

**Message from the Mayor #51 -- September 11, 2009**

I am excited to announce that the City of Trenton is embarking on a new concept and the beginning of a new era. At the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, the City Council voted to start a viable and comprehensive recycling program in Trenton. The city will combine with Doxicom LLC of Jackson to take all recyclable materials out of our weekly trash and process them for resale. Although we are still working out all the small details, we have devised a program that will put us on the cutting edge of small cities in Tennessee.

What this means to you is a way to recycle your paper, cardboard, plastics, and aluminum and keep them out of your regular trash. While this is not mandatory at this time, the city needs as many people as possible to participate in the program. You will be receiving information through the newspaper, radio and a door to door campaign to educate you on the proper ways to dispose of your recyclables. We will make it as simple as possible without complicating the way you already dispose of your trash. You can help us by encouraging your relatives, friends and neighbors to recycle.

The way it will work for now is to put your recyclables in a separate bag or container which we will provide to you and when it is full put it out on the street for our street trucks to pick up. You won't have to carry it to a special site or do a lot of dividing. You will have a bag of regular trash and a bag of recyclable trash. Recycling will be easy, simple and almost effortless. The only thing that we will be asking is for you to rinse your plastics out so it will bring more at resale. This is going to be a great thing for you, the city, and the environment and I am very excited. This will cut our garbage disposal costs way back and the more people that participate; the more we all will save. Who knows where this will lead?

As most of you know by now, we received grant monies to tear down abandoned and condemned properties in the city. Recently, I heard the most absurd rumor I have heard in a while which was the city was going to kick people out of their homes and then tear their houses down. Let's stop and think about that for a moment..... yes, you're correct, that makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. No one has any intention of tearing down a house that can be lived in. Remember, the city receives the bulk of its revenue from property tax. If we destroy property that people live in, we lose money. The properties we will raze will be ones that are uninhabitable, unfixable or falling in. What we are hoping is that once these houses are out of the neighborhood, others will be motivated to build a new house on that lot and get something

substantial back on the tax rolls. Better plan than kicking people out, don't you think?

Speaking of building, there has been an outbreak of building in Trenton lately. Not only have they been working on the Winfrey Center group homes, but many people around town are adding on or fixing up. This is all very positive and a sign that possibly things are shifting around. We are still here searching for a way to bring in jobs. We haven't forgotten about it nor will we. We continue to get hits to look at our empty buildings and hopefully some day we will be able to fill some of them. Please ask yourself if there is anything you could do to make Trenton look better to those industrial prospects that enter and drive through our city. It might as simple as not throwing paper on the ground or cutting some weeds in front of your house. We are all in this together and all of us have some responsibility to sell this city to visitors looking for a place to live or work.

Do you know that we have had people move to Trenton in recent years because they found us on the internet? Are you aware that we look attractive enough to draw people here from other parts of the country? I hear some of you asking yourself why someone would want to move to this place. I'll tell you why; it's because this is a great place to live in comparison to most places in this country. The folks that complain about Trenton all the time (by the way, they are also the ones who never volunteer to do anything to help) need to try somewhere else. You'll be back. That is why I cannot understand why a few people do not keep their property and businesses looking attractive enough to make people want to move here and join us. I greet very few visitors to our city who do not brag on how beautiful Trenton is. A very good fiscal idea is to promote Trenton to retirees and other people looking for a temperate climate with a relatively low cost of living standard. More people, more tax dollars, better services, more retail business and profits lay in our future if we all do our part. Does the term win-win mean anything to you? Thanks to all who promote Trenton in a positive light and those of you who don't, what are you waiting for?

I recently spoke to some of Cindy Taylor's classes at Peabody High School about my job and jobs in general. We talked about getting an education, having a passion for what you do for a living and being committed to your work. We also talked about the importance of supporting the place you live. Many of them were unaware that when you spend money in other places, the tax dollars involved go to support those places. It goes to their schools, police and fire departments and other local entities. I think that even though I expect them to still do a little shopping at Wal-Mart (with their save money; yeah right, live better; what's that mean, propaganda slogan), they may just try to spend a little more money

at home. I'm not saying to stay out of Wal-Mart; even I have been in a Wal-Mart from time to time, but once again I am urging you to SHOP TRENTON at every opportunity. Doing business in the city helps us fight these bad economic times. We want the retailers we have to stay here and they will be able to if we patronize their shops. If we get to be known as people who stay home to shop, other retailers will come to us. If we are willing to drive 30 miles to shop, they will let us. Since we have gotten serious about shopping at home, we are averaging about \$10,000 additional sales tax dollars per month. That could be a lot larger number but I thank you for shopping here when you can.

I know it seems as if I rotate around some of the same ideas most of the time but successful repetition breeds success. On a very positive note, Officers Ron Bennett and Eric Horne received a prestigious award from the Governor recently for their outstanding police work. They traveled to Nashville and received the award from the Governor himself. Congratulations to them and to all our city employees, whom I feel go above and beyond on a regular basis. When you have people to rely on such as I do from day to day, it makes the job easier. Then some days.....well, let's just say they are more challenging. We work here every day to make your life better if we can. We know Trenton isn't perfect but we're working on it. Till next time God Bless Trenton.

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