State of the City 2009
Mayor Carson Ross
“I Look to You”

Staying the Course, Embracing Challenges,
Turning Vision into Opportunity
State of the City 2009

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Your Blue Springs

BusinessWeek’s™ 2010 Best Place to Raise a Family in the State of Missouri
What Blue Springs has to offer:

**History of Population Growth**

Currently the 10th Largest City in the State of Missouri
City Outlook

What Blue Springs has to offer:

2008 Property Tax Rates for Selected Missouri Cities - City Portion Only

- Grain Valley: 1.67
- Lee's Summit: 1.49
- Kansas City: 1.47
- Oak Grove: 0.80
- Blue Springs (Proposed 2009 levy): 0.7259
- Blue Springs: 0.70
- Independence: 0.65

Property taxes are second lowest in the immediate metropolitan area.
City Outlook
What Blue Springs has to offer:

Local Sales Tax Rates - City Portion Only
(Does Not Include TDD and CID Sales Taxes)

- Oak Grove: 2.50%
- Kansas City: 2.375%
- Lee's Summit: 2.375%
- Liberty: 2.250%
- Grain Valley: 2.50%
- Independence: 2.25%
- Blue Springs: 1.50%

Reflects City portions only. Blue Springs is the lowest of all local municipalities.
Embracing Challenges: Maintaining Quality of Life in a Challenging Economy

Staying the Course, Embracing Challenges, Turning Vision into Opportunity
Embracing Challenges: Maintaining Quality of Life in a Challenging Economy

- Responding to financial trends
- Planning for the future, seeking alternative revenue sources
Embracing Challenges: Maintaining Quality of Life in a Challenging Economy

- Maintaining essential city services
- A City of distinction
When Citizens Spoke:
Priorities and Accomplishments for 2009

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When Citizens Spoke:
Priorities and Accomplishments for 2009

- Quality of police
- Maintenance of city streets
- Infrastructure: improvement of traffic flow
- Community development and planning
- Enforcement of building and property maintenance
When Citizens Spoke:

About Public Safety

• **2009:** 78% of residents pleased with police services and protection

• **2009:** 83% of residents feel safe in their neighborhoods

• **2009:** 72% of residents pleased with quick response of Blue Springs Police Department to emergencies
Staying the Course: Maintaining Excellence in Public Safety

- Mayor’s Advisory Board on Public Safety
- Citizens’ Police Academy
- Addition of 3 new officer positions
- Increased police visibility in neighborhoods

- Success of crime prevention programs
  - Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)
  - 2010 National Night Out
  - Blue Springs Police Satellite Stations
When Citizens Spoke:

About City Infrastructure and Streets

• **2009**: 76% of residents pleased with City snow removal
• **2009**: 67% of residents pleased with cleanliness of City streets and public areas
• **2009**: 55% of residents said additional focus needed on maintenance of major City streets
• **2009**: 51% of residents said additional focus needed on traffic flow on Woods Chapel Road
• **2009**: 23% of residents called for an increase in bicycle lanes and pedestrian walkways
Staying the Course:  
*Focusing on Quality Streets and Transportation*

- Support of Council, Staff and Citizen Boards
- Initial work started for 2008 $28 million bond package
- 2009 street overlay and rehabilitation program
  - $2.5 million for 2009/2010 budget year
  - 49 miles completed since 2007
Staying the Course:  
*Focusing on Quality Streets and Transportation*

- Support of Council, Staff and Citizen Boards
- Initial work started for 2008 bond issues
- 2009 street overlay and rehabilitation program
  - $2.5 million for 2009/2010 budget year
  - 49 miles completed since 2007
- Approved $10.5 million in 2009 budget for street bond project (includes Woods Chapel Road improvements)
Where We Are Now:
Status of 2008 Voter-Approved Bond Projects

• **Sni-A-Bar Treatment Plant Expansion**
  Project Start Date: March 2010
  Anticipated Date of Completion: December 2012

• **Moreland Extension**
  Project Start Date: March 2010
  Anticipated Date of Completion: December 2010

• **Highway 7 and Colbern Road**
  Project Start Date: March 2011
  Anticipated Date of Completion: December 2012

