

State of the City Address
Mayor Michael Julius
January 1, 2014

Good afternoon and Happy New Year! Thank you for attending today's Oath of Office Ceremony for our newly elected officials:

Chris Swatt	Council Member-at-Large
Kathi Iannotti	Council Member Ward 2
Edwin Queeney	Council Member Ward 4
Michael Gifford	City Treasurer
Thomas Walsh	City Court Judge

I am pleased to report that the City of Johnstown is fiscally sound. However, for some of our citizens what matters has not changed. They are faced with economic anxiety, afraid of losing their jobs and their economic security. I am firmly convinced that the decisions we make on the issues before us will determine our economic future and whether or not our children will choose Johnstown as the place to work and to raise their families.

We are currently at a crossroads. Do we take the path of least resistance or do we take a bold, innovative path? Judging from the current make up of our council I trust that the right decision will be made.

My goals for the coming year are as follows:

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First, to refocus the direction of our local economy. I'm referring to advanced manufacturing jobs. In other words, we need to attract small to mid-size companies involved in the supply chain to Global Foundries in Malta and the upcoming facility in Utica. By succeeding in attracting this type of industry to the area we will be able to expand our tax base and lower our property taxes, giving much needed relief to our citizens.

Second, we need to immediately improve our neighborhoods. New families moving to Johnstown will need quality housing. We must reform our current Building Codes so that our Code Enforcers will be able to do their job more effectively and fairly.

Third, we need to gear up for the future by working as a facilitator with FMCC and other local schools. Currently FMCC is graduating students in Clean Room Technology programs. These job training programs will be a valuable draw for high tech jobs looking to locate here.

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Fourth, funding the bus run to Johnstown is a necessary and positive step toward improving the quality of life of this community. Public transportation will allow our citizens easier access to the Public Library, the Community Center, the Senior Center, the YMCA and local shopping.

I look forward to working together with everyone to help achieve these goals.

Finally I would like to give special thanks to my wife Catherine, my daughter Vicki and my good friend Helen James for all their help in my campaign. Thank you also to my close friends, to the Women Democrats, to the Fulton County Democrats and everyone else who supported me. Thanks again to everyone here today.