



April 6, 2015

City Council and Citizens of Waukegan,

At the conclusion of my second year in the Office of the Mayor, I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year May 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016 (FY15/16) 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. Working with the City Aldermen, staff, local businesses and residents, much has been accomplished, and more exciting plans are in the works.

The City works to be open, accessible, and consistent to encourage transparency. Over \$7 million has been invested in our Water Plant during the past three-years, with \$4 million more scheduled in FY15/16. This allows the City to maintain high quality water at affordable customer rates. The City is also starting a road resurfacing program in FY15/16, with the goal of repaving 40% of our City roadways over a three-year period – a total value of \$30 million. Not only will this make your rides through our community more pleasant, improved roadways improve commercial and residential property values.

During the past year we upgraded the payment and camera systems in the City-owned parking garages, expanded point-of-sale options for vehicle stickers, and implemented crime pattern interpretation technology to better allocate police manpower – all in an effort to use technology to improve the services provided to our citizens. We continue to invest in technology with plans to upgrade the water meter reading system, and renew several of our technology infrastructure systems citywide. This is all being done to improve our efficiency and effectiveness in providing City services. Over \$2 million has been dedicated to technology improvements in FY15/16.

One of the City's accomplishments I am most proud of during the past two years is the demolition of abandoned properties that are hazards to the community. Twenty-nine derelict properties have been removed during FY13/14 and FY14/15, and even more are in the hopper for FY15/16!

Our future depends on thoughtful and successful development. The City has laid the ground work for several exciting public and private development projects for FY15/16. Both the College of Lake County Lakeshore Campus and Lake County Courthouses will be expanded, bringing more visitors to our downtown and lakefront. Plans continue to be honed regarding the River Road Corridor development, and we continue to look at opportunities for further growth in the southwest corner of the City. The City will continue to work with lakefront property owners to prepare our lakefront for key development opportunities. Last, but not least, I continue to focus my efforts on working with our state and federal legislators to create jobs and secure a casino in Waukegan.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Motley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "M".

Wayne Motley
Mayor, City of Waukegan