in 2018. Events and activities at businesses and organizations all throughout the City
- SoupFest – New event in 2019. Sample different soup at various restaurants and organizations throughout the City.
- St. Paddy's Day Pub Fest – New event in 2018. Specials, music, games, activities at various restaurants and organizations throughout the City
- WingFest – New event in 2019. Sample different wings at various restaurants throughout the City.
- Spring Fling – over 100 vendors, rides, live music, activities - more than 5,000 attendees annually
- ParkFest – over 100 vendors, live music, volleyball tournament, fireworks – more than 5k attendees
- Movies in the Park – 5 outdoor movie nights in different parks throughout the City
- Sunset Celebrations – Block party to promote downtown businesses. Four in 2018, seven in 2019
- Independence Day Festival – New event in 2019. Live music and fireworks at Riverlink Park.
- Craft Beer Festival– Beer and cider sampling, live music, food vendors – great attendance – online ticket sales showed attendance from Glens Falls, Albany, Delmar, Schenectady, Glenville, Altamont, Fonda, Johnstown, and more.
- RiverFest – Kids activities, waterski show, vendors, live music, fireworks. More than 5,000 attendees
- National Night Out – Police/ fire demos, outdoor movie, waterslides, bounce houses, crafts, vendors, free pool admission – more than 3,000 in attendance
- ItaliaFest – Live music, rides, vendors, activities, fireworks – more than 12,000 attendees

- Homecoming Bonfire – Music, games, school teams, bonfire – more than 2,000 in attendance
- OktoberFest - Contests, games, vendors, biergarten, live music –10,000 in attendance
- Trick or Treat- Over 35 businesses/ organizations passed out candy to 2,000 kids and families
- Tree Lighting – Live music, train rides, horse drawn carriage, food, crafts – almost 2,000 in attendance

Youth Programs

- Summer Camp – 150 kids attended in 2018. We set up nutrition classes with Cornell Cooperative, leadership workshops with HFM Prevention Council, and field trips throughout the 6-week program
- Learn to Swim – More than 300 kids came in 2018 for the two-week free program this year
- Rec Basketball League – 300+ kids in the 1-8 Grade league and Mini Ballers program each year.

Downtown Revitalization Initiative

- Compiled data needed for DRI Projects, participated in the DRI Planning Committee, helped compose and file the DRI proposal and application, presented the DRI proposal to the Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council
- Participating in the Recreation Center project of the DRI – meet with potential partners and funders. Work with engineering firm on draft plans, meet with companies for equipment and materials.

Grants

- 2018 – Completed - \$5,000 grant for Summer Camp through the Montgomery County Youth Bureau
- 2018 – Completed - \$500 for the Erie Canal RiverFest event through the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- 2018 - Completed - \$7,000 for signage for the Chuctanunda Creek Trail through the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor
- 2018 – Ongoing - \$200,000 from SAM's Grant for Shuttleworth Park enhancements

- 2019 – Awaiting grant announcement in 2019 - \$6,000 grant for additional signage for the Chuctanunda Creek Trail through the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

Chuctanunda Creek Trail Project

- Manage a Chuctanunda Creek Trail steering committee
- Developed the Chuctanunda Creek trail logo and slogan
- Established 15 points of interest for the trail
- Developing wayfinding signage for the trail and wayside exhibits and signage for various points of interest. Working with Montgomery County DPW and Amsterdam DPW to install signage.
- Worked with Montgomery County Soil and Water who allocated over \$17,000 in equipment and staff hours to create the greenway portion of the Chuctanunda Creek Trail for us. They cleared and graded over a mile of the trail from Second Ave to the Powerhouse building and put down stone to formalize the walking trail.

