



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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January 2016 – A State of the City

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends,

I trust everyone had an enjoyable and fulfilling Christmas and New Year's holiday. About this time every year, the President of the United States stands before members of Congress, the Executive, the Judiciary and the American people to deliver the annual State of the Union Address. Among a laundry list of initiatives, the President will typically describe the condition of the nation in a line or two. A few examples include:

John F. Kennedy, 1963: "...I can report to you that the state of this old but youthful Union, in the 175th year of its life, is good."

Ronald Reagan, 1988: "Tonight, then, we're strong, prosperous, at peace, and we are free. This is the state of our Union."

Bill Clinton, 1999: "My fellow Americans, I stand before you tonight to report that the state of our Union is strong."

George W. Bush, 2006: "Tonight the state of our Union is strong, and together we will make it stronger."¹

In the spirit of the national address, I will treat this January Mayor's newsletter as a mini State of the City for Jersey Village. I describe the condition of our community similarly as a president describing the country. *The State of our City is strong, our future is bright and 2016 will be another year of exciting progress.*

The City of Jersey Village currently sits in a robust position. Our budget is sound and provides for municipal expenditures and debt servicing while retaining healthy reserves. The police and fire departments are well staffed and well equipped. City parks and golf course are in much improved condition. Home sales in Jersey Village remain strong even in light of a softened Houston area economy. A number of community-wide events such as Holiday in the Park and Spring Fling have been well attended and continue to show increased turn out. Flood mitigation improvements having been tested during significant rain events and proved effective.

2016 will be another year of progress for Jersey Village and will build upon its sturdy position. Most notably 2016 will see the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. As I have written about, it is a visionary document that addresses future land use, transportation and circulation, economic development, parks, recreation and open space, community character and community facilities. It is a directive for current and future Councils and Staffs on what this community should look like over the next 5-10 years. 2016 will be the first year to start adopting Comprehensive Plan initiatives.

We will continue to have our headaches, notably 290 expansion and its effect on the community. However, the exciting march towards progress in Jersey Village will continue in 2016. Our City is in a strong and enviable position.

All the Best,

Justin Ray, Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas