



Mayor Mike Pantelides' Monthly Newsletter


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Mayor Pantelides' Monthly Newsletter - March 2016



On March 14th I stood before the City Council and the citizens of Annapolis, proposing a lean \$102.8 million Operating Budget. Since then, some have pointed out the increase from last year's \$98.6 million budget. While it is true our budget increased, it is not because of frivolous additions or \$4 million dollars in increased programs and services. No, unfortunately the increase was caused by certain burdens on the budget as our revenues have

struggled to keep up with mandated expenditures, including funding step-increases provided in our employee pay plan, addressing a 2% increase in our fire and police pension contribution, and accommodating a 9% increase in health care insurance.

Still, I am proud of this budget because it is balanced and it keeps our city on solid financial footing as we move into our second year using the new Priority Program Budgeting process. This is the 21st century way of preparing budgets for a city our size, and it is endorsed by the International City Manager Associations and the Government Finance Officers Association. The process makes it easier for the public to clearly understand how their tax dollars are being spent, versus the traditional line item approach which is just a huge spreadsheet with hundreds-of-thousands of numbers listed. Over the next several months my staff, as well as members of the Council, will be presenting the budget and asking for comments,



suggestions and citizens' priorities.

My proposed budget focuses on five principles that are critical to the success of our city. First is to make city government more effective and efficient, and that can be accomplished through our reorganization legislation currently before City Council. Second, we need to promote Annapolis as a business friendly city that makes economic development a priority. Third, we need to continue to showcase our great city and continue to make Annapolis a place people want to visit. Fourth, we need to facilitate new initiatives with the county, benefiting both citizens and government. And finally, we need to do more to protect our environment for future generations. Each of these effective ways to govern our city is outlined in my State of the City address, which you can read in full at <http://bit.ly/1P9enYF>.

In this budget I am proposing some service reductions, deferring routine vehicle replacement, and I am recommending that we renegotiate contractual positions while leaving vacant positions unfunded. I am also proposing that we continue to fund the sidewalk program by fully funding the sidewalk revolving fund for FY17 and beyond.

Meanwhile my two year, \$8.6 million Capital Budget Spending Plan funds priority projects, including:

- Road resurfacing
- Roof repairs to the Taylor Avenue Fire Station
- Updating the woman's locker facility at the Eastport Fire Station
- Replacing outdated police and fire radios
- Re-bricking Main Street, and
- Assessing Energy Efficiency which could save the city millions over the next several years

We passed a balanced budget two years in a row without raising the real estate tax rate and I have not proposed a tax rate increase in this budget. We also reduced the solid waste fee 15% both years, and this budget proposes another 5% reduction - totaling a 35% reduction in solid waste fees.

This is a sensible, no nonsense budget that the City Council can work with. The Council won't need to come up with any "fixes" or find any funding to pass this budget. It is balanced, and it is fair, while remaining committed to my promise of putting Annapolitans first.

To view my proposed Capital Budget, go to [2017-2018 Capital Spending Plan](#)
To view my proposed Operating Budget, go to [2017 Proposed Operating Budget](#)



I am proud to announce that bulk collection is now available to residents on their regular collection date, effective immediately. In the past, residents had to call and make an appointment for bulk collection. Now, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will collect bulk items along with trash and recycling. To learn more about what can be picked up, go to <http://bit.ly/1RWxQ3x>. Metal items, such as washers, dryers, dishwashers and refrigerators, still require a collection

appointment. You can do that by calling 410-263-7949. Metal items are only collected on Wednesdays.

In related news, 500 additional **wheeled recycling containers** are now available to residents. The containers are available at 935 Spa Road. Residents can pick them up between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additionally, for the first time, 500 wheeled **yard waste containers** are also available to Annapolis residents at the same address. Individuals must show a water bill or drivers license when picking up the container to confirm their address.

If you have questions, please email the Department of Public Works at pubworks@annapolis.gov or call 410-263-7949. For more information you can also view the DPW Public Service Announcement at <https://youtu.be/jEeIBErFjuE>

I wanted to let you all know how much I enjoyed this year's Maryland Day Celebration, as Alderwoman Rhonda Pindell Charles and I visited historic landmarks, streets, and points of interest along our walk in Parole on Saturday, March 19. It was all part of the "Walk Parole: Scavenger Hunt for History" with local residents joining us as we explored African American heritage, local businesses and historic treasures in Parole.

I want to thank the sponsors of the event, including Community Health Center at Parole, Inc., the City of Annapolis Recreation and Parks Department, the Annapolis Historic Preservation Division, the Annapolis Heritage Commission, Four Rivers: The Heritage Area of Annapolis, London Town and South County, Greater Parole Community Association and the Parole Elementary School Alumni and Friends Association.



I wanted to make you aware of some moderately priced dwelling units available in Annapolis. To ensure that housing choices continue to be available to its residents and employees with moderate incomes, the City Council passed the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Law in 2004. This law requires that 12% of the houses for sale in new subdivisions of 10 or more units be moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs). This means that the sale price or rent is below the market rate for other units in the same development.

MPDU's at Sailor's Quay are \$175,000. Boucher Place just lowered their price from \$169,000 to \$159,000.

For more details and an application and information on how to apply, please see our webpage at <http://bit.ly/1AcjXo6>



Finally, I want to congratulate Naptown Events on a wonderful Annapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade! It was a blast and everyone was a wee bit Irish during the Sunday festivities. This year's parade and the surrounding festivities supported Wounded Troops through the local non-profit Warrior Events, Maryland Professional Firefighters, and The Blue Ribbon Project which supports recently displaced Foster Children.