

**WELCOME AND THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF  
THE CLERGY, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND FRIENDS FOR YOUR  
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION HERE TODAY.**

**WE ARE MEDFORD...A PROUD AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY  
SETTLED IN 1630, BY THE FORDE IN THE MEADOW, AND WE  
CONTINUE TO EVOLVE INTO A SPECIAL PLACE IN WHICH TO  
LIVE, WORK AND RAISE OUR FAMILIES. WE FEEL AT PEACE,  
SECURE AND FULFILLED WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR  
COMMUNITY. WE ARE A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS ONE  
ANOTHER. WE CELEBRATE, WE MOURN AND WE HEAL  
TOGETHER. WE ARE...MEDFORD STRONG.**

**WE REFLECT PROUDLY ON THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR  
PREDECESSORS, SUCH AS ELIZUR WRIGHT WHO PRESERVED  
IN ALL PURPATUATRY, THE MIDDLESEX FELLS INCLUDING  
WRIGHTS TOWER THAT SITS MAJESTICALLY OVERLOOKING  
ROOSEVELT CIRCLE.**

**WE REFLECT PROUDLY ON THE LEGACY OF MADELINE  
DUGGER ANDREWS, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN  
ELECTED TO MEDFORD'S SCHOOL COMMITTEE, DURING  
THE 1960'S, AT A TIME OF GREAT RACIAL UNREST IN OUR**

**COUNTRY. MADELINE WORKED TOWARDS THE GOAL OF NEW SCHOOLS FOR ALL OF MEDFORD'S CHILDREN AND THE ANDREWS MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS NAMED IN HER HONOR, AND WE REFLECT PROUDLY ON THE LIFE OF LYDIA MARIA CHILDS WHO WROTE "OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOOD", AND WHO WAS ALSO A LEADER IN THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT.**

**I HAVE STOOD BEFORE YOU ON MANY OCCASIONS AND STRESSED A THEME AND A TONE FOR MEDFORD. A THEME, THAT WE ARE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY, THAT CELEBRATES OUR DIVERSE POPULATION, AND WHERE ALL PEOPLE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN A PROGRESSIVE AND POSITIVE MANNER. AND A TONE OF CIVILITY IN GOVERNMENT.**

**IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE WITNESSED THAT THEME AND TONE REPEATEDLY ON ISSUES REGARDING TRAFFIC SAFETY, PARK AND STREET IMPROVEMENTS, FLOODING, TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. GROUPS AND COMMITTEES HAVE COME TOGETHER TO WORK ON SUCH TOPICS AS BICYCLING, THE GREEN LINE EXTENSION,**

**RAISED CROSSWALKS, THE FARMERS MARKET,  
COMMUNITY GARDENS, CACHE, CIRCLE THE SQUARE,  
ATHLETICS, THE ARTS AND SO MUCH MORE. WE HAVE  
DISCOVERED THAT MANY PEOPLE SHARE OUR VISION AND  
HAVE VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND TALENTS FOR THE  
BETTERMENT OF ALL IN MEDFORD.**

**POSITIVE CHANGE CANNOT HAPPEN WITHOUT A  
COLLECTIVE VISION, A STRONG COMMITMENT AND  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT. TOGETHER WE HAVE  
WORKED WEEKS, MONTHS AND YEARS TO LAY A  
FOUNDATION FOR A TRANSPARENT PROCESS THAT GUIDES  
MEDFORD, A CITY RICHLY STEEPED IN HISTORY TO MOVE  
FORWARD AND ACCEPT POSITIVE CHANGE. WE CHANGED  
THE OLD NOTION THAT SOMETHING COULDN'T BE DONE  
BECAUSE WE NEVER DID IT BEFORE, TO A POSITIVE AND  
PROGRESSIVE, IF IT CAN BE DONE, WE WILL FIND A WAY TO  
DO IT. NOT ALL PEOPLE SHARE THAT VISION. HOWEVER,  
WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE THAT WE LIVE IN A NATION  
WHOSE FOUNDATION ENCOURAGES US TO DEBATE THOSE  
DIFFERENCES.**

