

MAYOR BRIAN A. DEPEÑA

FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

THE ADMINISTRATION'S OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY 2021 - 2022

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to share with you **SOME** of the accomplishments that my administration has been able to achieve in conjunction with the praiseworthy support and collaboration of our department heads, and their hardworking teams. When we first started the government, we found:

- A budget deficit of about \$4,000,000 that was eliminated by the planned use of free cash for the additional debt services related to the Leahy School, Oliver School, and Police Station projects
- A questionable public procurement practice and bidding process, which we corrected consequently
- A few departments led without proper guidance and supervision. We addressed this accordingly
- A City's real estate properties filing system disorganized which led to wastage of time, loss of information, and decreased efficiency. This has been corrected through the Mayor's Real Estate Task Force to make the property sale/purchase process more transparent and efficient.
- A counterproductive relationship among some employees in some departments, which affected productivity, efficiency, and ultimately the constituent service. This adverse atmosphere has been significantly improved.

And today, I am proud to announce that we are in better shape due to the many good initiatives and decisions we have been implementing, the good spirit and professionalism of my team, our department heads, and their teams, and the incredible teamwork attitude of my office. **Money will always be enough if we learn how to spend it wisely.**

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finance Department• Assessor's Office• Tax Collector/Treasurer's Office	<p>Our finances are stronger than ever in the history of the City of Lawrence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We had the highest free cash certification in the city's history from 1981 to date with \$42,980,402 certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in July 2022.• This free cash certification allows the city to build two new schools (Oliver and Leahy) and a new police station without a tax or debt override.• Our bond rating increased from Standard and Poors from A to A+. This rating increase will allow the city to borrow at reduced rates saving money for the taxpayers.• We have an increase in Excess Tax Levy Capacity from \$8.4M to \$11.2M. This is a measure of taxes that have not been passed on to the taxpayers and is a positive financial indicator by bond rating agencies.
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- City issued deficit notes in 2010 for \$27.4M, and the balance remaining is now below \$12M— another positive financial indicator that we are on the right track.
- Investment of city funds continues to yield a significant increase in interest income. – the Fiscal Year 2023 income is projected to be over budget.
- Property tax collection efforts remain strong, with over 98% collection rate year over year.
- We approved three property **Tax Increment Exemption (TIE)** agreements to advance the City's economic development and housing goals. In return for substantial local job creation, TIE agreements provide businesses with tax relief on the incremental growth in their property's value and give business tax relief by providing a phased-in assessment of the total value of the property.
- The successful certification of the FY2023 property valuation of all real estate and personal property **set a record all-time high totaling \$6.8 billion dollars surpassing last year's record of \$5.8B.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The combination of increases in property values and “NO TAX INCREASE” in the Mayor’s FY2023 budget were the major factors for the lowest levels of tax rates in a decade. • We performed a detailed review and audit of all city-owned vehicles by the department to reconcile with insurance company data. • We managed the testing of all modules in our financial ERP system (MUNIS) across all departments in the city and school as we successfully implemented a major upgrade. • We completed the Fiscal Year 2022 independent audit successfully.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic & Business Development 	<p>CDBG funding</p> <p>As of today, the city has expended \$1,419,715.43 in CDBG funding to continue improving the quality of life of our residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$263,337.54 on administrative expenses including salaries, benefits, office supplies, rent, custodial services, temporary help, employee training, pensions, and memberships • \$245,849.70 on payments on the Gateway Section 108 loan.

- **\$9,000** on short-term rental assistance (first, last, and security deposit) for 2 families.
- **\$210,417.07** on CDBG Rehabilitation and Lead Match on staff costs, credit reports, title searches, Registry of Deeds filing fees, tenant stipends, and rehabilitation costs (3 properties).
- **\$8,333.40** to provide case management services to 14 homeless individuals through a contract with a non-profit.
- **\$28,221.55** for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic three (3) businesses received grants totaling \$17,000 and \$11,221.55 was spent on administrative costs (staff time).
- **\$209,166.66** on Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds. **22 families** were provided first, last, and security deposit, plus ongoing rent assistance (if needed) for up to 24 months.

- **\$776,247.58** in ESG-CV funds on Rapid Re-housing and resident support to serve 57 families/individuals under a contract with Greater Lawrence Community Action Council (GLCAC)
- **\$176,622.64** on Homelessness Prevention (back rent) and client support to serve 13 families/individuals.
- **\$590,227.93** in HOME funds. Of that amount, we assisted 2 families through the First Time Homebuyer program for a total of \$80,000 (\$40,000 each).
- **\$137,694.25** on the Homeowner Rehabilitation program. Five properties were assisted.
- **\$214,221.50** on Housing Development broken down as follows: Marriner Mill received **\$180,000**, PAC-10 Lofts received **\$21,000**, and **\$13,221.50** was spent on staff costs, legal costs, and underwriting.

First Time Homebuyer Program

- My administration understands the need for homeownership to continue addressing the record-high rent hikes and shortage of housing across Massachusetts. For instance, **we increased funding for the First Time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program from \$25,000 to \$40,000** for low-income families, and from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for our First Responders, Police Officers, Firefighters, Teachers, and Medical Professionals.
- We partnered with Metro Credit Union to help residents improve their credit status to qualify for the First-Time Homebuyer Program.