Marketing/ Tourism

- Direct mail marketing campaign to over 1,500 businesses to promote sponsorship and events
- Added city-wide events to our schedule to promote our business community and the city as a whole.
- Create each yearly edition of the City of Amsterdam brochures and maps
- Maintain the tourism/ visitor kiosks in Shuttleworth Park, Muni, MVGO, and Riverlink Park
- Distribute brochures locally and throughout the region
- Increased our social media presence and added Twitter. Instagram coming soon.
- Headed the new City website design and content creation
- Events marketed on Capital District and regional websites
- Create and distribute event flyers
- Newspaper advertising
- New community event calendar added to our City website and updated daily to promote the city and provide support to local businesses and organizations

- Increased outreach and partnership with organizations and businesses to build a stronger community and business environment
- Email marketing to promote events and programs

Marketing Videos

- Working with a local videographer, Rich Kwak, for an Amsterdam focused video blog series. Two have been completed - The Chuctanunda Creek Trail and ParkFest.
- Working with CGI communications to have six marketing videos put together that highlight different aspects of the City – local businesses, quality of life, community organizations, tourism, etc.
- Working with Innertube Media to develop marketing videos that promote our local businesses

Parks

- Shuttleworth Park Renovations and upgrades: New roofing on pavilions, new countertop installed at concession, new bleachers built, locker rooms are being built and finished. Funding provided by the Shuttleworth Foundation and Dr. Rao. New amenities from the DASNY grant will include a splash pad, trail enhancements, upgraded bathrooms, installation of a fishing dock, and more.
- Sassafrass Park rehab – updates to equipment and aesthetics.
- Bacon School Gym was renovated and repainted.
- New sound system with speakers on the MVGO were installed. More speakers will be added on the South entrance.
- MVGO plant maintenance and additions
- Kirk Douglas Park Rehab – updates to equipment and aesthetics
- Arnold Avenue Park rehab – updates to equipment and aesthetics
- Developed new banners for the parks, downtown and on Main Street
- New flag poles on MVGO and Bridge Street

Activities on the MVGO that we facilitate

- Cancer Peer Education Walking Program
- Alpin Haus Yoga Program
- Bird Watching Program
- MVGO tours

Miscellaneous

- Secured a 5-year contract with Union College for Shuttleworth Park to be the college baseball team's home field. This will bring an increase of tourism from spectators, other colleges, and the possibility of hosting Union's Liberty League Tournament this year
- Vegetation crew cleaned over 200 properties in 2018
- 6,000 people visit the City Pool annually
- More than 70,000 visit Shuttleworth Park annually
- 100 participants in the Adult Rec Softball League
- Started a Letters to Santa tradition – put a mailbox on the MVGO and received over 400 letters. Organized a volunteer event to write back to children.
- Made Amsterdam a stop for the Cycle the Canal event and passed out refreshments and tourism information to hundreds of cyclists from all across the nation.

CED (Community Economic Development)

- Amsterdam welcomes Amanda Bearcroft as its new Community Economic Development Director. Amanda provides a tremendous skill set and will take Amsterdam to new heights. Under Amanda's leadership Amsterdam will continue to work with Montgomery County's IDA and Amsterdam's IDA, this partnership has proven to be successful in 2018 and will continue in 2019. Let me share with you some of the projects that are underway;

- DRI Project – working with the LPC to identify the projects that are moving forward. A mix of private/public investments.
- CDTA – meeting with CDTA and looking at the possibility of expanding the existing bus service line to the City of Amsterdam and NYS Route 5s (industrial park). Would consolidate existing bus services and manage fleets so there would be consistent and reliable services.
- Bike Sharing – Lime Bike – working with Lime Bike to bring bicycle fleets/ e-bikes/ e-scooters to the City of Amsterdam. The service is dock less and could fill in the transportation gaps that the city is experiencing.
- Kayak Expansion on waterfront – ADA compliant launch/ short term/ long term storage – Awarded a 2018 CFA grant. The grant will install an

ADA accessible kayak launch on the southside, short term kayak storage for people traveling along the Mohawk River to leave their kayaks and explore the area, and long-term kayak condos where residents will be able to store their kayaks for the season.

