

Mayor

Michael C. O'Connor



Aldermen

Kelly Russell
President Pro Tem

Derek T. Shackelford

Roger A. Wilson

Donna Kuzemchak

Ben MacShane

Let me begin by saying I am honored and humbled to accept this responsibility and excited to begin working with this historically diverse Board of Alderman and charting the next course for the City of Frederick.

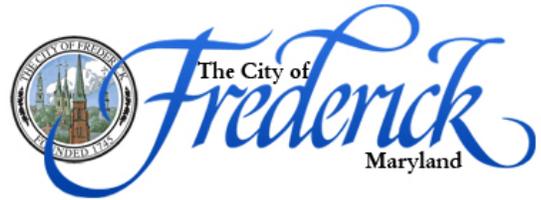
There are too many people to thank without this quickly becoming an awards show acceptance speech, but it is not possible to not make at least a few acknowledgements.

Tammy...everything I have done for the last 25+ years of my life has been with you at my side, providing love, support, encouragement...and honesty. This, all of it, only has meaning because of you.

Clare and Erin...you are my heroes...determined, competitive, intelligent, funny, curious...charting your own courses...we are so proud of you...when I grow up...I want to be like you.

I was the youngest of five and am happy all of my siblings are here. I don't think they let me win...so I had to learn to compete. Our parents, who have passed, fostered in all of us the value of education, service, and faith.

Which brings me to Saint Katharine Drexel. I've had the best jobs over the years, and the only bad part of winning was knowing I'd have to leave a place that means so much to me. To Father Keith, my co-workers, and those I have served...thank you is all I can say...you represent the importance of stewardship.



This would not be possible without the work of so many campaign volunteers and supporters. Our core committee met almost weekly determined and mostly focused. Thank you all.

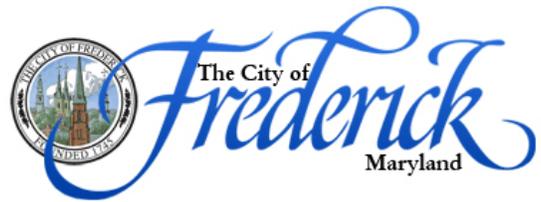
Thank you to the many federal, state, county, and local elected officials and dignitaries who have joined us today from Frederick County and around the region. We will call on you, and continue the collaboration necessary to move Frederick forward.

To the former Mayors of the City and Aldermen, we honor your contributions and will continue to build on your legacies and the legacies of those who have preceded us. And especially to you, Mayor McClement, and Maryjane, II have valued working with you, and learning from you. I look forward to your continued commitment to our City. You have been a faithful steward, and helped make this transition as seamless as possible. Every good wish for your next chapter.

We now turn the page from the 61st Administration to the challenges and opportunities ahead, and we do so with enthusiasm and great optimism that as good as our City is...to move forward, we must be better.

We must be better in our community outreach and civic engagement. We must be better in our economic resilience and expanding vibrancy, and we must be better in our sustainability.

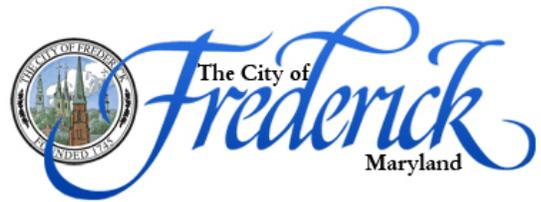
When I talk about “the City”...and we will talk about “the City” a lot over the next four years, I do not mean only me, or the elected officials, or City government. The City is all of us, identifying our common values, our shared mission, and working together to achieve a community vision and goals. It is our residents, our businesses, the non-profit community, our houses of worship, and as important as anyone, our employees (represented by Jim and Sabrina), working together. We will embark on a new commitment to civic engagement, expanding the diversity of our workforce and our boards and commissions, doing more to bring underrepresented communities into the process of government, developing opportunities to



inspire young people, while keeping our seniors activated and engaged. And most importantly, we can restore faith in public institutions, at a time when public cynicism about what government can accomplish has never been higher. This campaign showed civility is possible. I have spent the last nearly 30 years of my professional life, much of it in public spheres, eight as Alderman, committed to doing all I could to promote information, education, and engagement. I'll never have a pulpit as good as this one to share this message...and we will start right away as we hold our first media briefing tomorrow to unveil the framework for embarking on this journey.

I think we are all alarmed to read and hear about the numbers contained in the United Way's ALICE report. ALICE is an acronym for families who are asset limited, income constrained, and employed. 43 percent of families in the City of Frederick, about one third of families in the County, are standing on the ledge...surviving...contributing in many ways to the strengths of our community...but one small catastrophe away from having their lives unravel. In a community like Frederick, if we are not aware of that reality, and not prepared to carry on the conversations required to address it, we are failing nearly half of our residents. Economic resilience and expanding vibrancy are all about implementing economic development strategies that work for business and people. Ensuring economic opportunity is available in every neighborhood from our redeveloping Golden Mile, to our established Historic core, to our emerging East Frederick Rising. It is addressing the varied housing needs our demographically rich community requires. And it is ensuring safe, clean, well maintained neighborhoods throughout our increasingly culturally diverse City.

And third...sustainability, and how we can do more to begin implementing the goals of our sustainability plan. We must address natural resources...land, air, and water quality, we must reduce our reliance on gas and oil as a City, while encouraging our residents and businesses to do the same, and we must promote a healthy community that is active, supports pedestrians, bicycles, and motor vehicles equally, and encourages a locally sourced economy for goods, services, and jobs.



Some of our work plan is set...major infrastructure projects like Monocacy Boulevard and upgrades to our waste water treatment plant...move forward. A downtown hotel and conference center will remain a priority. Planning continues on a West Side Regional Park, as does developing a plan for a new Police Department Headquarters. But we will need to be creative and innovative to move these forward. Most of Frederick's future is not written and these are the opportunities we must embrace, with our heads up, prepared to respond, adaptable to the reality that even the seemingly easy project path is rarely a straight line.

And so the 62nd Administration of the City of Frederick is underway, and I can tell you from the formation meetings we have already held, and the collaboration and respect generated over the last several months of the campaign among the six of us, we are ready...ready to act on behalf of all residents throughout Frederick...ready to bring more voices into the process...and ready to work with you and for you to Move Frederick Forward Together!

Thank you!