

## **CITY OF WOODLAWN PARK**

### **STATE OF THE CITY- 2025**

**Presented by Mayor Mike Brown at the City Council meeting on December 15, 2025**

I would like to begin the State of the City by acknowledging the Woodlawn Park City Council for a productive and impactful year. Our Council worked diligently to craft thoughtful, forward-looking legislation, and together we passed a balanced budget. While it is a tight budget, it prioritizes public safety, enhances city beautification, and places a strong emphasis on building community among our residents.

Throughout the year, Woodlawn Park continued to provide essential services to our residents, including police protection, sanitation, snow removal, community events, streetlight maintenance, signage, and clear, consistent communication. I really cannot thank the city council, Our Police Chief Wilson, the support staff of Jennifer (clerk), Matt (attorney) and Charlie (financial accountant) for all the hard work you each put into our city government.

There are many great things that happen in Woodlawn Park each year; however, I would like to highlight just a few accomplishments from 2025.

- The City secured a 2024 Dodge Durango, fully upfitted with a police package, through a three-year lease with an annual payment of \$17,743.87 due each August. This lease was obtained through the Kentucky Association of Counties (KACO), a nonprofit organization that assists local governments in acquiring assets at very low interest rates.
- New city signs featuring our updated logo were installed throughout the city, creating a more cohesive and welcoming appearance.
- Participation in our community events more than doubled this year. Increased advertising played a key role, including placing 18 x 24 signs at each city entrance and promoting events in our printed newsletter. These efforts significantly improved outreach and resident engagement.
- LMPD's 5th Division continues to serve Woodlawn Park exceptionally well. In 2025, they brought their resource officer to participate in our Fourth of July parade, provided their radar machine on multiple occasions, and brought the Horse Mount Patrol to our Chili and Fall Social. We have also seen an increase in patrols by additional officers when Chief Wilson is not working. These efforts are made possible by Chief Wilson's strong relationships within the 5th Division, and we are truly grateful.

- The tree canopy of our city remains a top priority. This year, Woodlawn Park received nearly 30 donated trees through the Louisville Grows program. I would like to thank Councilperson Russell Bushong for his leadership in managing this project from start to finish. As trees age or become diseased and must be removed, it is critical that we continue educating residents about opportunities like this to maintain and grow our canopy.
- Woodlawn Park also participated in the Louisville Recycle Right program, helping residents understand better what should and should not be recycled. This past fall, we hosted Metro TV and John Ramsey at City Hall to produce a 30-minute episode focused on recycling and small-city government. Dr. Paula McCraney, our 7th District representative, joined seven other public officials from Louisville Metro, St. Matthews, Douglass Hills and Woodlawn Park for this important publication.
- The City Council and Mayor amended the ethics ordinance to remove outdated partisan language that previously required representation from specific political parties. The Ethics Committee is now nonpartisan, aligning it with our city government, and we approved three residents to serve on the committee.
- Communication continues to be a priority. Residents receive a mayor's monthly email on Monday following each City Council meeting, providing updates on events, announcements, and upcoming legislation. We also utilize Reach Alert for time-sensitive information and our website to post agendas, minutes, monthly financial reports, sanitation updates, and community event information.

We have accomplished a great deal together, but there is still important work ahead. As we move into the second half of this fiscal year and begin planning for the next, we must keep a close eye on our budget and look for responsible ways to increase revenue so we can continue providing the quality services our residents expect.

I am truly enthused, excited, and energized to continue serving as your mayor and this great city we all call home. At the same time, I want to be clear and transparent: we are operating within a tight budget, and that requires careful planning and thoughtful decisions.

On average, it costs about \$29,000 per month to operate Woodlawn Park. Over the past 14 years, operating expenses have continued to rise, while our property tax rate has stayed the same—or even decreased in some years. Today, our rate is \$0.111 per \$100 of assessed value.

To put that in perspective, neighboring cities without a police department have higher tax rates. Windy Hills' rate is \$0.170 per \$100, and Richlawn's is \$0.114 per \$100.

No mayor—especially in an election year—wants to talk about raising property taxes. But part of being a responsible leader is being honest about the financial realities we face and making sure our city remains strong and sustainable for the future.

Please know this: safety, beautification, and community will always remain my top priorities. I am committed to working with our council, support staff, and residents to make smart, careful decisions while planning responsibly for what lies ahead.

Thank you for coming tonight, your time, your trust, and your continued support.