

STATE OF THE CITY

Mayor David McDavid's 2025 Message

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the future, one theme remains constant—our commitment to ensuring that Zachary continues to thrive. This year, we are embracing the motto **“Thrive in 25”** as our guiding principle for growth, innovation, and community strength.

This past year, we have made remarkable strides in improving our city. Thanks to a \$100,000 state grant, the Hug Your People Community Park now features inclusive playground equipment, making it a welcoming space for children of all abilities. Additionally, new security fencing and gates have been installed to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all families.

We have also taken steps to support our most vulnerable residents. The Food Pantry underwent significant upgrades, including new flooring and roofing, providing a safer and more welcoming space for volunteers and families in need.

Enhancements to public facilities have been a priority. The Zachary Youth Park now includes a newly constructed restroom facility, offering improved amenities for park visitors. Meanwhile, upgrades to the City Dump, including a new fence and a covered building, have helped us maintain our certification as an emergency debris site, ensuring we are prepared for any future challenges.

Investing in modern infrastructure remains at the forefront of our progress. Nearly 99% of our smart water and gas meters are now operational, allowing residents to monitor usage through the Customer Portal. This advancement promotes efficiency and transparency, ensuring that our city's resources are utilized wisely.

Our roads are the lifelines of our city, and improvements have been made across all council districts to enhance safety and connectivity. In addition, we are proud to announce that the new Police Department facility at Old Slaughter and Montuguedo Blvd. is now fully operational, providing our officers with state-of-the-art resources to better serve the community. To further support our law enforcement, we have increased starting pay for officers by 6% and provided new equipment integrated with the court system, enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.

Looking ahead, we are setting the stage for an even brighter future. The much-anticipated City Hall Renovation will bring all city employees under one roof, streamlining operations and improving services for our residents. Beautification efforts, supported by a Keep Louisiana Beautiful grant, will enhance our public spaces with new landscaping and trash receptacles, while commercial revitalization projects, including renovations to the Rouses Shopping Center, Hwy 55, and new businesses like Benny's Car Wash and BQuick—will foster economic growth.

We are also excited to announce the launch of a new city website in the Spring of 2025, ensuring residents have easy access to city resources and information.

As we move into 2025, we are making significant investments in our city's infrastructure. Church Street will be widened between Old Slaughter and Highway 19, alleviating congestion, and improving traffic flow. Another round of road rehabilitation is planned, ensuring that our streets remain safe and well-maintained. Additionally, the turning lanes on Church Street at Highway 964 and Plank Road will be extended, allowing more cars to queue efficiently and reducing delays for our drivers.

As we move forward, we remain committed to building on our successes and embracing new opportunities to **Thrive in 25**. The spirit of Zachary is one of resilience, progress, and unity. With your continued support, we will ensure that our city remains a place where families can grow, businesses can prosper, and our community can flourish.

Thrive in 25!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. McDavid', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David McDavid
Mayor, City of Zachary