



Mayor Mike Pantelides' Monthly Newsletter



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Mayor's Monthly Newsletter - January 2016

As I reflect on the accomplishments made and the challenges I have faced over the past two years in office, I reach my midterm with a sense of satisfaction. My first year was about making difficult decisions and creating positive change, while this year's focus has been on turning liabilities into assets.



In 2014, we adopted a city budget by an 8-1 vote that cut more than \$ 7 million dollars from the previous administration's budget and did not fund numerous employee positions, saving the city more than \$800,000. That year we also avoided a tax rate increase on real estate and addressed our infrastructure needs by allocating \$2 million to the annual roadway paving program and \$600 thousand for sidewalk repairs.

As your fiscal steward, 2015 was about generating revenue by finding hidden



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assets that exist throughout our city. An example of this is the Annapolis Renewable Energy Park which will turn a large plot of unused land into a revenue generator and a job creator. We anticipate that it will generate more than \$5 million in revenue to the city over the course of the 20-year lease term.



More recently, while the public focus has been on 110 Compromise Street (the old Fawcett building), Waterfront Maritime Conservation (WMC) zoning legislation passed on December 7 and will benefit all properties in that zoning district. I am proud to have been a cosponsor of this legislation that addresses inconsistencies in WMC zoning allowed under a number of nonconforming uses. We offered amendments to the legislation that addressed the concerns of our citizens in an effort to breathe new life into a vacant building while benefiting the entire district.



Early in my term, I focused on economic development, but we needed to right size government's role in economic development, so back in 2014 I cut the Annapolis Economic Development Corporation's budget from \$450,000 to \$250,000. Shortly after that, the corporation dissolved and the city entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the county, outlining significant resource sharing with the County's Economic Development Corporation. Other city/county partnerships have been formed and involve public utilities and transportation, both taking a common sense approach to meet our mutual government objectives, while accommodating the need for efficient citizen services.

We have accomplished so many significant things over this past year. Some of them include:



- Opened or expanded 236 businesses which included 33 ribbon cutting ceremonies
- Achieved a violent crime rate reduction of five percent
- Hired 11 new police officers
- Filled 4,109 potholes, replaced 43,185 square feet of concrete sidewalk and 8,384 square feet of brick sidewalk
- Installed 54 bus shelters
- Streamlined the permit process by eliminated the need for permits on projects less than \$500 and for non-structural projects
- Completed the West Annapolis Sector Study
- Closed out the Police HQ construction cases through mediation, which resulted in a recovery for the city in excess of \$420,000, originally expected to only result in \$25,000
- Established a City-County Committee to recommend Adequacy of School legislation

As I look ahead, I will continue to build on our accomplishments, solidifying the foundation for my long-term initiatives, including flood hazard mitigation and comprehensive parking solutions.

I remain committed to seeking funding from both federal and state agencies to ensure the city is prepared for the next Hurricane Sandy or Isabelle. Money for flood mitigation was our number one state legislative request in 2015 and is our priority again in 2016.



Regarding parking, we are ready to announce a contract for our comprehensive parking initiative. It will

put all city parking services under one manager, while offering 21st century parking options that every Capital City should provide.

The programs, services, and projects that we have put in place over the past two years along with the cost savings and rightsizing of government is a sign of my ongoing commitment to the citizens of Annapolis. I know there is still a lot of work to do and as your mayor I will promise to keep my door open, myself available for public input and focused on the future, constantly looking for new and efficient ways to make Annapolis better.

