

- Provided 2,237 homeless families and children with emergency and transitional housing



- Provided grants to service organizations to deliver security, accessibility and house painting services to 31 low-income residents citywide

- Assisted 45 neighborhood-based organizations to clean up vacant lots, organize neighborhood festivals, provide tutoring and mentoring to our youth through the Neighborhood Partnership Program

- Assisted 14 community based organizations providing services to meet special needs of low and moderate income persons through the Community Services Program

- Akron's first ever Neighbors Day enthusiastically received throughout the city

## PUBLIC SERVICE

### GREEN AKRON INITIATIVE

Launched by Mayor Plusquellic, the Akron Green Print helps the City continue its drive to a healthier environment.

In 2007:

- Raised to nearly 50% of all households in Akron – with new recycling incentives – the number of families using curbside recycling



- Launched Biogas system to generate electricity from compost. The first such application in the United States

- Began plans to build algae farm on city-owned land at Water Pollution Control station. Algae farms produce alternative bio-fuels for use in the city auto fleet

- Initiated in-place asphalt recycling for street resurfacing program

- Conducted two city wide, large-item trash pick ups, one after the holiday season, and another during the Memorial Day weekend

- Made plans to purchase the first hybrid vehicles in for city fleet this year, significantly reducing gasoline consumption

- Used Permeable Pavers in some newer parking lots to allow rain water to be stored on site rather than draining off directly into storm sewer system

- Experimented with applying beet juice product called Biomelt as environmentally safe way to assist in melting roadway ice and snow

- Used existing city assets to generate new revenue:

- Akron Metropolitan Housing and the Summit County Engineer now use the city's truck wash operation on Triplett Boulevard

- Other waste producers now use Akron's Water Pollution Control station to dispose of leachate

- Accepted more than 200,000 phone calls to the 3-1-1 Call Center. Ninety-five percent of service requests were handled within the time limits set

- Our task in 2008 is to upgrade the system (making it even more helpful to citizens) reduce our response times, and increase to 99% the number of service requests fulfilled on time

- Approved permits for \$485 million in new development in the city. Nearly \$25 million worth for repairing homes damaged by summer '07 hail storm

- Landed Ohio High School Athletic Association Girls Softball Tournament at Firestone Stadium

## EDUCATION

Opened four more new Community Learning Centers (CLC) to replace aging Akron Public Schools.

- Helen E. Arnold CLC, a partnership with Akron Public Schools and the Akron Urban League

- David Hill CLC

- Jennings CLC

- Voris CLC



- To be opened in '08:** Mason, Betty Jane, Glover, Crouse, Forest Hill, Robinson and Sam Salem Elementary

- Breaking ground in '08:** Barber, Findley, Leggett, Rimer, Science, Math & Technology CLC (a partnership with UA and Inventor's Hall of Fame)

Akron After School Program: In 11 schools

- More than 1500 students signed up in 150 classes (reading and math) and almost 500 enrichment classes running weekly

- Evaluation results are strong with after school students still showing strong achievement scores on State tests

- Funded by the City of Akron and the U.S. Department of Education

- Evaluated by Kent State University each year

**Third Grade:** Students who attended the after school program frequently showed the largest gains from fall to spring

**Fourth Grade:** Students who attended the after-school program had higher scores than those who did not attend

**Fifth Grade:** Students who attended the after-school program had higher scores than those who did not attend

Math Achievement Evaluation Results 05/06

**Third Grade:** Students who attended the after-school program had higher scores than those who did not attend

**Fourth Grade:** Students who attended the after-school program had higher scores than those who did not attend

**Fifth Grade:** Students who attended the after-school program had higher scores than those who did not attend

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### COMMUNICATIONS:

- Assumed responsibility for first level repair and maintenance of the county wide emergency radio system

- New 9-1-1 equipment provide phone number and location of wireless 911 calls to both Communications Centers. Use by other jurisdictions saving city money

- Extended fiber optics to meet growing need for additional bandwidth and reduce

- Maintenance costs associated with large count copper cable

- Installed video surveillance in Municipal Building, Stubbs Justice Center, Water Distribution and Lock 3 Park. Wireless video technology also deployed to two neighborhoods

### AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Placed into service a new 75' aerial ladder at station #9 on Dodge Avenue

- Placed into service a new engine station # 10 in Southwest Akron

- Changed hiring age from 21 to 18 for entry level positions. An entrance exam was given in December that will allow city to fill current 40 vacancies

### AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Major Narcotics Unit arrest of three suspects along with seized heroin, marijuana and Ecstasy, a large sum of currency, a semi-automatic weapon, and packaging materials

- Started two police academies at the same time. One a full-time regular academy with 37 students, including two AFD Arson Investigators, and the other the police department's first ever "Fast Track Academy" Resulted in 40 graduates

