

Weekly Column for January 16, 2009

Good morning everyone! Hopefully you are doing your best to keep warm during these last few days. Judging by the forecast, we're in it for the long haul. Winter has certainly arrived in the Northeast.

Earlier this week, we held a public hearing concerning the upcoming year of Community Development Block Grant funding. The meeting was well attended by members of the community, and many good ideas were discussed. The competition for funding this year for the \$2 million pool of money we expect to receive will be fierce, and we are truly hoping that anyone that believes they may have a unique idea that will benefit Troy will apply.

For the past few years we have made a conscious effort to reward neighborhood groups and community efforts to rehabilitate the City and provide the groundwork for reinvestment and economic development in the qualifying areas of Troy.

Whether it was the early stages of the gateway improvements in South Troy, the rehabilitation of Barker Park, our Neighborhood Improvement through Code Enforcement (NICE), or any number of successful programs, we have made it our goal to make sure that this money is given directly to the people of Troy, and spent in a manner consistent with its original use.

We are pleased that the changes to the CDBG program since I took office have allowed Troy to better focus on its neighborhoods, infrastructure improvements, and actual community development. The dates of this year's program run between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010.

If you are interested in submitting an application, please contact our Department of Housing and Community Development at 270-4619 as soon as possible for all the details.

Finally this week, I would like to invite everyone to the Annual State of the City Address, which will take place on Thursday evening, February 5th, beginning at 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

If you have elderly neighbors, do try and keep an eye on them over the next week.

Have a great weekend, and stay warm!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy