

STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor David McDavid's New Year's Message

January 10TH, 2023 signaled a new era in Zachary municipal government, where voters were charged with electing an entire slate of new public officials for the first time in a very long while. This followed the growing interest in an announcement in early 2022 by then-Mayor David Amrhein

that he would not seek reelection to a fourth term in office.

Recently elected and former Zachary Chief-of-Police, David McDavid, will lead the city as mayor for the next four years, with a host of new council members and a newly elected Chief of Police, former Assistant Chief of Police Darryl Lawrence.

Zachary has come from veritable obscurity as a small, primarily rural town in the northwestern corner of East Baton Rouge Parish in the 1980s to now, some 40-plus years later, as a recognized leader among municipalities and comparably sized cities statewide. Two thousand ten Census Data boasted a "then" population of 14,960, while a demonstrated trend, spirited by a "smart-growth" driven community model and anchored by a top-rated school system, all helped facilitate exponential growth to a population over 20,000 today.

Regardless of its many past improvements (mostly infrastructure), community interests today are more fixated on where Zachary views itself soon; and the route to be taken to ensure that its future needs continue to be met.

Proposals already underway, or those being considered, include the following points but are not solely limited to them:

- Pre-scheduled meetings with federal, state, and parish officials regarding crucial infrastructure projects and flood mitigation
- Economic development opportunities to discuss new businesses and jobs for the city
- Exploring entertainment venues that provide safe family fun close to home

- The evaluation of all city databases and emerging technology to aid in systems modernization. An example might include developing a better system for communicating with residents during emergencies or accessing city maps.

Mayor McDavid's administration is committed to '***continuing the progress with an eye toward the future...***' through the enlistment of public support and involvement in a shared vision of what the entire Zachary community views as necessary and attainable for its near future.