**FOR ME, GROWING UP IN MEDFORD MEANT GREETING EACH OTHER WITH, “GOOD DAY”, “BUONGIORNO”, “SLAINTE” OR “SHALOM”. TODAY, WE MUST ADD THE GREETINGS OF “BOM DIA”, “NAMASTE”, “TASHI DELEK”, “SALAM”, “NI HAO”, “GUTENTAG” AND “BON SOIR MES AMI” TO NAME A FEW. WE ARE A VERY DIVERSE COMMUNITY THAT CELEBRATES ITS VARIED HERITAGES AND MEDFORD IS A STRONGER COMMUNITY FOR IT. WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH OTHERS EYES AND THROUGH THEIR STORIES. WE LEARN BY PARTICIPATING IN THEIR CELEBRATIONS. AT MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL, OUR STUDENTS SPEAK OVER 34 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.**

**IN MY YOUTH, I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGED A TIBETIAN GOMPA ON MAGOUN AVENUE, A HAITIAN CONGREGATION GATHERING AT THE OTIS STREET CHURCH, A KOREAN AMERICAN METHODIST CHURCH ON WINTHROP STREET OR A SIKH TEMPLE ON MYSTIC AVENUE. MOST RECENTLY, FAMILIES FROM INDIA, HAITI, TIBET, JAMAICA, SRI LANKA, RUSSIA, EL SALVADOR, JORDAN, BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, MOROCCO, CHINA, AND KENYA HAVE LEFT THEIR**

**NATIVE LANDS TO COME HERE TO LIVE IN THE GREAT CITY OF MEDFORD. OTHERS HAVE COME HERE TO LIVE THE LIFE THAT GUARANTEES FREEDOM FOR ALL RACES, COLORS, CREEDS OR AN INDIVIDUALS SEXUAL ORIENTATION. THEY COME HERE BECAUSE THEY APPRECIATE WHAT MEDFORD HAS TO OFFER, OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, SUCH AS THE MIDDLESEX FELLS, AND THE MYSTIC RIVER, AS WELL AS, THE VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOBS AND HOUSING. A STUDENT ONCE SAID TO ME, HOW COOL IT IS THAT PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD WANT TO LIVE IN MEDFORD. TO EVERYONE WHO HAS RELOCATED TO MEDFORD, YOUR ARRIVAL HAS HELPED US STRENGTHEN THE GREAT QUALITY OF LIFE WE SHARE IN THE CITY OF MEDFORD.**

**TOGETHER WE HAVE WORKED TO SECURE OVER \$7 MILLION IN STATE GRANTS FOR OUR NEW SCIENCE LABS AT MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE SPRING. THE LABS WILL PROVIDE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER WITH TUFTS UNIVERSITY ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.**

**TOGETHER WE WORKED TO PROVIDE MEDFORD STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY ONCE AGAIN TO SWIM, TRAIN AND EXERCISE IN OUR OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL AT MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL, WHICH WILL BE FINISHED IN THE SPRING.**

**AND TOGETHER, WE HAVE WORKED TO ENHANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEDFORD STUDENTS WITH THE RECENT COMPLETION OF THE \$3.3 MILLION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE TO COMPLIMENT NEARLY \$400,000 WORTH OF NEW TEXTBOOKS, PURCHASED WITH REVENUES FROM TUFTS UNIVERSITY. MEDFORD'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ARE STRONG.**

**OUR PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR, IN THE LAST TWO BUDGETS, HAVE FILLED (31) POSITIONS. THE \$2.3 MILLION UPGRADE TO THE FIRE STATIONS BEGAN LAST WEEK. (2) NEW FIRE ENGINES AND (4) NEW COMMAND STAFF VEHICLES WILL BE ADDED TO THE FIRE'S FLEET. THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW WIRELESS FIRE ALARM SYSTEM BEGAN IN OCTOBER. (5) NEW CRUISERS AND (5) NEW MOTORCYCLES WERE ADDED TO THE POLICE FLEET. THIS**

**WEEK, I WILL ALSO APPOINT (9) NEW POLICE RECRUITS TO A RESERVE LIST WHICH CAN BE ACTIVATED AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE. MEDFORD'S PUBLIC SAFETY SECTOR IS STRONG.**

**BID'S FOR MEDFORD'S NEW \$13 MILLION PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY ARE DUE ON JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> AND WE WILL START CONSTRUCTION ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. IT SHALL BE A STATE OF THE ART FACILITY WHICH WILL PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED, DELIVERING THEM IN A PROFESSIONAL AND SWIFT MANNER. OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS STRONG.**

**THE \$2 MILLION PROJECT TO EASE FLOODING THROUGHOUT THE LAWRENCE ESTATES TO THE MYSTIC RIVER, AS WELL AS IN, NORTH MEDFORD, WILL BE COMPLETED THIS SUMMER.**

