

WORK IN PROGRESS 2015

I AM
PETERSBURG
VIRGINIA

City of Petersburg Goals

- 1 Create and maintain a clean City.
- 2 Create and maintain a safe City.
- 3 Create and maintain a customer service centered City.
- 4 Create and maintain a results driven City.



Office of the City Manager

Dear Petersburg Residents:

WOW! 2015 was an amazing year for the City of Petersburg. I am proud that our community is working together to take the right steps to put our city on the path to greatness. We have met a number of challenges, including reduced revenues and an increased demand for services. Together, we have faced these challenges without raising taxes or laying off hard working city employees. Despite these constraints, we have also renewed our focus on providing increases services to residents.

The following pages will provide you a snapshot of achievements over the past year. Some of these highlights you probably would never see in the pages of our local newspaper or on the television, but they all make an impact on our communities. I encourage you to sign up for *Notify Me* on the City's website to receive more announcements about the great things going on in the city, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

We embrace 2016 as a year for continued innovation and increased opportunity and we will continue to keep our City ever striving for excellence.

Sincerely,
William E. Johnson, III
City Manager



CORE VALUES

PROFESSIONALISM

EXCELLENCE

TRUST

ETHICAL

RESPECT

SERVICE

BUILD

UNITY

RESPONSIVE

GROWTH

Economic Development

- 1,870 business licenses were issued - an increase of 9% from 2014
- Total gross revenue generated by these business enterprises was \$926,122,041 - a 6% increase from 2014
- 14 new business start-ups, through the second quarter of 2015
- In conjunction with the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, there were 9 ribbon cuttings.
- Local Option Sales Tax Revenue collected through the 3rd Quarter 2015 totaled \$909,442 - a 1.4% increase from 3rd Quarter 2014
- 13 new developments under construction or under review in 2015, totaling \$48.5 million in private investment and an anticipated 76 new jobs
- New housing units completed or under construction in 2015 totaled 308
- Unemployment rate reduction from 10.6% in 2014 to 8.3% in 2015 - this is the first time since 2008 that the rate has been below 9%
- 13 properties received Enterprise Zone Certification making them eligible for development incentives that include permit fee waivers, utility connection fee waivers and five additional years of property tax abatement
 - o Represents more than \$11.8 million in private investment toward the rehabilitation of properties
 - o Within the Central Business District Enterprise Zone, more than \$35,000 in fees were waived as incentives for private development, three Façade Improvement Grants were awarded totaling \$10,355, and one Architectural Grant was awarded in the amount of \$2,500
- Petersburg Economic Development Authority received and distributed \$50,000 from the Governor of Virginia's Agriculture & Forestry Industries Development Fund for Big Trouble, LLC, a new distilling business opening in Petersburg
- Petersburg Economic Development Authority received and distributed \$600,000 from the Virginia Industrial Revitalization Fund for the Ice & Coal Redevelopment Project, also referred to as the Ice House/ Trapezium Brewery
- 2 city-owned commercial properties were sold and 3 properties were leased - another 9 properties are under contract or negotiation for sale and development



Planning and Community Development

- Successfully updated the City of Petersburg Comprehensive Plan
- Hosted a Technical Assistance Panel for the development opportunities in the Halifax Triangle
- Sponsored a 203K loan seminar
- Partnered with HUD to host a two-day grant writing and community collaboration seminar
- Installation of window shutters on Centre Hill Museum
- Installation of 2 State Highway Markers for People's Memorial Cemetery and Pocahontas Island
- In partnership with Preservation Virginia, secured a structural report of the Jarratt House
- Through Community Development Block Grant:
 - Secured stabilization plan for the Jarratt House
 - Constructed new public restrooms at Lee Memorial Park
 - Repaired 12 homes owned by low-income families in the City
 - Initiated installation of HVAC system in Centre Hill Museum
 - Provided interior improvements at the Petersburg Freedom Support Center
 - Initiated a homeownership assistance program with the Petersburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority



