# CITY OF WHEELING

CITY COUNTY BLDG., 1500 CHAPLINE STREET
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003


February 25, 2014

Hon. Andy McKenzie and
Members of Wheeling City Council
City of Wheeling
1500 Chapline Street
Wheeling, WV 26003

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

It is my pleasure to present to the Mayor and City Council the propose Fiscal Year 2014-15 General Fund anc Coal Severance Budget for your review. This year's proposed budget for the tenth year maintains a Budget Stabilization Fund at $1,000,000.

As is the case with sound budgeting philosophy, this budget is based on conservative revenue projections versus reasonable expectations for expenditures although again this year we have focused on as accurate revenue projections as possible. Generally speaking, the municipal services that have been provided to the citizens of Wheeling will remain the same. The Budget as proposed does include capital projects that reflect estimated net sales tax revenue. It is important to note that we will continue to work hard to insure that the most efficient and effective services possible are being offered to the community and continually strive to improve our service delivery.

The City of Wheeling, from a budget standpoint, finds itself in the similar situation to many cities through the country in that we've been able to keep our nose above water financially. Some cities unfortunately can't make that same claim. As a result, we are in a position to logically look at our budgeted and future needs and direction of our organization.

The City's financial situation is very tight, particularly in light of rising Police and Fire Pension costs flattening of revenue and of the national economy, as spending levels in nearly every non-employee related area have either remained the same or reduced to insure that we do our part in a competitive environment. We will always closely monitor expenditures to insure that, although budgeted, each expenditure is necessary and is in the best interest of delivering municipal services to our community. Also the Administration will continue to provide financial options to Council to enable the City to accomplish goals that come up throughout the upcoming year. In addition, revenues will be monitored very closely as there is virtually no margin for error.

I have enclosed the Department Heads' Budget submittal as I received them. Council can compare the proposed budget against the Department Head requests to remain informed as to each Department's need and to gauge the various cuts that have been made to balance the budget. In addition, each Department's Goals and Objectives for the upcoming fiscal year are included. Also included are budget discussion bullet points for 2014-15 which briefly highlight various areas of the budget for further discussion. Finally, I would like to thank the Department Heads and Mike Klug for their efforts in putting together this proposed budget. Their serious approach to the budget process helps ensure that the best possible information is put forth.

I am looking forward to discussing the proposed 2014-15 budget with you. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert Herron
City Manager

RH:jb

Enclosures