

## **A Note from the Mayor:**

This report was distributed to City Council on January 7, 2008. While this report is **not** all-inclusive, it does give you a highlight synopsis of the many events and activities involving the Mayor and his role in our community during the past year. I trust that by reading this report you will see that I enjoy being an active, involved Mayor representing Troy, Ohio USA. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

- Mayor Beamish

Michael Beamish  
Mayor



City of Troy

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January 7, 2008

Mrs. Martha A. Baker, President  
Members of Troy City Council  
City Hall  
Troy, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Baker and Council Members:

The law governing a statutory city in the State of Ohio requires the Mayor to present an annual report at the first meeting of the New Year. In accordance with this law, I present my report for 2007, my fourth year as Mayor of the City of Troy, Ohio.

During 2007, I performed 32 marriages. No receipts were turned into the Auditor's Office, as I did not accept payment for any of these weddings. However, the wedding couples were encouraged to make a donation to either Dollars for Scholars or The Future Begins Today. The donations that came through this office totaled \$1,760.00, which were divided between both of these organizations (\$955.00 to Dollars for Scholars and \$805.00 to The Future Begins Today). I also required a meeting with each bride and groom prior to scheduling their wedding. This meeting was to make sure that I was comfortable with the couple and likewise, they were comfortable with me performing their ceremony. During the year, marriages were performed in my office, at Duke Park, Hayner Cultural Center, private residences, and other locations throughout Miami County. Being permitted to perform a marriage is an honor granted to the Mayor. I take this solemn privilege very seriously.

My first proclamation of the year was for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. During 2007 there were 15 additional proclamations.

There were 41 ribbon cuttings and grand openings in conjunction with the Ambassadors of the Troy Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the Chamber held 12 official Business After Hour events. I attended in a Mayoral capacity, over 90% of all these functions.

During the year I attended numerous meetings including regular Council, Council Committee, Planning Commission, The Workforce Policy Board of Miami and Shelby Counties, and Troy Main Street. I also served as Chairman of the Mayor's International Council, Mayor's Downtown Roundtable, and our Scarlet and Gray Committee. I have taken an active role in the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, and I am currently the Vice President of the Greater Dayton Mayors and City Managers Association.

Letters, notes, and e-mails were written to numerous local citizens, businesses, staff, and other elected officials. Also requiring my signature were numerous Resolutions, Ordinances, bid awards, oaths of office, cemetery deeds, appointments, and investments. These are all part of my daily duties and responsibilities.

I continue to work with Superintendents' Tom Dunn and Gary Wilbur to bring the schools and the City closer together. I visited various schools and participated in assembly programs and classroom exercises both at Troy City Schools and Troy Christian Schools. This is a refreshing way to meet our young people and listen to their thoughts. I especially enjoyed doing assessment planning with our Mayor's Youth Council and the Teen Leadership Troy group; I plan for this to continue into 2008.

Thanks to Steve Dunne and Joe Weaver from Troy Public Access Television 5, we were able to continue a weekly report on the activities of the City. Also, thanks to Joe Neves of WPTW Radio Station, the weekly radio broadcasts were continued again this year. We have had quite a bit of positive feedback regarding the broadcasts on Troy Public Access Television 5, and WPTW Radio Station. I feel we presented the citizens of Troy with a better understanding of the various departments and the workings of the City. Under the guidance of Steve Dunne, Joe Weaver and Joe Neves, we are planning to continue these broadcasts in 2008.

I maintain a positive working relationship with the Auditor's Office. Under the direction of City Auditor Richard Cultice we continue to receive our high financial rating through fiscal responsibility. We are all quite proud of our exemplary City Auditor and his staff.

I met with my cabinet regularly to discuss current issues and projects. The Cabinet consists of: the President of Council, the City Auditor, the Director of Public Service and Safety, and the Administrative Assistant/Clerk of Council. As needed, the Director of Law is involved.

January was the beginning of my fourth year as Mayor of this great City, and a time to look back at my first three years to reflect and think about what an exciting learning experience this continues to be. The Miami County Bicentennial Kickoff was held in January and the exciting plans that were released proved to be a wonderful year long celebration. My involvement with the King Team culminated with the MLK Parade and Observance Program, celebrating our "Unity Through Diversity" within this Troy Community.

In February, I was honored to participate in the celebration of Leo Johnson's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday at Caldwell House. I also was a part of the selection committee for the Strawberry Festival Parade Grand Marshall, and I participated in the Strawberry Festival Kickoff.

The State of the City Report was held in March. This is an event that I look forward to attending each year, as it provides an opportunity to report the happenings of the City to the Citizens of Troy. The Mayor's Prayer Breakfast was also held in March. This is always a very beautiful event and allows the Mayor's Youth Council to take an active role in serving.

