



April 11, 2014

City Council and Citizens of Waukegan,

At the conclusion of my first year in the Office of the Mayor, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year May 1, 2014 to April 30, 2015 (FY14/15) budget to the City Council and citizens of Waukegan. The mission of the City is to work toward enhancing the quality of life for our citizens and facilitating economic opportunities for the business community. I believe the plan set forth in this budget document will enable the City to continue on this path while adhering to our core values of transparency, professionalism and collaboration. The majority of my first year as Mayor was focused on making the City work. Much has been accomplished by working as a team with the Aldermen, staff, local businesses and City residents.

The City works to be open, accessible, and consistent to encourage transparency. Over \$5 million has been invested in our Water Plant during the past two-years, with \$2 ½ million more scheduled in FY14/15. This will allow the City to maintain high quality water at affordable customer rates. During the past year we streamlined business licensing to make Waukegan more business-friendly. FY14/15 priorities include modernizing the City's zoning ordinance and building codes. One of the City's accomplishments I am most proud of during this past year is the demolition of abandoned properties that are hazards to the community. Ten derelict properties were removed during FY13/14, and another ten are on the list for FY14/15.

The City works to create a respectful atmosphere by ensuring professionalism throughout our organization. During FY13/14 twelve new police officers and six new firefighters were hired. The City prides itself on recruiting the best and the brightest to serve and protect our community, and providing on-going training to our sworn personnel will be a focus in FY14/15. Another example of professionalism during the past year was the hiring of a full-time Corporation Counsel dedicated full-time to the City's legal matters instead of retaining several Chicago-based law firms. The City tapped a local organization to improve cleanliness at the public beach and engaged the former mayor of Kenosha to assist the City in economic development projects. We will continue to look inside and outside of City Hall to find more efficient, effective and economical ways to improve City services and enhance the City's economic position. For example, the FY14/15 budget call for an upgrade of the City's aged water meter system to improve accuracy and timeliness of water usage data.

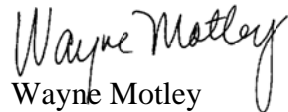
The City works to build successful relationships by collaborating with our partners. The Waukegan Police Department added a Spanish-speaking Citizens' Police Academy to better engage our Spanish-speaking residents. Another exciting accomplishment during FY13/14 is that both the Police and Fire are back in the schools including police-officer school reading programs and conducting regular fire drills. Waukegan's Public Works Department entered into

an agreement with Gurnee and Beach Park to provide water and coordinate our operations during emergency situations. After years of struggling for the best way to manage the City-owned Genesee Theatre, a long-term partnership with ULine was forged to reduce the City's costs for operations and improve performances at the facility. Also exciting was our work with the State of Illinois resulting in the attraction of a Chinese business to locate in Waukegan against stiff competition and significantly larger financial incentives from a competing state.

For the upcoming year, the City will continue to strengthen its collaboration with our partners. The Police Department will continue its popular Community Policing Program putting officers in the neighborhoods where trusting relationships may be developed between the police and our citizens. The Fire Department will place a priority on working with the community and sister agencies to improve the health and safety of rental and commercial properties. The City will continue working with our state and federal legislators to create jobs and secure a casino in Waukegan. Downtown will be improved by working with Lake County on their court expansion and with Metra on improving the train station. Of course we will continue diligently working with developers to improve and expand the City's commercial footprint.

I am grateful to many people who cooperated to create this policy and financial document for the next fiscal year. I encourage you to read the entire document, attend our public budget hearing, and ask questions to understand the full impact of the budget on our subsequent year's operations.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne Motley
Mayor, City of Waukegan