• **Woods Chapel, I-70 to Castle Drive**
  Project Start Date: June 2011
  Anticipated Date of Completion: December 2012

• **Woods Chapel, Castle Drive to RailRoad**
  Project Start Date: June 2012
  Anticipated Date of Completion: December 2013

• **Woods Chapel, I-70 to Duncan Road**
  Project Start Date: June 2011
  Anticipated Date of Completion: December 2012
Staying the Course:

Focusing on Quality Streets and Transportation

- Support of Council, Staff and Citizen Boards
- Initial work started for 2008 bond issues
- 2009 street overlay and rehabilitation program
  - $2.5 million for 2009/2010 budget year
  - 49 miles completed since 2007
- Approved $10.5 million in 2009 for street bond project (includes Woods Chapel Road improvements)
- $3.5 million in Federal stimulus funds
  - Street overlay - New walking trails
  - Downtown sidewalks - Ball field lighting
  - Wastewater treatment plant expansion
  - Pink Hill Recycling Center
When Citizens Spoke:

About Community Improvements, Development and Planning

- **2009**: 61% of residents pleased with overall appearance of the City
- **2009**: 53% of residents pleased with enforcement of sign regulations (12% increase from 2008)
- **2009**: 50% of residents said additional focus needed on removal of litter and debris along city streets
- **2009**: 44% of residents called for additional focus on code enforcement issues such as mowing and trimming on public and private property
Staying the Course: Creating a Quality Community

- Support of Council, Staff and Citizen Commissions (Planning, Solid Waste)

- Successful first year - Property Maintenance Code and Minor Home Repair Program (MHRP)
  - 2009: 11 homes receive MHRP grants totaling over $50,000
Staying the Course:  
Creating a Quality Community

• Support of Council, Staff and Citizen Commissions (Planning, Solid Waste)

• Successful first year - Property Maintenance Code and Minor Home Repair Program (MHRP)
  – 2009: 11 homes receive MHRP grants totaling over $50,000

• Restructured Adopt-a-Street program

• 2010: City will begin construction Pink Hill Recycling Center at Pink Hill Park
Turning Vision Into Opportunity

Setting a Course for the Future

Staying the Course, Embracing Challenges, Turning Vision into Opportunity
Strong City Leadership

• Focused on engagement and communication
  – Council members actively involved in city issues
  – Award winning City Communications, Blue Springs Magazine
  – Mayor’s bi-monthly newsletter, News Happenings Around Town

• Embracing diversity
  – In 2008/2009 five (5) African-Americans appointed to City boards and commissions
Strong City Leadership

• **Focused on engagement**
  – Council members actively involved in city issues

• **Embracing diversity**
  – In 2008/2009 five (5) African-Americans appointed to City boards and commissions

• **Fostering regional collaboration**
  – Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council (Co-Chair)
  – Metropolitan Mayor’s Caucus (Chair)
  – Governing Board of Missouri Municipal League (MML), (Vice-President)
  – United Way of Greater Kansas City Board of Trustees
Maintaining Viable Economic Opportunities
Adams Dairy Landing in Blue Springs
Maintaining Viable Economic Opportunities

Missouri Innovation Park at Blue Springs
Maintaining Viable Economic Opportunities

New and Redeveloped Businesses in Blue Springs
Maintaining Viable Economic Opportunities

• Adams Dairy Landing moving forward
• Missouri Innovation Park at Blue Springs
• New business throughout the City
• Thriving partnership with Economic Development Corporation and other public/private partners
• City positioned for future growth and quality development
When Citizens Spoke: The City Listened...

...And Responded

- Improved in 75 of 87 service areas assessed in 2008-2009
- City’s ratings improved while national averages dropped by 6%
- Most city service areas improved by at least 10%
- City is in touch with citizens needs and continues to prioritize resources wisely
The Importance of “You”

- Blue Springs City Council
- Blue Springs City Staff
- Blue Springs Boards and Commissions
- Blue Springs Business Community

And most importantly...
Striving to Meet Your Needs
“I Look to You”
State of the City 2009
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