

William S. Murray

Inaugural Address

January 4, 2015

My family, friends and honored guests

Good Afternoon.

WOW! What an absolute privilege and honor to be the next Mayor of Cumberland. So many family, friends and supporters helped in making this day possible. To lead the great town of Cumberland, along with our Town Council, means so much to me. I have been blessed in so many ways over many years with family, extra community involvement and in my business career.

At this point I must point out that the most important person on this journey is my wife Jean. Without her this would not have been possible. She is the Mother of our five children and Grandmother to our 12 wonderful grandchildren who we are so proud of. She is my soul mate, best friend and trusted advisor.

As I mentioned, it's a true honor to become your Mayor following in the footsteps of our new Lt. Governor and friend Dan McKee. As Dan keeps telling me "these are big shoes to fill". I would like to take just a few moments to say a few things that Dan has accomplished as Mayor for six terms. He truly has left us with a financially sound town. He saved Cumberland from State takeover.

Increased Cumberland's bond rating by 8 points.

Reduced our liability on Police pensions and benefits.

Reduced potential annual contributions toward the Officers retirement benefits system.

Saved us on health care.

These alone, in total, saved us about 50 million dollars.

He was the leading architect for both the Fire merger and approval of the Safety Complex.

Strong voice in the education of all children.

Was one of the architects for the coalition of Mayors and Administrators saving taxpayers a lot of money.

Was very instrumental in changing the school funding formula state wide.

I am ready and excited to keep the ball rolling with many ideas that I will put forth in order to challenge my Administration.

Number one on my list is our **Safety Complex** that our voters just approved. I will be naming a diverse committee to research and recommend the best location for this most significant 12 ½ million dollar project.

And in no special order:

A **beautification program** for Cumberland tying into the current enforcement of zoning violations. I want all Cumberland residents to join with us in a **“PRIDE IN CUMBERLAND”** campaign including a town-wide contest that involves all Cumberland students. If we all work together on this **“PRIDE”** campaign great things can happen in our town. The Cumberland Little League

and Dave Belisle have already shined and put us on the map. Now we must step up to the plate. We will work on improving our ball fields and recreation areas. I will announce in the near future a comprehensive maintenance plan for Diamond Hill Park and finish the job our new Lt. Governor started at Tucker Field and the Veterans Memorial Park in Valley Falls.

Schools – We will support and work with all school officials to further improve the quality of our Cumberland schools which will ultimately improve property values across our town. We will work towards a 5-year plan for the continued upkeep of our aging schools.

Franklin Farm – We will support this great property looking for grant monies to restore the farm building. Remember this is Cumberland's shining gem that involves a number of volunteers.

Their program for educating our school students is amazing.
Their support to the RI Food Bank is tops in the state.

Broad Street Corridor –I will reach out to our neighbors, Mayor Grebien and Mayor Diossa, to talk about jump starting this project again.

Water Wells – Continue to work towards the goal to bring these new wells in. Projected results from the exploration program should reduce reliance on both the Sneece Pond Water Treatment Plant and purchased water. Average daily demand for water could be satisfied by Cumberland's own sources of supply while maintaining an affordable water rate to our residents. Potential financial benefits of the program would also aid in funding future infrastructure improvements in our water system.

We will work with our fellow Mayors and Administrators to investigate money savings by **combining services**.

Business Community – This is an area that I strongly campaigned on – helping our current business base and working on attracting new businesses to town. I have asked Town Council President Dwyer to name a councilman as liaison to this community. We will also re-establish an Economic Development Commission made up of business members in town. We will also start education workshops for our businesses.

Open Space – We will work with these groups to continue to preserve open space.

Town Services – We will be attentive and responsive to all residents. “Residents are our #1 Customer”. Direct help lines

will be set up for all elderly and veterans doing business in our great town.

Obviously I have many other items that will be focused on such as:

2015 Budget and tax base

Community policing and involvement in our community

Repaving our streets

Our new Comprehensive Town Plan

Senior Center

As you have heard, my plate is full and will get even fuller. It is important for me to accomplish these goals that I campaigned on. To accomplish this I'm pleased to have put together a great executive staff many of whom are here.

I would like to also thank my Transition Team for all their hard work.

I would be remiss if I did not thank Sandra Giovanelli and Barbara Goodrich who put today's great event together. Also, I cannot thank enough today's master of ceremonies, my campaign manager and head of my transition team, Bonnie Large, whose help, advice and friendship will never be forgotten.

In closing, you will never know the honor it is to be your next Mayor. I do not take this lightly. I pledge you will get my all, open and honest government. Remember PRIDE IN CUMBERLAND

Thank you for coming today and a Happy New Year to all.