

**First Friday Noontime Forum Series**  
**“Continuing the Growth and Prosperity of Downtown Lancaster”**

**Highlights**

**September 2009 – September Discussion**  
**PROGRESS & OPPORTUNITIES**  
**The Honorable Rick Gray, Mayor**

- ❖ 4 years ago there was no plan or vision for the future of the City.
- ❖ The first step was creating a Transition Plan, followed by a Strategic Plan.
- ❖ An operational audit has helped City government become more up to date, cost effective and user-friendly.
- ❖ Allowing credit cards for payments has increased the collection of taxes and city fees.
- ❖ Cost-saving LED traffic signals were installed, pedestrian and vehicular signage is being updated, and Lancaster Square super-structure was removed.
- ❖ The Marriott/Convention Center is open, Central Market renovations have begun, a \$88 million state-of-the-art water plant is under construction, and a plan for 4-5 City parks has been completed.
- ❖ Many bad decisions are made only for added tax revenues – property tax reform and other sources of income are needed.
- ❖ The City implemented a policy to deal with vacant and blighted neighborhood properties.