



## Communications Department

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### **Perrin seeks third term as Jonesboro mayor**

JONESBORO, Ark. – Jonesboro Mayor Harold Perrin announced today he will seek a third term as the city's mayor.

Perrin said he will use the momentum created over the past eight years to shape a successful third term as Jonesboro's mayor.

"Our work is ongoing," Perrin said. "With the help of some great partners at the state and federal level, and by the dedication and hard work of local citizens and business, we have accomplished more in eight years than some thought imaginable. Working together, we have done a lot of things right, but there is still a lot more we can do."

Perrin said communication and feedback from the greater Jonesboro community is needed, and he wants to make that more accessible and efficient.

"We want to open up more channels of communication and do a better job of getting information out in a timely fashion, giving more opportunities for citizen to channel information back to us," Perrin said. "We can't afford to slow down. We need to make sure we are getting things out to the public as quickly as we can in order for them to have input at the earliest possible moment."

Perrin was first elected in 2008 after 15 years in public service as a Jonesboro City Council member. He also worked in the private sector in Jonesboro as a bank president and banking consultant.

His move to public work was motivated by a deep desire to grow the city he's long loved. He is an alumnus of Arkansas State University, earning a bachelor's degree in business

administration. He served on the university's board of trustees and is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the ASU College of Business.

"I truly love this community and I love this job," Perrin said. "This is a seven-day per week job that starts early and ends late, but I love every minute of it."

Perrin's nearly eight year tenure as the city's CEO has aligned with a renaissance in Jonesboro. The city has seen improvements city wide with the acquisition and renovation of the Jonesboro Municipal Center, a new Jonesboro Police Department headquarters, a new public works campus and transit station, as well as upgraded city park facilities and constant, continual road improvements.

One project that stands out, Perrin said, is the construction of the Miracle League Complex, the regional sports and activity center for children and adults with special needs. The development of that facility, the largest of its kind in the country, brought the community together in ways that made it "one of the proudest things I've been blessed to be a part of," Perrin said.

Perrin's leadership has allowed the city to move forward with these expansive improvements while stabilizing city finances.

Under Perrin's leadership, the city has seen private business and industry growth, and more is on the horizon. NEA Baptist Memorial Hospital and St Bernard Healthcare have both announced expansions. Those expansions combined with the opening of the Osteopathic Medical School at Arkansas State make Jonesboro well positioned for health care and economic growth, Perrin said.

"The medical school alone has the capacity to change the quality of health of our local citizenry in the coming years," he said.

An economic development report released this year by "Arkansas Business" confirmed what Perrin thought about Jonesboro. The city ranked No. 1 in the state in job growth with 4.3 percent growth in 2015 and more job growth predicted for this year.

The announcement of two convention centers and the recent official opening of I-555 offer the city opportunities to bring new visitors to Jonesboro. "They will allow us to showcase our city and increase commerce," Perrin said.

Perrin is a member of the Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and the University Communities Council Steering Committee with the National League of Cities and a member of the Arkansas Workforce Development Board, Governor's State Street Aid Committee and the Arkansas Municipal League Executive Committee. These memberships allow Perrin to promote Jonesboro on the state and national level and stay in-tune with development and growth opportunities he can bring back to the city.

"I say it every time I make a speech: Jonesboro is a blessed city, and I'm equally blessed to serve it as mayor," he said. "It's not work if you love what you do, and I've been humbled to serve the

city of Jonesboro the past seven-plus years and would love the opportunity to continue for another term.”

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