



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

PRESS RELEASE

March 8, 2016

Contact: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt
767-9205
Christine Chamberland, Finance Director-City
767-9265
Brad Peryea, Finance Director-School
767-4617

CITY OF WOONSOCKET FISCAL YEAR 2015 AUDIT RESULT
City and Education Department End Fiscal Year 2015 with Surplus

WOONSOCKET, RI: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt announced today that the City's independent auditors have released the fiscal Year 2015 operating results for the City and Education Department. The City ended the fiscal year with an operating surplus of \$2,634,948 and the Education Department finished the fiscal year with an operating surplus of \$3,308,955. The cumulative surplus at year-end for the City was \$4,198,516 and the cumulative surplus for the Education Department was \$1,995,047, for a combined cumulative fund balance of \$6,193,563.

The rating agencies view a healthy fund balance as a positive indicator of financial stability when determining the City's bond rating. A sufficient fund balance also improves cash flow and provides a reserve for unexpected budgetary events. The Finance Director and the Mayor believe the positive direction these numbers reflect will continue in accordance with the plan to bring fiscal stability to the City. The Mayor commented, "My office and the Office of the Finance Director work each and every day to improve the fiscal condition of the City. These numbers support that our efforts are moving the City in a positive direction."

This is the first year since 2007 that the School Department has ended the fiscal year with a positive fund balance. In fiscal year 2012, the School Department's fund balance reached its most critical point with a cumulative deficit of \$9.4 Million. The surplus in fiscal year 2015 resulted in the elimination of the structural deficit and a \$2 Million fund balance for the School Department.

Brad Peryea, Education Department Finance Director, expressed satisfaction with the 2015 financial results, and commented, "The Woonsocket Education Department's long-term financial forecast remains positive and we are continuing on the course that the Woonsocket Budget Commission set forth when they departed the City of Woonsocket in 2015. The Woonsocket Education Department in conjunction with the Woonsocket School Committee is committed to continuing to help restore fiscal stability to the City of Woonsocket."

"These results are consistent with the overall framework of the WBC's five-year plan. As we plan for the future, I am committed to adhere to the plan's goals as the surest way to bring fiscal stability to our City," noted Christine Chamberland, Director of Finance.

###END###