



OFFICE of the MAYOR

The Honorable Ashton J. Hayward, III  
Mayor  
City of Pensacola  
222 West Main Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Mayor Hayward,

As I approach the end of my commitment for a year of service, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight the work we have accomplished over the last year to move Pensacola forward into a robust economic recovery.

As a city, we have been successful with taking on many challenges.

Under your leadership and direction, our team has focused on taking advantage of \$7 million in outside funding to develop or improve stormwater projects including the new Corrine Jones stormwater pond, increased capacity for Gaberrone Swamp and the Airport stormwater pond, and pending project approval for water quality improvement for Maggie's Ditch. We have taken the lead in finding stormwater solutions from the Spring Flood of 2014 by contracting for studies on how our existing stormwater system performed under this storm and how to improve it with mitigation projects that will bring added protection to Pensacola homes and businesses. Simultaneously, we have developed project proposals and funding applications for as many projects as we can get approved under the FEMA Hurricane Mitigation Grant Program.

We've energized the Port of Pensacola by hiring a forward-thinking director and staff. The result has led expansion of an existing tenant's activities to bring in additional marine traffic and attract visitors from the region to the downtown area for shopping and dining. Our partnership with Governor Scott's economic development team at Enterprise Florida for a downtown working waterfront secured a lease with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for an \$18 million Gulf of Mexico Marine Fisheries Enhancement Center next to our premier baseball stadium that will bring fisheries research front and center into the city's prime downtown location.

Your determined focus on economic recovery for all of our city included developing Pensacola International Airport as a regional airhub. With the addition of Southwest Airlines at the airport, passengers can now connect to major hubs throughout the country in a sophisticated venue of food and beverage concessions provided by a certified minority business, OHM. The recent announcement of a grant to expand the airport's cargo apron will signify to aeronautical companies that PIA is open for commercial enterprises. It is my hope, as I know it is yours, that ST Aerospace, a high-value, global company, will be the first to the gate.

Pensacola is a city rich in property and you recognized that by bringing in the global company, CBRE, Inc., to market the properties on a global scale. As CBRE implements the marketing plan for the CMPA, the Port and Airport, it should see responses from many interested parties as the word spreads that Pensacola is a hot market. The Community Redevelopment Agency has been re-energized by the availability of the Hawkshaw property as a great waterfront venue for a showcase real estate development at the Pensacola gateway.

This diversity of industrial, educational and business development will provide a sustainable climate that creates jobs for Pensacola. Our accomplishments have been many in a short period of time and could not have been done without benefit of the Strong Mayor/Council form of government voted on by the citizens in 2010. You have implemented the mandate to move city government from a “debating” body to a “doing” body.

Our successes have been accomplished by the incredibly hard working and dedicated employees of the City of Pensacola, including our police, our firefighters, our transportation experts, building and code inspectors, the sanitation team, the ball park team, the Tech team and finance team.

So it is with high-placed confidence in you and your team that I hereby tender my resignation effective September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. I am honored to have worked with you, Mayor Hayward, and thankful for the opportunity to work with the fine team of professionals on the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor to implement these many accomplishments.

Warm Regards,

Colleen M. Castille  
City Administrator