- The Akron Police Department academy was the first in the 22-county district to have an entire class pass the fitness tests on the first try. It is also the first academy to do so since the fitness test was added in 2003

- Training Bureau and the full-time academy participated in a terror training drill at North High School with the Akron Board of Education and our fire department Gun and Violence Reduction Task Force made numerous arrests and took a substantial amount of guns and drugs off of Akron streets

- Shut down nine methamphetamine labs and confiscated currency totaling \$163,053.00, along with seven automobiles

- K-9 officer Sampson, helped located 2 grams of cocaine, 92 grams of crack cocaine, 16,436 grams of marijuana, 114 grams of methamphetamine, and 1.5 grams of heroin. Sampson also hit on safes and hiding spots containing currency totaling \$25,000

- Dismantled a major Detroit to Akron heroin conspiracy

- The "Do the Right Thing" Program recognized 80 Akron area children for heroic deeds

- The Gang Unit continued to lead the state in the number of gang convictions

### TRAFFIC BUREAU STATISTICS:

- Calls for Service ..... 12,467
- Accident Reports ..... 2,972
- Accident Violations ..... 1,839
- Moving Violations ..... 1,216

### DOWNTOWN

- Groundbreaking for METRO transfer station on South Broadway. Installation of new bus shelters on Main Street

- Opening of Towpath, Quaker Street to Cedar Street, and installation of bike and pedestrian bridge at Lock 2

- Lock 3 Park was managed by the City, in collaboration with the Downtown Akron Partnership, including a return to Lock 3 of Homegrown Saturday Mornings featuring the Beacon Farmers Market

- Summer attendance ..... 106,000

- Winter attendance ..... 71,000

- The fifth Lock 3 Summer Arts Experience paired 61 Akron high school students with professional artist-mentors and created new public art at the Wolf Ledges bridge, at the Northside entry, and at Main & Market

- Development of the new Lock 4 project on South Main Street between the Civic Theatre and Bowery Street: Demolition of the Landmark Parking Deck; Environmental remediation inside buildings between Civic and Landmark, and the opening up of Canal at Lock 4

- Legislation passed to create two new Community Entertainment Districts, providing additional liquor licenses for the Lock 4 development and the Northside development

- Opening of Vegeterranean Restaurant, together with a sell-out concert by Chrissie Hynde at the Civic Theatre

- Emergence of the Northside Arts District, and monthly art walks co-sponsored by the City

- Coordination of second Grace Park Arts Fair. 4,000 visitors

- Lock 3 History Museum received 30,000 visitors. The second History Trails program involved more than 10,000 people

- Installation of bicycle racks at Lock 3, City Hall, Main Street at Cascade and Canal Park

- Implementation of panhandling ordinance adopted in 2006. First issuance of registration cards. Decline in complaints

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION:

- Dedication of Fire Station #1 – Akron Bar Association;

- Dedication of Charles Mayer Building for Summa's IT Department

- Sale of Gothic Building to developer Tony Troppe

- Plan to relocate Richard Howe House for OECC offices to Lock 2 area

- Dedication of historic marker at Glendale steps, and cleaning of park area

- Cooperation with CVSR in addition of scenic train stops at Northside – 15 trains per week in 2007

- Cooperation with and funding of Akron Art Museum international marketing strategy and dedication of Museum July 7



MAYOR  
DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC'S  
21<sup>ST</sup>  
STATE OF THE CITY  
ADDRESS  
FEBRUARY 7, 2008



Mayor Plusquellic takes the oath of office with assistance from Adam, Alison, Abigail-three of his four grandchildren.

## THE MUNICIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2007



## MAYOR DONALD L. PLUSQUELLIC

Mayor Don Plusquellic has begun the first year of his sixth term and his 22nd year as mayor. First sworn in as Akron's 59th mayor in 1987, Mayor Plusquellic had served on Akron City Council for 13 years, including three years as its president from 1984-1987. He was 24 years old when first elected to council.

Don Plusquellic has now devoted 34 years to public service; his work has been and will continue to be directed at making Akron a city of greater opportunity with strong connections to its rich past and a creative vision for an even greater future.

Competition with other cities, states, regions and countries for jobs has never been more challenging. Working hard to solidify thousands of jobs and four important companies' positions in our community, Mayor Plusquellic invested much time and energy in negotiations with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, Sterling Jewelers, Inc., FirstEnergy Corp. and InfoCision Management Corporation in 2007. The work paid off with each committing that its corporate headquarters would remain in Akron.

With strong support from the City of Akron and Mayor Plusquellic, our new Community Learning Centers continue to emerge around the city with four new schools opening last year, seven more to open this year and groundbreaking on five new CLCs in 2008 including Akron's Science, Math and Technology CLC inside the National Inventor's Hall of Fame.