Lead Abatement Program/HOME Funds: \$899,910

- This year, the Lead Abatement Program has assisted more than 24 low-to-moderate income families city-wide and 45 Units with deleading and rehabilitation to their home with:
 - The Lead Hazard Control Grant \$415,000
 - Healthy Homes \$95,500.00,
 - HOME Funds (0% deferred loan) \$40,000
 - CDBG Funds (0% Deferred loan) \$251,110
 - and MHFA Funds (0% deferred loan) \$98,300

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FOR PUBLIC SERVICE:

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for public service is a crucial program to elevate the quality of life of our residents to a higher standard of living. This year, we are proud of having approved several applications. **This year we spent a total of \$163,500.**

- We have served **499 residents** under CDBG-CV & CDBG Public Service

Merrimack Valley Immigrant & Education Center

Amount Funded: \$7,500.00 for ESOL lessons

Total served 20 and 10 students found part-time jobs.

Lawrence Adult Learning Center

Amount Funded: \$ 12,000.00 for GED/ESL

*Total served 60

Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence

Amount Funded: \$10,000.00 for college preparation

Total served 17

Notre Dame Education Center

Amount Funded: \$ 10,000.00 for ESOL lessons

Total served 11

ACT, Lawrence

Amount Funded: 10,000.00 for home buyer education

Total served 35

Greater Lawrence Community Boating

Amount Funded: \$8,500.00 for summer recreation

Total served-9

Lawrence History Center - (partial funding for ADA-compliant bathrooms)

Amount Funded: \$5,000.00 for facility renovation

Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund

Amount Funded: \$12,000.00 for citizenship preparation

Total served 12

Lawrence Community Works

Amount Funded: \$10,000.00 for youth development

Total served 14

Lawrence Community Works

Amount. Funded: \$10,000.00 for ESOL lessons

*Total served 19

ACT Lawrence

Amount Funded: 10,000.00 for youth development

Total served 24

Groundwork Lawrence (Green Team)

Amount Funded: \$10,000.00 for youth workforce

Total served 36

Groundwork Lawrence (Urban Adventure)

Amount Funded: \$7,500.00 for summer camp activities

Total served 12

Lawrence Family Development & Education Fund (SISU)

Amount Funded: \$8,000.00 for youth at risk

*Total served 12

Centro de Apoyo Familiar

Amount Funded: \$8,000 for ESL lessons

Total served 13

New England Hoops Academy, Inc.

Amount Funded: \$7,500.00 for youth sportsmanship

Total served 10

Merrimack Valley YMCA, Inc.

Amount Funded: \$7,500.00 for summer activities

Total served-8

Nothing gives us more joy than to hear how happy and satisfied these families are with the service we provided. From homeowners to tenants and including investors are truly thankful to the City of Lawrence for our service and some have even shared their wonderful experiences with the public.

In addition to the above expenditures, we provided funding for other important programs

- **\$244,445** on CDBG-CV: Rental Assistance (LCW) to serve 30 families
- **\$233,179.50** on CDBG-CV: Eviction Prevention (Northeast Legal Aid). We served 120 families.

	<p>Mayor's Health Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last 12 months, the Mayor's Health Task Force, through its Resource Development Team, brought in approximately \$1,606,616.00 for the continued support of Public Health in the community over the next five years. These monies fund activities impacting food access, access to opportunities for play- Mass in Motion (1 of 10 communities funded), Community Engagement-Community Health Improvement Plan, mental/behavioral health, and improved quality of life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Public Works Recreational Office 	<p>Vehicles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Public Works purchased three (3) Chevy Trail Blazers for the Parking Division with a total amount of \$ 78,090, and an animal control vehicle for \$46,928.

- And two (2) Elgin Pelican Sweepers for a total amount of \$ 519,910.00 to clean our streets.

City Parks

- **O'Neil Park renovation:** We removed old metal-arc lights that contain mercury. Supplied and install 36 new energy-efficient LED lights the field now has 36 thousand watts of lighting which consume less energy and better for the environment. **The total amount is over \$33,000.**
- **Stockton Park Renovations:** We are almost in the last phase of the renovation of Stockton Park, which includes the demolition of the existing fountain, installation of granite curb, concrete, sidewalk, landscaping, site amenities, and site lighting. **Total amount over \$ 421,000.**
- **Storrow Park renovation:** After a robust community engagement process, the city embarked on a major renovation to **Storrow Park**. Both phases of the renovation to Storrow Park are nearing completion and will be ADA-compliant. **The total amount is over \$683,000.**

- In July 2022, the city was awarded a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant for **\$400,000** to renovate **Donovan Park** on Andover Street. The city will pay **\$300,000**. Councilor Stephany Infante was instrumental in bringing this project to the attention of my Administration. The park will be ADA-compliant. **The project is expected to start on July 3, 202**

Museum Square Garage Repairs

- The Department of Public Works has completed the renovations for the Museum Square Garage Repairs which included labor, materials, equipment, transportation, and supervision necessary for concrete, masonry, and structural repairs at the Museum Square Garage with a total amount of **\$ 6,083,434**.

City Hall's Elevator and Skylight Project

We spent over **\$ 1,211,000** for the City Hall's elevator modernization, roofing replacement, and skylight substantial completion Project on the third floor.

