



State of the City

★ ANNUAL REPORT ★

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

“Our goal remains as simple as it is challenging:
to ensure that South Bend is a safe, well-connected
community where everyone can thrive.”

—MAYOR PETE BUTTIGIEG





FROM THE

mayor

We know what we must do, and we increasingly know how to do it. We know how to come together and how to tear down barriers. We know how to focus on what matters most. We know what it means to work extraordinarily hard for a common purpose.



PETE BUTTIGIEG
MAYOR

THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND

★ YEAR IN REVIEW ★

In 2013, the South Bend Common Council passed **72 ORDINANCES AND 91 RESOLUTIONS.**

109,724 CALLS ANSWERED
by **311**



266 RESIDENTS used CityVoice to offer feedback on the vacant and abandoned house initiative.

The City saved taxpayers over **\$7.3 MILLION** through innovation and efficiency

OVER **\$69.9 MILLION** in construction investment in 2013

963 VOLUNTEERS put in over **9,458 HOURS** to paint the mural on the 933 pedestrian bridge

1,000 HOMES IN 1,000 DAYS
96 houses repaired, 44 houses demolished, 207 houses under contract



The Department of Community Investment helped create **330** jobs in 2013. An additional **489** jobs were retained

20% reduction in unemployment

AA BOND RATING = #1 of all of Indiana's Second Class Cities

PARTNERSHIPS

- The City of South Bend Code for America team developed CityVoice (cityvoiceapp.com) with the Department of Code Enforcement. Code for America, known as the technology world's version of the Peace Corps, connects web-industry professionals with municipal governments to promote openness and efficiency.
- The South Bend Group Violence Initiative (GVI) unites community leaders around the common mission of saving lives and improving public safety. Now a member of the National Network for Safe Communities, the GVI is a partnership among 30 representatives from local law enforcement, government, education, civil service, health care, and faith-based organizations. GVI coordinates the efforts of local, state, and federal law enforcement and prosecutors to focus crime-prevention on groups most associated with gun violence.
- Mayor Buttigieg reestablished the Green Ribbon Committee on Environmental Sustainability to promote sustainable initiatives in South Bend related to air quality, water, transportation, and energy use. Leaders from the business, government, education and nonprofit communities will continue to convene to develop a sustainability plan for the city.
- The City has paired up with enFocus, which encourages graduates of Notre Dame's ESTEEM program to spend a postgraduate year in our community solving problems and working on issues of civic importance. In 2013, EnFocus fellows helped save the South Bend Fire Department, \$3.2 million through innovative initiatives.

SAVINGS

- The City refinanced its Century Center and Sewer Bonds, saving over \$1 million and \$970,000 respectively.
- In 2013, the South Bend's Parks and Recreation volunteer program generated 21,892 volunteer hours valued at \$460,128.
- Energizing Indiana presented the City of South Bend with \$95,550 in rebate checks for the efficiency achieved in three downtown parking garages from replacing 775 light fixtures with T5 fluorescent bulbs, a change which saved \$35,433 in electricity costs. The City will get a full return on its \$250,000 investment in just over 1.5 years.
- Four of the City's trash trucks were converted to run on compressed natural gas. The average cost of CNG fuel was \$.73 per gallon as compared to diesel fuel at \$3.59 per gallon. This saved the city \$15,676 in 2013.
- The City trained code inspectors in asbestos inspection and saved the City a minimum inspection cost of \$400 per vacant and abandoned house.

JOB

- The City of South Bend helped establish a new workforce training initiative, Supporting Manufacturers and Regional Talent (SMART). SMART will help residents obtain the necessary skills to excel in existing job opportunities. This newly qualified workforce will assist local employers to advance their businesses to strengthen our economy.
- The unemployment rate within the City of South Bend decreased to 8.7 percent from 11.0 percent, a 20 percent reduction, from December 2012 to December 2013, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.
- Department of Community Investment has streamlined the City's tax abatement form, reducing a previously 18-page document to just four pages. The new form makes the process easier to navigate for potential investors saving time and resources for both the applicants and the City staff who administer the process.
- Community Investment also streamlined operations with a 'single point of contact', one advocate for businesses to meet with to resolve permitting, codes, tax appeals, and other issues.

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

- South Bend's government information and non-emergency services line, 311, received its 100,000th call in December. Launched last March, 311 serves more than 600 customers each day in English and Spanish.
- The Open Data Portal, data.southbend.in.gov, a new city transparency website that provides user-friendly access to data from the City of South Bend was launched in August. Making the information available in this way promotes the development of apps based on the data and informs residents to offer input for improving City services. Residents can look up code violations, view maps of parks and social services, and access a database of business licenses. In the near future, datasets will include City expenditure and 311 call data.
- South Bend recently installed ShotSpotter to detect outdoor gunshot incidents. Sensors are in place to detect gun crime within the City. It allows police to respond quickly to the exact location where shots are fired. ShotSpotter classifies the source, pinpoints the suspected location to within a few yards, and notifies police.
- New iPhone and Android Apps allows residents to get information on Morris Performing Arts Center events, purchase tickets, and the convenience to save tickets to phone calendars.

AWARDS & HONORS

- Parks and Recreation received an Award of Excellence in the Youth and Family Programs category at the 2014 Indiana Parks and Recreation Association for its "Gone Fishing" program.
- South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg shared the 2013 Mayor of the Year honors in the Gov Fresh Awards, which recognize open-government initiatives. The City of South Bend's CityVoice, an application for gathering feedback on vacant and abandoned properties, was also the co-recipient of Civic App of the Year award.
- The Morris Performing Arts Center again ranked in the Top 100 Worldwide Theatre Venues by Pollstar magazine. The list includes national and international venues. The high ranking helps attract new events from artists, agents, and promoters.
- The website TheKnot.com gave The Palais Royale a "Best of Weddings" BOW award in the category "Reception & Ceremony" site.
- South Bend received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for its Comprehensive Annual Report.

NEIGHBORHOODS

- In addition to new storm drains, Diamond Avenue, a main city thoroughfare, was widened and resurfaced, its sidewalks and landscaping improved, and additional lights installed.
- Since the start of the Buttigieg Administration, there are 70 new housing units downtown, and five development groups have plans to spend more than \$40 million to bring about 250 additional living spaces into the city center.
- Shortly after taking office, Mayor Buttigieg convened a group of city and county officials, private sector practitioners, and neighborhood advocates to form a working group on how to address the issue of South Bend's vacant and abandoned homes. In 2013, the "1,000 Homes in 1,000 Days" initiative demolished 44 vacant and abandoned houses. 96 were repaired. Another 207 are scheduled to come down in spring 2014.
- In October, the City implemented a Chronic Nuisance Ordinance to address issues with repeat police calls from local properties. The City now fines property owners based on the number of police calls. Each call above the limits established in the legislation—five calls in a 60-day period for a property with 50 or fewer units and 12 calls in a 90-day period for a property with 51 or more units—will result in a \$250 fine.