CitiStat Buffalo

Mayor Byron W. Brown

CITY OF BUFFALO
STATE OF THE CITY 2008
MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN
www.city-buffalo.com

State of the City 2008

Growth, Community, Opportunity

Building a Better Buffalo

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City of Buffalo

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My vision for Buffalo has always been one of renewed economic strength and fiscal stability, which will form the foundation for growth and development throughout the city.

Since taking office, I have focused on three core principles: expanding economic development throughout the city, improving our residents' quality of life and ensuring greater accountability of city government.

For the past two years, the City of Buffalo has experienced many positive signs of economic growth, fiscal stability, lower crime and increased investor confidence.

Buffalo is experiencing an economic development boom not seen in decades. Since becoming Mayor of Buffalo in 2006, the City has seen over $4.5 billion in development activity, which includes the ongoing redevelopment of the city's waterfront, significant downtown investment and development, thriving commercial districts in various sections of Buffalo, growing residential units in downtown, as well as new market-rate housing developments and our aggressive brownfield remediation efforts on former industrial lands.

With successive Wall Street bond upgrades, confirmation of the largest surplus in the history of the City of Buffalo and the lifting of the three-year wage freeze on city workers, there is no doubt that city's fiscal crisis is well behind us.

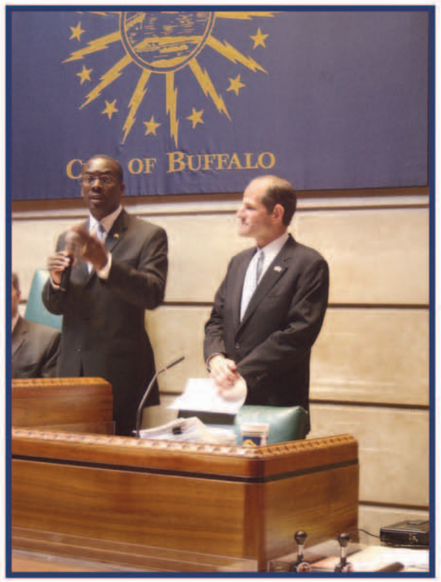
With crime down by 7% over the past two years, including a 12% drop in violent crime in the past year alone, our focus on quality of life and support of our neighborhoods is showing that our creative anti-crime, pro-neighborhood programs and initiatives are working.

More work remains before us, but I am confident the City of Buffalo is moving in the right direction and, with your continued support and participation, we will succeed in making the City of Buffalo one of our nation's greatest cities to live, work, invest and raise a family.

Mayor Byron W. Brown

NOTES

Building a Better Buffalo



- Pushed to lift the wage freeze for City employees
- Decreased property tax rate again, now down 10% since 2006
- Announced the first ever City of Buffalo Public Integrity and Accountability Plan
- Resolved the Hickory Woods environmental issue
- Appointed Donna M. Brown Deputy Mayor to work closely on developing an anti-poverty agenda
- Continued to improve and expand the CitiStat Buffalo program, adding all city departments to the schedule, and broadcasting meetings both on government channel 22 and online at www.city-buffalo.com

Worked with community groups to replant trees lost during October Storm

Growth

Welcomed Labatt USA headquarters to Downtown

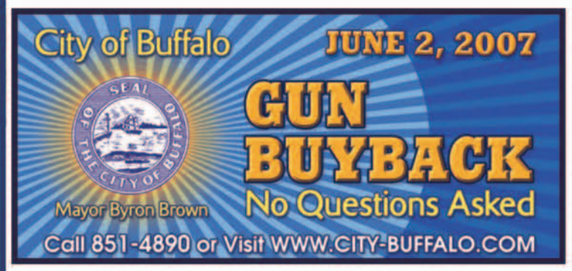
Demolition and groundbreaking for a new federal courthouse in the heart of Downtown

- Welcomed the new office building at 285 Delaware Avenue which is fully occupied
- Began the process to demolish Memorial Auditorium to make way for Waterfront development
- Announced plans to return two way traffic to the 700 block of Main Street, as part of the "Cars on Main Street" project
- Broke ground on Waterfront Place, the first new residential development on the Buffalo waterfront in several years
- Acquired "Steelfields" to add 185 shovel ready acres for development to the City
- Currently there is over $4.5 billion in economic development activity in the City of Buffalo

Broke ground on Sycamore Village, 24 brand new single family homes

Community

Initiated the use of surveillance cameras in "hot spots" to deter and solve crime



- 12% decrease in the overall rate of violent crime
- Homicide rate reduced to lowest levels since 2004
- Utilized the Mobile Response Unit for anti-crime activities
- Launched successful "Gun Buyback" program
- Held Police exam for the City, added new officers for the first time in many years
- Arson arrests have increased 92% from 2005 to 2007
- Moved the Fire Investigation Unit offices to the Engine 2 Firehouse
- Announced a new firefighter exam for the City
- Increased the number of "Clean Sweeps," which address quality of life issues, in the City to 19
- Received the "Crown Communities" Award for the Clean Sweep program

Mayor Byron W. Brown and Fire Commissioner Michael Lombardo announced the promotion of six new Buffalo Fire Department Battalion Chiefs and one new Division Chief, these promotions are the first in the Department since 2005

Opportunity

Mayor Brown's "Reading Rules!" Kids Summer Reading Challenge, continues to grow every year

- Surpassed the goal of the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment program, hiring over 2,500 youth in the City of Buffalo
- Began the aggressive "5 in 5" demolition plan to help eliminate blighted properties in Buffalo's neighborhoods
- Implemented the 48 -hour pothole guarentee

Sponsored "Fire Safety Month" open houses in the City of Buffalo, which provided education to students and free smoke detectors to Buffalo residents