WhatsApp to report a pothole

- The Department of Public Works has created an app called WhatsApp for all residents to report any potholes in their area reporting potholes in Lawrence is easier now through this app; also, residents could use this app to report any power outages in their areas by simply sending a text via WhatsApp with the address and a picture.

Parking Meter Management

- The Review Committee and the City Council Members recommended awarding a contract to PCI Municipal Services LLC to serve as the Parking Management vendor for five (5) years. The City will receive \$1,2000,000 annually from PCI, and 70% of any zone gross profit after the \$2,885,000.
- Currently, the City of Lawrence will expand parking meters beyond the following streets: Essex, Common, Broadway, Jackson (Common to Haverhill), and Lawrence Street (Common to Park). The city intends to add up to 102 additional spaces downtown to control the traffic and allow businesses to continue thriving.
- PCI Municipal services will add 5 traffic control vehicles to handle the traffic.

Lawrence Boat Ramp

- After over 2 years of having our Riley Park Boat Ramp closed, we were able to come to a reasonable agreement with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and the

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to reopen the Lawrence Boat Ramp in the spring of 2023 under a comprehensive action plan to guarantee the safety and joy of the families.

Recreational Department

- Since we removed the fees for the city fields, we were able to bring more recreational sports to the city and we had a busy summer with many different teams from other cities and states visiting.
- We received motivated and hardworking candidates to work at the Recreational Department to serve our kids when we raised the salary to \$20.00 an hour.
- We secured a \$27,800 cooling grant to build cooling stations in our parks to palliate the heat.
- We provided services to over 200 families in the city of Lawrence with the help of Grants provided by Essex County Community Foundation and State Representative Frank Moran to give the kids a fun summer with many activities and field trips to Canobie lake park, Water Country, Roller kingdom, and the Franklin Zoo.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were able to put together many events around the city: Halloween for our families, Christmas and Easter, and patriotic celebrations for the joy of our residents.
DPW-Engineering Office	<p>Projects citywide through the office of Engineering:</p> <p>Projects completed this year include, but are not limited to curbs, ramps, and sidewalks at a cost of over \$537,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,685 feet of granite curb • 20 wheelchair ramps • 27 tons of Hot-Mix Asphalt • 3,200 feet of concrete sidewalk <p>Street pavement at a cost of over \$497,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 streets citywide <p>Markings for a total of nearly \$94,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25,585 feet of Line Painting -White Thermo • 15.52 miles of double yellow centerlines • 1,036 feet of white paint for crosswalks

	<p>Gas Restoration (paving streets)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gas Restoration Phase 3A was completed for a total amount of \$4,232,323.18 for sidewalk reconstruction to improve sidewalk safety and continuity. • Gas Restoration Phase 4 has been almost completed regarding the repair gas impacted roadway pavements, repair has impacted sidewalks, providing ADA-compliant ramps adjacent to impacted roadways, and installing proper pavement markings per the MUTCD Code to the locations below. Total amount \$ 1,847,000.00. <p>Chapter 90 funding-paving streets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Chapter 90, the Department of Public Works is in the process of paving approximately 4 miles of road or 21 streets. The total amount of \$1,035,900.00.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My administration is working tirelessly to reduce the city's energy consumption and costs. We developed a detailed plan to address the energy burden shouldered by residents of Lawrence and to

foster sustainable economic growth in our city through the Zero by 2035 Resolution approved by our City Council.

- We will use approximately \$21 million from the Merrimack Valley Renewal Fund (MVRF) from the Columbia Gas settlement to fund clean and efficient energy programs and grants for homeowners, tenants, and businesses in the city through direct grants, competitive requests for proposals, leveraging existing programs, and local partnerships
- Two positions will be created to manage the programs of the Merrimack Valley Renewal Fund
- We recently secured \$3,000,000 for energy efficiency programs through the Merrimack Valley Renewal Fund from the Columbia Gas Settlement.
- \$1,000,000 will be used for the roof reparations of the South Lawrence Public Library, and \$500,000 for the North Lawrence Public Library.
- We are exploring energy efficiency proposals to use the remaining \$1,500,000 to cover suitable city properties with rooftop solar systems, which will result in significant energy savings to leverage the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have completed energy audits of two city properties and three schools. The forthcoming detailed report will recommend energy conservation measures (ECM) for these buildings, to reduce our energy burden and reduce our carbon footprint. Our utility partners, National Grid and Eversource will provide financial assistance for carrying out the recommended ECMS. • The Stone Mill renovation project will be all-electric thanks to the mix-use of monies from the Settlement with Columbia Gas, the state, and the federal governments. This is possible thanks to the unmatched support and strong advocacy of the Attorney General's Office.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning and Planning 	<p>The Planning Department administered the work of 5 boards and commissions including inter/intradepartmental review, advertising, notification to abutters, and filing of decisions with the City Clerk.</p> <p>The department held 41 Municipal Board Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Zoning Board of Appeals (11)</i> • <i>Planning Board (11)</i>

- *Conservation Commission (9)*
- *Historic Commission (7), and*
- *Prospect Hill Historic District Commission (3)*

We oversaw Departmental Site Plan Review, Site Walk, and Permitting oversight for eight (8) proposed residential developments of more than 650 units of housing at

