

Message from the Mayor #38 03-06-2009

It seems as if I have spent a lot of time lately dealing with inoperative, abandoned and improperly licensed vehicles around the city. Some people are confused as to what is allowed and not allowed concerning vehicles that set in your yard or on the street. Let me see if I can clear up some of the confusion.

First, every vehicle in the city of Trenton must be properly licensed with the state and possess a current year city sticker in order to be legal. If you have a vehicle you do not drive, it has to be stored in a building or properly covered on a secluded part of your property out of sight. Any vehicle that is not properly licensed, stickered or concealed can be either issued a citation or towed to the impound lot. This goes for any vehicle whose owner lives in the city limits whether it is a private residence or a commercial business. Old vehicles are a safety and health hazard and cannot be tolerated. This is just one more component to cleaning up properties that are unsightly in the city.

There is a nice lady in my neighborhood that not only walks for exercise but she carries a plastic sack and picks up paper on the streets as she walks. When I ask the question concerning what you personally are doing for the city, she is a wonderful example of the answer. If everyone who lives here would do some little something to improve the quality of life here, how great a place would this be? All of us have the capacity of being a positive influence not only in our own neighborhood, but the entire city. You know what I really like about what this lady does? She picks up paper and doesn't ask for one word of recognition for her efforts. That's the kind of people I like to surround myself with. It makes me better. Even though she hasn't asked for it, I applaud her for what she does and thank her very much. What are we doing?

You know, a lot of the ideas I have are inspired by people who call, email or come by and talk to me. I had a call last week from a delightful lady from Dyer, who had some suggestions to offer about how we might solve the counties' court problem. I really do like to hear from you. Maybe you have an idea or just want to get something off your chest, it really doesn't matter. You might have the solution to all our problems and if you do, I want to find out what it is. My phone number is 855-2013, my email is trentonmayor@bellsouth.net and my address at City Hall is 309 S. College Street.

Last week we had a tragic house fire on Church Street and luckily no one was seriously hurt. House fires have to be one of the most devastating events that can happen in ones' lifetime. It is God's Blessing to escape with your life, but the things you lose still mean a great deal. The thought of losing pictures, papers and those

things that were given to you by loved ones take us back a few steps and cause us to think. But today I want to tell you how proud I am to say I work for the City of Trenton.

When our police arrived on the scene of the fire, not everyone was out of the burning house. There was still a man inside. The man it seems had sent his son out of the house to make sure that the boy would be safe but because of the man's disability, was unable to get himself out. Officer Ron Bennett broke out a window and entered the smoke-filled house and brought the man to safety. I, along with the City Council want to thank Officer Bennett for doing his job without question and with no regard to his own personal well-being. Congratulations to Officer Bennett and the other officers present on a job well done.

Speaking of the Police Department, we have 3 police officers graduating from the State Police Academy on Friday, March 13th. Officers John Meadows, Samora Hall, and Nick Milan will be part of the ceremonies held at the Police Academy in Nashville. It will be my pleasure to attend the graduation along with Chief Will Sanders and Assistant Chief Jeff McCoy. These young officers have undergone rigorous academic and physical training to accomplish this goal. My congratulations go out to them.

Late winter and early spring are traditionally rainy times which mean water runoff, which means drainage problems on your property. You can help yourself out by making sure your water runoff routes are clear and unobstructed. Make sure if you have a ditch on your property that it is clear of leaves, limbs, trash, or any type of debris. Also if you have a culvert under your driveway that it is not blocked in any way. Remember that all property from the edge of the road to the back of your property is your responsibility. The City has right of way but doesn't own it. It belongs to you and unless it is a city drain, we cannot go on private property to fix it.

I was in a grocery store this morning and had the pleasure to speak to several people I know and upon asking one lady how she was she said, "I have a job and it's Friday". We laughed for a second but the poignancy of her statement came to light very quickly. My heart goes out to anyone who has lost or is going to lose their job. For many of us our job is our identity, it's who we are. Some people have never done anything else. How hard it must be to know that you gave it all you had and still they let you go. It's not fair but we all know about fairness. You know, things are eventually going to get better one way or another and it will probably not go in the exact direction we think it will. We need to be open to new ways at looking at our lives. Most mornings when I get to work, I pray for God to send us help to cope with the present situation and challenges we face. Then the other morning I realized, He already

has. He is here for us every day. What does He have in store for us? Maybe we just need to listen.

I have a concern for our future and it grieves me to have to talk to the papers or be on television and tell over and over the heartbreaking news of industrial opportunity leaving Trenton. So, what can be done? Well, we can go to work every day like the world is going to get better in the next 5 minutes. We can create projects, initiate programs, continue policies, and move as far ahead as we can and the country will allow. All the issues we have talked about the past year and a half still work and make us a better community and better people. Shopping Trenton, recycling, volunteering, and following the example of the lady who picks up trash as she exercises are the things we can always do and when industrial and retail opportunity knocks, we will be a strong, united community ready to open the door and welcome it in. Trenton isn't perfect, but we're working on it. Till next time, God Bless Trenton.