Mayor's Journal: February 8-February 14

February 8: On Sunday, the Mayor's Youth Council met and was treated to a fantastic team building exercise by four members of the Little Rock City Year Program. I mention this again because I want you to know more about both programs. The Mayors Youth Council is made up of over one hundred high school students from public and private schools in Little Rock. Each month the council does a community service project and I am extremely proud of this fine group ...you should be also. The City Year team will have 40 youth (18-24) from Central Arkansas and other parts of the United States. This team, an outgrowth of Americorp, will give one year of their lives in service to community. Again we are fortunate to be one of few cities with a city year team. Currently, team members are working in elementary schools as mentors and tutors. If there are members of your family interested in becoming a team member! Please contact my office at 371-4791.

February 9: Today was a full day beginning with my regularly scheduled policy meeting which includes City Manager Bruce Moore, Assistant City Manager Bob Turner, Assistant to the Mayor, Shayla Beebe and the City Attorney, Tom Carpenter. At this meeting, we cover topics requiring coordination between my office, the manager's and attorney's offices. In addition, we review and prepare for City Board meetings.

Later in the morning, my office met with two members of our City Beautiful Commission. They were interested in how the commission might support the "Safe Neighborhoods Initiative" outlined in my State of the City Address. I offered a number of suggestions and also suggested the commission work with staff organizing the November opening of the Clinton Presidential Center for other ideas. Incidentally, we had super announcement regarding "Safe Neighborhoods"...utilizing the new CAP (criminal abatement program) we successfully closed down a problem property at _____.

In the afternoon, I participated in the UALR planning study. Chancellor Joel Anderson is bringing together focus groups to discuss a vision for UALR over the next five to ten years. The skills and sense of place of this growing campus promises to anchor mid-town and to advance our Central Arkansas community.

February 10: Tuesday was City Board meeting day to set our agenda and to perform our annual evaluation of the City Attorney. Mr Carpenter received favorable reviews and the same salary increase as other city employees.

February 11: Wednesday was a day filled with follow up work and attendance at the announcement event by General Wesley Clark that he would withdraw from the campaign for President. We are all extremely proud of Wes and his wonderful wife, Gert, for their quite successful race, but also thankful for their service to our country during his military career. My personal hope is to see the General in another role of significance...once again serving our country.

February 12-14: I was in DC to chair the newly chartered (IAC) Intergovernmental Advisory Committee to the FCC. With the help of Tom Carpenter, we hosted this new 15 member

committee and had briefings by FCC Chairman, Michael Powell and three FCC commissioners. Our charge is daunting as we will make policy recommendations on Homeland Security, spectrum, rights of way issues, VoIP (voice over internet protocol) and consumer and competition issues. I made sub-committee assignments to start the work of the committee and will make reports at our next meeting in May.

Keep us all in your thoughts and prayers... I will be back to you in another week.