District 4 in Review
First Term

Hello Neighbor!

It has been almost two years since you honored me with your vote of public trust and elected me to serve you as Garland City Councilman for District 4. I just want to take this time to say "Thank You" for allowing me to serve you. Below is a snapshot of "My First Term Serving You" in District 4 and the Garland community at-large. Working with you as partners, I pledge to continue to strive to make "Garland – Better Than Best." I welcome your suggestions, comments, criticisms and assistance at Council4@garlandtx.gov or (972) 898-7672.

At Your Service!
Councilman B. J. Williams

First Term Highlights

I. Service Delivery:

A. Received and promptly responded to more than 400 requests (phone calls, emails, letters, texts, etc.) for City services and/or assistance from District 4 residents. Returned 100% of calls and worked with City staff to ensure that residents' requests/concerns were timely addressed.

B. Attended numerous meetings/events of District 4 neighborhood associations, HOAs, churches and crime watch groups.

C. Hosted five (5) quarterly community town hall meetings for District 4 constituents covering the following City services:

- Health, Animal Services and Code Compliance
- Public Service and Crime Prevention
- Environmental Waste Services (2)
- Public Safety and Crime Prevention

Worked closely with staff (on the ground and via phone) to address needs of residents during and after the ice storm of December 2013, as well as post-ice storm cleanup. Services included, but were not limited to power outages, special medical needs, and elderly living alone. Note: Personally visited several homes with obvious structural damage to check regarding injuries (none reported).

II. Fiscal Oversight:

A. Passed $572 million dollar City operating budget with no increase to ad valorem property tax.

B. Passed $190 million CIP budget with no increase to ad valorem property tax.

III. Public Safety:

A. Built a Mayor/Council consensus resulting in the passage (by unanimous vote) of the city's first public safety ordinance banning the use of electronic devices in school zones. Note: This ordinance was considered, but rejected six times by previous councils.

B. Had school zone signals and crossing installed along Broadway Boulevard at Colonel Drive, protecting South Garland High School students, staff, parents and other pedestrians.

C. Held a joint meeting with South Garland business owners, Garland Police Department and South Garland High School administrators to address concerns and build more positive relationships with students.

D. Participated in the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NTCOG) Urban Shield Exercise.

IV. Economic Development:

A. Visited all south Garland businesses in District 4 with the Garland Chamber of Commerce CEO to make them aware of city and chamber services, to offer assistance and hear their issues/concerns.

B. Hosted two (2) Small Business Development Center Forums for District 4 small businesses.

C. Worked with the Garland Chamber to conduct an economic development market analysis to be used as a tool to promote future business growth in District 4.

D. Attended the following ribbon-cutting/re-grand opening ceremonies to welcome the following new and/or renovated businesses to District 4:

- Chili's
- Meineke
- McDonald's
- Garland Independent Pharmacy
- Wendy's
- Indoor Soccer
- Golden Chick
- Cybernut Solutions
- Family Dollar
- Aseguranza Insurance
- Rev Car Wash

V. District 4 Infrastructure Projects: (Completion target 2013/2014)

A. Northwest Highway/La Prada thoroughfare expansion and improvements (In progress).

B. Radio read water meter retrofit – Phased in replacement of existing water meters with programmable radio read water meters.

C. Wastewater Collection:

- Sewer pipe reline
- Duck Creek flood plain redesign
- Manhole overflow pipe replacement

D. Street repairs/upgrades:

- Saddleback Road – (Canyon Drive to Robin Road)
- Brookview Drive – (Northwest Highway to Wildbriar)
- Ravencroft
- San Carlos
- Wildbriar
- Wynn Joyce

E. Hazardous Tree Trimming and Removal (Audubon Park along Oates Road

VI. Leadership: Appointed by Mayor to serve on the following:

A. Public Safety
B. Marketing
C. Economic Development Steering Committee
D. Emergency Preparedness Planning Council (EPPC) at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
E. Multi-Cultural Advisory Council for State Representative Angie Button

VII. Training/Self-Development:

A. Orientation for New Council Members
B. 2013 Neighborhood Summit
C. Texas Municipal League workshops
D. Completed Texas Secretary of State "Open Meetings" certification
E. National League of Cities Congressional and Training Conference
F. Garland Municipal Courts
G. One-on-One meetings and visits to all City of Garland departments and facilities.
H. Texas Association of Solid Waste Treatment Conference which included a site visit to the Denton landfill.
I. North Texas Crime Commission workshop on "Cyber Crime"
J. Joint meeting with Garland Council, Rowlett Council, Sachse Council and GISD officials to review/discuss school security strategic plan.
K. Operation Urban Shield

VIII. Community Support and Outreach:

A. Christmas on the Square
B. Annual Labor Day Parade
C. Monthly Garland Chamber of Commerce Luncheons and Annual Prayer Breakfast
D. DFW Asian-American Citizen's Council Honor's Banquet
E. Good Samaritan's Youth Food Drive
F. NAACP Garland Branch Annual Scholarship Brunch
G. NAACP Garland Branch Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Program
H. NAACP Garland Branch Winter Ball
I. Noon Exchange Club Luncheon (Active Member)
J. Garland Police Department Awards Dinner
K. Garland Police Department Graduation
L. Garland Fire Department Awards Dinner
M. Sikh Temple Candlelight Memorial Vigil
N. O'Banion Middle School (Career Day speaker)
O. Garland Charter Academy (Career Day speaker)
P. Garland Fire Fighters Association Christmas Shopping Spree for underprivileged children
Q. Operation Care Family Outreach Program

R. Healthy Living Expo and Naturalization Service sponsored by City of Garland's Community Multi-Cultural Commission
S. Urban League of Greater Dallas Board of Directors
T. HOPE Clinic Annual Community Outreach Support Breakfast
U. 1st Annual Youth Leadership Summit
V. Garland Elks Lodge Christmas Party for Homeless Children

IX. Goals for Continuous Progress:

A. Continue to make sound public policy decisions that are in the best interest of District 4 stakeholders.
B. Continue to ensure delivery of high quality city services to stakeholders (taxpayers/residents).
C. Maintain current ad valorem tax rate (no increase).
D. Continue infrastructure repairs and improvements (streets, alleys and sidewalks).
E. Continue to promote economic growth, development and jobs to District 4.
F. Continue to work on a major transportation initiative with coalition of Garland Council, City staff, Congressional officials, Texas Legislature representatives, County Commissioners, North Texas Transportation Council, NTTA and support matter experts to obtain funding and needed approval for projects to make long needed improvements along LBJ Freeway (Garland portion) and Interstate – 30) – sound walls, expanded lanes, additional exits/entrances, continuous service road.
G. Redevelopment of "Big Box" retail centers at corners of Broadway at Centerville and Broadway at Duck Creek Parkway.
H. Implement a "pilot" physical fitness program at Audubon Park Recreation Center.
I. Quality retail development of vacant property adjacent to Wal-Mart (Broadway at I-30).
J. Strengthen public safety and Neighborhood Policing.
K. Continue strict code and health enforcement to enhance neighborhood beautification and revitalization.
L. Adopt a more "business friendly" Unified Development Code.

STILL WORK TO DO FOR YOU!