# District 4 Year in Review

Hello Council District 4 Neighbor!

It has been one year since you honored me with your vote of public trust and elected me to serve you as Garland City Councilman for District 4. I just want to take this time to say "Thank You" for allowing me to serve you. Below is a snapshot of "My First Year" of Public Service to District 4 and the Garland community at-large.

## My First Year – Working Hard for You

**Highlights:**

1. **Fiscal Oversight:**
   - Passed a $572 million dollar City operating budget with no increase to ad valorem property tax.
   - Passed a $190 million CIP budget with no increase to ad valorem property tax.

2. **Public Safety:**
   - Built a Mayor/Council consensus resulting in the passage (by unanimous vote) of the first city ordinance banning the use of cell phones in school zones. Note: This ordinance was considered, but rejected six times by previous councils.
   - Had school zone signals and crossing installed along Broadway Boulevard at Colonel Drive, protecting South Garland High School students, staff, parents and other pedestrians.
   - Held a joint meeting with South Garland business owners, Garland Police Department and South Garland High School administrators to address concerns and build more positive relationships with students.

3. **Economic Development:**
   - Visited all south Garland businesses in District 4 with the Garland Chamber of Commerce CEO to make them aware of business and city services, offer assistance and hear their issues/ concerns.
   - Hosted the 1st Annual Small Business Development Center Forum for District 4 small businesses.
   - Worked with the Garland Chamber to conduct an economic development market analysis.
   - Attended the following ribbon-cutting/re-grand opening ceremonies for new and/or renovated businesses in District 4:
     - A. Chili's
     - B. McDonald's
     - C. Wendy's
     - D. Golden Chick
     - E. Meineke
     - F. Garland Independent Pharmacy
     - G. Indoor Soccer
     - H. Cybernut Solutions
   - Continuing to work with other Council members, Garland Texas legislators, Congressional delegates, and the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) to obtain equity in infrastructure spending for improvements (e.g. sound walls, continuous service roads and exit ramps) along I-635, between I-30 west to I-75.

4. **Service Delivery:**
   - Attended numerous meetings/events of District 4 neighborhood associations, HOAs, churches and crime watch groups.
   - Received and promptly responded to more than 350 residents' requests (via phone, email, etc.) for City services.
   - Hosted three quarterly town hall meetings for District 4 constituents.

5. **District 4 Infrastructure Projects: (Completion target 2013/2014)**
   - Northwest Highway/La Prada thoroughfare expansion and improvements.
   - Radio read water meter retrofit – Phased in replacement of existing water meters with programmable radio read water meters.
   - Wastewater Collection:
     Sewer pipe reline
     Duck Creek flood plain redesign
     Manhole overflow pipe replacement
   - Sewer pipe relining
   - Street repairs/upgrades:
     Saddleback Road – (Canyon Drive to Robin Road)
     Brookview Drive – (Northwest Highway to Wildbriar)

6. **Leadership: Appointed by Mayor to serve on the following:**
   - Public Safety
   - Marketing
   - Economic Development Steering Committee
   - Emergency Preparedness Planning Council (EPPC) at the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
   - Multi-Cultural Advisory Council for State Representative Angie Button

7. **Training/Self-Development:**
   - Orientation for New Council Members
   - Texas Municipal League workshops
   - Completed Texas Secretary of State "Open Meetings" certification
   - National League of Cities Congressional Conference
   - Garland Municipal Courts
   - One-on-One meetings and visits to all City of Garland departments and facilities.
   - Texas Association of Solid Waste Treatment Conference which included a site visit to the Denton landfill.
   - North Texas Crime Commission workshop on "Cyber Crime"
   - Joint meeting with Garland Council, Rowlett Council, Sachse Council and GISD officials to review/discuss school security strategic plan.

8. **Community Support and Outreach:**
   - Christmas on the Square
   - Annual Labor Day Parade
   - Monthly Garland Chamber of Commerce luncheons
   - DFW Asian-American Citizen's Council Honor's Banquet
   - Good Samaritan's Youth Food Drive
   - NAACP Garland Branch Annual Scholarship Brunch
   - NAACP Garland Branch Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Program
   - NAACP Garland Branch Winter Ball
   - Noon Exchange Club Luncheon
   - Garland Police Department Awards Dinner
   - Garland Police Department Graduation
   - Garland Fire Department Awards Dinner

- Skikh Temple Candlelight Memorial Vigil
- O'Banion Middle School (Career Day speaker)
- Gateway Charter Academy (Career Day speaker)
- Garland Fire Fighters Association Christmas Shopping Spree for underprivileged children
- Operation Care Family Outreach Program
- Healthy Living Expo and Naturalization Service sponsored by City of Garland's Community Multi-Cultural Commission
- Urban League of Greater Dallas Board of Directors
- HOPE Clinic Annual Community Outreach Support Breakfast
- 1st Annual Youth Leadership Summit

**9. Goals for Progress:**

- Ensure delivery of high quality city services to stakeholders (taxpayers).
- Maintain current ad valorem tax rate (no increase).
- Continue to promote economic growth, development and jobs to District 4.
- Upgrade/Expansion of Audubon Park Recreation Center, including a full service physical fitness center.
- Redevelopment of "Big Box" retail centers at corners of Broadway at Centerville and Broadway at Duck Creek Parkway.
- New retail development of vacant property adjacent to Wal-Mart (Broadway at I-30).
- Strengthen public safety and Neighborhood Policing.

Working with you as partners, I pledge to continue to strive to make "Garland – Better Than Best". I welcome your suggestions, comments, criticisms and assistance at Council4@garlandtx.gov or (972) 898-7672.

Serving You!

B.J. Williams
Councilman District 4