**WE ARE PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE NEW MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELD AT COLUMBUS PARK, AS WELL AS, FINISHING UP ACCESSIBILITY AND SIDEWALK WORK AT MORRISON, HICKEY AND BARRY**

**PARKS. THESE PROJECTS WERE PAID FOR WITH A \$1 MILLION IN FEDERAL GRANTS.**

**I CONSIDER THE DELIVERY OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES IN A COST EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANNER AS THE HALLMARK OF MY ADMINISTRATION. AS THE WORLD CONTINUES TO RECOVER FROM THE GREATEST ECONOMIC RECESSION SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION WE CONTINUED TO CREATE JOBS, EXPAND OUR ECONOMIC BASE, PROVIDE FOR HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AND ACHIEVE A STATUS OF FINANCIAL STABILITY WE CAN BE PROUD OF.**

**WE HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENT IN OUR INFRASTRUCTURE. STANDARD AND POORS HAS STATED OUR STRATEGY IS GOOD, OUR RESERVES ARE STRONG AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRUDENT AND UPGRADED MEDFORD'S BOND RATING TWICE IN EIGHT WEEKS, TO A RATING OF AA. THE DECISIONS THAT WE HAVE MADE HAVE BEEN THOUGHTFUL AND PRUDENT AND THAT IS WHY WE CAN PROCLAIM THAT WE ARE, MEDFORD, A GREAT CITY WITH A GREAT QUALITY OF LIFE.**

**NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO TRY AND OUT DO ONE ANOTHER WITH SPENDING OR WE WILL SQUANDER OUR RESOURCES AND OUR ACHIEVEMENTS WILL VANISH. WE MUST REMAIN CAUTIOUS AND PRACTICAL WITH OUR FINANCIAL PLANNING, AND CONTINUE TO BUILD OUR RESERVES, AS WELL AS, EXPAND OUR ECONOMIC BASE WITH QUALITY DEVELOPMENT.**

**THERE ARE STILL TWO MAJOR PARTS OF OUR CAPITAL PROGRAM KNOWN AS “CHART THE COURSE” THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE LAST TWO YEARS. IRONICALLY, THEY ARE THE TWO PROJECTS THAT WILL GENERATE REVENUES TO PAY DOWN THE PROJECTS COST. THE FIRST IS THE PARKING GARAGE IN MEDFORD SQUARE. IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE TO BRING NEW BUSINESSES INTO THE SQUARE, THERE HAS TO BE A PLACE FOR PATRONS TO PARK. THE SECOND IS THE SHEPARD BROOKS ESTATE. IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE OUR HISTORY AND WORK TO RESTORE THIS CROWN JEWEL INTO A MORE INVITING AND REVENUE PRODUCING DESTINATION FOR ALL CITIZENS OF**

**MEDFORD WE MUST MOVE FORWARD. INTEREST RATES ON BONDS CONTINUE TO RISE.**

**I WILL ASK THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL TO HOLD A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING ON THE NEW PARKING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, WHICH INCLUDES ENFORCEMENT. I WILL ASK THE COUNCIL FOR A VOTE OF ENDORSEMENT BEFORE WE GO OUT TO BID. WHEN THE BIDS ARE OPENED, WE CAN ANALYZE THE BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSALS VERSUS AN “IN HOUSE” OPERATION.**

**THE TWO COMPETING CASINO’S APPLICATION’S HAVE BOTH GIVEN US SOME DEGREE OF SURROUNDING COMMUNITY STATUS, WHICH ALLOWS US TO CONTINUE MITIGATION NEGOTIATIONS. IN ALL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, I RELY HEAVILY ON THE PUBLIC’S INPUT THAT HAS BEEN COLLECTED THROUGHOUT THE CITY FOR MONTHS. THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE CONTINUES TO BE THE TRAFFIC IMPACT ON WELLINGTON CIRCLE, AND IT HAS BEEN A MAJOR FOCUS OF THE DISCUSSIONS. THE LAW ALLOWS US TO MITIGATE IMPACTS UPON OUR COMMUNITY CREATED BY EITHER CASINO APPLICANT.**