Don Plusquellic continues his service as vice president of Mayor's for Peace, an international organization and his work with the United States Conference of Mayor. Plusquellic is a past president of the 500-member organization and recipient of the honor, Municipal Leader of the Year.

The creation of Akron's Biomedical Corridor in 2006 holds tremendous promise not only for the future of Akron's work force, but for the way the world looks at the city. The response has been tremendous on the part of businesses in a variety of related fields. Having an area in the central city with a concentration in this field makes Akron fertile ground for the future of biomedical-related businesses and an even stronger educational presence in the field.

"I believe we need to continually prime the pump for the future," says Mayor Plusquellic. "We are on a highly competitive, global playing field now. Our city's future and that of our children and grandchildren depends upon how much we are willing to stretch and challenge ourselves in new ways."

Mayor Plusquellic has two children and four grandchildren Anna, Abigail, Alison and Adam.

## BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION



### ■ GOODYEAR AKRON RIVERWALK

The proposed redevelopment project encompasses 500 acres in east Akron. The City of Akron will provide approximately \$100 million towards the \$900 million redevelopment cost. Goodyear agrees to keep world headquarters and nearly 3,000 jobs in Akron. The project includes a new world and North American HQ buildings of more than 350,000 square feet; et featuring hotel, new retail, restaurants, and office and redevelopment of existing Goodyear HQ facilities into mixed-use office, retail, and residential components

### ■ BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE TECHNICAL CENTER

Initiated conversations to retain 600 technical jobs at Akron center. The company has announced plans to build a new technical center with Akron one of two sites being considered

### ■ FIRST ENERGY

On July 31, 2007, FirstEnergy Properties, Inc. broke ground on a 200,000 square foot facility on White Pond Drive at an estimated cost of \$30 million. The building, which is being constructed to LEED (environmentally certified) specifications, will be the first high performance green building of its size in Akron. Approximately 700 jobs will be located at the facility upon completion

### ■ WHITE POND OFFICE PARK

City received the \$1.7 million grant under the State of Ohio's Job Ready Sites Program in support of this project. Akron Public School students built their 13th home in the Education in Action Program with the City, APS, Home Builders Association, Urban

### ■ INFOCISION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

InfoCision has announced plans to retain 600 jobs and add 400 jobs to a new headquarter campus in the Bath-Akron-Fairlawn JEDD area

### ■ AKRON BIOMEDICAL CORRIDOR

The creation of a 500 + acre corridor connecting Akron General Medical Center, Akron City Hospital and Akron Children's Hospital was announced in 2006

Mayor Plusquellic has appointed both an executive committee, consisting of the leadership from the hospitals and academic institutions, and an advisory committee consisting of hospitals, institutions, intermediaries, and companies related to the biomedical industry. Emphasis is on identifying future uses and possible incentives for the corridor and coordinating corridor efforts with other initiatives including the Orthopedic Institute, the Wound Consortium and the Akron Academic Medical Center

### ■ ORTHOPEDIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NORTHEAST OHIO

The city and its partners are striving to establish a public-private joint venture among the University of Akron, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Akron Children's Hospital, Akron General Health System, and Summa Health Care System. Capitalizing on the regions strengths in polymers and bio-materials, musculoskeletal biology and the excellence in clinical orthopedics, the city expects to attract nationally prominent talent

### ■ LEGACY I AND II

Redevelopment of the historic 60,000 square foot Akron Main Post Office for Summa Health System represents a private investment of \$9.3 million. Legacy II will be a 60-bed, long-term, acute care hospital adjacent to the new Summa Center building expected to open this spring

### ASCOT INDUSTRIAL PARK

#### ■ SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES

Construction of 25,000 square foot office, laboratory and warehouse building nearly completed. Company will occupy in 2008

### GHEENT ROAD OFFICE PARK

#### ■ STERLING JEWELERS INCORPORATED

City accommodated expansion by Sterling Jewelers, which currently employs 2,200 here. Significant growth planned over the next 15-20 years

### MASSILLON ROAD INDUSTRIAL PARK

#### ■ UNIVERSAL TIRE MOLD

Universal Tire Mold construction of a new 40,000 square foot facility. Universal has invested \$1 million in new equipment at the new facility



### HIGHLAND SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT

Continued construction of a \$6 million redevelopment of the Highland Square commercial district including a new branch library, new retail space and public parking.

ROLLING ACRES/ROMIG ROAD – Rezoned retail land at Rolling Acres Mall and along Romig Road to permit office and light industrial development within the area. Seven of the former big-box buildings have been adapted to a variety of new uses.

