

# CITY OF JAMESTOWN



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

SAMUEL TERESI

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2009

### Government Structure/Financial Affairs/General Services

- During an era in which most city governments are running chronic annual deficits, it is projected that Jamestown will once again end the previous fiscal year in the black ...for the ninth consecutive time.
- After working off the previous \$1.4 million accumulated deficit, the City's General Fund is now sporting a positive, unrestricted fund balance of more than \$1.8 million.
- Continued streamlining operations through collaborations and cross training activities involving the Finance Department and customer service staff of the BPU.
- Continued planning for the upgrade and replacement of deficient Fire Department facilities.
- Completed the refurbishment of the City's backup fire ladder truck that was originally acquired in 1991. The final cost of the project was \$325,000.
- Implemented new procedures through the Finance/Treasurer's Office to improve upon the collection of outstanding payments and obligations previously considered un-collectible.
- Completed a parking ticket Amnesty Program that netted a total of \$116,303 in previously delinquent obligations to the City.
- Deployed the next phase of the new computerized accounting system that is streamlining finance, inventory, budgeting and data functions.
- Updated and expanded the city's web site ... [www.jamestownny.net](http://www.jamestownny.net).
- Working in conjunction with communities from across New York, twice successfully fought off mid-year, 10% reductions in AIM funding, which was proposed in response to the State's mounting fiscal problems.

- Responded to more than 3,961 calls for services through the Fire Department, which included 98 structure fires, 2830 EMS calls and 262 false alarms.
- Responded to 31,458 calls for service through the Police Department which included 4,860 vehicle and traffic matters, 1,606 animal complaints, 1,523 domestic dispute calls, 1,166 warrant checks, and 1,103 harassment situations. During 2009, 3,593 arrests were made by JPD Officers.
- Concluded contract negotiations and implemented labor agreements with the JCAA, Kendall Club PBA and JURA bargaining units.
- Launched new rounds of contract negotiations with the Police, Firefighters and JCAA bargaining units.
- Updated the management guidelines covering the City's non-union Department Heads and management confidential employees.
- Implemented a new Medicare supplement insurance plan for pre-1987 retirees; an effort that will enhance the coverage for the retirees and save the City more than \$140,000 during 2010.
- Further revised the command structure in the Police Department, which included the elimination of another Lieutenant's position.
- Together with the County, secured a \$400,000 Local Government Efficiency Grant from the State to determine the feasibility of and develop a strategy to merge the City's Police Department with the County Sheriff's Office.
- Completed the adjustment of Downtown parking meter rates in accordance with a Comprehensive Downtown Parking Plan/Study completed for the City by Allpro Parking. This effort entailed the reprogramming of approximately 800 existing electronic units and the purchase/installation of approximately 255 new digital electronic units to replace older, mechanical meters. The increase in rates, which was the first adjustment in 19 years (July 1990), enabled metered street spaces to better work in concert with and compliment the City's stock of off-street parking lot and garage spaces. The adjustment also generated another \$80,000 in much needed revenue during 2009.
- Undertook "complete count" preparations for the 2010 Census.

#### Infrastructure/Facilities/Utilities

- Completed a record level of downtown and neighborhood street, sidewalk and storm water drainage improvement projects. In addition to more than 100

resurfacing, nova chip and storm sewer improvements, comprehensive reconstruction efforts were completed on West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Camp Street, Eagle Street, Prendergast Avenue, Hoyt Alley and Potters Alley.

