



## A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

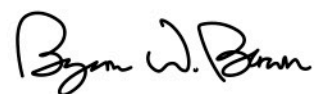


My 2022-2023 Recommended Budget is a blueprint for “Building a Buffalo Without Boundaries.” A city without boundaries is a city that recognizes its potential for growth and innovation is limitless. My Administration, with help from the American Rescue Plan Act and other increased levels of state and federal funding, is intentionally making investments that will increase efficiency, productivity, and service delivery across multiple City departments. From consolidating our youth services programming to employing new technology to monitor the progress of our snow fighting vehicles, we are making City services more responsive to the needs of every resident across Buffalo.

In addition to enhancing the way City services are delivered, we are also creating new offices that will enable Buffalo to meet the challenges of the 21st century. As part of my Administration’s Recommended Budget, we will be creating a new Office of Innovation, an Office of Climate Adaptation, and expanding an Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion under the direction of the City’s Chief Diversity Officer. These new offices, some of which are a consolidation of other functions spread across different City departments while others are entirely new, represent a shift in our focus so that we can strategically address the issues of digital inclusivity, global warming, and racial and economic equality in an intentional and comprehensive manner. Creating these new offices—and the positions that will go with some of them—will also enable the City to access more grant and philanthropic funding for these types of initiatives, undertake transformative projects that will help reduce long-term operational and capital costs, and make Buffalo’s economic development environment more competitive into the future.

Improving how the City serves its residents must be accompanied with a rightsizing of the revenue streams meant to support those services. My Recommended Budget proposes a modest 4.5% increase in property taxes. This will generate approximately \$6.7 million in additional revenue, while keeping our homestead and non-homestead property tax rates the lowest in the region and amongst upstate cities. The budget also proposes a 4% increase in the Garbage User Fee. This will ensure that our waste management services remain fiscally solvent and keeps up with the rising cost of living for our employees.

This once-in-a-generation funding for Buffalo must be met with an equal willingness to take bold action to meet the challenges we collectively face. This first budget of my new term begins that process. I look forward to working with my partners in government, including Common Council President Darius Pridgen and the other members of the Council, as well as the residents, business leaders, and community stakeholders across the City to finalize and adopt a budget that reflects our values and meets the needs of every community. I want to thank Finance and Administration Commissioner Donna Estrich for her tireless work on behalf of the City and long-time service to my Administration in helping to craft the City's Budgets; her insights and wisdom are appreciated. I would also like to thank all of the staff who have helped create the Recommended Budget and who help us build a Buffalo without boundaries everyday.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Byron W. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' at the beginning.