

Happy Groundhog Day! It's official: We will have a longer winter, according to America's beloved meteorologist Punxsutawney Phil. I wonder how Phil might predict the economic outlook for 2023. Like many economists Phil might predict a slowing of the economy over the next several months, or even a slight recession.

As the great theologian William Murray exclaimed in the movie Meatballs, "It Just Doesn't Matter!" We will be just fine in Springfield/Clark County because our community has been on quite a run with significant job growth over the past few years. These company investments have helped stimulate the biggest housing boom in 50 plus years. People throughout our great state are talking about the unprecedented momentum happening here. A slowing of the economy only serves to give us time to catch our breath before the next BIG run.

Our success can be attributed to stakeholder alignment and a city and county that are investing in important assets and infrastructure for the betterment of all who live here. The PARTNERSHIP that has been built up over a long time is now paying off as this community continues to attract next generation opportunities while growing the existing companies we have here. We are also attracting residential and mixed use developers for the first time in decades who are master planning much needed developments in strategic locations throughout the community including downtown Springfield.

The plans being worked on will help to propel us forward as the economy improves. I often hear people talk about the good old days of Springfield. In the very near future, these same people might get to see the best days of Springfield. We are building a healthy ecosystem. Your businesses and the people who work for you all perform better in a vibrant community. The future is now! Oh, the places we'll go Springfield/Clark County!

Onward!

Mike