- Completed the replacement of the Tracy Plaza Handicapped Access Ramp at a cost of \$114,000.
- Continued the development and upgrading of the District Heating System.
- Completed numerous improvements to the water and wastewater treatment systems.
- Completed the \$2.5 million energy conservation improvement program for City government facilities. The subject improvements will be fully repaid with savings from reduced utility bills during the next 4-5 years.
- Launched and completed a \$1.8 million structural renovation of the 35-year old Spring Street Parking Ramp.
- Worked with State DOT officials on the \$18 million replacement of the 48-year old Washington Street Bridge and arterial highway. Contracts were awarded during 2009 and construction preparation activity recently began. The bridge is scheduled to close during mid-February for demolition and DOT officials are projecting a bridge re-opening date by the end of 2010.
- Continued a comprehensive program to replace outdated, inefficient and unsafe Public Works and Parks Department equipment. During 2009, with the use of capital improvement bond proceeds, efforts to purchase nearly \$1 million in new DPW and Parks equipment were advanced.
- Greatly accelerated the level of curb and intersection improvements to bring the city one step closer to full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Undertook a variety of code compliance improvements at the Municipal Building including a \$700,000 project to remove asbestos from and replace the two 40-year old elevators in the building.
- Implemented the Energy Star Appliance Rebate Program, providing cash rebate credits to City BPU residential customers who purchase and install energy efficient "Energy Star" rated home appliances. Also launched energy conservation initiatives through the Board of Public Utilities to assist both commercial and residential property owners to undertake energy conservation structural improvements.

- Secured Federal Stimulus funding via the State for a \$2.55 million upgrade at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Town of Poland. The project will replace the 54-year old digester covers and allow the capture and reuse of the methane gas by-product for the production of electricity.
- Utilizing funding obtained from the Gebbie Foundation, implemented the complete reconstruction of Hoyt and Potters Alleys in the Downtown area.

#### Regionalism/Intermunicipal Cooperation

- Expanded the use of the public safety mutual aid agreement.
- Utilizing a \$99,000 Local Government Efficiency Program Grant from New York State, work progressed on establishing the feasibility of creating a new municipal electric system for the Village of Lakewood, to be operated and managed by the City's Board of Public Utilities.
- Conducted wastewater treatment services for the County's South and Center Sewer District.
- Continued to provide landfill leachate treatment services for the County.
- Continued contract discussions regarding the provision of water and sewer services to the Town of Kiantone.
- Commenced discussions with the Town of Busti regarding the renewal of their Border to Border Water and Sewer Agreements.
- Conducted centralized purchasing activities with the county for public works materials.
- Continued analyzing and pursuing the consolidation of police services with the County, which included securing \$400,000 through the State's Local Government Efficiency Grant Program.
- Pursued Local Government Efficiency Grant Program funding to develop a central, shared road salt storage facility with the Jamestown Public School District.

#### Housing/Neighborhoods

- Expanded the Housing Mini-Sweep Inspection Program into nine (9) additional neighborhoods.

- Initiated nearly a thousand (1,000) new Housing Code Enforcement cases/resolved most without City Court intervention.
- Renovated and brought thirty (30) housing units into code compliance with \$420,000 in Federal grant resources. This leveraged nearly \$700,000 in private investment into the housing stock of the City.
- Secured the former, vacant Skippy's Tavern property on Allen Street from the County. The building is scheduled to be demolished to improve visibility at the difficult Allen, English, Winsor Streets intersection.
- Expanded JURA's Street Lighting Improvement Program into various CDBG target neighborhoods.
- Continued marketing new housing development opportunities in the Country View Estates subdivision.
- Completed construction on and opened the \$3 million Appleyard Terrace Town House Phase II Project, providing 12 new affordable family housing units.
- Conducted inspections on 65 properties sold by the County at foreclosure auctions.
- Removed over 60 unregistered and abandoned vehicles from city residential neighborhoods.
- Demolished blighted structures, undertook home inspection and rehabilitation activities and completed additional sidewalk, street lighting, landscaping and road improvements within the Northside PRIDE Rehabilitation Project area.
- Demolished eleven (11) vacant and abandoned homes, with another ten (10) in the demolition preparation process.
- Completed \$68,000 in emergency repair projects to properties owned and occupied by low-moderate income seniors and single parents.
- Retained CZB Consulting, Inc. and initiated a community driven Neighborhood Revitalization Plan in conjunction with the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation and the Gebbie, Lenna and Community Foundations.
- Secured \$537,517 in Federal Homeless Prevention Funding to be used by area homeless service providers.