- *215 Essex Street,*
- *40 Island Street,*
- *216 Canal Street,*
- *215 Canal Street,*
- *15 Union Street Rear,*
- *75-85 Manchester Street,*
- *600 Broadway (Marriner Mill-Trinity Development)*
- *602-606 Broadway (Marriner Mill- Community Builders)*
- *and 555 South Union Street*

- **We conducted Departmental Site Plan Reviews and Site Walks for Seven (7) commercial/institutional projects at**
- *282 Merrimack Street (Riverwalk Garage & Commercial Building),*
- *253 Merrimack Street (Full Service Automotive Center with Carwash, Filling Station, and Commercial Sales),*
- *600-600A Essex Street (Self-storage Facility),*
- *0 Broadway (Self-storage Facility),*
- *150 Haverhill Street (The Oliver School),*
- *100 Erving Street (Leahy School)*
- *and 60 Lowell Street (The New Public Safety Center).*

- *My administration is not only engaged in an active effort to attract investors to the City, but also firmly advocating for the inclusion of our local businesses in any of our projects. For instance, we have teamed up with the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to help residents and businesses obtain DCAMM and Supplier Diversity (Minority Business Enterprises & Women Business Enterprise) state certifications.*
- *The Purchasing Office and Personnel Department are assisting the Mayor's Office to host the first event of this kind geared towards helping minority & women businesses learn about the process of obtaining certifications that can help them bid on an array of projects, including the construction of our new Police Headquarters. This event hopes to empower our residents, increase the diversity pool, and align with the city's focus of increasing the amount of city of Lawrence businesses working on our very own building & construction projects.*
- *A representative of DCAMM will inform the audience about the process of obtaining DCAMM and Supplier Diversity certifications, as well as representatives from W.T. Rich Company, our Police Department Headquarters Construction Project Managers.*
- *This event is currently in the beginning stages and has been booked for December 6th, 2022 @ the Sargent Auditorium located*

at the Lawrence Public Library, 51 Lawrence St, Lawrence, MA 01841 and will begin at 4:30 pm.

- **We secured \$500,000.00 earmark funds for clearing and cleaning the Manchester Rail Trail.** The funding was approved by City Council. The cleaning of the trail is in process.
- We held the first Homelessness Summit with Federal, State, and local officials to address homelessness in the City of Lawrence.
- The Planning Director filed the annual Housing Development Report for the Arlington Mills Smart Growth Overlay district and the Downtown Smart Growth Overlay District.
- We have reviewed and drafted Site Plan Review for more than four (4) cell antennae installations in various locations.
- We have provided Zoning Opinion Letters to banks or lenders for 27 properties.
- We have conducted 7 site walks and historic sign-off requirements for demolition permits.
- We have provided 5 support letters from the Lawrence Historical Commission for Historic Tax Credits for the new and continued redevelopment of historic mills in the City.

- We drafted a contract and participated in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Important projects

- We prepared 3 TIE (Tax Increment Exemption) Agreements for Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) TIE Agreements under MGL Chapter 40V from DHCD with the goal of developing more market-rate housing within the City
- We prepared Bid Contracts and **Merrimac Street Paper Mill Demolition** Bid and Award.
- We have assisted with the preparation of Bid documents for **Tomborello Site Remediation**. This property will be cleaned and rehabilitated for commercial development.
- We have prepared and bid new contract for Riverwalk 2023 Site Redevelopment. **The Lupoli Companies Riverwalk** Reinvestment Project will propose a total of 608,000 square FEET of new construction; comprised of 158,000 SQUARE FEET of commercial development and of 400 residential units (450,000 SF). The project is directly connected to the MVRTA bus station and the McGovern Transportation Center (Lawrence Commuter Rail Station).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We oversaw the contract for the Island Street Redevelopment project. The project proposes to construct public vehicular and pedestrian connections between Island Street and the Merrimack River/Ferrous Park. The project will create much-needed affordable housing units within the City of Lawrence and is uniquely located in an area with access to a public park and the Merrimack River. • We have worked on re-design of the Amesbury Street corridor to two-way traffic. The Project limits along Amesbury Street extend from Lawrence Street to 500' south of Canal Street, totaling just over half of a mile, and on Lawrence Street from Marion Avenue and extending to Lebanon Street. The City committed funds to design and engineer the corridor. The survey, 25% design, and Early Environmental coordination have been completed. The project will include new sidewalks and bike lanes adhering to the Complete Streets policy.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspectional Services Department 	<p>In the Inspectional Services Department, we are committed to implementing our goal, which consists of protecting and improving the quality of life for all Lawrence residents. This is done by administering</p>

and enforcing building, housing, health, sanitation, and safety regulations mandated by City and State governments. ISD is now in better shape as a result of my direct involvement and interaction with the department and its team.

