

# *STATE OF THE CITY* ADDRESS



March 19, 2009



# New Development in 2008



# Major City of Loveland Accomplishments in 2008

- Sewers
- Annexation of the LHS
- Job Creation
- Balanced Budget
- Basic Services
- Succession Planning & *Good to Great*

# employees: 'We can do better'

uck  
unitypress.com



Rees

ity Manager Tom Carriere was something our hard-working and hic-works employees : department deputy 7. : interview process, it that the city had not maintenance workers leadership, decision-upervisory skills that n the deputy public-trroll said.

issue throughout the organization."

Working from the premise that good is not good enough when it comes to city operations, Loveland officials named Safety Director Dennis Rees - the city's highly regarded former police chief - to examine and make recommendations regarding employee development and training.

At the Nov. 25 city council meeting, Rees presented the results of his four-month-long study in a paper titled "Good to Great in 2008." Rees interviewed each of Lovel-

land's 55 employees for two to three hours and said he found people who excel at their work and those he described as "marginal."

Employees gave the city kudos for its openness with the public, investment in capital projects and infrastructure and administrative support of all departments.

They thought the city could do a better job at communicating among departments and with citizens, training its employees and bringing employee ideas into play.

Rees came up with more than a dozen recommendations, some of which would require a vote of city council and all of which will be discussed at council's goal-setting ses-

sions in February.

The recommendations include developing an employee-appraisal system and related "pay-for-performance" system for determining salary hikes.

Other recommendations include establishing employee groups in every department to recommend needed equipment and resources and modernizing the city's Web site to make it more appealing to visitors.

Rees told city council he's confident after speaking with city employees that they are committed to improvement.

"They are stakeholders, and they do have a passion for service," Rees said.

Passing the Baton...  
...but losing 58 years of Loveland public service experience

PEOPLE | CALENDAR | IDEAS | RECIPES

December 31, 2008

## CATCH A STAR



Linda Cox is retiring as Loveland clerk of council and administrative assistant.

JEANNE HOOK/STAFF

### Longtime city servant to retire

Linda Cox has worked for five Loveland mayors and five city managers.

She's enjoyed the work as clerk of council and administrative assistant, but she's about to surrender the jobs she's held since 1991 and retire Jan. 30.

"I feel really blessed getting to work with the public, as I get to meet so many really interesting people," Cox said.

"I think my favorite, though, is getting to arrange the mayor's

manager and administration in getting council packets to council members before each meeting and also with the solicitor in getting legislation written.

"I prepare the minutes from each meeting and see that the minutes, agendas, and council packets are posted on the city Web site.

"Other responsibilities include posting meetings - council's and committees - sending notifications of meetings, placing legal ads, and the



# The bottom line for 2009

The best thing that most of us can say about 2008 – it's over. The *Loveland Herald* asked local leaders to share what they see ahead in your communities in 2009.

## City works to hold down costs

### Takeover of Polk Run a major move

By Rob Weisgerber  
Loveland mayor

The upcoming year promises to be a historic turning point for Loveland since the city is pursuing a major fight to save our residents literally millions of dollars.



Weisgerber

The city is terminating a 1985 sewer agreement with Hamilton County which will return operations and control of the sewer utility to the city of Loveland. When the city resumes operation of our sewer system, the runaway sewer-rate increases all of us have suffered over the last five years should end.

In late 2008, the city served Hamil-

ton County and the Metropolitan Sewer District with notice that it intends to end our current contract and take over operations of the Polk Run Wastewater Treatment Plant and the sewerage collection system by 2010. By resuming operations and control of our sewers, the city will end a massive subsidy from Loveland and northeast Hamilton County to the other portions of the county. Moving forward, the city of Loveland will again control sewer rates and will be able to set them at the level necessary to operate our own sewer system without the massive subsidy to Hamilton County.

A great deal of city resources will be devoted to making sure that the end of this sewer agreement with Hamilton County protects residents. The city will have to make preparations for running the sewer utility. The city will be responsible for the first time since 1985 for making sure that all Clean Water Act regulations are met. Since the stakes are so high and so much ratepayer money is at



JEANNE HOUCK/STAFF

Loveland officials believe residents will benefit long-term when the city takes control of the Polk Run sewer plant.

### Symmes Township, A2

stake, the effort will be more than worth it for our community and for our ratepayers.

There are other challenges too. National economic news continues to be bleak, and the city recognizes that all our taxpayers are struggling with what is a new economic reality. City council voted to hold the line and not raise water, stormwater, and sanitation fees in 2009.

