

ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS 2017 YEAR END REPORT

Mr. President, Pro Temp,

Madam Clerk,

Ms. City Attorney,

Members of the Council,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

And Citizens of Jonesboro;

2017 State of The City Address

Mayor Harold Perrin

Good morning/afternoon/evening.

As hard as it is for me to believe, this is the NINTH TIME I have now had the privilege of delivering the State of the City Address for the City of Jonesboro. That realization is both humbling and gratifying for me; as it is difficult for me to put into words how much serving this community means to me. I can tell you that with each passing year I become more grateful and appreciative of both the awesome responsibility as well as the opportunity that I have been given; and I want to publicly thank you, the people who placed their confidence in me; as well as God, who has blessed me beyond measure.

And those blessings are certainly not something I enjoy on my own. As I do each time I rise to speak on behalf of our city I like to remind all of us just how truly blessed we are as a community. We have such a spirit of resolve and cooperation here; the kind of spirit that allows us to share our different opinions and ideas; yet rally together in the end to find the common ground that unites us in an effort to make this the best small city in America...and I can proudly tell you that we are WELL ON OUR WAY!

That spirit that exists in each of us as citizens is well represented by your friends and neighbors who make up the 540 employees of the City of Jonesboro. This group of public servants embodies every quality that makes up that designation. Whether supervisor or team member, uniform or non-uniformed, blue collar or white

collar....the men and women who come to work everyday under the seal of our city are TRULY servants at heart. And we work hard every day to raise our level of service to you...and to raise the expectations of what you should place on us who are tasked with going about the city's business. They LOVE this community; and it shows in their dedication and their performance. They are successful because they represent the best of our community...and they mirror the values, skills and attributes of our citizens that make Jonesboro unique.

Jonesboro's position as a regional hub is becoming more pronounced with each and every year. And with that position comes a tremendous responsibility; not just to the families who call Jonesboro home, but to the tens of thousands who visit here every day for work, shopping, entertainment, education, professional services or

healthcare. These visitors are in many ways as much a part of our identity as our citizens; they support our merchants, contribute a large share of local sales tax dollars, and help make us the community we have grown to be. And for that, we must be committed to give them the kind of infrastructure to keep them safe while they are here and we must give them reasons to return. And we continue to do just that!

2016 was an exciting and challenging year; one in which we grew our population, grew our revenue streams, and grew our impact on the region. We welcomed the first class of medical students to Arkansas State University; we officially cut the ribbon on a widened Hwy 226; we hung the signs and made I555 a reality; and we broke ground on a new Convention Center! With all of that, it's hard to

believe that 2017 could have a lot more to offer...BUT I AM
HERE TO TELL YOU THAT IT DOES!!

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with tremendous pride that I
can stand before you and declare that the State of our City
is STRONG!

~~Building on a foundation that was laid for us by other
community leaders, volunteers, philanthropists, elected
officials and employees...we have worked hard to manage
each department individually as well as collectively in a
way that is forward-thinking and that contributes to our
unified mission of improving the quality of life for every
person who lives or visits our community. Here are just a
few of the highlights accomplished in 2016 by the men and
women who make up our incredible team:~~

(GO THROUGH THE SLIDES AND HIT THE BULLET POINTS...SPEAK FROM THE HEART AND BE AS SPECIFIC AS YOU FEEL NECESSARY ON CERTAIN POINTS OR PROJECTS)

As you can see, we have a lot to be proud of and a LOT to look forward to! It never ceases to amaze me how our community continues to rise to the occasion with each passing year; doing whatever is necessary to come together to meet the challenges of a growing city. And make no mistake, it is by COMING TOGETHER that we are able to accomplish all that we do.

I am fortunate to be able to deliver this address; and to be able to stand before groups both large and small...some locally, some in Little Rock, some in other states and even some in our nation's capital...to talk about Jonesboro and what we are doing here. And when I do, I get the privilege of accepting all the accolades and recognition for the great work that happens here. But NEVER do I make the mistake of thinking that those accolades belong to me. **THEY BELONG TO YOU!**

Your City was recognized by two national websites.

- GoBankingRates.com ranked Jonesboro the number 1 place for success this year.
- Zippia.com ranked Jonesboro as the second-best place in Arkansas to get a job in 2017.

The hard work, the commitment, the vision...it's all yours. I am just blessed to be able to play a small role in facilitating that vision and work into many of the accomplishments we are celebrating today. And as I have said before...for that, I am eternally grateful.

So once again I say THANK YOU for this privilege. And as in previous years, I want to challenge you to keep our city, our county, our state and our nation in your prayers.

Those of us who serve and lead would be lost without them....we covet them, and we need them.

May God bless you, and may God bless this community.