Mayor's Journal
August 3-24, 2004

Hi folks! It's good to be back home. I thoroughly enjoyed my vacation, but I was happy to return back to Little Rock safely. We had a wonderful time and appreciate the citizens of Little Rock allowing us to be gone for our July monthly venture.

Tuesday, August 3: Today was my first day back in the office after having been gone for vacation. Luckily, I had a pretty light day back. My assistant and I drove out to the Terry Lock and Dam to see the USS Razorback coming up the river in support of our North Little Rock friends. Afterwards, I met with staff regarding the homeless issue we have been dealing with for several months now. Folks, let me assure you that I still stand strong in cleaning up the camps; however, I am open-minded to staff exploring viable options to help the homeless once their camp is dissolved. After a day at the office, this evening was National Night Out. I visited a few neighborhood organizations that had wonderful events. Thanks to everyone who participated in this evening's event.

Thursday, August 5: This morning I met with the Judge Buddy Villines and his staff to discuss plans for the Junction Bridge. Once completed, this will be a fabulous addition to the downtown area. Later in the afternoon, I attended a press event at the airport announcing Wi-Fi service, which is the capability of laptops utilizing the Internet without being connected to wires.

Friday, August 6: I met with author, Antonio Felix and her husband Stan, this morning. She just recently wrote the book, *A Different Kind of General-The Wesley Clark Story*, which if you haven't had the chance to read yet, it is a well written book. Later in the afternoon, I had a conference call with staff from the Federal Communications Commission regarding my up-coming meeting August 19-20.

Monday, August 9: As usual on Monday morning, I met with the city manager; assistant city manager; city attorney and my assistant to review current issues. Afterwards, I had a conference call with a production agency hoping to do a story on Little Rock. Later in the afternoon, I met with our Mayor's Youth Council Coordinator, Kim White, and Shayla to discuss the 2004-2005 school year. They have some fun things planned for this year's council members and I am proud of the work they are doing with these young kids. After this meeting, I had my monthly meeting with the I-30 task force group at Curran Hall. It is a pleasure for me to listen to the concerns of the neighborhood folks and to help them resolve their issues. I thank Kathy Wells and others for their persistence in helping make downtown a better place to live, work and visit.

Tuesday, August 10: My morning started off with a little fun…reading to 20-30 children at the Hope for the Future Child Care Center off of 32nd Street. I also had a wonderful tour of the Rice Depot located off of Colonel Glenn Road. I have agreed to help the Rice Depot in fundraising efforts…I wish them the best. Later in the day, I met with Terry Eastin regarding the River Trails project. She gave me a brief update and I continue to be amazed at Terry's efforts. I also had the chance to meet with the new Wal-Mart Supercenter Manager this afternoon in hopes to have them become a backbone of community service in our city. The board met at 4pm briefly before heading down to the William Jefferson Clinton Library for a changing of the signs event and reception.

Wednesday, August 11: Today was full of meetings. I began meeting with a developer on some of his plans for the future…moved on to the Criminal Abatement Process meeting for our next targeted area. I had the special privilege of accepting a $113, 000 check for the Trails for Life from the Governor's office at Murray Park. I had a conference call with my Intergovernmental Advisory Council (IAC) sub-committee chairs; the city attorney and my assistant to discuss our meeting and the topics we were to discuss. Afterwards, I made a quick stop by the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) to visit with the Central High 50th Anniversary Committee. That group is already working hard on planning events for a September 2007 commemoration.

Thursday, August 12: I had various meetings and phone calls to return today. I held another conference call with the FCC and my staff to confirm our agenda for the 20th August.

Friday, August 13: I spent the majority of my morning in the 65th Street area for my Targeted Neighborhood Day. My special thanks to all the staff who work so diligently to prepare for these days. This program is really showing results in the areas we target with crime rates decreasing and the appearance of the areas improving. I appreciate the positive feedback from the citizens about this program. Later in the afternoon, I met with the Consulate General of Mexico out of Dallas. They are hoping to open an office here in Little Rock. The City's Economic Development Manager met with them also and showed them several sites of interest.

Tuesday, August 17: This morning I met with staff on the regarding the HBO documentary airing this month and the positive change Little Rock has made since the 90's. Afterwards, I met with the Little Rock Housing Authority and HUD to discuss issues within Little Rock and how we can improve. I also met with Bob Callans to discuss Sister Cities Commision events, needs, and future. After lunch, I met with a group of Central Arkansas mayors and officials, along with Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) and Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) Directors to discuss the state-wide radio system the State is proposing to use with our Homeland Security Funding for the next three years. It was an interesting topic of discussion and my thanks to my assistant for spear-heading this issue and facilitating the meeting. And lastly, as you all know, we had a board meeting at 6pm.

August 18-21: I was in Washington, D.C. for the IAC meetings. It is truly an honor to be involved with this group. I look forward to sharing more information about this in the future.

Monday, August 23: I had my Monday morning policy meeting; made a few phone calls; I recognized retiring members of the Arkansas Arts Center Board of Trustees at their annual meeting; and had a couple meetings this afternoon. The Arts Center is a gem for the Citizens of Little Rock and the entire state. I am pleased by the efforts of the Arts Center Board and staff.

Tuesday, August 24: Today was another light day. I met with Little Rock's new superintendent, Dr. Roy Brooks. He is a delightful person, whom I will enjoy getting to know more about in the coming years. Later in the afternoon, I met with staff regarding Little Rock's legislative package submitted to the Arkansas Municipal League. I concluded the day with a visit, along with the Rice Depot, to a tentative donor.

August 25-28: I will be at the Arkansas Municipal League conference in Eureka Springs.