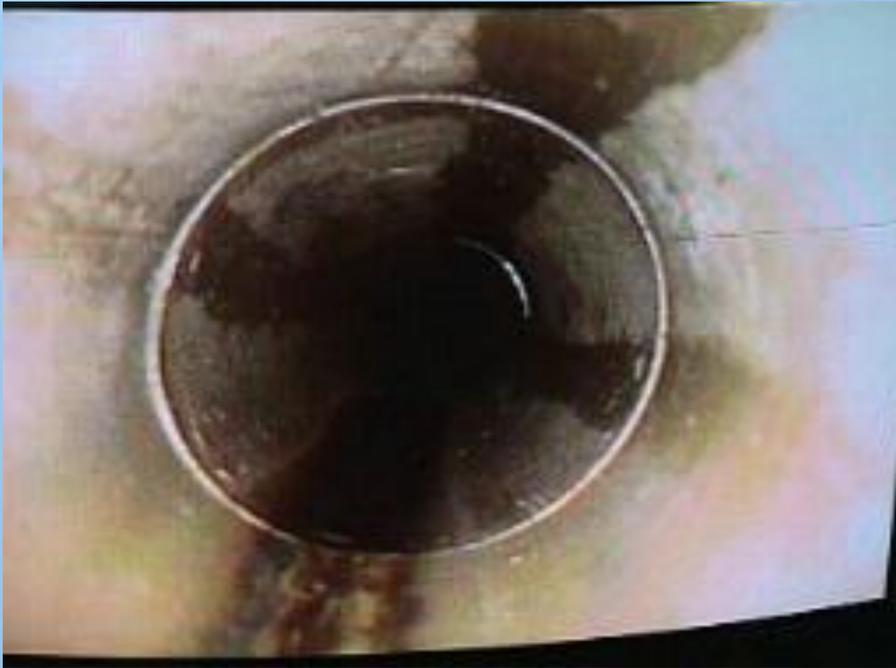
The city is tightening its belt to ensure that our budget is balanced and that the city lives within its means. Council's focus is on basic government services such as police, fire and EMS,

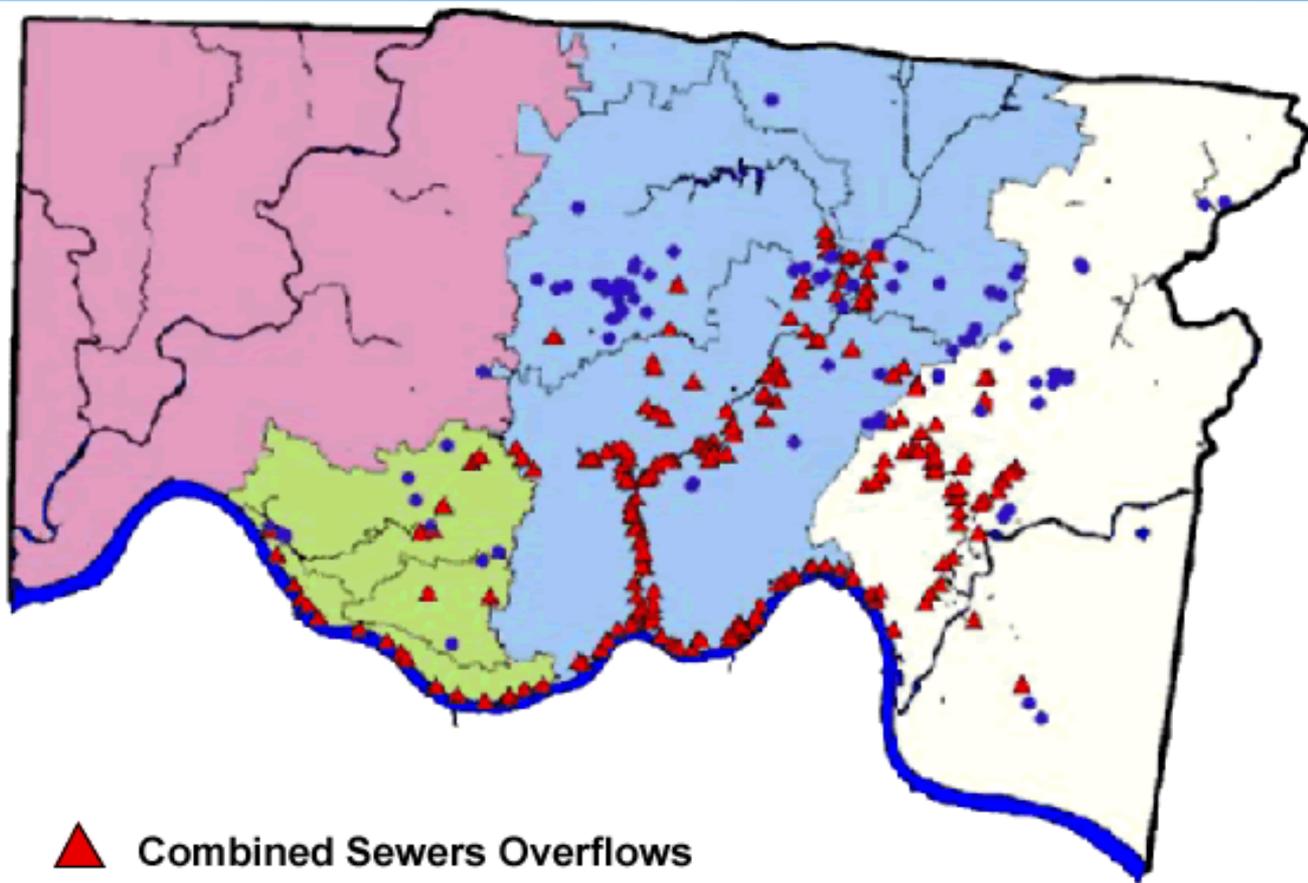
public works, streets and utilities.