- Chalmers project – Awarded a 2018 CFA to update more portions of the public realm. This includes a boardwalk space, permanent outdoor pavilions, and more public space amenities. County/School district/City approved PILOT program.
- Working with Cornell Design Connect on the southside food desert study – Interview with the Masters students of Cornell’s Planning program to have them focus a semester long project on the southside and food options, so the area can become more than the current food desert. The program and study will be based off of what the City of Amsterdam/Centro Civico/and the students create it to be.
- Working on other housing projects and initiatives with private investors and AHA – Meeting with AHA on creating more housing opportunities within the City, especially with the DRI development occurring. The City wants to make sure that it has enough mixed use/mixed income housing available.
- Looking at security updates to City Hall – Focusing on Homeland Security grants to ramp up security at City Hall and create a safe environment for the public and employees.

Amsterdam Police Department

Ongoing goal to keep the public notified of major events through electronic media and local media; NIXLE and Facebook;

“Tell us Tuesday” regarding wanted subjects continues to assist police in successful arrests;

Police / community relations through citywide recreation events; K9 fundraising program and T Shirt sales; Angel Tree Program; successful fundraising campaign with public for Police Honor Guard.
Continuing expansion of surveillance cameras in public areas of City;

Extension of walking beats in problem areas of the City;

Ongoing drug investigations and arrests to keep the drug trade from gaining a firm foothold in our community;

Random in school walking patrol program for the grade schools throughout the City;

Continued grant writing work and reception of Legislative Initiatives Grant for Policing equipment needs;

Continuing physical improvements to Public Safety Building with installation of phase one air handler replacements in Courts and Fire Department;

In station firing range rehab underway and nearing completion utilizing nearly \$300,000 in grant funds.

Rapid clearance /arrests of major criminal cases;

Collaboration with Office of Emergency Management in development of critical incident team.

Amsterdam Fire Department Alarms & Incidents

During calendar year 2018 The Amsterdam Fire Department (AFD) responded to 2,970 alarms. This is an increase of 9.7% from 2017. Included are 72 fires (structure, vehicle, rubbish, etc.), 2347 emergency medical responses, 75 hazardous conditions, 169 service calls, 111 good intent calls and 191 false alarms. Seven Firefighters were injured four resulted in lost time. There were no civilian fire related fatalities.

Ambulance Transport

AFD began Ambulance Transport in August 2017. Rescue 1 was placed in service on August 28, 2017. To this date, Ambulance Revenue is exceeding projections.

Inspections

Two Hundred Seventy-Six (276) buildings were inspected including Multiple Dwelling, Public Assembly and Non-Residential occupancies. This is an increase of 110 % from 2017.

Apparatus

The current fleet consists of: Engine 2 a 2009 Class A Pumper; Truck 1 a 2009 75' aerial quint; Tower 4 a 2002 104' aerial platform, Engine 3 a 1997 Saulsbury 1500 GPM Pumper, Rescue 1 a 2017 Demers Type I ambulance, Car 1 a 2007 Ford Expedition, Marine 1 a 2016 Ribcraft rigid hull inflatable boat. (This unit is also part of the regional water rescue/dive team with Fulton, Montgomery and Saratoga Counties). Fire Investigation Unit and Confined Space Unit. AFD took delivery of a new 2019 Ford pickup truck to be used as a utility vehicle and also to tow the NYS Foam Task Force Foam Trailer.

AFD houses a high capacity foam trailer from the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services as part of the New York State Foam Task Force. We will respond when needed for any rail emergency involving flammable liquids such as the unit trains carrying Bakken Crude Oil as well as ethanol that are travelling through our city daily. The foam trailer will also be available to respond to any local Hazardous Materials Incident on the roadways throughout Montgomery County as well as neighboring Counties.

AFD maintains its Class 4 rating.

Training

Each member completed a minimum of 130 hours of in-service training. Training included the following subjects: OSHA Safety Training, Building Safety Inspector, Pump Operator/Engine Company, Aerial Ladders, Apparatus Operation & Driving, etc.

