

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



Dear Neighbors,

This month marks five years since I took the Oath of Office to serve as the City Manager for the City of Portland. These years have brought moments I could not foresee and will never forget. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve the community that I call home and a privilege that I do not take lightly. I would like to thank Mayor Barnes and City Council for affording me this opportunity and I am further grateful for their leadership and guidance that continues to move Portland forward. I am fortunate to be surrounded by an exceptional team of professionals who are faithfully committed to serving the residents of this community. A few notables from the last five years:

Emergency Services/Public Safety – During this time, our City has endured two state of emergencies and natural disasters. The Portland Police Department, Ambulance Department, Portland Area Fire Authority and all City Staff are tried and tested. Our City and Community have set a state-wide standard for emergency management and perseverance. The safety, security and well-being of our residents is our most important function and we are second to none as it relates to this category.

Infrastructure/Capital Improvement – Aside from public safety, infrastructure is the most important role of government and the core of any successful community. City Council maintains a strong emphasis in this category. Our roads, river trail system, and overall infrastructure are among the best in the state. Having our own municipal electric service and underground utilities are other factors that take Portland to the next level. In the past five years, we have seen Cutler Road paved and constructed and other capital projects such as: Knox, Barley, Storz; Kent Street, and the James Street Reconstruction. In anticipation of the eventual replacement of the Divine Highway Bridge, the City has successfully acquired properties on both sides of the Looking Glass River to help facilitate the potential realignment of the new bridge – the goal being to keep the old bridge open, at least intermittently, while the new bridge is being constructed. The Veterans Memorial Bridge was lit as part of the DDA TIF Plan and the Grand River Bridge is set for improvements in the Spring of 2020. Further, the City, through the Board of Light and Power, began looking at the feasibility of offering broadband internet to our residents as a new service. While the public demand may be related to improved internet capabilities, this will fundamentally enhance the City's utility services for electric, water and wastewater. This prospect would establish the framework for Smart City concepts and also serve as an economic development tool.

Economic (RE)Development – City Council has made economic development a consistent priority since the onset of my appointment. Since that time, the City, through the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and City Council, has made deliberate changes to the administration and application of its zoning ordinances which has helped to facilitate unprecedented economic growth and millions in private investment:



Portland

CITY OF TWO RIVERS *Michigan*

- Olivera's Italian Restaurant (former Taco Bell/KFC) (Redevelopment)
- McDonald's Redevelopment, Acquisition & Revitalization of the Bridge Street Corner Parcel
- Goodwill Building & Frewen Realty (Redevelopment)
- Portland School Apartments (Redevelopment)
- Red Mill Pavilion (Private/Public Partnership)
- Portland Assisted Living & Memory Center (Former PFCU) (Redevelopment & Rezoning)
- ConfluxCity Brewery (Redevelopment & Rezoning)
- Muffler Man (Redevelopment)
- The Brook Senior Housing Facility (PUD Amendment, Rezoning) *anticipated construction Summer 2019 (New Development)
- Sparrow Health Systems (New Development) *anticipated construction Fall 2019

Parks & Recreation Departments - The Parks Board and City Council have allocated substantially increased funds for park improvements. These include Brush Street and Alton Parks, new swings, basketball hoops, river trail maintenance and new signage. The Parks Department, in collaboration with the DDA, is also planning improvements to Toan Park, including the construction of a splash pad/spray park. Recreational programming has also substantially broadened by now offering archery, sportsman camp, Nerf programs and a wider age group for activities in general. To improve service for our residents, the City implemented online registration and payment as well. Enhancing city services that contribute to the quality of life for our residents is priority. The City also instituted electronic utility billing in 2016 and curbside recycling in 2017.

While the City has experienced many successes, I am keenly aware that many challenges remain and our work is never finished. For the time that I serve in this capacity, I am committed to serving each resident and the community to the best of my ability. Please never hesitate to contact me – my door is always open. Thank you again to Mayor Barnes and City Council for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Tutt Gorman".

S. Tutt Gorman
Portland City Manager

