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LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
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MAY 26, 2016

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PRESIDENT YATES: The Special Louisville Metro Council meeting of May 26th, 2016, will please come to order.

Please rise for the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

[Pledge of allegiance.]

Mr. Clerk, a roll call, please.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Green.

COUNCILWOMAN GREEN: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Shanklin.

COUNCILWOMAN SHANKLIN: Present.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Woolridge.

COUNCILWOMAN WOOLRIDGE: Present.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Tandy.

COUNCILMAN TANDY: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Hamilton.

COUNCILWOMAN BRYANT HAMILTON: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member James.

COUNCILMAN JAMES: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Leet.

COUNCILWOMAN LEET: Present.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Owen.

Council Member Hollander.

COUNCILMAN HOLLANDER: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Mulvihill.

COUNCILMAN MULVIHILL: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Kramer.

COUNCILMAN KRAMER: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Blackwell.

COUNCILMAN BLACKWELL: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Aubrey Welch.

COUNCILWOMAN AUBREY WELCH: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Fowler.

COUNCILWOMAN FOWLER: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Butler.

Council Member Downard.

COUNCILMAN DOWNARD: Honored to be here for my last budget address. Present. And you are happy too.

>> You happy because it is your last one too or because I'm gone?

MR. CLERK: Council Member Stuckel. Let's get going here.

Council Member Parker.

Council Member Denton.

COUNCILWOMAN DENTON: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Benson.

COUNCILMAN BENSON: Present.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Johnson.

Council Member Engel.

COUNCILMAN ENGEL: Present.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Peden.

COUNCILMAN PEDEN: I'm relieved this is finally his last budget presentation as well.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Flood.

COUNCILWOMAN FLOOD: I'm here and I'm going to miss Kelly Downard's input on the budget.

MR. CLERK: President Yates.

PRESIDENT YATES: Present.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Ackerson.

COUNCILMAN ACKERSON: Here.

MR. CLERK: Council Member Owen.

Mr. President, you have 23 in attendance and you have a quorum.

PRESIDENT YATES: Mr. Clerk, would you please cause the record to reflect that Council Members Parker and Johnson have excused absences tonight?

MR. CLERK: So noted.

PRESIDENT YATES: Mr. Clerk, a reading of the special call.

MR. CLERK: Dear President Yates and Mr. Ott: Pursuant to KRS 67 C-103967.105 and five and section 3.07 of the rules of the Louisville Metro Council, I am hereby giving notice and calling a special meeting of the Louisville Metro Council for Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the members of council chambers of city hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to present the Louisville Metro Government operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2016 and 2017.
Sincerely, Greg Fischer, Mayor.

PRESIDENT YATES: Is that read in full?

MR. CLERK: Read in full. Excuse me.

PRESIDENT YATES: Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen in the audience, and those watching on Metro TV, each year by law our mayor presents a budget for Metro Government for the last day of May. The members of council then has until the last day of June to review and pass the budget. For our honor today to have with us our mayor who will present his proposed budget for fiscal year 2016 and 2017. Please welcome Mayor Greg Fischer.

MAYOR FISCHER: Hi. Well, thank you, everybody, it is an honor to be here before you all today. Thanks to the members of council. Thank you for all the service. I'm proud to serve alongside of you all, whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, new to Metro Government or a longtime public servant, each of us raised our right hand and took the same oath when we first came into office.

I first did that on a really cold morning in January of 2011 and like each of you all, I swore that I never fought any duels with deadly weapons, which is still true to today. And I promised to be faithful and true to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and to faithfully execute to the best of my ability the office of mayor.

I made a fundamental commitment, a promise, to protect our citizens' safety, invest their tax money wisely, and do everything I can to make this city a place where every citizen in every neighborhood has the opportunity to reach their full human potential.

The budget I'm proposing which helps fulfill that promise and was put together in consultation with members of the members of Council Budget Committee, strikes a critical balance by focusing on areas of immediate concern such as paving bumpy and deteriorating roads, while also making the necessary investments to keep our city moving forward. This budget anticipates our needs, builds on our success.

