Mayor's Journal April 19-May 14:

Well folks, it's been awhile since I last wrote in this journal…partly because I have either been inundated with work or out of the office for almost the past few weeks. This month has been filled with a lot of activities---both work and a little rest and relaxation.

April 19-23: On Monday, I attended a press event at Philander Smith and presented a proclamation for Minority Cancer Week to the American Cancer Society. I then went out to Skippy International to visit with their international owners…again, if you ever get a chance to tour this magnificent company, you will definitely enjoy it! Monday evening was a joint meeting between the City of Little Rock Board and Little Rock School Board.

On Tuesday, I was in the office going through paperwork with an occasional in office meeting with staff. I have reoccurring meetings each month in order to keep up to date on events and meetings occurring.

Wednesday was a busy day with phone calls and meetings. I met with our Police Department; City Manager's Office; City Attorney's Office, Planning, Housing and my staff for the CAP meeting we have once a month. Today, we discussed the agenda for Friday's Targeted Neighborhood Day.

I then had a press event at the RiverMarket for Riverfest and the many wonderful talents and acts that will be performing here…wow, what a program they have lined up for us this year….you won't want to miss out! Afterwards, I attended a luncheon in honor of our hard working staff.

This evening, I attended at reception honoring and welcoming Carlos Garcia De Alba, Consul General Mexico from Dallas. I also met with him on Thursday in my office and had a wonderful time getting to know him. In case you are not familiar with the process, each country has a local Consulate General that covers Little Rock. They are mostly based out of Texas—either Dallas or Houston and visit Little Rock two or three times a year.

Thursday morning started off early—7:30 meeting at the Neighborhood Resource Center for the Rental Property Workshop with landlords. Our Housing Department always amazes me the wonderful job they do with such a short-handed staff. Speaking of Housing, I would like to give a great big congratulations to Tony Bozynski, who was just named as Little Rock's new Planning Director…I know the Housing staff will miss him, but I know Planning is excited to get him back….so congrats Tony and thank you for serving our Housing and Neighborhood Programs Department with excellence.

Thursday afternoon, I had phone calls and a couple meetings---as mentioned, I met with the Consul General of Mexico, Carlos Garcia De Alba. Later in the afternoon, I attended a reception at the Arts Center.

Friday began at 7:30 at the Chamber of Commerce with a presentation from Larry Walther. He presented Little Rock an ACE (Arkansas Community of Excellence) re-certification for the

Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, City of Little Rock and the Port Authority. I was happy to accept this on behalf of the City of Little Rock.

After leaving the Chamber, I headed out to southwest Little Rock for the 2nd Targeted Neighborhood Day. We began with a briefing from our Housing and Police departments on the crime and code violation in the focus areas. Staff has done a magnificent job of cleaning up in the southwest areas and I appreciate their hard work. The day went by with a tour of the focus area and next focus area to come…and we ended it with a working luncheon with community and business leaders in the area.

On a special note…tonight is Shayla's (in my office) wedding and I want to wish her the very best life with lots of happiness, joy and love….I will miss her next week while she is away on her honeymoon and look forward to her safe return. Shayla is my right and left hand and an excellent representative for the City and I appreciate the many things she handles day to day on my behalf. Congratulations to her lucky husband and best wishes to a very special young lady.

April 26 started with my normal Monday morning Policy Meeting with City Administration followed by a couple press related events and a meeting with the 12th Street Corridor and later on, the I-30 Task Force meeting at Curran Hall.

Tonight we had our Mayor's live call-in show, which went extremely well. We are trying to schedule these shows once a month for citizens to call in with questions and get direct answers from the city manager or me.

The remainder of the week was filled with various meetings and phone calls, as usual. I left on Thursday for backpacking in Arizona for a few days of rest and relaxation.

It's been a full few weeks folks…sorry it's taken me so long to get something down in writing. I hope you all have a wonderful week…God Bless.