Additional training includes the department's participation in the NYS Department of Health EMS pilot re-certification program, Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support refresher classes, as well as several members attending classes at the NYS Fire Academy. AFD also received annual Foam Task Force refresher training from New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

Fire Safety Education & Community Affairs

Approximately 2,350 students in The Greater Amsterdam School District grades K-6 received fire safety demonstrations at their schools and at various civic events. Several schools and community groups toured the department facilities during Fire Safety Week. Members also presented demonstrations and educational information at various civic functions. Firefighters were responsible for installing and maintaining US flags throughout the city.

Shared Services

AFD has an agreement with Montgomery County to provide Hazardous Materials Response to any Hazardous Materials Incident within the County. AFD also responds to Hazardous Materials Incidents as part of the Regional Haz Mat Team with Montgomery, Fulton and Schoharie Counties. AFD also provides Stand by Rescue for Confined Space Entry for Montgomery County and Liberty Enterprises as well as the private sector, currently the Dollar General Distribution Center under construction in the Town of Florida. New in 2018 AFD has four members certified as Tactical Medics and participates in the joint APO/Montgomery County SWAT Team operations.

Staffing

Department is currently budgeted at 33 members. This is unchanged from 2017. There are currently 5 members certified as EMT- Basic, and 28 EMT-Paramedic. 326 hours have been lost to job related injuries/illness; this is a decrease of 59% from 2017. Lost time due to non-job related injury/illness totaled 1536 hours a decrease of 27% from 2017.

Golf Course

The council and the Mayor have taken a new approach to the Golf Course. In 2019 General Manager and Golf Professional Kevin Canale will take the reins and manage not only the pro shop but the concession as well. Kevin will lead with enthusiasm, dedication and his experience as a golf professional who has worked in a municipal environment will be valuable. We believe we have made the changes necessary for this course to sustain itself and in fact turn a profit in the near future. We wish Kevin great success and we will do all we can to see him and the course succeed.

Engineering

Church Street Reconstruction - Temporary paving completed during October 2018; submitted request for agreements with DASNY & NYSDOT for funding (\$1,900,000.00 grant) for complete reconstruction.

Bridge NY Program - Requested funding for two bridges and one culvert - awarded one bridge and culvert (\$3,000,000.00 grant).

Road Program - Completed paving (\$1,400,000.00 grant) including library parking lot and city hall parking lot.

PSB Air Handlers - Completed replacement of half the air handlers (\$350,000.00). Remainder scheduled for 2019 (\$450,000.00).

PSB Backflow Preventer & Water Meter - Replaced existing backflow preventer and water meter (\$20,000.00).

DPW-Vacuum Extraction Truck- Replaced old vacuum truck with a new multipurpose vacuum extraction truck (\$460,000.00).

City Hall - Portico Repair - Completed the portico repair in area of Mayor's Office (\$250,000.00 grant).

Dove Creek-Wall Replacement- Contracted replacement of wall near St. Mary's Hospital - work to begin this spring (\$500,000.00 grant).

Glen Wild -Roof Replacement - Developed specification project to start in spring (\$50,000.00).

NYSDEC Consent Orders- Ongoing projects based on Consent Orders (\$130,000.00).

Demolition of Buildings - Various emergency demolitions (\$60,000.00).

WTP -Corrosion Control - NYSDEC required corrosion control evaluation (\$15,000.00).

WWTP -Disinfection System -NYSDEC required installation of disinfection system

(\$400,000.00/\$212,000.00 grant). PSB - Shooting Range - Project to rebuild shooting range will be completed in 2019.