When I first took office in 2011, our city faced a serious structural deficit budget problem, a 22 and a half million dollar deficit, ten percent unemployment, and tremendous anxiety and uncertainty about the future. We took on all those challenges together. We smartly cut expenses and created a more lean government through programs like LOUISTAT. We focused on continuous improvement and innovation and now we have a structurally balanced budget. We received strong ratings from the

nation's major credit agencies, telling the world that the home of the Kentucky DERBY is a good bet. We were the fourth fastest city in America to recover from the recession. We have added 47,000 jobs. We just learned that April's unemployment rate is 4.1 percent. We welcomed new businesses and welcomed billions in new investment. With your economy has great momentum and this budget contains funding for programs that will help us extend that momentum.

At the same time, as we look at our city's needs, it is clear that while the economy is no longer suffering the effects of the recession, our city's infrastructure is another story. Our city's almost 240 years old. That history is a strength and an asset, but with that history comes potholes in our roadways, bridges whose foundations buckle and become unsafe, cracks in our sidewalks, and buildings badly in need of repair. You all heard about these challenges during council hearings over the past month. These deferred maintenance challenges demand our attention now. You know, it, I know it, and our citizens certainly know it.

The truth is to fully address all of our citywide deferred maintenance needs -- roads, bridges, parks, city-owned buildings and more -- would take every single one of the \$583 million in our budget's general fund, and then some on top of that.

So one, our road conditions. The most frequently cited need for improvement. I am proposing 23 and a half million dollars in street infrastructure improvements. That's more than double last year's recommended budget and it is the largest recommended infusion of dollars for paving since merger.

[Applause.]

These funds will also align with the fix-it first strategy outlined in the Louisville plan. \$23.5 million is a down payment we must make to fix the streets all across the city that are most urgently in need of repairs.

We also recognize that we can't just repair our roadways, we also need to prepare them for a transportation future that will look different from the past. One example can be seen with the move Louisville plans to remake Broadway, our primary east/west corridor into an easier, more efficient route for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, which is one of the top recommendations of move Louisville. This is similar to what we are doing with Dixie Highway. First we plan for how we would remake it and then we secured state and federal funding, and now the Dixie do-over is getting done.

[Applause.]

Research insists and feedback tells us the upgrades are critical because they make it easier for our citizens to walk and bike and citizens, especially young professionals, want more ways to move around town than just drive their own cars. That's why of the 23 and a half million dollars we are investing \$3 million to repair sidewalks and \$500,000 to create new bike lanes and shared lanes. With this budget --

[Applause.]

So, council members, with this budget we will grow our city's on-street bike network from 135 to 200 miles. It is all part of our efforts to provide better smoother transportation options for citizens, whether in cars, bikes, on foot, or in wheelchairs.

Now you will know that everything in the city is connected. If we want people to reach their full human potential, basic needs have to be met. And one of those is housing. Today we have too many citizens who

lack access to affordable housing. More than 60,000 households in Louisville currently meet the federal government's standard as being overly cost-burdened. That means these families spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing, which often compromises citizens in other vital areas like paying medical expenses, buying shoes for the kids, saving for college, or even just an unanticipated emergency.

Last year we made a \$12 million commitment on affordable housing through Louisville cares. That was the biggest commitment to affordable housing in our city's history. That is helping to preserve or create 1500 affordable housing units, specifically designed to provide workforce housing to working families.

Now that's a very good step, but we need to build on that even more. And there has been a great deal of conversation between citizens and the members of council about housing issues recently. Earlier this month Council Member Bill Hollander said it best, and I will quote him. "With the recovering economy and increasing metro revenue, it is inexcusable and short-sighted to leave behind our most vulnerable residents who need safe and decent places to live."

[Applause.]

So it is time for us to do more. That's why I'm proposing we make a significant investment in the affordable housing trust fund. My budget commits two and a half million dollars to the fund. And should the council decide to renew the LG&E franchise agreement, which is currently before you all, and generates \$5 million a year, the people of Louisville could have a dedicated recurring source of revenue for affordable housing.

[Applause.]