- This year, the Inspectional Services Department is implementing a pragmatic approach to enforce our ordinances and improve our practices and relationships with the public. Groups of qualified inspectors go door to door to assist business owners, and landlords in the community at large on how to fill out applications for permits, licenses, inspections, property registrations, and renewals, and make payments online using our popular municipal platform CitizenServe.
- We are in constant conversations with the Tax Collector's Office, the Assessor's Office, and the Water & Sewer Department to ponder the feasibility of merging CitizenServe and Munis to render a better service to our taxpayers.
- On October 27, 2022, for instance, 69 convenience Store owners and/or relatives were assisted in Prospect Hill, North Common, and Arlington Neighborhood in the North part of the city.
- The Department has been successfully implementing Federal Grant programs to improve services to the community by training new health and code enforcement inspectors on food

	<p>preparation, tobacco, trash, animal control, weighing and measures, occupancy permits, and rental registrations among others.</p> <p>As a result of this effort, the Department increased the collection of revenues from \$973,215.00 in 2021 to \$1,281,289.00, as of today.</p> <p>Liquor Licenses: \$102,904.00</p> <p>Rental Occupancy Permits: \$63,175.00</p> <p>Plumbing: \$121,914.00</p> <p>Rental Registrations: \$68,500.00</p> <p>Building Permits: \$924796.00</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information & Technology Department 	<p>The IT Department provides the necessary technological tools to our City Employees and our First Responders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We saved over 300,000 in IT Services by hiring an It Director with Experience. • The IT team has trained most employees on how to use our technological systems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, the Department assisted the Lawrence Fire Fighter with the migration of their Radio Communication Service from analog to digital. • We added more camera coverage at City Hall. • We assisted the acting ISD Director to identify issues with the current Permitting Software Citizens Serve to increase productivity and generate more revenue.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Department 	<p>There is no prosperity plan without public safety.</p> <p>Civil Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventeen (17) new police officers have been hired since January 1, 2022. These new employees were subject to and underwent a strenuous recruiting process as outlined by the state civil service laws. • The Personnel Department is currently working to assist the Police Department in sending at least seven (7) more candidates to the police academy in January 2023.

- Throughout 2022 the Department has worked on the overall advancement of the Department. Thus far in 2022, 16 new officers have graduated from the academy and have completed or are completing the FTO program.
- There are 2 recruits currently at the Northern Essex Community College (NECC) Academy and 10 additional recruits will enter the academy in January 2023.
- Additionally, upgrades have been made to our fleet including 8 new cruisers, 6 new admin vehicles, a new animal control van, and 3 new traffic enforcement vehicles.
- Progress continues to move forward with the new police station; in October numerous city, local and state officials gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony.
- The Department continues to clear cases at an extremely efficient rate with the goal of maintaining a clearance rate above the national average. The Detective Division has solved all four homicides that occurred thus far in 2022.
- This work is highlighted by a fatal shooting that occurred in March outside of the Bank of America ATM on Essex Street. The tireless work of the Detective Division coupled with the City Camera

	<p>system and cell tower location information were all instrumental in solving this case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to note that Department has seized/recovered 47 firearms year to date in 2022. • In 2022 the Department, especially our Community Policing Division, attended over 300 events. Furthermore, the Department continues the Ice Cream Truck Program. This year alone we have given out over 5,000 ice creams. The Ice Cream Truck has become a staple in the city and because of this, the program continues to expand.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Department 	<p>The Lawrence Fire department has worked diligently to protect the citizens and visitors to the city from the ravages of fire, injury, and disaster all the while attempting to improve the quality of life in such a challenging city.</p> <p>Civil Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six (6) new firefighters have been hired since January 1, 2022. The Department is also in the process of hiring an additional five (5) firefighters.

Fire response

- The fire department has responded to over 6,771 emergencies ranging from simply assisting a person off the floor who had fallen to a major 5 Alarm fire that threatened to reduce a neighborhood to ashes. The sheer number of calls in 2022 has increased by approximately 700 as of this date. We have had 52 structure fires, 13 have been multiple alarms, 107 miscellaneous fires that are other than structures, 2759 medical emergencies, and 654 Auto accidents. All with the same staffing for the past 5 years. We have helped our neighboring communities 47 times.

Revenue

- The fire prevention division has issued 669 licenses for a total amount of \$46,361.00 and permits for a total of \$64,125.00.
- The electrical inspector has issued 972 permits for a total of \$193,034.84. This totals \$303,520.84 in licenses and permits.
- We have had 193 fire watch details for a total of \$412,220.60.
- We have hired 4 new members so far this year. Currently, 3 are in the Massachusetts Fire Academy for their 10-week basic firefighting training. One is currently serving in the United States Army overseas.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year we have 5 firefighters being recognized by the State Fire Marshall and Governor for heroism and Community Service. This is the largest number of individuals recognized from our community, not including the gas disaster of 2018. • We are training on our new reporting software which should go live on January 1, 2023. • We have purchased 2 new fire prevention vehicles to be used by our inspectors on their daily inspections and investigations throughout the city. These are due this month.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water & Sewer Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, and as of today, this department has received \$17,871,478 in revenue. • We ordered two (2) F350 service trucks, one (1) F550 service truck, and 1 Cat 440 Backhoe for the water and sewer department. • This year the department completed the Marston Street water pump station replacement project. This pumping station allows us to fill the Prospect Hill water tower and can also keep up with water demand in Prospect Hill in case the tower needs to be repaired in an emergency. This also allows the department to

maintain adequate fire flow capacity in Prospect Hill if the tank is offline for repair.

