

AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO THE NEW YEAR, I ASK FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AND YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE BUSINESS OF OUR CITY. MEDFORD IS A COMMUNITY WITH A PROUD PAST AND A PROFOUNDLY EXCITING FUTURE.

BUT FOR MEDFORD TO REACH ITS FULL POTENTIAL, EACH OF ITS CITIZENS MUST PLAY A ROLE – DRAWING ON THE STRENGTHS OF OUR PREDECESSORS AND INSPIRED BY A VISION OF WHAT WE YET CAN BE. ONLY THEN CAN WE ATTAIN THAT OF WHICH WE ARE TRULY CAPABLE.

LET US REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO OUR COMMUNITY -TO THE CITY THAT WE CALL HOME. AND AS WE DO, LET US REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT NOTHING CAN BLOCK THE PATH TO OUR SUCCESS. IT MAY NOT BE EASY; HOWEVER, NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR WE WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE MEDFORD FORWARD.

WHILE LOCAL AID DOLLARS CONTINUE TO SHRINK HEALTH CARE COSTS CONTINUE TO RISE, ENERGY COSTS CONTINUE TO SPIRAL, SALARY INCREASES FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BECOME A GREATER CHALLENGE AND OUR

CITIZENS DEMAND MORE SERVICES; THE PRESSURES UPON OUR CITY GOVERNMENT BECOME GREATER. I WELCOME THE CHALLENGE AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY THAT GOES WITH IT. I SHALL CONTINUE TO OFFER THE LEADERSHIP NECESSARY TO MOVE OUR CITY FORWARD AND WILL NOT AVOID THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAKING HARD CHOICES.

AT A TIME WHEN URBAN AMERICA HAS BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH VIOLENCE, DISCORD AND DESTITUTION, WE IN OUR COMMUNITY CAN ONCE AGAIN SAY WITH PRIDE: MEDFORD WORKS!!

WHEN WE HONESTLY REFLECT UPON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS, WE ARRIVE AT AN UNMISTAKABLE CONCLUSION: MEDFORD IS A GREAT PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE.

MEDFORD WORKS BECAUSE OF THE COMMITMENT AND SACRIFICE OF ITS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.

MEDFORD WORKS BECAUSE OF THE VISION OF ITS BUSINESS LEADERS.

MEDFORD WORKS BECAUSE OF THE COMPASSION OF ITS PEOPLE.

**AND, MEDFORD WORKS BECAUSE, TOGETHER,
CHILDREN, YOUNG ADULTS, THE MIDDLE-AGED AND THE
ELDERLY BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF MEDFORD.**

**THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF OUR CITY DEPENDS UPON AN
EXPANDED TAX BASE. I HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH
FELLOW ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CLEAN BROWNSFIELDS,
CREATE JOBS, AND INCREASE CITY REVENUE BY
ADVOCATING FOR FIRST RATE DEVELOPMENT. STATION
LANDING FOR INSTANCE HAS PROVIDED HOUSING
OPPORTUNITIES, QUALITY RESTAURANTS, AND ATTRACTIVE
RETAIL SPACE FOR MEDFORD. BUILDING PERMITS AND
LINKAGE FEES FROM THIS PROJECT HAVE TOTALLED \$3.2
MILLION THUS FAR.**

**THIS MONTH, THE DEVELOPERS WILL ANNOUNCE THE
OPENING OF THE THREE STORY BOSTON SPORTS HEALTH
CLUB, A NEW 168 UNIT APARTMENT BUILDING WHICH
INCLUDES RESTAURANT AND RETAIL SPACE. PARKING
WILL BE EXPANDED BY AN ADDITIONAL 550 SPACES. THIS
TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT IS A MODEL FOR OTHER
COMMUNITIES TO FOLLOW.**

AS THE BUILD OUT OF STATION LANDING NEARS COMPLETION, I AM VERY PROUD AND EXCITED TO UPDATE YOU ON THE RIVERS EDGE PROJECT. THIS VENTURE HAS AS ITS VISION THE REBIRTH OF TIRED COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LAND WHICH HAD POOR INFRASTRUCTURE WAS IN VIOLATION OF MANY FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAWS AND ORDINANCES AND WAS 95% CONTAMINATED. IT OFFERED IN ITS PRESENT STATE, NO HOPE FOR FUTURE QUALITY DEVELOPMENT. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT FOR THIS PROJECT, THE FUTURE IS NOW!

