



## State of the City

First, I would like to express my gratitude to our outgoing City Council. Together we worked hard to responsibly move the city forward. As we look to 2025, I am excited to continue the work with the newly elected City Council and operate as a cohesive unit in managing the city with our citizens' best interests in mind.

### Overview:

**Staff:** The city currently employs 22 full-time and 3 part-time employees.

- **Police Department:** 13 full-time police officers and 2 part-time code enforcement employees.
- **Public Works:** 7 full-time employees.
- **Administration/Events & Community Center:** 2 full-time and 2 part-time employees.

Additionally, the city relies on various boards and commissions. On behalf of the City Council and myself, I wish to thank everyone who serves on the following boards for their dedication to the city:

- Board of Adjustments
- Board of Ethics
- Code Enforcement Board
- Planning and Zoning Commission

**Growth:** Calendar 2024 was a good year for the city in terms of quiet growth. While the most visible growth in the city is the current construction taking place on US 27 across from Meijer's, there has been quiet growth in remodeling and some new housing construction.

**Financial Stability:** The city continues to be financially stable and remains one of the lowest taxing entities in Northern Kentucky. Over the past year, the city's revenues from payroll, insurance, and occupational taxes have stayed flat or experienced modest growth year over year. Given the growth in property values, the city has left property taxes at the 2023 level, thereby not taking the tax increase suggested by the compensating rate for 2024.

**City Expenses:** The city continues to maintain control of all city expenses. Although similar to yours, our expenses have risen in every department, the city has managed to navigate this without having to raise taxes for our citizens.

**City's Strategic Funds:** The city's strategic funds have remained stable from 2023 to 2024.

**Infrastructure:** The city continues to invest in our infrastructure. Over the past year, the city has invested over three quarters of a million dollars in roadways. This includes the rebuilding of Darlas Drive (Phase I), and stormwater work on Uhl Road. The city has received the required permits from the Kentucky Department of Water and the Army Corps of Engineers, which will allow it to bid out the second phase of Darlas Drive.

**The City Moving Forward:** 2025 projects and changes.

- Cold Spring Pointe: the development on the south end of the city has started. Based on current plans, some buildings and retailers are anticipated to open in 2025 one of which is Publix. Several other tenants have signed leases.
- The city continues to work with the developer of the old DAV site on the north end of the city. With zoning passed and development plans being reviewed, it is hopeful that activity will start on that site early in the spring of 2025. Tenants have not been announced for this site as of this writing, but the developer is in discussion with multiple entities.

- Kroger plans to remodel and expand their store at Martha Layne Collins starting in late 2025.
- Approval and construction of stormwater infrastructure projects will affect London Acres and possibly a section of Winters Lane.
- Approval and construction of Phase II for Darlas Drive.
- Construction and remodeling of the playground equipment at Municipal Park is scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2025.

In closing, I would like to thank all city department heads and employees for their hard work and pride in our city. I would also like to thank all of you, our residents, for the opportunity to serve as your mayor. I continue to be available in the office Monday through Friday between 9 am and 4 pm. Please feel free to stop in or call the city building at any time. I also encourage you to reach out to the various department heads should you have concerns or issues that need to be addressed.

With your support, the City Council, the City Administration Teams, and I look forward to 2025. There are many exciting opportunities and projects ahead of us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Angelo Penque". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "A".

D. Angelo Penque, Mayor  
City of Cold Spring