Petersburg Area Transit

- Installation of 38 new curb cuts and the placement of handicap accessible signs at bus stops, using 100% ARRA federal funds.
- Began second floor renovation project, outside sidewalk installation and a first floor café project
- Installation of solar lights at bus stops throughout the city and the installation of new energy efficient lights at 309 Maintenance Garage
- Rehabbed 309 Fairground Bus garage with the installation of a new power pressure bus wash system, new roof and electric security gate
- Purchase of a new fleet including a 31 passenger trolley bus, (4) 20 passenger

buses, 2 para-transit vans, ensuring all fleet are equipped with cameras, installation of Automatic Vehicle Locators and Vehicle Passenger Counters on all fixed route fleet

- Launch of *Route Shout* mobile phone app
- Expansion of transit service to include: Downtown Trolley route, Downtown Richmond Express and the Colonial Heights/SouthPark Mall route
- Achieved the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal, for this year with over \$150,000 in federal funds spent with certified DBE companies



Hispanic Liaison

- Began Paredes Foundation partnership to provide free mammograms for uninsured clients
- Hosted 3rd Annual Hispanic Day at the YMCA Health Fair
- Hosted Immigration Forum Event with three immigration lawyers that provided free council for over 120 attendees
- In partnership with the Petersburg Salvation Army, hosted a GED class in Spanish and Spanish ESL class
- Coordinated a visit by Mexican Embassy Head Consul Carlos Mendoza to Petersburg
- Organized the 5 de Mayo Festival which had over 500 attendants
- Hosted the Mexican Consulate to issue Mexican passports in May and August 2015
- Hosted the Mexican Embassy to provide birth certificates
- Hispanic Cultural Celebration attracted over 700 attendees
- Navidad de Amor (Posada & toy drive) collected over 400 toys and were passed out to local children

Public Library System

- Provided transportation for daycares on a weekly basis
- Partnered with the Health Department and VCU Massey Cancer Center to provide health information and programs including an Open House, Yoga, Tai Chi and Sit and Be Fit classes
- Continued to partner with the Science Museum of Virginia to secure a grant to provide STEM programming
- Added a Spanish Language collection to the library collection of titles
- Added a collection for nonprofit organizations to the adult collection



Parks and Leisure Services

- New boating access at Lee Memorial Park with handicap accessible parking (Willcox Lake)
- Kicked off the first STEM initiative through the National Minority Technology Council for students enrolled in the PPLS Let's Move After School Program held at First Baptist Church
- Partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Omega Chapter to revitalize the Walnut Hill Elementary School Playground



Thanks to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries the Boating Access Project is now complete (Parking Area). This collaborative effort was made possible thru the City of Petersburg Parks & Leisure Services Department and the Willcox Watershed Conservancy Board. Willcox Lake is now open to the public from dawn to dusk. Only small motor boats are allowed - a fishing license is required.

Office on Youth

- Served 80 youth between the ages of 16 to 21 with the following trainings: leadership development, work readiness development, career development, life and social development and financial literacy
- 83.3% of participants ages 18 thru 21 entered into employment.
- 63.3% of participants ages 18 thru 21 entered into post-secondary education
- 31 youth participated in summer employment

Dogwood Trace Golf Course

- Hosted the 8th Annual Golf for Groceries event that donates over 500 lbs of food to local Petersburg food banks
- Served as host of the Virginia State University Fall Golf Classic which brought in 10 colleges from Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina
- Hosted the Petersburg Rotary Charity Golf Classic and assisted in completing \$50,000 donation to Petersburg's YMCA
- Provided free junior golf programs to over 250 area children
- Served as the home course to Petersburg High School's Golf Team



Public Information Office

- Launched the city's Instagram account @Petersburg_VA
- Hosted the inaugural Mayor's State of the City address
- Launched the iampetersburg.com logo creation website



