

CITY OF NEW BRITAIN



Office of the Mayor

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Mayor Stewart releases city's first ever digital "State of the City" Address *State of recovery and rebirth*

NEW BRITAIN—Mayor Erin E. Stewart on Wednesday released her 2016 State of the City address via YouTube as a way to highlight the city's smart city initiatives that are transforming City Hall and moving it further into the 21st century.

"At City Hall, we are taking on many innovative ideas involving technology and energy to make our government more efficient and effective," said Mayor Stewart. "In keeping with that theme, I decided to present to the public and the Common Council the first ever state of the city address that can be accessed not only from television, but also online."

Members of the Common Council will be presented with a digital copy of the address on individual iPads this evening. Council members will also be provided with digital agendas rather than paper copies for all future meetings to save money. At the start of Wednesday's meeting, Mayor Stewart will provide a condensed version of the speech to those in attendance.

In February 2016, Mayor Stewart created the Mayor's Energy and Innovation Committee to oversee smart city initiatives that will save the city money in energy costs and reduce its carbon footprint. Projects already underway include adding solar panels to school roofs, erecting the city's first Fuel Cell, electric car charging stations, and transforming city street lights to LEDs, among other initiatives.

To view the video visit: https://youtu.be/DDervecok_4

Nutmeg TV will also air the address in its entirety as part of the show "Around New Britain with Mayor Stewart" throughout the month of March.

In her state of the city address, Mayor Stewart highlighted the many successes the city has experienced over the last year.

These accomplishments have included:

- Establishing a \$14.9 million rainy day fund
- Increasing the city's Standard and Poor's bond rating another notch to A+
- Welcoming more than 30 new businesses to the city, which has resulted in more than 680 new jobs
- Ushering in many new developments, including the largest private investment in the city in decades
- Continued growth in the city's Grand List
- Capitalizing on transit oriented development funding to increase development around the city's CTfastrak stations
- Increased investments in city parks, such the complete overhaul of AW Stanley Park
- Placing more than 35 homeless individuals into housing

“New Britain is rising,” Mayor Stewart said in her speech. “The state of the city is strong and we have a front row seat to watch its rebirth.”

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