WE HAVE RECEIVED \$28 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS TO MOVE THE PROJECT FORWARD AND THIS MONTH WE ARE BREAKING GROUND ON A RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT OF 220 UNITS OF LUXURY APARTMENTS FEATURING A MOVIE THEATRE, TEACHING KITCHEN, COMMUNITY ROOM, SWIMMING POOL AND 15% AFFORDABLE UNITS. THIS MONTH, THE MASTER DEVELOPER PREOTLE-LANE WILL BREAK GROUND ON AN 115,000 SQUARE FOOT OFFICE BUILDING. THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL GENERATE SUBSTANTIAL TAX REVENUE. THE BUILDING PERMIT FEES

ALONE ARE \$640,000 - NEARLY TRIPLE THE YEARLY REVENUE COLLECTED FROM ITS FORMER USE.

PREOTLE-LANE HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED A MULTI MILLION DOLLAR PARK ALONG THE MALDEN RIVER COMPLETE WITH BENCHES, VIEWING AREA AND THOUSANDS OF PLANTS AND SHRUBS THAT COMPLIMENT THE EXISTING MATURE TREES. THEY ARE ALSO PLANNING CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTI-USE ATHLETIC FIELD. TOGETHER WE HAVE TRANSFORMED A RUN DOWN, POLLUTED AREA INTO A QUALITY DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL OFFER A CLEANER ENVIRONMENT, RECREATIONAL USE FOR ALL, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, JOB CREATION, AND EXPANSION OF OUR TAX BASE. AND FOR ALL OF THESE AMENITIES, WE HAVE NOT EXPENDED A CENT OF MUNICIPAL MONIES!!!

AS THESE DEVELOPMENTS MOVE FORWARD, WE NOW MUST DEVOTE OUR ATTENTION TO THE REVITALIZATION OF MEDFORD SQUARE. THE REVITALIZATION EFFORT BEGAN WITH A \$30,000 GRANT FOR A VISIONING PROCESS WHICH LED TO THE CREATION OF A MASTER PLAN AT A

COST OF \$150,000 OF LINKAGE FUNDS. WE MUST NOW IMPLEMENT THAT PLAN.

MOST OF HIGH STREET AND TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE SIDEWALKS IN MEDFORD SQUARE HAVE BEEN RECONSTRUCTED FROM A \$200,000 MITIGATION GRANT. WE HAVE SECURED \$695,000.00 IN FEDERAL FUNDS FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF THE CONDON SHELL AND ADJACENT PARKLAND. OUR VISION IS TO ENHANCE CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE RIVERFRONT TO CONNECT THIS LONG UNDERUTILIZED AREA TO A REVITALIZED MEDFORD SQUARE. A MASTER PLAN WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC IN LATE JANUARY FOLLOWED BY DESIGN IN THE SPRING.

CONGRESSMAN ED MARKEY SECURED A \$1 MILLION GRANT FOR TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS IN MEDFORD SQUARE, INCLUDING THE REALIGNMENT OF CLIPPERSHIP DRIVE TO CREATE A RIVERFRONT PARK. TRAFFIC COUNTS ARE COMPLETE AND DETAILED SURVEY WORK IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO DEFINE THE CITY

OWNED PARCELS AND GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTNER, SELL OR LEASE FOR DEVELOPMENT.

IN JUNE 2007, THE CITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND CENTURY BANK WAS GRANTED \$1,000,000.00 FOR DESIGN OF A 250 SPACE PARKING GARAGE ON THE SITE OF THE PREVIOUS FACILITY AT GOVERNOR'S AVENUE. WE EXPECT TO ISSUE AN RFP FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY/DESIGN FOR THE PROJECT AND WILL BEGIN SEEKING ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE GARAGE IN ADDITION TO THE \$1.6 MILLION OF FEDERAL FUNDING ALREADY AWARDED. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE MBTA TO RELEASE THESE FUNDS.

THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY ALSO DEPENDS UPON SUSTAINABILITY. WE MUST LEAVE OUR CITY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS IN BETTER CIRCUMSTANCES THAN IT IS TODAY. I PLEDGE TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

WE HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES FOR OUR PRO-ACTIVE EFFORTS CONCERNING

SUSTAINABILITY. MEDFORD WAS THE FIRST CITY IN MASSACHUSETTS WITH VISION TO IMPLEMENT A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

CITY HALL WAS THE FIRST IN THE COMMONWEALTH TO ACHIEVE THE “ENERGY STAR” LABEL FOR EFFICIENCY. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE INTEGRATED BIODIESEL FUEL AND ELECTRIC CARS INTO THE CITY’S MOTOR FLEET.