Public Works & Utilities

- Completion of the Dogwood Trace Golf Course Clubhouse
- Complete renovation of restrooms at the Walnut Hill and Market Street fire stations
- Driveway, parking and drainage improvement at the Johnson Road fire station
- Certified as a green government at the platinum level by the Virginia Municipal League
- Achieved the citywide goal of 4,000 tons to be recycled
- Petersburg Library officially received LEED Certification
- Petersburg Library received Best \$5 to \$25 million project APWA award
- Paving of North Boulevard
- Installation of 13 ADA ramps in various locations in the downtown area
- Completion of the Canal Street Bioretention Facility Project
- Farmers Market exterior repair project, cupola repairs completed
- Renaming of Fleet Street to University Blvd. to highlight partnership with Virginia State University



Social Services

- Foster Care and Adoption Team achieved permanency for thirteen foster care youth through adoption
- Adult Services Team engaged in two Successful Community Outreach Programs for Older Americans Month/Adult Abuse Prevention Month
- Full implementation of the Petersburg Fatherhood Initiative, celebrating 18 graduates of the program, with two graduation ceremonies



Cultural Affairs, Arts and Tourism

- Creation of international public art from renowned artist from Cuba, Salvador
- Received a National Award for Cultural Diversity at the National League of Cities Conference for the Legacy Media Institute International Film Festival





Human Resources

- Launched Electronic Applicant Tracking System - I AM iPETERSBURG RECRUITMENT
- City Council approved and adopted the new compensation plan

Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services

- 48 sprinkler and fire alarm plans reviewed
- 201 fire permits issued
- 1,198 fire inspections completed
- Received grant for 1 ambulance and (2) 12 lead monitors
- Received grant for new HAZMAT trailer
- Received grant for purchase of new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Personal Protective Equipment - includes 54 new SCBA, 80 new fire helmets, 80 new pair of leather firefighting boots and 80 sets of firefighting coats and pants
- Response time average of 4.6 minutes in Fire Station 3 District
- 6 fire personnel completed Advanced Life Support training
- Responded to over 6,500 calls for service - over 4,000 were EMS delivery
- 1,320 property maintenance grass inspections
- 4,207 property maintenance inspections
- 464 construction plans reviewed
- 765 building permits issued
- 22 buildings demolished

Bureau of Police

- Police Communications handled more than 47,000 calls for police, fire and emergency services
- Police Officers responded for service with an average response time of 8.24 minutes, as compared to the average national response time of 10 minutes.
- Implementation of RAIDS Online to help the public get a better idea of the crime activity in their area
- Introduction of Less Lethal Technology for Police Officers
- Introduction of Body Worn Cameras
- Trained 6 Officers in Crises Intervention
- Hosted "Shoot Don't Shoot" public events
- Assisted over 180 families with meals during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday.
- Assisted 18 families with gifts through our Shop with a Cop Program



Juvenile Community Crime Control Program

- Initiated a *Too Good for Drugs* prevention education group
- Partnered with the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood to implement a five-week educational course on safe, healthy relationships and teen pregnancy prevention
- Hosted quarterly activities on citizenship with 2nd graders at AP Hill Elementary
- Community service program youth completed over 2000 hours of service learning hours

Community Corrections

- Graduated 5 anger management groups
- Established an on-site domestic violence/batterer's intervention group
- 1 of 17 agencies to complete local community corrections Evidence Based Practices training



Freedom Support Center

- Served as the lead hub for the statewide Mayor's Challenge sponsored by Governor McAuliffe's 100-day challenge to end Veteran homelessness
- Department of Veterans' Benefit opened its newest location inside the Freedom Center to assist with claim filing, appeals and pension
- Hosted the first *Run for the Wall* motorcycle tribute ride at Fort Lee to honor all those *Missing in Action, Prisoners of War and Killed in Action*
- Held *Operation Rescue and Restore* event to offer additional services and support to the community in an effort to functionally end homeless