

Good Day Portage, Indiana.

In an effort to be open and transparent with the events and happenings within YOUR city, today's city address will focus on just that.

We will discuss the final update from a visit from the New York Times.

We will also discuss a collaboration with County Line Road and our upcoming renewal of the city's IT contract. I have an update with our Police and Fire Departments, and lastly an update from a meeting with NIRPC and a community watch update. We will end today's City update with a quotation from a very inspirational person.

Over the weekend, our nation was plagued with yet another active shooter situation in two of our nation's GREAT cities. Our condolences go out to those affected.

As you may know, our Police Department has vacancies, and has had them for quite some time. On Tuesday I swore in two new officers. They will be on the road after completing requirements at the Police Academy. In addition to those two individuals, another two more are in the pipeline.

Last week I met with Mitch Smith from the New York Times. He is interviewing folks around the shores of Lake Michigan in his efforts to head up an investigative story regarding Lake Michigan's record high water levels.

After speaking with me last week he continued onto the State of Michigan.

I met with a prominent figure in the IT, Information Technology arena, for advice on the City of Portage's IT contract. This person has worked at 3 different companies in Northwest Indiana as an IT director. One of the company's is publicly traded. The City of Portage thanks him for his advice, ongoing assistance as our contract comes up for renewal.

I met with officials from the City of Lake Station. Together we came up with Mutual Agreement of Understanding to pave County Line Road, from just south of the Moose Lodge to Central Avenue.

To be clear, paving County Line Road isn't Portage's responsibility. But my administration believes that all cities and towns should help its neighbors where needed.

Wednesday I and our City Project Manager had our meeting at the Northern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, also known as NIRPC. Together, we tried hard to get money for the Willowcreek Road overpass. Our city was granted money, but instead it is for the one-lane Samuelson Road Railroad bridge project which, if approved by the Railroad, will happen in 2022.

Communities aren't communities without residents that keep a watchful eye. Last week I met with a resident, Mrs. Lopez. She is the Un-Official watchperson for her neighborhood. In the recent past she has brought several important issues to the city's attention. An un-attended home that was being used

for kid's to party in... The need for a stop sign... The need for a street lamp over a neighborhood intersection...

I meet with residents on a weekly basis. Concerns like this are often brought to my attention after asking. But how much better would Portage's quality of life be if folks reported this before the Mayor came knocking at their door asking if there's anything he needs to know about here in the neighborhood?

Under a Mayor Cannon administration I am asking all residents, when you see something, when you need something... Call City Hall.

The City's 2020 Budget is underway. Councilperson Scott Williams, our RDC administrator Colin Highlands and I are working on it. I've said it before and I'll say it again, the budget process here in our City is broken. The process needs fixing, and so does the budget. Our goal is to get the budget as close to perfect as possible. I set a deadline for June 1st to submit my budget that was impossible for me to meet that deadline, our city budget process was more broken than previous thought.

After 30 years of service to the City of Portage, Butch Rigdon has retired. We wish him well. And thank you sir for your service.

As discussed just a moment ago, active emergency situations are all too common. Already in the works for the past few weeks, I received an update from Police & Fire. They are working on a unique rescue team consolidation effort. While the details are not all public, our Police and Fire Department are on track to have the equipment and protection needed to handle an active emergency situation.

Our last update, Both Departments have gave me an update of their efforts to work with US Navy, for October's visit, and commissioning of the USS Indianapolis. I will keep you posted as we get more information.

When giving these short city addresses, I like to end with a motivational, or inspirational quote.

I recently stumbled upon a wise quote from an author whose name I didn't recognize. His name is Mattie Stepanek, short for Matthew.

As it turns out, the author of this quote was a poet and motivational speaker. He passed away in the year 2004 and was born in the year 1990. Yes, he was only 13 year old when he passed away.

We should all take a lesson from the wisdom of this young man's words.

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."