MEDFORD CONVERTED TRAFFIC SIGNALS TO ENERGY STAR LIGHT EMITTING DIODES AND INSTALLED PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS AT CITY HALL AND HORMEL STADIUM. THE CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROJECT, WITH A \$500,000 GRANT, RETROFITTED OUR SCHOOL BUSES WITH DIESEL PARTICULATE FILTERS TO ACHIEVE UP TO A 90% REDUCTION IN AIR POLLUTANTS.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE SPIRALING ENERGY COSTS, I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH ALL INVOLVED TO MAKE THE INSTALLATION OF OUR FIRST WIND TURBINE AT THE JOHN J. McGLYNN SCHOOL A REALITY. THE TURBINE IS PROJECTED TO SAVE AT LEAST 10% OF OUR ENERGY COSTS AT THE SCHOOL. IT WILL NOT ONLY CUT COSTS. IT WILL

ALSO BE USEFUL IN THE EDUCATION OF OUR STUDENTS BY PROVIDING HANDS-ON TEACHING EXTOLLING THE BENEFITS OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

SHORTLY, I WILL APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO HALT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND PROMOTE INCREASED RECYCLING IN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS. THE COMMITTEE SHALL RECOMMEND METHODS TO REDUCE COSTS WHILE PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT.

THE SCHOOL REUSE COMMITTEE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE PLANS FOR SCHOOL REUSE CONSISTENT WITH THE CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. THE KENNEDY-LINCOLN COMPLEX, WILL TRANSFER OWNERSHIP IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. UPON THE SALE OF THAT COMPLEX, OUR REUSE EFFORTS WILL HAVE GENERATED \$14 MILLION IN SALES, \$250,000 IN PRO FORMA TAXES AND \$400,000 IN LINKAGE PAYMENTS. AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES WERE CREATED AND VALUABLE PIECES OF MEDFORD'S HISTORY WERE PRESERVED. TAX REVENUE IS NOW BEING GENERATED FROM THESE FORMER

TAX EXEMPT PROPERTIES. THE FUNDS EARNED FROM THE SALE OF THE OLD SCHOOLS AND THE COMMONWEALTH'S NINETY PERCENT CONTRIBUTION HAS ALLOWED US TO ATTAIN OUR GOAL OF BUILDING ALL NEW ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS, AT NO COST TO THE MEDFORD TAXPAYERS.

THE SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEES RECOMMENDED \$3 MILLION DOLLARS IN IMPROVEMENTS AT MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL ARE UNDERWAY. COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE: A NEWLY "CUSHIONED" GYM FLOOR, BLEACHERS, STEEL INTERIOR DOORS AND NEW CAFETERIA TABLES AND CHAIRS. EXTERIOR SECURITY CAMERAS WERE INSTALLED COMPLETE WITH DVR RECORDING AND MONITORING CAPABILITIES TO PROVIDE INCREASED SAFETY. THIS SPRING, THE MARSHA CARON THEATER WILL RECEIVE A FACELIFT WITH A FRESHLY PAINTED CEILING AND ENHANCED THEATRICAL LIGHTING. THIS SUMMER NEW 15 INCH STEEL LOCKERS WILL BE INSTALLED, AND WE PLAN TO RENOVATE OUR SCIENCE LABORATORIES.

A NEW HEATING UNIT WILL BE INSTALLED TO HELP IMPROVE THE OVERALL DISTRIBUTION OF HEAT THROUGHOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL. NEW TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BOTH AT THE HIGH SCHOOL AND THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL. THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL'S CULINARY ARTS AREA WILL BE UPGRADED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF A SKILLET, FRYER AND SERVING EQUIPMENT. THE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL'S PRINT SHOP WILL RECEIVE A NEW STATE OF THE ART OFFSET COLOR PRINTING MACHINE. A NEW ELEVATOR, WHEELCHAIR RAMPS AND FULLY ACCESSIBLE DOORS WILL PROVIDE FULL ACCESS TO THE ENTIRE FACILITY.

THE PRIDE PEOPLE FEEL FOR THEIR COMMUNITY REQUIRES CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT. IN RECENT YEARS, THE LEVEL OF PRIDE AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF OUR COMMUNITY HAS HIT AN ALL TIME HIGH. FROM THE JINGLE BELL FESTIVAL, CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE BUILDING AND REUSE OF OUR SCHOOLS, HOW WE HAVE PROUDLY HONORED OUR VETERANS FOR SACRIFICES MADE TO CITIZENS SIMPLY GETTING INVOLVED ON A DAILY BASIS

BY SERVING ON COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ARE BUT A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND CITY PRIDE ARE ALL ABOUT.

TODAY I AM KICKING OFF TWO PROGRAMS TO HONOR MEDFORD CITIZENS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND PROVIDE FOR FURTHER COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION. I INTEND TO ORGANIZE ANOTHER FUNDRAISING DRIVE TO HONOR THE VETERANS OF OPERATION DESERT STORM AND OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. THIS WILL COMPLETE MY VISION FOR HONORING ALL MEDFORD VETERANS FOR THEIR UNSELFISH AND HEROIC SERVICE IN ALL WARS, CRISES, AND CONFLICTS. AS WE DO SO LET US PRAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER NEED FOR ANY ADDITIONAL MONUMENTS.

