



## MEDIA BRIEFING

### Mayor Michael O'Connor's Remarks

**FREDERICK, MD – 11 a.m., Dec. 15, 2017:** One of our key priorities moving forward will be enhanced community engagement; one of the pillars of my campaign. Today's briefing is the first of many future deliberate and transparent opportunities for us to share with you the good work we're doing across the City.

Today, I am introducing my plan for transition into the 62<sup>nd</sup> City Administration.

- Kelly Russell, President Pro Tem of the Board of Alderman
- Jim Racheff, City resident and City business owner
- Elizabeth Cromwell, City resident, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce
- Ted Gregory, CPA, City Resident and local business executive
- Ted Luck, nearby resident (adjacent to City in Clover Hill), FCPS and Higher Education administrator

In addition, all of these individuals have a long history of volunteer service to our community.

The Steering Committee will be co-chaired by Alderman Russell and Jim Racheff.

As a two-term Alderman myself, I know that Alderman Russell's experience will make a contribution to the successful transition of the City's Administration. After sharing an office with her for the last 8 years, I am pleased that she's agreed to serve as one of the links between our transition efforts and Board of Aldermen.

Jim brings extensive experience facilitating similar efforts, notably co-chairing County Executive Jan Gardner’s Transition Team as Frederick County transitioned to a new form of Government.

I’d like to outline the structure of our Transition Team. Building on our priorities of engagement and transparency, our Steering Committee will be supported by volunteer workgroups that will help us look at several focus areas:

#### CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Areas of Focus: Public Engagement, Volunteers, Disengaged Residents

Departments: NACs, Boards and Commissions, Election Board

#### COMMUNICATIONS AND 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY

Areas of Focus: Public Information, Website and GIS, use of IT

Departments: Technology, A/V, GIS, PIO

#### ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Areas of Focus: Financial Stability and Responsibility, Budget

Departments: Finance, Purchasing, Economic Development, Airport(?), Sustainability

#### EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY

Areas of Focus: Arts, Education, Livability, Health

Departments: FCAA, Parks and Rec, Weinberg, Special Events, Mayor’s Office,  
FPD/PAL

#### CITY OPERATIONS AND ORGANIZATION

Areas of Focus: City Operations

Departments: Mayor’s Office, HR, Legal, Public Works, FPD, Planning, Engineering,  
Parking, Permitting

Having had the privilege of serving as one of your Aldermen, I know that Mayor McClement has left the City operationally well-positioned. This will allow our workgroups to focus more on resource gaps and opportunities.

During the last six months, I've talked a lot about the benefit we can gain from taking a strategic, forward-looking approach to City Government: it is my intention that the Transition Team efforts serve as an early jump-start to a City-Wide strategic plan.

We'll be communicating progress on this effort through the City Website and other communications methods, but we very much want this to be a "two-way" conversation with the residents and other stakeholders. Soon, we will be launching a Stake Holder survey – available online and also in paper form at City Hall – as one method of continuing to reach out and hear what you, our residents, want from your 62<sup>nd</sup> Administration.

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