

## STATE OF THE CITY – 2019

Good morning and welcome to the 2019 State of the City. I am Mike Webb, the Hazel Park mayor, and I pleased to discuss Hazel Park's recent accomplishments. First, I want to thank the Chamber, the City of Madison Heights, and Shelving Inc. for hosting the event this year. I also want to recognize Madison Heights Mayor Brian Hartwell, the Madison Heights Council, my colleagues on the Hazel Park City Council, and all the other elected officials that are here. I want to personally welcome and recognize our new congressman, Andy Levin. Congressman Levin's family has a long history with Hazel Park, and we know that the Congressman will do a great job representing our interests in Washington D.C., particularly on education and expanding our workforce.

I want to welcome our County Treasurer, Andy Meisner, and Hazel Park's State Representative Robert Wittenberg as well.

2018 was another good year for Hazel Park. The services we continue to provide our residents remain outstanding. The business and housing sectors are still on the rise. For these reasons and many others, we believe that 2019 will be a busy and dynamic year for Hazel Park.

[Play video]

Our Police Department did a remarkable job in 2018. Our crime is as low as it has ever been. We showed a marked decline in your crime statistics last year. The stats show that robberies are down 23%, breaking and entering is down 37%, destruction of property is down 30% and retail fraud is down 32%.

Our Fire Department continued to excel as well. In 2018, the Fire Department responded to over 3,000 calls. This is an all-time record for the City of Hazel Park. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Police and fire departments for protecting and caring for our City.

Our partnerships with organizations inside and outside of the City have been critical to building on Hazel Park's new energy. Late last year, we received two grants from the Sutar Sutaruk Meyer Foundation. The grants were obtained by the City Manager Ed Klobucher. The Foundation gave us a \$350,000 grant to design and erect a new play structure at Scout Park. Next week, the Hazel Park school children will participate in a design day, telling us what they want for their structure in Scout Park. The structure will be similar to a structure at Booth Park in Birmingham. We know this will transform Scout Park and make it a destination for families in the surrounding area.

The Foundation also provided a grant to replant trees to maintain a healthy tree canopy in the City. I want to thank the Foundation for their generous donations and support of Hazel Park.

Through another grant, we also planted 15 plus trees in Scout Park, and we were able to use a unique nutrient enrichment system developed by Exlterra, a local company, to help ensure these young trees are healthy and can reach their full potential.

The Hazel Park Promise Zone, a collaboration between the City and Hazel Park schools, continues to provide higher education opportunities for graduates of Hazel Park schools.

The glue that hold this community together is our residents and volunteers. Last year, the Art Council and its group of dedicated volunteers held its successful 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Fair and Artober.

Our Historical Commission and its volunteers continued to expand its impressive collection of historical items, housed at the Historical Museum on Pearl, just east of John R.

Our volunteers continue help with Animal Control, assisting with over 40 adoptions in 2018. Our community gardens and the Hazel Park Growers and Makers Market are run by Hazel Park residents. Thank you to our volunteer for your work, dedication and support.

We continued to see rising property values in Hazel Park as well. Already in 2019, our residential home values rose over 13%, one of the highest increases in Oakland County.

We also welcomed in several new local businesses including, Civitas – a local coffee shop, Youngbloods – a high end barbershop and apparel store, a refurbished Doug’s Delight, Latido at Joe Bar and Color & Ink art studios on south John R. In 2019, our commitment to local business will involve a new partnership with Build Institute, an organization that provides education, assistance and networking to potential local start-ups.

In 2018, the City said goodbye to a cultural landmark and destination, the Hazel Park Raceway. While the community was extremely disappointed to see the Race Track shut its doors, we are excited that Ashley Capital purchased the property and will be erecting two new light manufacturing, warehouse buildings (an investment of over \$50 million. With current tenants such as LG located in the first building, we are excited for the new companies and hundreds of jobs that will be coming to Hazel Park in the near future.

In 2019, we also be undertaking several major projects. As soon as the weather breaks, we will begin road repairs and a road diet on South

John R. North John R and Nine Mile road repairs are scheduled to begin later in the summer.

On February 19, 2019, the City held its Public Kick-Off to amend its Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan. It should be a fun and demanding process to articulate the future vision for Hazel Park and its parks.

Lastly, I want to thank the work of the City and 43<sup>rd</sup> District Court's Administrative staffs. They strive to improve the quality of life for our residents. I am proud to be a part of this innovative City and community that truly is the hero of its own story. Thank you.