



The City of Ironton

"Overlooking The Beautiful Ohio River"

RICH BLANKENSHIP, Mayor

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January 30, 2009

Dear Citizens of Ironton,

On December 1, 2007, I took the oath of office and was sworn in as the Mayor of the City of Ironton. I made a pledge to work to turn our city around and move us in a new direction. At that time, I spoke about the new attitude and hope that we have for our city. I knew that by working together, we could overcome the challenges we face and move the city in a new direction. Using that as my guiding principle, I focused on initiatives and projects that brought people together to begin the process of moving our city forward.

The past year was about building the foundation for as successful future. Attached is my year one progress report. It is entitled "Moving Ironton Forward, Building a Foundation for a Successful Future" and outlines our accomplishments in the key areas of focus that include public safety, code enforcement, recreation, revitalized downtown, economic development, a more effective and efficient government and re-building our State profile.

I am proud that we have taken advantage of the unique opportunity to start fresh and chart a course for a new future. Change is happening and results can be seen. We are a city investing in our young professionals and our young people- the future of our city. We have made progress in the area of public safety although we still have more work to do to ensure the safety of our citizens. We have strategically focused on economic development efforts that will continue to

grow our economy. By engaging more citizens in the growth of our city, we are building stronger neighborhoods.

I am deeply honored and humbled at having the opportunity to represent you as your Mayor. Building our foundation is only the beginning. While we have momentum, there is still work ahead of us. I look forward to our continued partnership as we move toward strengthening and growing Ironton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Blankenship". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a stylized "B".

Rich Blankenship
Mayor