**NINE MONTHS AGO, BOSTON MAGAZINE, IN AN ARTICLE HEADLINED, “BEST PLACES TO LIVE, STARTING OUT”, STATED, “MEDFORD...A MECCA FOR YOUNG URBAN BUYERS...OPEN SPACE...A HAPPENING RESTAURANT SCENE...ATTRACTING YOUNG CREATIVES IN DROVES...TWO NEW WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF THE T”.**

**EIGHT MONTHS AGO, RED FIN, A NATIONAL ONLINE REAL ESTATE COMPANY LISTED THE NEIGHBORHOODS TO WATCH AND SAID OF MEDFORD, “A HIGHLY DESIRABLE NEIGHBORHOOD...WITH AN EASY COMMUTE TO BOSTON. IT IS A VERY SURBURBAN ATMOSPHERE, WITH GREAT PARKS, AND WIDE SIDEWALKS.”**

**THIS YEAR WILL OFFER US DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH AMENITIES THAT WILL CONTINUE TO ATTRACT NEW CREATIVES WHO WANT TO BE CATERED TOO AND ARE WILLING TO SPEND THEIR RESOURCES IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

**FIRST, IS A PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE WELLINGTON BUSINESS CENTER THAT INCLUDES A**

**CLUB HOUSE, A POOL, A COURTYARD AND A FITNESS CENTER. THE SECOND IS THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE RIVERS EDGE DEVELOPMENT FOR NOT ONLY ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE, BUT ALSO, HOUSING WITH MANY CREATIVE AMENITIES, AND AT LEAST ONE RESTAURANT.**

**A THIRD DEVELOPER IS NEARING COMPLETION ON HIS DUE DILIGENCE STAGE AND WOULD LIKE TO APPLY FOR 162 RESIDENTIAL UNITS ON MIDDLESEX AVENUE ADJACENT TO BJ'S. AND A FOURTH DEVELOPER HAS PURCHASED PROPERTY IN MEDFORD SQUARE AND IS STUDYING HIS OPTIONS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL ALLOW US TO CONTINUE TO CREATE JOBS AS WELL AS EXPAND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUR CITY.**

**THE NEW OWNERS OF THE FELLOSWAY PLAZA ARE PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD ON A MAJOR FACELIFT TO THE PLAZA WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDING (3) NEW RESTAURANTS IN THAT AREA. TWO WEEKS AGO, (3) SEPARATE PROPOSALS WERE PUT BEFORE ME IN ONE DAY FOR NEW RESTAURANT SPACE IN MEDFORD SQUARE,**

**INCLUDING AN IRISH RESTAURANT, A JAPANESE RESTAURANT AND A MICRO BREWERY.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY. WE ARE PREPARED TO REVIEW THESE DIFFERENT PROPOSALS. WE HAVE ALWAYS WORKED TO ACCEPT QUALITY DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO CREATE JOBS, HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES, CLEAN UP ENVIROMENTAL NIGHTMARES AND EXPAND OUR TAX BASE. OUR AGENDA IS ALWAYS AMBITIOUS, BUT MEDFORD'S CITIZENS ARE ALWAYS UP TO THE CHALLENGE.**

**AT AN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE IN ROME ON NEW YEARS EVE, POPE FRANCIS SAID: "A CITY'S FACE IS LIKE A MOSAIC IN WHICH THE TILES ARE ALL THOSE WHO LIVE HERE." THE FACE OF MEDFORD IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING. IT IS A FACE EMBODIED BY DIVERSITY, PRIDE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, AND LOVE OF OUR CITY. IT IS THE FACE OF FORWARD THINKING, CARING AND COMPASSIONATE INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND TO MAKE MEDFORD A MORE LIVABLE, ATTRACTIVE AND WELCOMING COMMUNITY. IT IS THE**

**FACE OF YOUNG PEOPLE EAGERLY ANTICIPATING THE COMPLETION OF OUR CAPITAL INVESTMENTS. IT IS THE FACE OF PROFESSIONALS READY AND WILLING TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY AS VOLUNTEERS AND ACTIVISTS. IT IS THE FACE OF OUR SENIORS, MANY WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY AND OUR CITY SIMPLY BY PRACTICING THE TIME TESTED VALUES OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP.**

**I AM HUMBLLED TO BE YOUR MAYOR. I LOVE MY JOB AND I LOVE OUR CITY. THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR JOURNEY SO PRODUCTIVE AND SO VERY SATISFYING. AS ALWAYS, I PLEDGE TO YOU TO DO MY VERY BEST. THANK YOU. GOD BLESS MEDFORD AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.**