### Parks/Recreation

- Continued development on the Chadakoin Riverwalk, west of Brooklyn Square, at McCrea Point Park and along Jones and Gifford Avenue.
- Expanded and enhanced the City's nationally acclaimed Urban Forestry Program/Obtained Tree City USA status for the 28th consecutive year.
- Tree Program Activity: Removed 205; Planted 242; Trimmed 577; Removed 150 Stumps.
- Implemented numerous ballpark improvement projects at Bergman, Allen and Roseland Parks.
- With the assistance of the Jamestown Babe Ruth League, launched the complete reconstruction of the main baseball field in Bergman Park.
- Installed additional handicapped accessible improvements at Allen, Bergman and Chadakoin Parks.
- Assisted a Northside Community Group (Partners at Play) with their efforts to upgrade playground equipment at Roseland Park.
- Applied for a \$262,500 grant through the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to develop a \$525,000 riverwalk pedestrian and bicycle trail through Chadakoin Park.

### Development Activities

- Utilizing \$300,000 in RESTORE NY funding, secured by the Department of Development, completed the redevelopment of the former SKF Office Complex on Chandler Street for Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.
- Completed construction on the new \$7.5 million BWB office/commercial center on the Westside Development site. This project was made possible with a \$1.5 million RESTORE NY Grant obtained by the Department of Development.
- Utilizing \$5 million in Federal Transportation Administration and State funding, advanced planning and development activities for the Gateway Station redevelopment project at the former Erie Railroad Station. With the assistance of TVGA Engineering, completed final renovation plans and initiated the construction bid process.
- Continued planning and development activities in conjunction with the Chadakoin Riverwalk/Downtown Connector Project.

- Continued development of the Gateway Development Center in the former Chautauqua Hardware Building on Water Street. This previously abandoned industrial complex is now home to a variety of private businesses and community agencies, including the St. Susan's Center and Community Helping Hands, Inc.
- Assisted with efforts to retain and expand commercial airline service at the County's Jamestown Airport.
- Assisted with the successful efforts to develop a new heat treatment operation at SKF Aero Engine Inc. in Falconer; an initiative which will result in the retention of more than 600 production and administrative jobs for the Greater Jamestown area.
- Secured \$1.4 million in RESTORE NY funding for the redevelopment of the Wellman Building in Downtown Jamestown and Shults Auto Group properties on Washington Street and Fluvanna Avenue.
- Completed the \$5 million renovation of the former Period Brass building by the Western New York Urology Group. This project was made possible with \$560,000 in RESTORE, NY funding obtained by the Department of Development.
- Completed the development and realized the full occupancy of the 80,000 s.f., \$9 million Riverwalk Medical Center in Brooklyn Square.
- Completed seven (7) Downtown Greenlining Façade Projects utilizing \$102,000 in CDBG funding and resulting in a total public/private investment of \$206,000.
- Completed five (5) Downtown Commercial Handicapped Improvement projects utilizing \$115,000 in CDBG funding and resulting in \$230,000 in public/private investment to privately owned structures.
- Worked with the Jamestown Renaissance Corporation (JRC) to implement the City's "award winning" Downtown Urban Design Plan.
- Secured a total of \$110,000 in assistance through the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) and the regional marketing and tourism attractions plan.
- Secured a \$370,000 Phase II Brownfields Opportunities Area (BOA) grant for continued survey, planning and reclamation activity along the Chadakoin River.
- Secured a \$1 million RESTORE NY Round 3 Grant to demolish vacant, unstable and unusable portions of the former Dahlstrom Complex to make way for new, high-tech business investment/development activities.

- Worked with Senator Charles Schumer and officials from TOPS Markets Inc. on the effort to purchase the assets of The Penn Traffic Company and preserve hundreds of jobs in Quality Market Stores throughout the Greater Jamestown area.
- Issued 235 building permits for projects totaling nearly \$16 million.
- Acquired, cleared the title, marketed and sold the former Aldo's Restaurant property on West Third Street for a new Hometown Wings franchise.
- Provided \$70,000 in New York State Main Street Program funding, and \$52,000 in CDBG assistance for the redevelopment of the offices, apartments and facades of buildings located in the Civic Center Block.