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Office of the Mayor
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First Two Years

As I reflect on the accomplishments made and the challenges faced over the past two years in office, I reach my mid-term with a sense of amazement on how fast the time has gone. In the past two years we have made difficult decisions, demonstrated fiscal leadership, improved core services while promoting citizen participation and accessibility in local government. My inaugural pledge was to “Put Annapolitans First” and that is what I work to do every day.

This administration was the first to put in place a monthly "open door" policy program where any citizen can come and talk with me about their ideas, concerns and observations in and around Annapolis. Within the 24 open door sessions and the 96 hours of discussions, I have been pleased with the amount of resourceful comments and constructive suggestions citizens have shared with me first hand.

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 avoided a property tax increase on real estate. This adoption was difficult and made it very transparent that change needed to happen to the budgeting process. Last year, the budget was adopted without intense arguments of past years and was better understood by the public. As promised, the size of government has been reduced by making many difficult decisions to not fund numerous positions in turn saving the city more than \$800,000.

Since inheriting a city that had an inadequate amount of bus shelters due to a past contractual dispute, we have installed a total of 58 new bus shelters for citizens and visitors. This allows for protection for our citizens and riders away from the elements. During my first year, we addressed long overdue infrastructure issues by providing for a new Water Treatment Plant and the City Dock bulkhead replacement, setting aside critical capital dollars. As part of my commitment to address our infrastructure needs, I also allocated \$2 million to the annual roadway paving program and \$600 thousand for city sidewalk repairs.

Because I remain focused on fiscal responsibility, 2015 and forward is about generating revenue by finding the hidden assets that exist throughout our city.

An example of this is the Waterfront Maritime Conservation (WMC) zoning legislation which passed on December 7, and while the public focus has been on 110 Compromise Street (the old Fawcett building), this legislation will benefit all properties in that zoning district. As one of my initiatives, I am proud to have been a cosponsor of this legislation that addresses inconsistencies in WMC zoning allowed under a number of non-conforming uses. We offered amendments to the legislation that addressed the concerns that were heard directly from our citizens in an effort to breathe new life into a vacant building while benefiting the entire district.