Progress continues on our downtown revitalization and job creation project. The city has secured \$450,000 in grants for the project, and private-sector interest in the Historic District has continued despite the tough economy. The city is entering 2009 with a good pipeline of new businesses that came to our community and added to our tax base, and we will continue to invest in job creation.

There can be little doubt that 2009 will be a challenging time for Loveland. By focusing on providing core government services at an affordable rate, Loveland is well positioned for the future.

# A New Perspective on the World



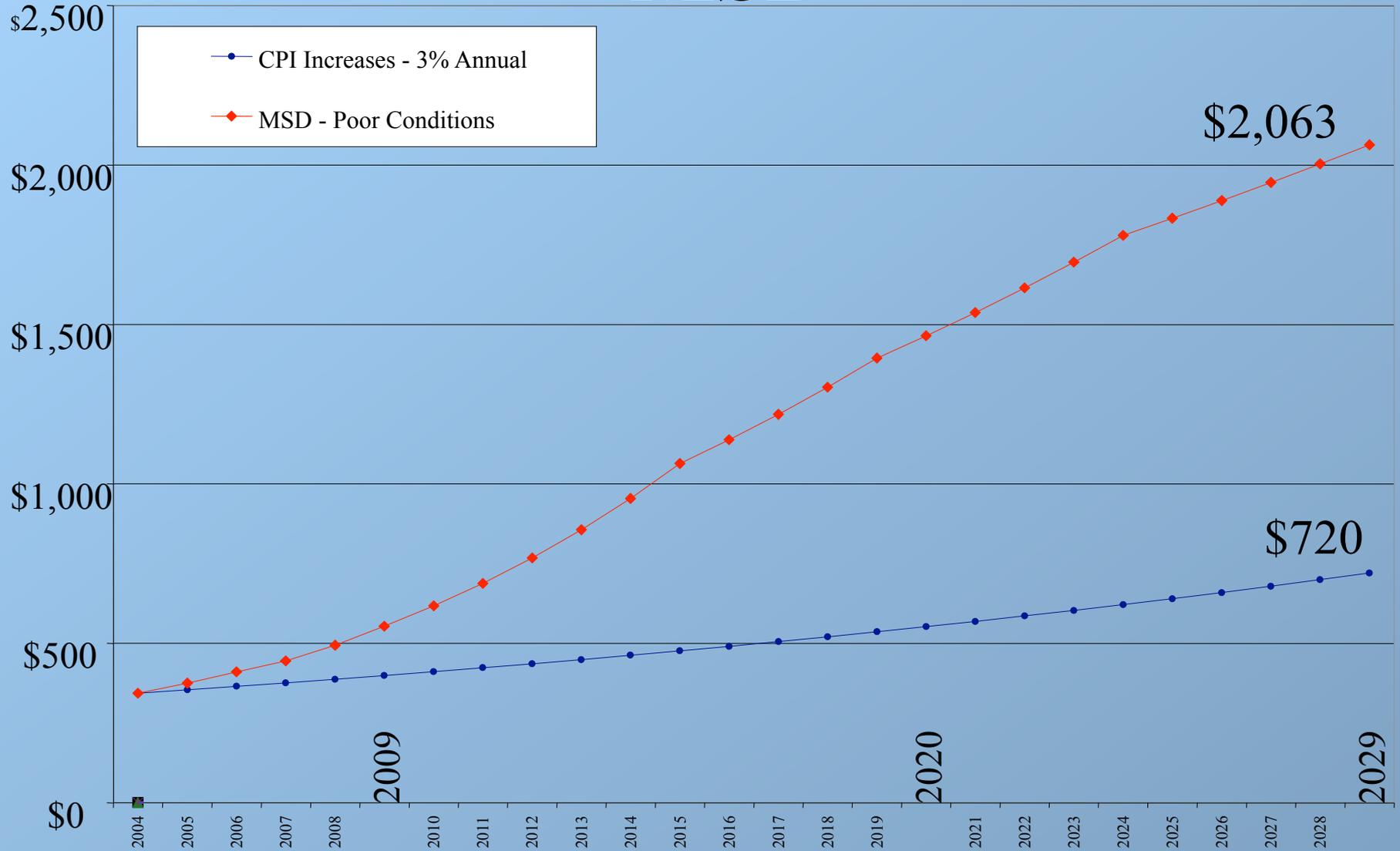


▲ Combined Sewers Overflows

● Sanitary Sewers Overflows

## Distribution of Sewer Overflows Throughout Hamilton County

# Projected Sewer Rates Under MSD



# Hamilton Co. sues Loveland in sewer saga

By Jessica Brown  
jbrown@enquirer.com

Hamilton County filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday to seek to regain control of the

## Loveland wants its sewer plant

Sues MSD to regain control

By Barrett J. Brunson  
brunson@enquirer.com

**BATAVIA** - Loveland sued Hamilton County on Wednesday to regain control of a wastewater treatment plant from the Metropolitan Sewer District. A Clermont County judge's decision could affect the rates of more than 800,000 customers in Greater Cincinnati.

City officials want out of the sewer district by 2010 because of rate increases, said the suit filed in Common Pleas Court in Clermont County, where Loveland's municipal building is located. Judge Victor M. Haddad is to hear the case.

"The average ratepayer today pays about \$450 a year," Loveland City Manager Tom Carroll said. "We think that will quadruple over the next 20 years."

The average rate is actually about \$340 a year, and that could double or triple in 20 to 25 years, said Jeff Ahootta, assistant Hamilton County administrator.

The sewer district has increased rates to pay for improvements and repairs to the entire system, which has seven major wastewater treatment plants, the suit said.

The MSD might have to spend more than \$3 billion to eliminate illegal discharges in the system, parts of which date to 1865.

"The problems in other parts of the ... sewerage system are far more severe and widespread than in (Loveland's) Polk Run Plant and