In April, I was given the privilege of serving as the Honorary Chairman for the Multiple Sclerosis Walk. This is an event that both my wife and I participate in every year, and one that I will continue to support in the years ahead.

In May, we held the second semester DARE Graduations. This event is always exciting for the children. Our Resource Officers do a great job stressing positive choices essential for making appropriate decisions in life. On May 19 the Sculptures On The Square soared into Troy. This year the Sculptures were of WACO planes that were decorated in various motifs to depict the many aspects of Miami County, including the Strawberry Festival, the OSU Supporters, the children who live in Miami County, and the animals of the Bruckner Nature Center. The artists who decorated these sculptures were truly phenomenal. The month was rounded out with my participation in the Memorial Day festivities. It was a great honor to speak and show my respect and gratitude to those who have served, and are still serving this wonderful country of ours.

With June came the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Strawberry Festival, which was again a wonderfully successful event. It is always a joy to see everyone along the parade route. Being involved with the judging, participating in the opening events, and chairing the Golden Couple event were all things that made the festival a grand experience for me. I was also given the honor of presenting the awards at the Strawberry Festival Soccer Tournament. I was also honored to be a speaker at the dedication ceremony of the Hobart Urban Nature Preserve on June 4. June 15, I performed a wedding between a man born in the US and a girl from Japan. The wedding was broadcast over the internet so the brides family could see the wedding live in Japan. Rick Oak helped to set it up. On June 20, the GOBA participants came to Troy. It is always great to see these bicyclists visit our great city. The number of tents that are set up in our

Community Park is fantastic. I just hope that they had as much fun visiting here as we enjoyed having them visit. The month rounded out with my visits to Safety Town. It is never too soon to start teaching our youth the safe way to travel through the city whether on bicycles or walking.

In July, there was the wonderful July Fourth Celebration. This celebration was once again fantastic with great weather, and a magnificent fireworks display! On July 25, I was asked to read to the participants in the summer reading program at the Miami County Library. This is a group of preschool children and it is always a joy to read to these little ones.

August started with a group of young visitors and their adult chaperones who traveled from our Sister City, Takahashi City, Japan for the Student Exchange Program. I know they experienced memories and friendships to last a lifetime. August 7 was the Annual National Night Out. This year's event was bigger and better than last year. I couldn't believe the participation from all of the organizations and citizens in attendance. This event is fast growing, and one that the citizens truly enjoy. Thanks to Tom Kirkham and his great committee of volunteers, it was once again a tremendous success. The Festival of Nations also took place in August, and it proved to be the best Festival of Nations event to date. The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Concert was another wonderful success with, superb music, and an even better attendance than years before. This year, I was privileged to again conduct the performance of Fillmore's His Honor March. The month ended with my participation as MC and Guest Auctioneer at the CASA/GAL Annual Art Auction. This, too, was a grand event that benefits many in our community.

In September we were honored to again have the Air Force Band of Flight perform a concert as part of the Labor Day Holiday. It is always a treat to listen to this concert band perform. Also in September we celebrated National Assisted Living Week. It was wonderful to see our citizens who are living in assisted living facilities. I know that sometimes these folks feel like they have been forgotten; so every chance I get I try to make them feel special and appreciated. On September 14, I was honored to be a part of the dedication of the Eldean Bridge as an Ohio Landmark. This is one of the beautiful landmarks that Miami County and Troy are known for. The month rounded out with my participation in the Alzheimer's walk. This event is one that I have participated in each year, and will continue to participate in until a cure can be found.

October brought the beginning of the fall events. One of my favorites was judging the Fall Festival costume contest sponsored by the Troy Noon Optimist Club. This allowed me to see some of my former students, and even some of my former student's children. Families can be so creative in costume design!

November held the decoration of the Public Square and levee for the Christmas season. There were numerous trees covered with lights, various lighted scenes at the Paul G. Duke Park, as well as lights all along the river levee between Adams Street and Market Street. There were lights at East Main Street, at East Franklin

Street, Prouty Plaza, and in the Mayor's Park on West Main Street. This year's Christmas Tree and lights seemed brighter and more beautiful than ever!! During the evening of the tree lighting, the traditional reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" was held with a little twist to make it more of a home town tale, and the annual Holiday Parade was the "Star at the Top of the Tree!"

December also saw the first semester DARE Graduations for many of our schools. This program involves the area fifth graders.

Other attended events included walking the Dr. Martin Luther King Day Celebration Program and participation in the opening ceremonies of the Fire and Police Games. I also participated in various events that the Veterans initiate to demonstrate patriotism. Being the "Voice of the Trojans" at home football games was something I truly enjoyed. I also participated in the Troy-Piqua football pre-game rally and the Silverbacks pre-game rally. There are many more events that I participated in, but they are too numerous to mention.