We all know that our citizens are capable of great things. But we have to provide more stable affordable housing options in order to help

more of our citizens succeed. Like Melissa Bush. Melissa is a single mom, standing up right here, who moved to Louisville from Louisiana in 1998. One goal she had was to get a job and get a job fast. She did that almost right away and has worked ever since. Another goal was to buy her own home. She spent 15 years in section eight housing, moved nine times, then she got connected with river city housing, which received support from Metro Government. Today Melissa owns a lovely three-bedroom home. Melissa's daughter told her we are so glad you bought this house because now we will always have someplace to come home to. Melissa is here with us today. Thank you, Melissa. Great job.

[Applause.]

So that's what we can do by investing in affordable housing, help citizens live better lives, provide stability for generations of our families, and strengthen the economy at the same time.

There are many ways we can create pathways to prosperity for our citizens. One way we do this is by promoting lifelong learning, one of our city's values. Our libraries are lifelong learning hubs throughout our city. In 2009 you all, the Metro Council, approved the Louisville free public library's updated master facilities plan. And in 2014 we opened the gorgeous new Southwest Regional Library which has one numerous awards for its design. Next spring we will open the beautiful south central regional library in Okolona.

And today to complete the regional library vision of the library master plan, I'm committing funds to planning and designing a new Northeast Regional Library.

[Applause.]

We plan to build the new Northeast Regional Library in a park-like setting on land the city already owns near the intersection of

new Lagrange Road and Whips Mill Road near the YMCA. This 40,000 square foot state of the art facility will replace the much smaller Westport branch and be a place that inspires learning at all stages of life. One of my goals for next year's budget will be to fund the construction of that library.

This will add another beautiful library to our city, and of course when you think about our city, we have a beautiful city. But the truth is that some people do not respect the beauty of our city. Graffiti and litter are all too common eyesores. That's why this budget adds resources and organizes a new clean and bright team to tackle graffiti and litter and help us truly showcase the beauty of our city. This cross-functional team with employees from public works, and Brightside along with additional funds in the budget will help send a message in the budget of being clean and bright all throughout Louisville.

Successful public spaces showcase pride. Look at Waterfront Park for a great example. Remember how it looked before? Not so good. Today Waterfront Park is Louisville's front yard. That transformation is a point of pride that has been honored as one of the great water front developments in the world. Let's extend that transformation westward. Today the area along the river from 9 To 13th Street is filled with vacant lots and overgrown weeds. Transforming that space into something green and beautiful and family-friendly will help quality of life, boost property values and increase movement and commerce in downtown and west Louisville.

[Applause.]

Our city was founded on the Ohio River. Then for years we turned our back on the river. Today we recognize that our future and our identity are forever and proudly tied to the river. That's why we must

make Waterfront Park phase four a reality, and this budget starts that process.

[Applause.]

Part of our job is to meet the needs of today as we prepare for tomorrow, and we are glad at doing both. Dell computing named us one of the future leaders. We are prepared to make a great leap into the future with our technology infrastructure. We have the opportunity to bring our citizens ultra fast gigabit Internet. We can streamline permitting and other processes. This investment will allow us to hire three inspectors and two engineers as well as contract workers to help navigate the permitting processes as efficiently as possible. Becoming the next Google Fiber city, for example, will help us attract and retain talent and reinforce the critical message that we are sending to the world about our city. In Louisville we are not just getting ready for our future -- we are making it happen. That means building on our successes to create even greater opportunities. And that's what this budget is designed to do.

We have had some great success with metro animal services. With our live release rate, we have gone from about 40 percent live release when our administration started to 83 percent today. And it is trending upwards.

[Applause.]

Now to take LMAS to the next level we have to address the situation at the Manslick Road Animal Shelter. This was built in the sixties in what would now be considered a flooding zone. It has been a challenged facility for a long time. It is falling apart and cannot serve the animal control needs of our city and the services we are required to offer under the law. This existing facility is too small, too old, and

too inefficient. Faulty heating and wiring have led to fires. When it rains, the place floods, leading to chaos in this facility.

So this budget includes \$3.4 million along with the \$1.8 million set aside last year to build the new shelter that will be attached to animal house on Newberg road. And this will give us a full service facility that provides a healthier and safer environment for dogs, cats and other animals, and obviously the people who care for them.

