

**State of the City
Mayor Bruce W. Hosier
January 26, 2010**

Thank you Vicki and Scott for your introduction and to the Jay County Chamber for your sponsorship of this event here today. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the Jay County Hospital and it's staff for hosting and providing lunch for everyone to enjoy.

Good afternoon and welcome friends, neighbors and guests. Thank you for your presence here today and to my fellow citizens in the City of Portland, it is my privilege to share with you, the state of our city.

Let me begin by reflecting back approximately one year ago in January of 2009 during my State of the City then, when I mentioned the challenges that were ahead for us during 2009 and all the different dynamics of an ever changing economy and how no community of any size, including the City of Portland would be spared from the challenges and the effects of the national economy and we unfortunley were not. We were affected by job loss, layoffs and a couple of plant closures.

However, as we move forward and our journey begins another year in 2010 we have so much to be thankful for, we must take the approach that our focus as citizens and as a community, will continue to be one of hope and optimism, while understanding that sometimes our beliefs may be challenged, but our faith never will never be broken. We must continue to build upon the spirit of cooperation and the coming together of our community in a way that no difficulty is too great to overcome.

Even through a difficult economic climate in 2009, the City of Portland has had success stories. Some examples of that success, through statistics released by the City of Portland Building & Planning Business report for 2009, showed we had almost \$14,000,000 million dollars in Construction Value Permits in the City of Portland, with a excellent balance of private, public and non-profit investment and development.

The Manufacturing Report From JCDC for 2009 shows that we have had over 7 million dollars in committed investment and development dollars with the commitment of 90-120 new jobs. While we are pleased with this development and retention of investment and jobs, we must continue to engage everyday in building partnerships with those who are interested in bringing value to our community and this administration is committed to providing professional and responsible leadership towards excellence in creating success and value for our community.

Back in 2004, when we took office, we made the commitment by laying the groundwork and charting our course for a better future for our city. We believed then, as we do now, that a prudent, responsible and well-controlled approach would help ensure that the foundation of success we build, will be sustainable and long lasting.

The City of Portland is on a solid foundation of financial stability and we will continue to take the mind-set that your tax and utility dollars you pay will continue to be wisely re-invested back into your community in helping build the best and most efficient infrastructure and city services we can provide. I believe our citizens and businesses deserve our best efforts and our future success requires it.

Also, let me note the fact that our community is different from most others our size in that our tax rate includes the ownership of the City of Portland Municipal Airport, we have our own trash pick-up service, we provide large item pick-up 3 times a year, leaf pick-up and composting. These types of services in other communities are charged extra for, is part of the services we provide through our tax rate. We believe these are valuable services we have and will continue to identify more cost-effective and efficient ways of bringing greater value to our community through these services and all other city services.

Our motto for our employees of “Partnership for excellence in Public service” is the type of attitude we bring to work everyday in building a team approach. We will in 2010 continue to build upon that commitment and work ethic in meeting the challenges of our community. I appreciate Clerk-Treasurer Randy Geesaman and his staff, Department Heads Police Chief Robert Sours, Fire Chief Matt Aker, Water Superintendent Doug Jackson, Superintendent Jeff Harker and Wastewater Superintendent Ron Krieg, my Administrative Assistant Carla Horn, City Council, members present Bill Gibson, President and Dona Gillispie, City Attorney Bill Hinkle, Board of Works, all County Entities (Bill Bradley, Ami Huffman & Jodi Scott), State Rep. Bill Davis and Federal Government and all the different boards, organizations, consultants and employees who have accepted their important role in making our city a great place to live, work and raise a family.

While 2009 was witness to projects being completed such as the Boundary/Wayne Street Project, The River path Trail Project, and Phase III of the Hudson Family Park Project, 2010 promises to be a busy year with the anticipated Completion of the Hudson Family Park Project and The progress of the Lafayette Street Extension Project which directly connects the new \$5.6 million dollar Katelynn Place Apartment Complex, due for completion in 2010. The Steen Addition Infrastructure Improvement Project and the continuation of the North side Sewer Separation Project are mandated required projects to meet our agreed order from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for storm/sewer separation.

2009 also brought great opportunities for international development, investment and relationship building through my trip with Governor Daniels and the Indiana

Delegation on an Economic Development/Investment trip to China/Japan for two weeks. This trip allowed us to continue to build relationships and friendships on a global market to enhance future investment opportunities to our community. We already have seen the great value in the Asian market with our friendship and partnership with FCC for over 20 years.

With these types of continued efforts, I believe we can build upon and prove that the city of Portland has created an atmosphere of opportunity, for not only new investment dollars, but we have the full-confidence of existing businesses, that growing and investing in the City of Portland/Jay County is the right choice to make in helping ensure a better future for their employees, their businesses and our community. We are grateful for the confidence level they have in exhibited in our community.

2009 also brought us some wonderful community events through the efforts of many wonderful citizens. The homecoming of Jack Imel and the terrific celebration associated with that great event, the arrival and stay of the Budweiser Clydesdales/Celebration of Jay Miller, special thank you as always to the Jay Miller family and folks at Jay Beverage. The creation of the Vision 20/20 process and all the other wonderful parades and events throughout the year that helps build community spirit and bring our county together as one community.

We will continue the ongoing downtown revitalization program through the Historic Preservation and Grant Façade Program, continued expanding the boundaries of the City of Portland, infrastructure improvements for water, streets and parks, strong and professional emergency services through police and fire protection. I believe we get a great return on our investment through these city services and the employees that deliver them.

The State of the City, as you have heard from me today, Let us be proud of our successes, but let us recognize that room for improvement does exist.

That our city no doubt will be challenged as we continue to navigate through these economic challenges. But we will navigate through these challenges in 2010, as we did in 2009, with the highest level of confidence and faith that our vision is clear, our focus and resolve rock solid. I pledge to continue to bring the highest level of energy and passion to my responsibilities as Mayor in providing quality leadership for our community.

So in closing, let me use a quote I've spoken before from Sir Winston Churchill who said "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity, an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Let us come together as a community to recognize the optimism for success that's before us and let us find common ground for the betterment of the citizens we all have the privilege of serving.

Thank you and God bless you all!