The Senior Citizens Forum at the Troy Senior Citizens Center continued this year. This was a monthly meeting in which we covered different topics of interest to our Senior Citizens. I continue to be open and available for future forums.

In January, there was a new face at City Hall. Patrick Titterington started in his new position as Director of Public Service and Safety for the City of Troy. Mr. Titterington has done an excellent job in keeping me informed in the happenings within the City, and he has proven to be an excellent leader.

The retirement of Secretary Teri Proconiar, Water Plant Operator Billie Gallagher and Cemetery Laborer Larry Shaw on January 31, 2007 started the retirement ball rolling. Following in their footsteps were Water Distribution Foreman Michael Jordan, Firefighter Eugene Owen, Refuse Foreman Larry Lewis, Fiscal Supervisor Dale Ridenour, and Waste Water Treatment Plant Foreman Rod Cummins. All of these employees took a wealth of knowledge and experience with them. We were very sorry to see them leave, but wish them much luck and happiness in their retirement.

The Mayor's Youth Council continued during 2007 with each elementary school in the City having a representative chosen by the school principal. Their term also carried into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade building. This group of young people met monthly, got to know one another, served meals at the St. Patrick Soup Kitchen, participated in the Strawberry Festival Parade, the 2007 Festival of Nations Parade and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. In November, a new group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were chosen. After discussing the plans with the advisors, Craig and Jane Wise and Rob and Julie Morrison I see that they have some great plans for 2008. Under the direction of these four individuals, I know that the group will continue to flourish as it has through the years!

The Senior Advisory Council, otherwise known as the Scarlet and Grey Committee, continued to meet in 2007. This a group of seven senior citizens covering all aspects of life met quarterly in the Mayor's Office to discuss various topics and concerns pertinent to our community. Each quarter certain topics were discussed, and guests with input related to that topic were invited to attend. This Council is a community "think-tank" with a wealth of ideas and experience.

In conjunction with Troy Main Street, the "Mayor's Round Table" committee continued to meet on a monthly basis. This committee consists of the Director of Troy Main Street, representatives from the Downtown Business Owners Association, the Director of the Chamber of Commerce and his assistant, the Development Director, the Director of Public Service and Safety, a Council representative, and myself. This committee met to discuss various concerns regarding downtown events, businesses, and safety.

Many people have helped me during 2007. I want to take this opportunity to thank each Council Member, Department Head, Mr. Lohrer, Mr. Titterington, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Cultice. I have established a positive rapport with our office staff, Wandelene Smith and Council Clerk/Administrative Assistant Sue Knight. I would also like to extend a special thanks to my secretary, Julie Morrison, for her support and assistance. Last, but not least, thanks to my wife, Ginny, for her love, encouragement, support, and assistance during my first term in office.

I would also like to send a special thank you to each and every City Employee for serving the citizens on a daily basis, and keeping the City running. Because of the concern and caring nature of our employees, our citizens enjoy the wonderful quality of life we experience in Troy.

To reflect, 2007 was a very busy year. As we enter 2008, my second term in office, my goals are to:

1. Continue to keep economic development as our number one priority. I will continue to do everything in my power to work with the Troy Development Council and the Dayton region in retaining, expanding, and bringing new businesses and jobs to our region and community. This ensures our City's financial stability.
2. I will also continue the partnership with Troy Schools to keep our youth safe and well educated.
3. I will continue to support our adopted Comprehensive Plan calling for smart housing growth and proper zoning with limited and well planned annexations.
4. I will continue to support our downtown.
5. I will continue to support efforts to keep Troy a clean, well-maintained city.

6. I will continue to promote an open door policy at City Hall by providing accessibility to all department heads, and welcome our citizens to City Hall while encouraging them to address issues with the proper department heads.
7. I will continue to maintain our quality of life, which includes recreational, educational and cultural activities.
8. I will continue to promote efforts that maintain the health and safety of our citizens.

As I enter my second term as your Mayor, my ultimate goal is to continue to move our great city forward and provide the very best quality of life for the citizens of Troy.

It has been a very busy and hectic, but productive year. Troy is a wonderful City, a great place to live, work and raise a family. It takes all of us working together to make Troy a great community. 2007 has given us change, challenge, and growth. May the New Year bring completion to some of our goals, good health, prosperity, and peace.

It has been an honor and privilege to represent the City of Troy as Mayor where "Civic Pride is City Wide."

My warmest wishes to each of you for good health and happiness in 2008.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Beamish  
Mayor

MLB:jl