

What a great time to live in Mandeville! I hope to see everyone on Saturday, July 4 at 6pm as we begin our Independence Day celebration “Light Up The Lake” with a special patriotic tribute “Liberty on the Lake” for the 250th birthday of our nation (AMERICA 250) before the music by Groovy 7 at the conclusion of the best fireworks show in the land! To me, Mandeville represents everything great about America. It also represents family, and I take great pride in the fact that my children are growing up with the memories of the fireworks and fun on the Mandeville lakefront for the 4th of July! We live in a great place indeed. I will often encounter residents in local grocery stores, coffee shops, and restaurants who thank me for all of the visible improvement projects around Mandeville. Speaking of grocery stores, we will see the new Trader Joe’s open in Mandeville some time before the end of the summer! This will be the first Trader Joe’s in Louisiana to be located outside of the state’s two largest markets, New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Trader Joe’s choose Mandeville. In the last few months, a host of new businesses have chosen Mandeville as well and in the coming months we know we will continue to see more. That is great news for the continuing financial stability of Mandeville, which grows stronger every day. However, it is also a testament to all of you----businesses want to locate in Mandeville due to our strong market, our great schools, and our low crime rate. As a result of continued business investment and the strength of our local economy, the City of Mandeville is experiencing approximately 5.8% growth in year-to-date sales tax collections over the previous year. This continued growth reflects the resilience of our local economy, an expanding tax base driven by new business investment and recent changes to state sales tax law, and the confidence businesses continue to place in Mandeville. Looking ahead, we remain optimistic about our continued growth. Accordingly, this budget responsibly projects a 3% increase in sales tax revenues for 2027, balance a positive economic outlook with prudent financial planning.

Every dollar entrusted to the City of Mandeville represents the hard work of Mandeville’s residents and businesses. My administration remains committed to investing those dollars wisely while delivering the high-quality services our community expects. From a well-trained and responsive police department to keep us safe, to infrastructure improvement projects you currently see going on all over town, to family friendly entertainment and recreational opportunities, the annual budget process is the time to prioritize. This budget funds these services, and I look forward to working with all of you and our five city council members through the budget process.

The Mandeville Police Department continues to drive crime statistics down. In order to do that, Chief Schliem and I agree we need to budget money every year for training. Moreover, in order to keep Mandeville residents as safe as possible, we need to recruit the best and brightest candidates for police work. We must continue providing a competitive wage and

benefits package that allows us to recruit and retain the very best officers. This budget funds these needs. I am pleased to say that we were successful once again with getting funding through the State of Louisiana's Capital Outlay program to begin the construction on our new Mandeville Police Department Headquarters. The project will go out to bid in a few weeks, and construction will begin this year. Our Police Department deserves a new state-of-the-art building complete with training rooms and new technology initiatives. The City of Mandeville has sent a lot of tax money to Baton Rouge over the years, and my administration has focused on applying for and receiving significant funding for local projects from the state. The new Police Department Headquarters is one that I am extremely proud of!

Over the last two budget years, we have funded the update to our City of Mandeville Comprehensive Master Plan. "Mande Thrives 2045" was a citizen driven process with the community collaboration that was needed to guide us into the future. I was extremely pleased with the process. Now is the time to take the new Comp Plan and begin the process of amending our "CLURO" (the City of Mandeville's Comprehensive Land Use and Regulations Ordinance). This budget continues to fund our Planning Department and the necessary items to complete our "CLURO Amendment" process.

I have always liked to refer to our project related budget line items as "Investments In Our Community", and while the new Police Headquarters and the CLURO Amendments updates would certainly qualify as just that, I would like to highlight our significant infrastructure improvement projects we currently have going on, as well as those that will commence in this coming budget year.

This budget will continue to fund the ongoing Seawall Repair Project. The first half of that project is completed, which was the east side. The second half, or the west side, will bid and come under construction later this summer, and that will continue towards total completion in the first half of 2027.

While FEMA is paying for almost all of it, I am happy to announce that the Sunset Point Pier has commenced construction!!! This budget will fund the remaining portion, and I am hopeful the fishing pier will be completed during this budget year. This budget continues to fund design and construction activities for three new parks in Mandeville-the Carroll Street stormwater park (also a drainage improvement project), the park at 12X, and the America Street Park. With regard to drainage improvement projects, you will see the beginning phases of the neighborhood drainage improvement plans in the neighborhoods of Fontainebleau, Woodstone, Old Golden Shores, and Beau Rivage. This budget funds those improvements, as well as the design of two new additional neighborhood drainage improvement plans for both Weldon Park and Lakewood Heights.

During my first term, our engineering team and I decided to hire an engineering firm to do a citywide “Safety Study” for the entire of City of Mandeville. However, we did give the firm about ten areas to focus more heavily on. These areas were chosen based on resident feedback (messages to my office and the city council members) and police traffic accident statistics. This budget funds the preliminary design work for the top three areas of concern: Highway 190 and Starbucks (this actually comes up a lot when talking about Trader Joe’s opening), Cambronne and East Causeway Approach, and the Mandeville High School area. Our goal is to complete these designs and then hand them over to the appropriate entity (the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development-DOTD) and the Causeway (Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission-GNOEC). Our team has great relationships with these other entities who are over these roads, and we have found the best way to get a traffic improvement project done more timely is to hand over a completed design to them. This budget also continues to fund our “Striping” contract. Re-striping our roads on a continual basis gives Mandeville that fresh, crisp, and clean look that our residents deserve.

I would like to thank all of the hard-working employees of the City of Mandeville that make these services and these improvements possible on a daily basis. I would like to thank the members of the city council for the great working relationship we have. I look forward to working on this budget with you. Lastly, I would like to thank the residents of Mandeville for putting their trust in me to serve as Mayor. I hope to see everyone on July 4th. Happy 250th Birthday America and God Bless America, God Bless Louisiana, and God Bless Mandeville!