tract by 2010 to avoid hefty rate increases. The plant serves roughly 43,000 customers. The sewer district is increasing rates to pay for billions of dollars in upgrades. The district agreed to them in a 2004 consent decree, or federal court settlement, after being cited for failing to comply with the federal Clean Water Act.

The day of the announcement, Loveland also filed a lawsuit in Clermont County Common Pleas Court in case the county objected to the withdrawal. The county did object.

It said the plant and those it serves benefited greatly from being in the sewer district since 1985. The district, with \$30 million in ratepayer funds, expanded the plant by 800 percent, allowing it to extend its service area, according to

Loveland City Manager Tom Carroll said the city is only trying to protect its rate payers.

"We expect when we resume operations, we will be able to fully comply with the Clean Water Act," he said. "It's anticipated we would accomplish that at a rate significantly less than what MSD is charging."

The county lawsuit estimates upgrades in that area will cost \$50 million.

Hamilton County says that if Loveland withdraws, it not only would defeat the purpose of a regional sewer district, it could mean the remaining customers' rates would increase even more.

The lawsuit proposes that if Loveland withdraws, it must first pay the investment-decrease in income that withdrawal.

The Enquirer

## LOVELAND

# Chamber supports city's withdrawal from sewer district

The Loveland Area Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind the city of Loveland's decision to pull out of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati to save residents and other customers money.

One goal in a plan of action drafted earlier this year by the chamber is to monitor the economic threat of increased sewer rates and represent business interests in this issue.

The chamber's board of trustees believes Loveland's decision to withdraw from the Metropolitan Sewer District and operate the city-owned Polk Run Sewer Plant on its own will benefit businesses.

Trustees unanimously approved a resolution in support of Loveland's decision, saying "controlling escalating costs for sanitary sewer services for new and existing businesses served by the Polk Run Sewer Plant aids in maintaining a conducive atmosphere for successful business operations" and that the chamber "recognizes and appreciates the foresight by the city of Loveland in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to business success in the Loveland area."