- We also had 5 key water/sewer and drain replacement projects completed over the past year. We completed the Ellis Street water main replacement, West Street sewer replacement, Broadway sewer replacement, Grafton Street drain replacement, and Groton Street drain replacement. These projects were completed on time and within budget with minimal disruptions. We now have increased water pressures and increased sewer and drain capacities.
- The water and sewer department crews have accomplished numerous construction jobs in-house. These jobs include the installation of a new service for the Durant Square fountain at East Haverhill and Berkeley Street, replacement of 6 lead water services at residential homes, replacement of 9 fire hydrants and the cleaning of 450 catch basins. The crews responded in a timely manner to all emergencies and maintenance issues within the City daily throughout the year.

- **Lawrence Municipal Airport**

- Many residents do not this, but we own the Lawrence Municipal Airport, located within the town of North Andover town limits. The Airport was established in 1934.
- I am proud to have appointed Francisco Urena as the Airport Manager. Mr. Urena is a former Marine who served as the Massachusetts Secretary of Veterans Affairs and previously served as the Veterans' Services Officer for the cities of Boston and Lawrence, Massachusetts.
- The City of Lawrence received \$ 8 million and 9 thousand grants by the United States Department of Transportation through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for the construction and reconfiguration of the airfield, with a primary focus on a taxiway to improve safety, by removing existing direct runway access, for new LED taxiway lighting and signage. The construction is scheduled for Spring 2023.
- We recently completed the necessary update of the Airport's electrical vault. The construction project replaced the antiquated system which was in place.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Airport is in the process of providing administrative support to the Greater Lawrence Vocational School in its efforts to establish an aircraft maintenance program with hands-on classroom space at the Lawrence Municipal Airport. Once established, this will be the second program of its kind in Massachusetts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction for the Oliver project began in January. A groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 19, and on October 4 the City Council voted to approve additional funding of \$15.5 million due to inflation and global supply chain challenges. • In February the City Council approved funding for the Leahy School project, which will serve 1,000 students in grades K-8. Construction is planned to begin this January. • Other important school facility improvements include full boiler replacement at the Tarbox and Bruce; various upgrades and repairs at the Rollins School; ongoing HVAC maintenance at multiple schools; and concrete repairs completed at the SLE Complex, Arlington Complex, and Bruce. Concrete repairs are scheduled for the summer of 2023 at the Frost Complex.

- The City of Lawrence and Lawrence Public Schools received funding from the EPA Clean School Bus Funding,
- announced this past Monday at Lawrence High School. Twenty-five electric buses will be purchased by the district's
- transportation provider, North Reading Transportation (NRT), in 2024.
- The Lawrence Public School's Office of Student Support Services has trained over 1,000 staff members in Restorative Justice Practices, over 60 staff in Trauma Informed Care, and currently has nearly 60 teachers participating in a co-teaching model to support students' individual needs.
- LPS successfully piloted a Paraprofessional-to-Teacher Pipeline initiative in collaboration with Regis College that provides tuition assistance for bilingual/bicultural paraprofessionals to become licensed trained classroom educators through a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Teacher Diversification grant.
- We have increased the number and diversity of School Resource Officers in the district to support safety in our schools with timely and culturally appropriate responses to the needs of the members of our community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, 24 schools and the visual and performing arts department are participating in a year-long professional learning series focused on improving pedagogy, or the method of how teachers teach. • Despite the efforts of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education through its turnaround plan to correct our education system for over 11 years of receivership, my administration is working in collaboration with the Education Commissioner's Office to put an end to its receivership. Our schools will be soon back our full control.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adult Learning Center (ALC): 	<p>The Adult Learning Center had a very exciting and productive year in 2022. The Center's staff provided adult education services to 820 adult learners, and 50% have made an Educational Functioning Level gain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the help of Superintendent Cynthia Paris, the ALC was relocated to a beautiful and larger space at 255 Essex Street that can accommodate more adult learners than the previous space. • ALC prepared 36 adult learners who obtained their US Citizenship.

- 40 adult learners studied for and earned their High School Equivalency Credential,
- 3 adult learners passed their MCAS and earned their Lawrence High School Diploma.
- In January, the Test Center became certified to offer the Massachusetts Tests for Educator License (MTEL), and by doing so we are supporting the Lawrence Public School's commitment to diversifying the Lawrence Public Schools by assisting bi-lingual Lawrence residents interested in becoming licensed as Massachusetts educators.
- In May of 2022, 16 students graduated from our Paraeducator Training program and are presently working in the public school system.
- On a similar note, 25 students have completed our contextualized ESOL for Early Childhood Education class and are enrolled in the Early Education program at NECC, 8 out of the 25 are currently working in the Early Education field in the Lawrence area.
- An ALC High School Equivalency student was nominated and received the Student of the Year Award from the Massachusetts Council for Adult Education (MCAE) in April for overcoming great

	<p>obstacles in achieving her goal of earning her High School Equivalency Credential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the end of October, ALC submitted a competitive four-year Request for Proposal (RFP) grant to the Adult and Community Learning Services unit of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide high quality adult education services through 2028.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor's Office 	<p>In the Mayor's office, we have redesigned and/or restructured five important positions to maximize our government practice, and improve the quality of constituent services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Senior Advisor of Policies and Government Affairs who is not only responsible for handling the ARPA funding, but also for working hand in hand with my Chief of Staff A Director of Constituent Services who is responsible for handling all constituent cases. A greeter. He is located at the main entrance of the First Floor. He is responsible for assisting any constituent who wants to do business at City Hall.

