

CITY OF TRENTON
CITY HALL



ERIC E. JACKSON, MAYOR

Friday, January 26, 2018

MAYOR ERIC E. JACKSON TO COMPLETE TERM IN 2018

“Successful Tenure Characterized by Successes on Budget, Crime and Engagement”

“A little over four years ago, my love for the City of Trenton led me to the decision to run for mayor of this great city. Trenton is the city where I was born. It is where I grew up and where my greatest friendships and my fondest memories were formed.

At the time I decided to run back in 2014, the city I aspired to lead barely resembled the community where I was educated, grew my career, worshipped and started a family. Crime and unemployment spiked. Buildings that could have been put to productive use as housing or new businesses stood as vacant testaments to a poor economy and to the dysfunction of our city government.

Because I believed in Trenton -- and because Trentonians believed in me as one of their own -- I was given the opportunity to reverse a culture of dysfunction and failure at City Hall. Doing so wasn't easy. My administration inherited a city government that was nearly paralyzed by inefficiency and scandal. We needed to repair relationships with key stakeholders who had been demoralized by the unfulfilled promises of failed leadership. But although those challenges may have seemed insurmountable, we have proven that they were not.

Our city now has strengthened partnerships with our residents, our stakeholders, officials of neighboring cities, Mercer County, and Governor Phil Murphy and his administration, which make me optimistic that our capital city is undoubtedly stronger, and more progressive.

And so today, after four years of hard work, four years of renewed energy and vibrancy, four years of reform, four years of growth and four years of positive transformation, I am here to announce that my work as mayor is complete and that I will not seek a second term as mayor.

As with my decision to run for mayor, I made this decision after great consideration. And I must stress that this is very much a personal, not political, decision. I still believe I have much to contribute to Trenton's rebirth, but I now believe that my contributions will be greater outside of City Hall than from the Mayor's Office. I am grateful to every resident for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading our city and very proud of all we've accomplished together. Now that

the City has been restored to fiscal stability and put on a path to economic prosperity and greater public safety for all residents, I will look forward to continuing that work.

As I prepare to make way for new leadership, I take pride in what we've accomplished during my term. Our great city, once mired in debt, has reduced a \$9 million operating deficit left after the Great Recession and now has a balanced budget with a \$10 million surplus. Where Trenton had been desperate for an economic rebirth, we've now seen more than \$330 million in private investment, creating hundreds of new jobs since 2014.

Our City is now overseeing the rehabilitation or demolition of dozens of blighted properties, expanding homeownership and the City's tax base in places where not long ago, there was only blight. And I would be remiss if I didn't put it on the record that significant headway has been made to put a plan in place that will correct decade-old operational and staffing issues at Trenton Water Works.

Today, I am confident and optimistic that we've created a solid foundation for the next administration to build on. Today, I know that because of our work together, every Trentonian lives in a city where opportunity is expanding and quality of life is improving. Today our future is unmistakably brighter than it was four years ago.

In closing, I want to say—to my wife and family, to each and every resident, business owner, stakeholder, police officer and firefighter, to every teacher and parent, especially to **every city employee** and cabinet member, to every person who believed in me, and who believes in our city—thank you for the opportunity to serve and God bless you.”

– Mayor Eric. E. Jackson, City of Trenton

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