Loveland agreed in 1985 to allow Hamilton County to operate the Polk Run Sewer Plant on East

Kemper Road under the auspices of the Metropolitan Sewer District.

City officials now believe they can operate the plant better and more cheaply - thus saving residents and other Polk Run customers money on their rates - especially since the Metropolitan Sewer District is facing huge costs to comply with environmental standards.

The contract between Loveland and Hamilton County contains no termination clause.

Loveland filed a lawsuit Oct. 28 in Clermont County Common Pleas Court, asking a judge to rule that Hamilton County must surrender operation of the Polk Run Sewer Plant system on Jan. 1, 2010 - allowing time for a smooth transition.

"I think it's important to recognize that the city of Loveland's success in this undertaking will benefit not only residents and businesses of the city of Loveland, but all customers served by the Polk Run Sewer Plant, including many businesses located in Symmes Township, Deerfield Township and portions of Sycamore Township," said Paulette Leeper, executive director of the chamber.

— Jeanne Houck,  
Community Press

See **LOVELAND**, Page B5

# Downtown Job Creation and Revitalization Project

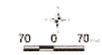
Clermont County, Ohio



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Clermont County Geographic Information Systems



1 inch equals 70 feet

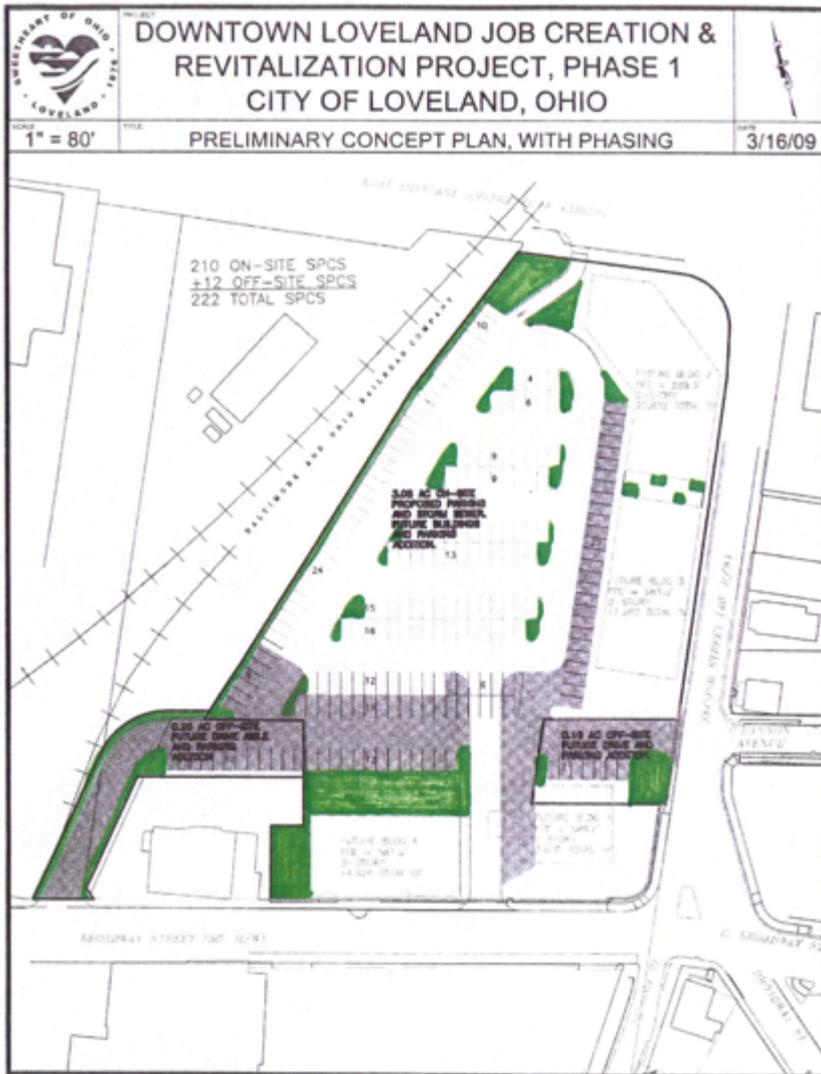
All Elevations are in Meters

December 2, 2004

Legend	
	Water
	Project Area
	Major Road
	Minor Road
	Trail
	Water
	Major Road
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	Trail
	Water
	Major Road
	Minor Road
	Trail
	Project Area

# Clearing the Way.....





\$450,000 in Federal Grants  
 \$250,000 ARC  
 \$200,000 CDBG

Tax Increment Financing:  
 Allowed for Purchase of  
 \$2,000,000 of Real Estate

# Presenting Sponsors