[Applause.]

Obviously there are too many proposed investments to list all of them, but I would like to highlight a few more. Today is the last day of school for JCPS, and while summer can be fun, kids can get bored and restless and many suffer from summer learning loss. That's why we are again expanding hours and programming at our community centers this summer. We are also continuing our commitment to the very popular cultural paths program which gives students free access to cultural institutions that promote learning like the Frazier History Museum, the Ali Center, and the Louisville zoo. And speaking of your Louisville zoo, it is also one of the top tourist attractions in our city. That's why we propose \$1 million for repairs and upkeep to keep this valuable community resource going strong.

We also have a tremendous parks system that our citizens love. Unfortunately, compared to other cities, our level of investment in our park system is in the bottom quartile. So I am proposing \$1.7 million in this budget for repairs and maintenance in our Metro Parks like Jefferson Memorial Forest, which offers 35 miles of hiking trails that tens of thousands of citizens use every year.

[Applause.]

Likewise, Slugger Field has been an award-winning attraction to our downtown for 16 years. The bats recently welcomed their ten millionth fan. It is also home to our Louisville FC soccer team. So this budget has \$4 million for basic repairs and maintenance to HVAC, bathrooms, and other items in this facility that we own as a city.

In addition, we want to build on the success we have had engaging our citizens through our public art projects. Our first temporary public art exhibit on the banks of the Ohio River near tenth street West Louisville was a huge success, attracting tens of thousands of people to a space that few people had visited before. The project called connect and disconnect also served as a featured location for resurfacing. These works of art sparked people's imagination and conversation and that's just what public art is supposed to do. The \$100,000 in this budget will allow us to create another major public art project. Our summer works program has grown from summer jobs for 200 kids in the first year of our administration to more than 2500 last year, and we plan on even more this year. This year's budget will allow us to hire an additional 100 kids and provide additional staff support for the participants and employers alike.

Also, if you want to ensure that the economy is working for everyone, we must support entrepreneurs and small businesses. In particular, it is critical we promote minority, women, veteran, disabled-owned small businesses. We recently created a new online vendor portal that makes it easier for potential vendors to connect with Metro Government. It also allows our agencies to be more aware of local providers of local goods and services. The portal is another example of how we are using technology to work with vendors in a way that is more cost-effective. It also allows us to better identify minority, women,

veteran, and disabled entrepreneurs. We see tremendous potential for economic growth amongst these businesses. To maximize that potential, we need to know more about who they are. This budget funds a purchasing disparity study which will tell us more about these enterprises and how we might help them find opportunities to grow their business.

[Applause.]

Since merger, city revenue is up significantly, while our employee head count is down. City government today is getting more done with fewer people. To maintain that efficiency, we have to invest in our operating these much like we are investing in our rose. That is why this budget includes \$14.6 million for technology and software upgrades, including the replacement of revenue collection software which has been here since the last century.

One challenge some of our neighborhoods face are vacant and abandoned properties. This blight brings down property values and serves as incubators for criminal activity. Since taking office, we have helped in enact five changes to state law that make it easier for us to deal with properties that have been abandoned by their legal owners, but there is still a lot of work to do. That is why we are continuing our commitment to our neighborhoods in this budget by replacing other external funding sources that have run their course. I propose devoting \$1 million from the general fund to support demolition, foreclosure and remediation of vacant and abandoned properties.

[Applause.]

We are also committing \$2.6 million to support the ongoing revitalization and reimagination of the Russell neighborhood. This money will support a variety of goals, like helping more people stay in their homes by making needed home repairs. It will also help us build new

sidewalks around the food port, which will bring jobs to the area. And it is part of our broader strategy to bring more opportunity and more jobs to West Louisville.

