

My fellow Residents,

I come to you from your Mayor's office. I am John Cannon, your new Mayor. Last week in a similar video, I promised straight talk; well, today is our second conversation together.

This past week was a busy one. I hit the ground running. Last Tuesday, March 5, was my first City Council Meeting as your Mayor. I can report that you can be proud of your elected officials for acting in bi-partisanship and unity. We are on a path to put divisiveness to rest. It is clear Portage is marching into a new chapter. Just so you know, your Council meetings are broadcast LIVE and archived on YouTube. If you go to YouTube and type in: Portage Indiana Council Meeting, it should put you in the right spot.

In another sign of cooperation, your Clerk-Treasurer and I worked together/side-by-side to re-appropriate money in the budget to better use and to show more transparency. I thank him for his time and help.

By Wednesday, I had either met with in person or spoke with many government officials and elected leaders of both parties throughout our region; this included neighboring Mayors.

Last week, I attended a ribbon cutting for a new barbershop and salon located in the Promenade at Founders Square. The owner has a successful location in Chicago and chose PORTAGE as their second location. This is one example of many businesses, large and small, who have chosen to relocate or expand in Portage. Many of you have told me, you consider it an honor every time a business plants roots in Portage. I wholeheartedly agree.

Last week, our team and I spoke with the Governor's office concerning our need for road repair funds. One example of this is Willowcreek Road. It's in poor shape and needs immediate attention. They agree.

We have many projects scheduled for our City. Some are ready to go forward; others are in need of some attention to get rolling. My job as Mayor includes leading our departments and looking out for your needs.

I would like to share with you a preview of what is in store for this week

Our Redevelopment Administrator, Parks Superintendent and I will be in Indianapolis with Region and State officials and members of the National Park Service to recognize the 61st National Park, Indiana Dunes NATIONAL Park.

While in Indianapolis, we will meet with key figures in our quest to secure more road funding. I recognize that we have many main roads and neighborhood roads in bad shape. You will soon start to see your wheel tax money go to good use.

Our Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk, located along the beautiful/majestic South Shore of Lake Michigan is as gift for all to enjoy. Unfortunately, Mother Nature has not been kind to it. Erosion has taken its toll and continues to chip away at, and limit, Public access. I assure you that your Portage officials will work with State officials and neighbors in an effort to expedite a much needed study by the Army Corps of Engineers. We must regain and restore public access. I will do everything in my power to make this happen.

As you can see, we are working on our Future Plans. I have begun the process of meeting with City employees and Department Heads. With an open mind, I will hone in on each department's desires and needs. As their leader, I will work with them strategically and with assurance.

My first week as your Mayor has been both fun and challenging.

To Quote Teddy Roosevelt, "Keep your eyes on the Stars, and your feet on the ground."

I look forward to our future, together as your full-time Mayor. Thank you for your Time. God Bless you, and see you soon.