SPICERTOWN HOUSING AND EXCHANGE STREET REDEVELOPMENT – Rezoned retail land at Rolling Acres Mall and along Romig Road to permit office and light industrial development within the area. Seven of the former big-box buildings have been adapted to a variety of new uses.

JBM HOLDINGS – The City sold the Former Bank One at 1115 S. Main Street to JBM Holdings. JBM has invested approximately \$2 million in renovations with expectations of creating more than 300 new jobs.

TELEPERFORMANCE – In-bound customer service center at 150 E. Market increased employment to 700 with payroll of more than \$14 million in 2007.

WILLIAMS AVIATION – A new airport fixed base operator located in Building E of the former Lockheed Martin complex, as a tenant of LMA Commerce. Thirty six full-time and 17 part-time employees. Parent company plans to locate other aviation related manufacturing ventures in the remainder of the building.

THEKEN GROUP – The Theken Group completed the renovation of the former airport terminal building and relocated the company headquarters and engineering operations for their spinal implant company.

AKRON GLOBAL BUSINESS ACCELERATOR (AGBA) – As a result of a recently completed renovation, the AGBA has evolved from a mixed-use industrial incubator into an accelerator of foreign and domestic technology and a commercialization engine of innovation. Last year, 12 new high-tech, early stage firms entered AGBA; 4 more are in the near-term pipeline. Client companies have added 63 new jobs to the Akron economy.

JEDD PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS – Three (3) water projects were designed and or constructed in Coventry, and Springfield Townships in 2007, at a cost of \$266,000. The Bath Massillon Rd Pump station was also completed in 2007.

DOWNTOWN HOUSING – Equity Development Corporation is proposing to develop a 450-bed student apartment complex incorporating 23,000 square feet of street level retail units on a 2-acre site in downtown. EDC will invest approximately \$25,000,000. The city is agreeing to sell 1.08 acres, assist the relocation of the historic Richard Howe House, and construct a 250-car surface parking lot to support the project.

GREATER AKRON INVESTMENT PARTNERS, LLC – In 2007, 144 projects applied to Targetech, the Israeli technology incubator, vs. 132 in 2006. Of these, five were accepted and admitted into Targetech vs. three in 2006.

OHIO NANOTECHNOLOGY SUMMIT – The City of Akron played host to an audience of worldwide CEOs, CTOs; research and development professionals; scientists and engineers and investors in April of 2007. Industry leaders chose Akron because it offered a unique innovative environment to address issues centered on Nano Biomedical, Nano Materials and Nano Photonics and Electronics.

Ohio has a vast support system for nanotechnology research and commercialization activities and is poised to capture a significant portion of the estimated \$3 trillion, worldwide, in new products and services by the year 2015. City of Akron was able to identify 2 potential investment projects that consider the City as a top candidate location for the industry.

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS/VISITS – Akron hosted foreign business delegations from Italy, Germany, Malaysia, Ireland, Israel, India, Czech Republic, Canada, The Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, France, China, and Poland.

PARTICIPATED – Trade missions to cities in Japan, Germany and China identifying potential business and trade partners interested in establishing or bolstering a U.S. presence and seeing Akron as a business portal to the North American marketplace.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

- Razed 449 dilapidated residential and commercial structures
- Assisted in getting 62 residences or businesses into new properties
- Acquired 321 real estate parcels needed for 30 projects to proceed
- Began development of the Goodyear/Eastgate Renewal Area
- Acquired property to support new housing in the Hickory, Elizabeth Park, Edgewood, Victoria, and Spicer Renewal areas
- Arranged for the sale of city-owned land to support new university student housing opportunities
- Boosted to more than 375 the number of newly-constructed, affordable homes
- Akron Public School students built their 14th new home in the Education in Action program with the City, APS, Home Builders Association and Urban Neighborhood Development Corporation
- Acquired properties and provided acquisition support for the construction of Helen Arnold, Schumacher, David Hill and Leggett Community Learning Centers
- Partnered with AMHA, Community Development Corporations and/or Community Housing Development Organizations to construct a total of 240 new housing units
- Assisted 105 low income, elderly or disabled with grants for emergency home repairs
- Worked with business owners in the Temple Square and Kenmore Business Districts who are investing in their property and taking advantage of the City's financial incentive programs
- Completed section of Cascade Locks towpath from Dart Avenue to Lock 2, and the section from Lock 2 to Ash Street is under construction
- Assisted in the rehabilitation of 497 housing units with partners Hillwood 1 LLC and Alpha Phi Alpha Homes
- Reduced lead hazards in 63 housing units
- Partnered with First Energy and Rebuilding Together to provide minor home repairs to 137 housing units
- Awarded \$3.3 million from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support homeless programs in our community
- Assisted 10 homeless-service providers
- Assisted 65 homeless families with utilities and first month rent