

# We're So Sorry...and Congratulations!!

That's what I heard from so many as I stood on High Street on Sunday, April 12 as I watched smoke pour out of the doors of my Hallmark store after the business next to ours caught on fire. I was feeling devastated five days after I was elected mayor, in a week that started with celebration and happiness. I was so thankful for the support of the voters and was thinking about the possibilities and looking forward to jumping into my new role as mayor. People congratulated and consoled me as we watched, but we couldn't even see inside as the smoke filled my store completely, so I figured this was it, forty years of the family business was over. But as the smoke cleared I was thankful to see that the fire had not reached our store and we would rebuild and recover. And I was DETERMINED to come back bigger, stronger, and better than ever before!

But I would not do it alone. First, it was with the support of my family as we stood together the entire time, followed by the Hallmark girls who were strong when I had doubts, and then our customers, the people of this wonderful community who gave support and patience as we cleaned the soot and rebuilt.

So 2015 came in with a bang, or in my case with flames. I heard so many stories of people who lost everything and it reminded me to appreciate what we have and

not to take for granted. We were very lucky, and as I watched the firemen suit up and go into the fire I prayed and watched as they did what they do best, along with police on the scene. As mayor and as citizens we never want to take our city's Public Safety servants for granted!

Now as 2015 draws to a close I have overcome the challenges at the store, turned a disaster into a new beginning.

2015 was also a new beginning for me as mayor, overcoming a loss for my council seat the year before. I could have taken that as a defeat. Instead, I regrouped, reevaluated what I really had the desire to do and I went after it 100%! It takes focus, just as in sports, to overcome loss and turn it into victory, to embrace the hurt of loss and realize that it just makes us stronger than we ever were if we embrace, accept and learn from those challenges!

And what a wonderful ride it has been!! People often ask if I like being mayor and I tell them it is better than I ever imagined! I love hearing from citizens, their vision for Jefferson City, and getting a chance to bring that community vision to reality!

In 2016 I look forward to learning more from you, what do you see in Jefferson City's future?

Here's my New Year's #JCMO Resolution:

- Redevelopment of the old Prison
- Civic/Sports center with meeting, event and expo space
- Riverfront Access continued through private donors
- Capitol Avenue redevelopment

Each of those has the possibility to change the face of Jefferson City on not just a local level but statewide. I look forward to embracing the positive potential of our community, bringing economic development, a sense of pride in what we are, a wonderful Capital City, the hub of local and statewide government and visitors, with a stunning river as the backdrop, and grand Capitol Avenue leading to one of the biggest areas of development with the best view in town at the old prison, MSP!

Like other challenges, these will not come without effort, but the work that has been done over the years can finally come to fruition and completion, how exciting to see what 2016 holds for Jefferson City! And whatever it is I'll be sure to blog about it!! [www.MayorTergin.blogspot.com](http://www.MayorTergin.blogspot.com)

Here's to another GREAT year in #JCMO!  
#Strongerthanever!



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