

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of City Council

FROM: Stephen R. Speed, Mayor

DATE: June 24, 2004

RE: Monthly Report – May 2004

As you can imagine, May was a very busy month for the Mayor's office. Here are some of the highlights:

We began the month in fine style on May 1st with Old Dover Days. Several City officials met with Governor Minner, other federal, state and county officials, and representatives from DAFB for light morning refreshments. The big event was the parade down State Street all the way to The Green. As always, it was a major community event which properly displayed the historic heritage of Dover.

Mayor Hutchison and I, along with representatives from Senator Carper and Congressman Castle's offices attended the 512th Airlift Wing Change of Command on May 2nd. The members of the 512th proudly displayed their distinct professionalism as Colonel Bruce Davis turned over command to Colonel Ron Rutland. Col. Rutland will be a great addition to the Dover team. We all look forward to working closely with him.

Between May 3rd and May 6th, I attended school re-dedications for the five Capital School District schools located in the City which have completed their capital improvements. The total value of all of the improvements to the schools is approximately \$62 million, which is a significant and important investment in our City. All of the students and staff at these elementary schools are pleased with the improvements and excited about the future of these schools.

During the course of the month, the City Manager and I had attended several meetings of the Delaware Civic Center Corporation Board. These meetings have been extremely productive. The Board made a presentation to the State Bond Bill Committee, and we are very optimistic that the Committee will look favorably on the combined Civic Center/DSU Stadium project and provide a significant investment to make this project a reality for the benefit of Dover, DSU, and the entire State of Delaware.

On May 6th, Mayor Hutchison hosted the City's Annual Reception at the Sheraton. We thanked all of those who could attend for their efforts to help the City throughout the previous year.

On May 7th, Mayor Hutchison and I attended the Governor's Small Business Person of the Year Proclamation signing ceremony. We then met with the Governor to ensure that we continue to have a positive and cooperative relationship with her and her administration. As always, she and her staff were more than gracious.

Wilmington College hosted the Grand Opening of their new building at their campus on Rt. 13 on May 10th. This facility is another new jewel in the Capital City. It will allow the College to increase the available classes, generating new education options and increasing employment in the City. In addition, the College intends to make the large hosting room available for non-profit use, including the City of Dover, when it is not being used for college business.

Also on May 10th, the City held its Annual Meeting, during which I took the Oath of Office for Mayor. Council members Pitts, Williams, Sadusky, Slavin, and Hogan also took their Oaths of Office. The Council made history by electing Councilwoman Williams President of the City Council and Vice Mayor of the City of Dover, the first woman to hold these offices.

State Senator Still hosted a meeting of the North Dover Working Group on May 12th, which is an informal group dedicated to ensuring continued infrastructure improvements in the commercial area in the vicinity of DSU, the Dover Mall, and Dover Downs. This group and its functions have been given to the Chamber of Commerce for future work.

The Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Small Business Person of the Year presentation at Maple Dale County Club on May 13th. Kent County Levy Court President Burris attended, along with local business leaders. From an impressive group of finalists, Dennis and Carolyn Forbes, owners and operators of Cool Springs Restaurant, were elected by the membership as Small Business Persons of the Year.

The City of Dover had the distinct honor of hosting the U.S. Air Force Flight Demonstration Team, the Thunderbirds, during the weekend of May 15th through 17th. The flight demonstrations attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors to DAFB and the City. The Thunderbirds and the other flight demonstration teams thrilled the crowds with their skill and precision during two beautiful days over the weekend. The event culminated with the Governor's reception for the Thunderbirds at Woodburn, which was attended by many local elected officials and dignitaries.

Delaware State University held its annual commencement exercise on May 16th. The Class of 2004 was DSU's largest graduating class in history. The university intends to continue to break that record repeatedly over the next several years. Congressman Mike Castle and Attorney General Jane Brady attended and spoke briefly. The featured speaker was U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman.

On May 18th, the William Henry Middle School DARE Program held its graduation assembly. Former Dover City Councilman Bill Truitt attended the event to lend his support to the graduating 5th graders. The two DARE officers awarded numerous certificates for outstanding posters, prose writings, and demonstrated leadership. The graduates were enthusiastic, and most of them said they would be interested in becoming Dover Police Officers.

Secretary of Transportation Nathan Hayward hosted the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Rt. 1 Dover Toll Plaza high speed E-ZPass lanes on May 24th. Congressman Mike Castle attended and spoke, along with the new President of the Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce, Jim Hutchison. The opening of these lanes will benefit the residents of Dover by reducing air pollution and truck brake warning strip noise in the vicinity of the toll plaza.

On May 25th, the City Manager held a meeting with Dick Dempsy from the Kent County 911 Center and Lt. Ben Counselman from Dover PD to finalize a recommendation to City Council regarding additional ambulance coverage for the City. Councilman Carey also attended. That evening the YMCA of Delaware held its annual meeting at the Schwartz Center, which brought numerous visitors to downtown Dover.

On May 26th, DEMA held a meeting at the Emergency Operations Center in Smyrna during which the body made some broad Homeland Defense funding decisions. The Public Works portion of the requests for funding (which included several requests from the City of Dover) only received funding at 37% of the total amount requested. We do not yet know what level of funding (if any) the City will receive on our individual project requests.

The first meeting of the West Dover Connector Committee was also held on May 26th at the Camden-Wyoming Fire Hall. The committee is populated by representatives from DelDOT, Kramer & Associates (the State's consulting firm), the State Planning Office, Kent County, the City of Dover, the Towns of Camden and Wyoming, the local neighborhood associations, and members of the Eden Hill, Kesselring, and Papen families. Ultimately, this committee will create the basic plan for extending Saulsbury Road and developing other features of the affected areas.

I attended the 436th Mission Support Group's Change of Command on May 27th. Senator Tom Carper also attended. The members of the 436th presented an impressive and professional program as Colonel Bob King assumed command. Col. King and his wife, Ruth, have been members of the Dover team for a couple of years while Col. King served as the Deputy to the 436th Mission Support Group. They will continue to be great assets as part of the Dover team.

The American Legion, Walter L. Fox Post No. 2 hosted a wreath laying ceremony on May 29th in honor of the great Americans who paid the ultimate price to secure our freedom and liberty. Major General Valvala, Commander of Delaware's National Guard, presented the keynote address. Retired Air Force General Dick Bundy, Chamber President Hutchison, and a representative from Senator Carper's office also attended.