Permits Issued - 2018:

Building Permits - 456 issued at a total cost of \$40,236.50

Electrical Permits - 192 issued at a total cost of \$5,506.00

Plumbing Permits - 119 issued at a total cost of \$13,624.00 (this includes plumbers licensing)

Heating Permits - 110 issued at a total cost of \$6,440.00

Human Resources

- Successful ratification of four (4) year contracts between city and CSEA and UPSEU.
- Currently working to finalize contracts with Wastewater, Amsterdam Fire Fighters and Amsterdam Police
- Completed all mandated training for city employees including Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment and Blood borne Pathogens.
- Continued training for responsibility as city's Reasonable Suspicion Officer

The partnership the city has with Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux, especially Bill Wallens, and the Employees Relations Department has enhanced the professionalism in successfully handling a wide variety of personnel issues.

The department continues to attend and represent the City at PERB, Division of Human Rights, New York State Compensation Board, New York State Disability, Eastern Medical Service and New York State Division.

Assessor

2019 Project Update and Accomplishments

Open Projects

1. Digitalization of paper records. Although a project directed by the County, all permanent records in the Assessor's Office have been

scanned (digitized). We await software and training in the access, use, and organization of the data.

Closed Projects

1. The annual production of the 2019 Assessment Roll, conducted in 2018, has been completed in its Tentative form. Subject to stipulations, decisions of the Board of Assessment Review, Small Claims Assessment Review and Courts of Competent Jurisdiction, the results show:
 - a. An erosion of the City tax base due to assessment reductions, in rem foreclosure, fire losses, and demolitions:
 - i. 2018 City Taxable Assessed Value \$333,583,008
 - ii. 2019 City Taxable Assessed Value \$331,909,974
 - iii. Loss of City Taxable Assessed Value \$ 1,673,034
 - iv. At the current City tax rate of \$16.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the potential loss of 2019-2020 fiscal year revenue is calculated at \$ 26,902.
 - b. Revenue of over \$ 33,000 by imposition of the provisions of Real Property Tax Law, Section 520 (pro rata taxes).
2. Aggressive management of the Assessment Roll has had the following positive effects on tax rates:
 - a. 2019 County Tax Rate for the City has declined \$0.57 (3.4%), to its lowest since 2015 and second lowest in over 10 years.
 - b. 2018-2019 School Tax Rate for the City declined \$0.84 (3.1%), to its lowest in 10 years, since 2008.
 - c. The combined (City, County, School) tax rate is the lowest in 10 years, since 2008.
3. Initial review and valuation of the Chalmers Mill Lofts project being undertaken by KCG, in support of the Montgomery County IDA.
4. Creation of tax bill spreadsheets and PILOT analyses for the Amsterdam IDA, to organize, calculate, and assist in the preparation of tax bills.

As you know, the Assessor's Office is not by definition "project" oriented. However, we continue to be a resource to other City departments, providing everything from tax and aerial maps, to names and addresses, to review of PILOT agreements for AIDA, to review of tax bills for the Controller and Water Departments.

Please feel free to contact me should you need additional information or elaboration.

Corrective Action

We are facing a very serious budget deficit that has been growing for a considerable amount of time largely going unnoticed and unverified until recently. This administration promised fiscal responsibility and accountability and we can say that we now have current, reliable financial data. We face a crisis of sorts, due to this deficit steps must be taken to protect the city. As previously discussed, we will explore deficit borrowing and require all department heads to examine their proposed budgets carefully. As elected officials it is our responsibility to ensure that we are taking all the steps necessary to protect our residents. Although we face significant challenges let us not make the mistake of going backwards, we have made great strides and Amsterdam has a bright future ahead. We have a great team in place, a team that takes great pride not only in their duties but in seeing their community grow.

Being awarded the DRI is a huge stepping stone for Amsterdam's success and future.

As we look ahead, we can see the Chalmer's site development, a proposed Microtel Hotel on the southside, 10 million dollars to revitalize our downtown, we are investing in our infrastructure, a complete rehab of our two water tanks, over 9 million dollars in improving our wastewater and water treatment plants with more applications for funding in 2019. We will continue to apply for grants and we will continue our great relationship with all our representatives. I would personally like to thank Matt Ossenfort for his support, Senator Amedore, Assemblyman Santabarbara and Congressman Tonko. We must continue to work together to move Amsterdam forward.