- An Energy Advisor who is responsible for assessing all the matters related to energy saving and efficiency. Anil Kaval works as a volunteer.
- A Communications Director who is responsible for keeping the public informed about any government matter.
- We have open office hours Friday afternoons from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm to serve our constituents without the need of scheduling appointments. As a result of this approachability, my office has been bombarded with many requests from our constituents.
- We revived two crucial commissions: The Commission on Disability and the Human Rights Commission to protect the civil rights of our vulnerable residents.
- We have established and improved the business relationship with foreign governments to advocate for the rights of our immigrant community, and improve their quality of life.

- **Lawrence Public Library**

- The State reporting was submitted, and the stats demonstrated exemplary growth.
- The Total attendance in the Library System in 2022 was over 42,000 patrons.
- We have approximately 500 Public Internet Users a week in FY22.
- The Lawrence Public Library has successfully partnered with several community organizations. We have over 11 active grants that have allowed us to continue enhancing our public services.
- The library has been working diligently to open the South Lawrence Branch closed for over two years during the pandemic and had an energy Audit performed and met with key stakeholders to start the Strategic Planning process for the future of the library as a community resource center. It was coordinated with the Irish and Hibernian Division 8 to relocate the Irish and Hibernian collection to the main library branch to preserve its history and culture. All the materials have been weeded, and renovation proposals have started to go underway with DPW.

- The library has started a Podcast and, in addition, is the recipient of an ECCF digital equity initiative and received 100 chrome books, 35 desktops, and two charging carts and is receiving assistance in the wireless infrastructure to expand our network capabilities
- On August 5, 2022, my office met with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and White House officials to help over 12,000 lawful permanent residents in Lawrence become U.S. citizens. We partnered with Project Citizenship to put into practice a Citizenship Day to assist over 300 lawful permanent residents fill out the N-400 form in June of 2023.
- I have nominated the library director as the coordinator of the ESOL task force. They have partnered with the GLCAC grant process and will start providing Citizenship, and adult literacy classes come January 2023.
- In partnership with the Department of Homeland Security USCIS, the library has implemented Monthly Naturalization and citizenship seminars to encourage a pathway to citizenship.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The library has created a teen's floor wholly dedicated to fostering a safe place for our young adults to connect and get support.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel Department 	<p>Amendment to the Non-Union Classification Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My office is proud to report that the City's non-union wage classification plan was recently updated for the first time since 2005. Through grant funding, the city was able to engage the services of the Collins Center to conduct an analysis of salary ranges in comparable cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Based on the information provided, the city was able to make recommendations regarding its own salary ranges for non-union positions. The new plan was officially passed by City Council in the form of an ordinance change on November 1, 2022. This is a huge accomplishment not only for the Personnel Department but for the city at large. With these updates, the city will be able to remain competitive in recruiting and maintaining qualified employees. The Personnel Director and C.A.F.O. Mark Ianello were instrumental in advocating for and implementing these improvements to the city.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hiring New City Employees: In the year 2022, the Personnel Department facilitated the hiring of one hundred twenty-one (121) new permanent and eighty-one (81) new temporary employees. The Department is pleased to assist in adding new talent to the city in furtherance of its mission to the community. ● As of October 26, 2022, we have thirty-three (33) active postings on our city's website. Postings are updated in real-time to the extent possible by the Department. ● The Personnel Department is working hand in hand with the Merrimack Valley Career Center to address the unemployment rate in us through job fairs and mutual collaboration to assist the unemployed residents. The Career Center shares with us a weekly list of hot jobs to share with the public. When we started our administration, the unemployment rate in Lawrence was nearly 8.0, today we are proud to announce that our unemployment rate is at 6.4 as of September.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Veteran's Services Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2022, we moved this department back to City Hall to better serve our veterans in a more appropriate setting. Veterans Services is sometimes seen as a service for seniors the reality is that less than 30% of Veterans are over the age of 65 and most veterans and their dependents are under the age of 40.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On February 2, 2022, my administration and the City Council unanimously approved Massachusetts General Law, Charter 59, Section 5 Clause 22H, the purpose of which is to grant full exemption of property tax to the Gold Star Family who own and occupy their home in the City of Lawrence. City Council Stephanie Infante was fundamental on this achievement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health & Human Services (The Center) 	<p>The Center serves over 4,000 older persons/per year, with supportive assistance consisting of caring, passionate, devoted, and dedicated employees, and volunteers, that work diligently each day to ensure that the needs of the Lawrence community are met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 2 very long years and some beautiful renovations, updates, and a fresh coat of paint, we successfully reopened The Center on May 10, 2022, to enjoy having the elders in person. We secured over \$1 million dollar grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) given to the Health and Human Services Department for community-based vaccination for equity and to provide vaccination access to community members that suffer from compromised social determinants of health – such as language barriers, poverty,

	<p>unemployment/under-employment low-educational attainment and low health literacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Senior Tax work-off Program was also able to restart, with 35 elder homeowners signing up to participate in the program and receive \$500.00 credit towards their property taxes. • Successfully Coordinated, 4TH OF JULY, CICLOVIA, JOHANNY ROSARIO PICHARDO Mural dedication, Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence, Halloween Celebration, and Community Tree Lighting. • We reinstated our citizenship classes to 101 of our most valuable elder population.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor's Childcare Scholarship Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June 2022, my administration expanded the Mayor's Childcare Scholarship Fund with an additional \$1.5 million to continue helping low-income families with their childcare needs. • Thanks to these additional funds, nearly 279 children can maintain stable early childhood education through the existing contract with the City of Lawrence. It would also help families on the waitlist to continue accessing services as we move families into the state subsidy program (which is happening regularly at

