



SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

Dear Residents of District 2,

I am proud to announce that **the Mobile City Council unanimously passed the 2025 budget** which is a comprehensive and forward-looking plan that sets the stage for a bright future for our city. This budget focuses on enhancing public safety, infrastructure improvements, and quality of life for every resident. After careful review, we've ensured that this budget reflects the values and needs of our growing city while also laying the groundwork for sustained progress. A few highlights include:

- **Increased Funding for Public Safety:** Public safety remains a top priority for both the City Council and me. The 2025 budget increases funding for our police and fire departments to ensure they have the resources necessary to keep our neighborhoods safe. This includes more investment in recruiting, training, and retaining first responders, as well as equipping them with new technology and tools. I'm especially pleased that this budget includes well-deserved pay raises for our first responders, which are critical to maintaining a strong and effective public safety team.
- **Infrastructure Investments:** This budget allocates over \$48 million to upgrade Mobile's infrastructure, focusing on road repairs, drainage improvements, and utility upgrades. These improvements will have a lasting effect on our city, particularly in Downtown Mobile and Midtown in District 2, where we are addressing issues like flooding and improving traffic flow. By investing in infrastructure now, we are ensuring that our neighborhoods will be more livable and resilient for years to come.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Quality of Life Enhancements:** We're also expanding funding for parks, recreational facilities, and community

programs. This means upgraded parks and enhanced recreational amenities that promote a healthier and more vibrant community. These investments in parks and outdoor spaces will create new opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy the outdoors, stay active, and connect with one another.

I look forward to seeing these improvements come to life and to continue working for the betterment of our neighborhoods.

Along with the passing of the 2025 budget, I am excited to announce that the City Council has unanimously **approved William Jackson as Mobile's new Police Chief**. Chief Jackson brings decades of experience in law enforcement and a strong dedication to community policing. His leadership comes at a pivotal time as we work to reduce crime, strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and our neighborhoods, and ensure the safety of all residents.

One of Chief Jackson's top priorities is enhancing crime prevention through data-driven policing, a critical step in creating safer and more secure communities.

Another exciting development for our city is the approval of **Shonnda Smith as the new Executive Director of Public Works**. Shonda comes to this role with a wealth of experience and a proven track record in public service. She has spent over 20 years in various leadership roles, most recently serving as the Deputy Director of Public Works, after previously serving as Director of Parker and recreation, for the City of Mobile. Shonda is known for her hands-on approach to management, her dedication to improving infrastructure, and her passion for delivering results that directly benefit the community.

As your Councilman, I want to personally invite you to encourage the young men and women in our community to take part in the upcoming "**GO BE GREAT!!!**" event. There are still a few spots available, and this is an opportunity we don't want our youth to miss.

This event is designed to inspire, guide, and empower our next generation of leaders. With amazing speakers, an engaging host, plenty of giveaways, and valuable prizes, there's so much planned to help our young people grow and thrive.

Our youth are the future of our community, and it's up to all of us to invest in them. Please sign up your Junior or Senior today by [clicking here](#), and let's work together to ensure they have the tools and guidance to succeed.

**The Gulf Coast Challenge**, "the Ultimate HBCU Experience" was created to enhance the exposure of Historically Black Colleges & Universities in this enriched community. The event highlights the community's exclusive interest in HBCUs and the roles that they play in educating aspiring professionals & developing our future leaders. The Gulf Coast Challenge will attract thousands of fans, alumni, school members, and family members from these respected communities.

This event also has a goal to raise scholarship funds for the participating schools for years to come. Doing so will help to support the knowledge and experience offered by the discipline, commitment, and dedication it takes to be a Historically Black College & University student. Fans and alumni from both institutions will be hosted in Mobile for the love of the game, the passion for their team, the fellowship of the alumni, and the untapped fun of this flavorful city.

Get your tickets [here](#).

I wanted to take a moment to share with you that I had the pleasure of attending the **Downtown Mobile Alliance Annual Luncheon** this week. It was a wonderful opportunity to engage with community leaders and local business owners, all of whom are dedicated to driving positive growth in Downtown Mobile.

The luncheon highlighted many exciting projects and initiatives aimed at improving the heart of our city, from economic development to enhancing the quality of life for all residents. I'm excited about the future of Downtown Mobile, and I remain committed to ensuring these efforts directly benefit our District 2 community.

As always, I appreciate your continued support and I look forward to working together to make District 2 and all of Mobile a better place to live, work, and enjoy.

Just in case you missed it, watch the latest episode of the “**Let’s Hear From You District 2**” podcast [here](#)!