ALSO, TO THOSE WHOSE MILITARY SERVICE MET THE CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION ON THE WORLD WAR II, KOREAN AND VIETNAM MONUMENTS DEDICATED THIS PAST FALL, BUT WHO WERE INADVERTLY LEFT OFF, OUR VETERAN'S SERVICES OFFICE WILL BEGIN COLLECTING ADDITIONAL NAMES FROM JANUARY 23, 2008 TO MARCH 4, 2008. ONCE

THOSE NAMES ARE COMPILED, WE WILL DETERMINE WHAT CORRECTIVE ACTION MAY BE TAKEN.

A SECOND FUNDRAISING DRIVE WILL BE A COMMUNITY PROJECT TO PROMOTE THE ARTS IN MEDFORD. NEW YORK, BOSTON, AND CHICAGO, PROMOTED THE ARTS BY PAINTING AND DISPLAYING COWS THROUGHOUT THEIR CITIES. SINCE MEDFORD IS THE HOME OF THE MUSTANGS AND FOR OUR YOUNGER ATHLETES, THE COLTS, I INTEND TO ORGANIZE A FUNDRAISING DRIVE TO RAISE, TO PURCHASE, PAINT AND LATER PLACE STATUES OF MUSTANGS & COLTS (NOT COWS!!!) THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY. THE GOAL IS TO PROMOTE ART. THE MUSTANGS & COLTS EACH WILL HAVE A THEME, WHICH WILL REFLECT ARTISTIC ABILITY AND WILL SERVE TO EDUCATE OUR YOUTH BY DEPICTING PAINTINGS WHICH EXHIBIT: SCIENCE, GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE PROTECTION, FINANCE AND CITY HISTORY, AS SOME EXAMPLES. THESE PIECES OF ART WILL BE PLACED WHERE FAMILIES AND VISITORS CAN VIEW THEM. BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL BE

ENCOURAGED TO ADOPT A STATUE IN CONSIDERATION FOR PUBLICITY.

THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH, THE LAST FOUR FISCAL YEARS HAVE SEEN LOCAL RESIDENTAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS BEAR AN UNFAIR FINANCIAL BURDEN. STATE AID HAS BEEN DRAMATICALLY REDUCED. A RECESSION WAS ENDURED. DEFLATED VALUES FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES OVER THE SAME PERIOD ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE UNFAIR SHIFT IN THE TAX BURDEN UPON HOMEOWNERS. IN AFFECT, RESIDENTIAL TAXPAYERS SUBSIDIZED THE COMMERCIAL RATES. BUT NOT THIS YEAR IN MEDFORD!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, MEDFORD'S RESIDENTAL TAX RATE WILL RESULT IN ACTUAL TAX CUTS BASED ON AVERAGE OR BELOW AVERAGE HOME VALUES. TODAY MEDFORD RANKS 3RD LOWEST OUT OF 22 SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES FOR RESIDENTAL TAX RATES, WE RANK 10TH LOWEST OF 22 COMMUNITIES FOR COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL TAX RATES. WHILE MANY COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO SEEK PROP 2 ½ OVERRIDES, WE

CONTINUE TO BE INNOVATIVE AND THEREFORE ABLE TO REJECT ANY EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ANY PROPOSITION 2 1/2 OVERRIDES.

AS I REFLECT UPON THE PAST, I LIKEN THE EXPERIENCE TO THAT OF A JOURNEY WHERE MILESTONES WERE REACHED AND PROGRESS WAS PAINSTAKENLY PLODDED.

YET FOR ALL WE HAVE DONE, THERE REMAINS MUCH TO DO. OUR JOURNEY TO THE FUTURE WILL BE FILLED WITH FAMILIAR CHALLENGES AND NEW FOUND OBSTACLES. BUT WE WILL FIND SUCCESS AS LONG AS WE REMAIN FORWARD THINKING, OPEN-MINDED AND PROGRESSIVE.

STARTING TODAY, LET US COLLECTIVELY BEGIN A NEW ERA OF ACHIEVEMENT. LET US CONTINUE TO MOVE MEDFORD FORWARD AND LET US DO SO BY RELYING UPON THE POSITIVE SENSE OF COMMUNITY WE HAVE FOSTERED OVER THESE PAST YEARS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT FEW YEARS WITH TRUE OPTIMISM. I FEEL ENERGIZED BY ALL THAT LIES AHEAD AND INVITE EVERYONE TO ENLIST IN OUR JOURNEY

**FOR EVEN A BETTER MEDFORD BECAUSE THIS IS THE PLACE
WE CALL HOME.**