	<p>this point). This additional \$1.5 million brought the total investment to \$5.5 million approved by previous administrations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Attorney 	<p>The Office of the City Attorney is responsible for all legal matters involving the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City Attorney's Office, through outside counsel, processes tax title foreclosures in an effort to generate much-needed city revenue. The office sold four (4) properties generating \$100,595.00. With respect to the Litigation caseload, as of 11/10/2022, this office was working on 6 active major litigation files. During 2022, this office reviewed and approved form 317 contracts. This office also rendered 6 opinions in the year 2022 and drafted approximately 77 enacted ordinances. Litigation cases opened:11, closed: 19, pending:54. Appellate Tax Board cases opened: 6, closed: 6.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADA Coordinator's Office 	<p>According to the Census, Lawrence is home to 48,564 individuals with disabilities. Under my administration, he is considered to be a friend of the disabled. This motivation comes from his understanding and can</p>

relate to this population as he has a daughter who is disabled. Among his accomplishments include the following:

- First full-time appointed ADA Coordinator for the City of Lawrence Richard Rodriguez, Rodriguez is well qualified and is an attorney, disabled, Hispanic, a Lawrence resident, and the past chairmen to the Lawrence Commission on Disability.
- First time in history, we were able to apply for a \$250,000 Grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability to make the City more accessible for people with disabilities.
- First time a mayor together with the community celebrated Disability Month in October and thereafter Lawrence received a Governor's Citation for this achievement.
- Increased the membership of the Lawrence Commission on Disability,
- Reactivated the Human Rights Commission to advocate for the residents against any type of discrimination.
- Formed strong partnerships with state agencies and non-profit organizations that provide services for people with disabilities.
- Allocated funds for the renovation of the City Hall elevator spending over \$300,000 making the elevator ADA Compliance.

- **City Clerk's Office + Election Division**

- **Physical Plant:** The most obvious and visible changes in this department are the physical improvements to both the Office of the City Clerk and to the Election's Division. The Clerk's Office is cleaner and brighter than it has been in year. Documents that have been stacked for ages on counters and other places within the Office have been properly filed.
- **Public Records:** In 2022, the Clerk's Office improved the appearance of the documents that we issue to the Public. The quality of the Birth Certificates that we provide to the public is now on a more appropriate quality of paper, and now displays an official number as well as an embossment. The Office has also implemented the ability to make online requests for public records.

Prior to 2022, all requests for public records had to be made in person or via U.S. Mail.
- **Elections Division:** In 2022, the Elections Department continued to be a busy and well-run division of the city. There are 45,320 registered voters in Lawrence and 3,154 of those voters were added in 2022. The Elections Division maintains excellent communication with the public and as a result of that effort, they ran a successful early voting process (508 early votes cast), as well

	<p>as a successful vote-by-mail campaign (6,358 vote-by-mail ballots issued.) In 2022, the Department ran two successful elections during a major transition in leadership with no notable issues in either election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, the Election's Office became fully staffed with all vacancies being filled. Both statewide and nationally there have been issues with finding enough employees to properly staff elections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellevue Cemetery 	<p>The cemetery is where we bury our loved ones and honor our heroes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, we have secured the safety of the cemetery working with the areas Community police officers and closing the cemetery at night. It has curtailed the vandalism and dumping by much. • The Cemetery has provided Burial services to 325 families this year generating \$179,640.00. • The cemetery provided sales of services to the grand total = \$ 312,380.00. • The cemetery sold burial grave lots = \$ 193,100.00 TOTAL= \$ 685,120.00.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cemetery now conducts and sells double deep grave lots- burial conserves the amount of land being used per burials, it also is a financial help for the families.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transportation System and Service 	<p>The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) has consistently collaborated with my administration to implement many positive changes in Lawrence to improve the transportation system and service in our city by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that all Lawrence-based bus routes operate every 30 minutes, all day long, starting. Historically, MVRTA buses in Lawrence only ran every 30 minutes during peak hours, with hourly service at all other times. • Making sure that our bus service is fare-free to palliate the burden of inflation. • Securing 14 bus shelters and a good amount of bus stop signs to be installed across the city through the MassDOT's Share Streets and Space Program –expected to happen soon, • Bringing a more efficient brand-new bus like this vibrant and colorful MEVA bus. The colors are inspired by housing in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, while subtle ripples and water droplets honor the

Merrimack River, and abstracted clockfaces mirror the clocks adorning many of the area's historic mill buildings.

- Moving the bus station to the soon-to-be renovated McGovern Station in 2023 with an investment of over \$1 million.
- Working hand in hand with the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority to conduct a comprehensive traffic study that can improve and straighten up key streets to increase the visibility when the buses are approaching.
- Demanding more from our project developers to ensure that we put into practice the principles of the smart, compact growth concept to mitigate the traffic congestion in the city. I envision multilevel parking garages disseminated in our city.