

Message from the Mayor

Let's talk jobs. One of the main challenges that face us as a city is that we need more employment opportunities in Trenton. I am very aware of this issue everyday. I spoke to a young man last weekend that had just put \$75.00 worth of gasoline in his pick-up truck. He told me that if he didn't do a lot of extra driving during the week, he could make it back and forth to his job in Dyersburg all week. After I spoke to him, I wondered, what percentage of his weekly check \$75.00 was? If he is like the majority of us, it is substantial. I need to find this young man a job in the city he lives in.

I want you to know this; there are people and agencies in Trenton who are working everyday to try to lure and secure jobs to the city. Plans are being made and steps are being taken to take advantage of every opportunity in the form of industry that might come our way. But I will also tell you this; manufacturing jobs are leaving the United States for foreign countries as we speak. My guess is that until we finally let these American companies on foreign soil know that we want our jobs back, this trend will worsen. About the only way I know how to accomplish that is to buy American goods as much as possible. The point I want to make is, efforts are being made to get jobs here locally and we will keep focused on the problem.

Now, I guess that leads us to Fed Ex. You have to know that a corporation as large as that does not decide overnight to close one site down and build another. Meetings were held and studies were done and analyzed. Truth be told, they knew a year or so earlier what they intended. My second week in office, we met with the local management and offered them whatever they needed to stay. Their minds had long since been made up. We are now talking with local freight carriers to see if they would be interested in moving in after Fed Ex moves out.

Dogs, dogs, dogs!!!! I have a running joke with Chief Sanders that I get more dog calls than he does police calls. The sad part is I really think I do. The City of Trenton has a leash law (Sec.10-207) stating that any dog without proper vaccination or running at large can be seized by the health officer, the police chief, any police officer, or the city dog catcher. Loose dogs are a huge problem in many parts of the city and we have to pick them up daily. Sometimes we can not catch them and our options dwindle. I am warning everyone that we are going to get aggressive in conjunction with animal control. Your dog should not be running loose and I am asking you to be a responsible pet owner and keep your dog confined to your property.

Is your house number attached to your home where a police officer, fireman, or ambulance driver can see it? There might come a time when it could become very important to you for it to be visible. It is a huge help to city personnel when it comes to offering you the best possible service. It is inexpensive and doesn't take a lot of time and effort to do. Please put your number on your house.

Well, the holiday season is officially here. We all know what that means; we are going to spend every dime in our pockets on Christmas gifts. It's the American thing to do. Let's all really try to spend as much of that money as we can in Trenton. Let's see if we can make this the largest retail year that we have had in a long time. Seriously, if you can buy it in town, please do. Think of the gas you will save and even more important, the time. Shop Trenton!!!

Speaking of the holiday season, this is usually the time of year we all try to show a little compassion for our fellow man. My suggestion is to find a group that is doing something for the people who have less than you and do what we were meant to do, give. The sad part is that we should be doing that all year. Many of you do and whether you think so or not, others are thankful.

We are a city of great potential. We are a city of people who can do great things. I am meeting with a group of concerned citizens (who by the way were awesome) quarterly to discuss and come up with solutions to the challenges that we face as a city in the 21st century. Now, I would like to invite the merchants to join us. Our next meeting is January 15 at 7:00p.m. Any citizen of Trenton who would like to join us is welcome. At our next meeting we are going to try to get a "Neighborhood Watch" program

started and we should hear from a UT professor who will speak to us on how to mobilize our youth to do community work. How cool!! Come join us.

If you are renting a house or property to someone else, do you what is going on in or on said property? Do you know how many drug dealers would have to leave town if their landlords would send them packing? Think about it.

Are you keeping your property picked up? Have you encouraged a young person to do something positive? Are you being a good example to our youth? Aren't you proud of all the young people at Peabody who represent us by excelling in athletics, cheerleading, band and academics? I am. Are you arguing with your neighbors? We have a long way to go. Wouldn't it be a nicer journey if we held hands? See you soon and until then, God Bless Trenton.