We are also focused on the health and resiliency of our citizens. Because of the urban heat island effect, our city's urban core can be as much as ten degrees hotter than outlying areas. These high temperatures exacerbate many health conditions. On this front we received very good news yesterday that Louisville has been chosen by the Rockefeller foundation to join the 100 resilient cities, which will help us address many of these environmental and health sustainability issues. Additionally, this budget includes \$100,000 incentive program to help commercial buildings install white or green roofs through our cool 502 initiative. Trees are also part of the solution, cleaning our air, providing shade, cooling our temperatures, and helping with storm water runoff. We need massive private sector assistance for more trees. For the public response, this budget will allow us to plant trees throughout our city. We will also place trees in public right of ways, particularly in areas of town that need more trees, like West Louisville. This investment will enable us to provide better care for the trees we already have and fund a greenhouse gas emissions study so we can make our air cleaner and our citizens healthier.

[Applause.]

Of course some of our health needs are urgent, tragic, and require an immediate response. I'm talking about alcohol and drug addiction. Addiction affects families in every ZIP code and cannot be ignored. That's why I propose we invest 500,000 for capital improvements at the Healing Place, which will allow us to expand its work helping people recovering from addiction. Every day our public safety

professionals are on the job fighting the scourge of addiction as well as other challenges that impact safety. Louisville Metro police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, emergency service professionals, and everyone who devotes themselves to the protection of our citizens.

Public safety is our first responsibility, and as such it is our largest investment. 58 percent of our general fund appropriation goes to public safety. This year our public safety professionals cited the critical need for new vehicles to replace an aging fleet. We are proposing \$12 million next year to pay for new police cars, fire trucks and ambulances, as well as snowplows and garbage trucks. We also need 40 new firefighters and four more classes of recruits at LMPD to replace officers who are retiring or leaving the force. Overall, we are hiring 122 LMPD officers. That's the most police officers we have ever hired in a single fiscal year.

[Applause.]

That includes 22 officers who are being hired through federal grants. That's one of the many ways our leveraging our citizens' tax investment for the greatest possible benefit. That's particularly critical in public safety, as we are seeing a rise in homicides and violent crime that sadly mirrors what is happening in many cities nationwide. We are reallocating \$640,000 to pay for more overtime for our officers. That will help us fund crime-fighting strategies in our highest-crime neighborhoods. We are also devoting \$300,000 to expand the MetroWatch camera system and install more cameras in all eight police divisions throughout the city in known high-crime areas.

Crime is a challenge. We know we can't arrest our way to a solution and will continue to marshal all of our resources. That is why we created the safe and healthy neighborhoods, which has leveraged tens of

millions of dollars in grants to keep people off the street and on the right path. They have done it in three years and earned national recognition along the way. It is a good investment which is why there is funding in the budget to expand their staff so we can more effectively and implement and track the progress of promising initiatives like right turn, pivot to peace, my brother's keeper, and the campaign for black male achievement. Each of these efforts involve partnerships with other organizations, because like so many efforts, this is a challenge for our entire community and requires a solution we will only find if we work together.

Altogether, this budget includes \$583 million of general fund dollars and with state, federal, and capital funding sources is a total budget of \$822 million. That includes the largest rainy day fund since I took office, \$67 million, which we worked together to make happen.

[Applause.]

Also, for the last five years our improving economy and strong fiscal stewardship have allowed us to pay down our debt. That's why we can afford to invest more in the future. In this budget you'll see \$60 million in new debt. We have worked with our bond consultants on this and believe this amount is responsible and will allow us to continue investing in future fiscal years. So if we finalize this budget, I look forward to working with you all, with council, to fulfill commitments to both our city's infrastructure, create more affordable housing, and further improve public safety, amongst other critical needs.

It is certainly an honor to be part of this conversation about the future of our city. We get to have this conversation because each of us made a promise to our citizens that we will serve them faithfully and to the best of our ability. They believed in us enough to vote us into

office. We are fortunate to have tremendous momentum in our city, so let's keep working together and pass the city budget that builds on the successes of the past, addresses the needs of today, and prepares us for the opportunities of tomorrow. That's how we will keep the promise we made to our citizens. Thank you.

[Applause.]

PRESIDENT YATES: Colleagues, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

>> So moved.

>> Second.

PRESIDENT YATES: We go into recess.

Councilman Peden, I believe, per the clerk it is adjourning the meeting. Mr. Clerk. For the record, Councilman Peden stands corrected. Without objection, we are adjourned.

[Special Meeting adjourned.]