

## **One Troy - One Home**

Good morning, my fellow Trojans

Welcome to the historic Proctor's Theatre and the future home for our City Hall.

Today marks a defining moment in the proud history of our beloved city. As we stand together on this beautiful day, we are not just unveiling a building - we are opening the doors to a renewed spirit of service, progress, and a shared promise.

This new home for Troy City Hall is more than brick and mortar; it is a symbol of our resiliency, our determination, and our unwavering belief in Troy's future. For too long, City Hall has lacked a true home - but today, that begins to change.

Today, we reclaim a space that will truly belong to the people. We do this with hope in our hearts and pride in our souls.

I've said it for years folks – Troy deserves a permanent home for City Hall. It's unacceptable for our taxpayers to keep spending hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars on rent with nothing to show for it. We need a visible, accessible, and lasting space that reflects the pride and potential of our city. This isn't just about a building - it's about providing stability, improving services, and finally giving the people of Troy the City Hall they deserve.

The decision to make the historic Proctor's Theatre the new home for City Hall is both purposeful and poetic. Once a vibrant center for entertainment and community, Proctor's will now be reborn as the heart of our city's government - where voices are heard, decisions are made, and the future is shaped. We are breathing new life into a treasured landmark, honoring our past while boldly stepping into the future. This transformation is a reflection of who we are as a city - resilient, visionary, and deeply rooted in our heritage.

I want you to all know - bringing City Hall to Proctor's doesn't end with just a City Hall - it will do more than restoring a historic landmark - it will ignite new energy and economic development throughout the surrounding area. With a permanent city hall presence in our downtown, we will see increased foot traffic, new business opportunities, and renewed interest in investing in this vibrant corridor. From local shops and restaurants to housing and infrastructure, this move will be a magnet for growth and revitalization. Our City Hall will no longer be tucked away - it will be a visible, active anchor at the center of our city's momentum.

This move is not just about today - it's about tomorrow, and the many generations to come. Our children, and their children - will one day walk through the doors of our future City Hall and feel a deep sense of pride in the home of their city government. For nearly two decades, Troy City Hall operated from a costly rental space that strained our resources and lacked permanence. Today, we turn the page.

By investing in Proctor's, we are not only securing a permanent home that reflects our values and respects our taxpayers - but also pays homage to those who have walked these very streets before us. Proctors Theatre has long been a cornerstone of Troy's cultural and architectural legacy. When it opened in 1914 it became the largest theater in the state and was praised as "a structure ranking foremost in American theatrical circles." It showcased famous acts like Jack Benny, Bob Hope, and Fred and Adele Astaire and aired movies like King Kong For generations, it brought people together - families, friends, and neighbors under one roof to share in the magic of theater, music, and community. It stands as a symbol of the vibrancy and creativity of yesteryear that we are reclaiming in Troy today. Though its curtains closed decades ago, its spirit never left - and today, that spirit is renewed with purpose and pride. This is a responsible, forward-thinking decision - one that ensures stability, saves taxpayer money, and strengthens the foundation of our city for years to come.

As we move forward, we are committed to engaging local stakeholders, community organizations, and partners across the city to help shape City Hall into a vibrant, multi-use space. This includes current tenants such as RPI and the chamber of commerce. This won't just be a place for government - it will be a welcoming hub for civic engagement, public gatherings, and collaboration. This theatre – transformed - will continue to be the place where we come together,

reaching with and through our stories, to who we are and to who we can be as a city.

We envision spaces where local artists can showcase their work, nonprofits can host community events, neighborhood groups can meet, and residents can come together in meaningful ways. City Hall should reflect the energy, creativity, and diversity of Troy - and we're excited to work hand-in-hand with our community to make that vision a reality. That being said, we remain fully committed to transparency and public engagement every step of the way. That's why we will hold public meetings and City Hall staff meetings to ensure not only residents have a direct voice in shaping what the new City Hall will look like – but as well as the people who work here every day. Your input will help guide this important project and ensure it reflects the needs and character of our community. We invite all residents to be part of this exciting and collaborative process in the next year and a half.

The new City Hall will proudly honor Troy's rich cultural heritage by featuring a historic lobby that pays tribute to the legacy of Proctor's. This thoughtfully designed space will celebrate the grandeur and significance of what was once a beloved theater, showcasing the history of its performers and its lasting impact on our city's arts and entertainment scene. With displays, memorabilia, and architectural nods to its original character, the lobby will serve as a vibrant

reminder of Troy's artistic past while welcoming residents into a new era of civic engagement. Part of this is our plan to preserve what we can of the original stage curtain, which dates back to the early 1920's – and incorporate it as a featured element of the historic lobby. Due to its age and delicate condition, full restoration may not be possible, but our goal is to thoughtfully conserve key portions that reflect the theater's legacy. As part of the transformation, we plan to also preserve some of the original seating, even as we repurpose the space for the future. The majority of the seating area will be reimagined to house our new Assembly Hall - a fitting blend of historic preservation and civic progress. This will offer a truly unique experience by incorporating large interior windows that allow visitors to view the preserved elements of the historic theater from within the Assembly space. This thoughtful design creates a dynamic connection between the past and present, letting the community witness the character of the original architecture while conducting the business of the city. It's a powerful visual reminder that while we move Troy forward, we're doing so with deep respect for the legacy that built it.

As we embark on this monumental change, I must express my deepest gratitude to those who have made this possible. First and foremost, I want to thank our Deputy Mayor and one of my best friends, Seamus Donnelly, who has been so crucial in getting this across the finish line. Seamus, your tireless work on this project (and

countless others) since we took office together has not only been inspiring to me but also demonstrates your unwavering commitment to this city and the people who call it home. Thank you for everything, Seamus. To Joe Nicolla, Jeff Buell, and the team at Columbia Development, thank you for working with us and for your commitment to this vision. Joe has believed in the potential of Proctor's for many years now, and thanks to his partnership and persistence, we were able to transform that long-held hope into a reality. If we were not about to step in to save this iconic space, it's more than likely it would have been lost forever. After all these years, I'm sure Joe would agree - this was a once-in-a-generation opportunity to preserve a piece of Troy's history and give it new life. Thank you, Joe, Jeff and your team.

Being your mayor is the greatest honor of my lifetime. And today, standing here with all of you, I am overwhelmed with optimism - not just in this incredible milestone, but in the spirit of this city and its people. We are not just opening the doors to a new City Hall - we are opening a new chapter for Troy. A chapter rooted in progress, unity, and a shared belief in our future. I will forever cherish the opportunity to be part of this transformational moment. It is, without a doubt, a great day to be a Trojan.

Thank you all and God bless our great City of Troy.