

- Dealing with more and more media inquiries about first anniversary, and where we are today. Proud to say that one of the biggest questions we're getting is this: "Why is Biloxi so far ahead in its recovery? Why is there so much enthusiasm in Biloxi?"
- One of the answers I give them is that I'm very proud of how our residents are dealing with this ordeal. How they are not only enduring but prevailing. So thank all of you for that.
- The second thing I tell them is that the reason that you're seeing enthusiasm in Biloxi is because we weren't broken before the storm. We were doing the things we needed to be doing to provide our residents an excellent quality of life. New schools, historic preservation, affordable housing, parks and recreation, public safety and keeping city taxes low.
- We were enjoying a renaissance before this storm, and people realize that as bad as this storm was, we CAN and we WILL overcome it.
- A few weeks ago, we unveiled our Reviving the Renaissance report, and before the ink was dry on that document, one of our councilmembers was proposing creating new gaming districts.

- Let me repeat something that I have said repeatedly since the storm – and even before the storm, for that matter: I think we may see from 18 to 22 casinos in Biloxi over the next several years, and while I say that, I also say that I am opposed to re-zoning land to create new gaming districts. I think we have enough land zoned for gaming and I hope that you agree with me.
- This is one of those big issues that we're going to be dealing with, along with that other one, affordable housing. I want to thank all of you who worked on the RTR committees, and I invite all of you to read the report online. It will soon be printed and available in our libraries and city facilities.
- Meantime, the city council and I are working on the new city budget. In this budget, I am proposing no increase in the city tax rate, which is the 13th time in 13 years that we are not raising your taxes.
- The budget has \$41 million in capital projects, and since the \$10 million BI insurance is no more, I think we should be conservative with our money. I know, imagine that.