



## State of the City – January, 2018

It's my honor to serve the citizens of Rock Island as Mayor for the past 250 days. Sitting around this table, we have a strong team of elected officials that are called upon to make the difficult decisions that affect the future of the City of Rock Island.

As you may be aware of there have been a number of changes in personnel at City Hall. Beginning with Randy Tweet being appointed as the City Manager and Larry Cook being appointed as Public Works Director, several other new staff members have started with the City within the last year-and-a-half. Unfortunately, this last July former Alderman Chuck Austin passed away. He had served as alderman of the 7<sup>th</sup> ward for over 13 years and was a tireless volunteer in the community. His commitment to Rock Island has been greatly missed.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- Implemented the body camera program, which will assist in investigations and increase transparency
- Conducts monthly Crime Prevention Partnership meetings in the Community Room of the Police Department to strengthen the partnership with citizens
- Completed all the training to certify a Detective to conduct forensic analysis of digital data, enabling us to conduct in-house analysis of computer equipment
- Assigned an officer to the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force in 2017, which greatly enhanced our drug and violent crime fighting capabilities
- Officer Ryan DeRudder was honored as the 2017 Police Office of the Year at the annual Knights of Columbus Civic Awards ceremony

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- Conducted the Operation Prom program for both Rocky and Alleman High Schools
- 3 members completed training to be certified as Fire Investigators
- Justin Welvaert honored as 2017 Firefighter of the Year at the annual Knights of Columbus Civic Awards ceremony
- Received 2017 EMS Bronze award from the American Heart Association
- Partnered with Red Cross Quad Cities for "Sound the Alarm" campaign

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- The Department was designated as a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador for the National Weather Service Quad Cities Office
- Adopted the 2015 International Fire Code

#### **PARKS DEPARTMENT**

- Hauberg Civic Center entered into a public/private operational agreement
  - Miscellaneous projects such as tuck pointing, landscaping, refinishing floors, painting, and plumbing have been accomplished
- Douglas Park is another successful public/private partnership
  - Completed projects totally refurbished the large ball diamond with new turf and irrigation
  - Community playground which is a new attraction to this facility
- Hodge Park received new playground equipment, replacing the oldest in the inventory of the Parks Department
- Highland Springs Golf Course partnered with First Tee of the Quad Cities to develop a par 3 course
- Partnered with the Martin Luther King Center, the Boys and Girls Club, and the day summer camp, serving approximately 300 kids
- Our new Special Events and Fundraiser Manager has created new and exciting events and secured several new grants
- Partnered with The District for several events
- Energy upgrades for RIFAC reduced energy expenses by 40%
- Partnered with the Moline Parks & Recreation Department for several programs & events

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- Introduced a new website look that offers improvements for mobile users
- Enhanced meeting agenda, You Tube streaming, online police reports
- Replaced cameras and added some additional cameras
- Enhanced security remains a key focus

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Held their 7th Annual Benefit and Wellness Fair, in partnership with Rock Island County
- Open the Wellness Center, in partnership with Genesis and saved \$173,000
- Maintained a flat rate for commercial insurance

#### **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CENTER**

- Received Illinois Governor's Hometown award this past fall
- Added a Family Advocacy program
- Held their first annual Legislative Breakfast

## **LIBRARY**

- Developed a partnership with the Augustana College Thomas Tredway Library
- Renewed their partnership with Milan-Blackhawk Area Public Library District
- Library membership cards trending upwards

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

- Received the Government Finance Officers Association award for the Budget 2017 / Audit 2016

## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- Four major street reconstruction projects
- Over \$600,000 in concrete patching
- Over \$353,000 in the Hot in Place recycling program
- Implemented the new sidewalk program
- Gravel alley enhancement program
- Long term control plan
- Work on the new Water Treatment Filtration Plant built to replace our 100 year old structure has begun
- Partnerships

## **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Implemented 2015 Building Codes
- Signed several agreements for commercial development
- Closed on several retail projects
- Eliminated some blight
- Work with Public Works on several street projects
- Committed more involvement with neighborhood engagement
- Conducted over 4,000 housing property management inspections
- Conducted 2,300 building inspections
- Issued over 2,900 building permits
- Conducted over 750 health inspections

**The city has had several unexpected setbacks these past years (personnel, business closures, etc.)**

- List above shows a lot of hard work by many
- State budget issues continue
- City revenues have been flat
- Expenses have gone up
- Police and Fire pensions continue to rise
- Started water filtration project
- Many have worked hard to control expenses
- More expense control to come in 2018

- City is financially stable
- Focus now on rebuilding relationships and partnerships with other cities

**Enough of 2017 - Now let's talk about 2018 and beyond (visions)**

- Focus on attracting small and medium size business (regional)
- Helping existing business grow
- Begin plans for new residential
- Engaging existing and new committees and commissions
- Building new partnerships with private and public and entities
- New streetscape plan for downtown
- Call to action
- Help identify new businesses
- Talk about positive things happening in the city
- Support local businesses

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Flansburg".

Mayor  
City of Rock Island