



- Engagement (**Corporate Challenge/YOLO Images**)
  - While providing the necessary infrastructure for healthy living and wellness is crucial, it serves little purpose without active and motivated community members.
  - Last year, the City hosted 15 teams in its annual Corporate Challenge event, which rallies businesses throughout the community to get their employees moving in friendly yet competitive face-offs.
  - The Corporate Challenge is physically, mentally and emotionally healthy, influencing both activity and comradery amongst workplace peers.
  - Our latest and most innovative health-promoting endeavor is undoubtedly the “YOLO Lancaster” Wellness Challenge.
  - In partnership with Antelope Valley Partners for Health, the City is engaging organizations throughout the community to band together, support and motivate citizens to eat healthy and be active, utilizing a city-wide rewards system.
- With proper infrastructure and active engagement from residents and businesses, Lancaster’s health and wellness status as a community is becoming better than ever.
- Culture, Arts and Entertainment (**MOAH, LPAC, CEDAR collage**)
  - The Ongoing
    - Also adding to our community’s wellness are the seemingly endless opportunities to experience culture, art and entertainment year-round.
    - In addition to our many big crowd-drawing events (California Poppy Festival, Summer Concert Series, Fireworks Extravaganza, Bark at the Park, BooLVD, Field of Drafts, and The BLVD Magical Christmas)...
      - The Lancaster Performing Arts Center hosted 120 rental performances, as well as more than 20 outreach programs for 15,000 local children.
      - Additionally, the City’s museums presented more than 40 art exhibitions last year.
  - The New
    - The Cedar Center for the Arts was refurbished, and we welcomed the LA County Air Show to our city.
    - The City of Lancaster continues to offer community-gathering culture, arts and entertainment to the community, ensuring there is always something fun and inspiring to do.
- Community Enhancements (**Metrolink, MLK slide**)
  - We’re growing the community in other ways, as well.
  - Metrolink Upgrades

- Recognizing the need to increase safety and accountability at our local transportation hub, the City negotiated with Metrolink and the County of Los Angeles to heighten service and protective measures at our downtown Metrolink Station.
- Transit officers have been added, a security fence has been installed, and – thanks to the contribution of local volunteers, Vice Mayor Marvin Crist and Councilmember Ken Mann – the station has been beautified.
- Social Advances for the Homeless (**HDRMC walk-through, Grace/Shelter/etc.**)
  - More important than the enhancements made at the Metrolink Station is what developed further from the discussions leading up to these improvements.
  - In partnership with the County of Los Angeles and the local faith-based community, the previous High Desert Regional Care Center located on 60<sup>th</sup> West is on track to be converted into a multi-service facility for the homeless population.
  - At this new facility, the possibilities are tremendous for enabling a healthy and successful transition from transient living to personal wellness and independent sustainability.
  - This endeavor will be the first true opportunity for our community's many varied organizational resources to pool together to have an even greater impact on this segment of the community.
  - Faith-based organizations, Grace Resource Center, the Lancaster Community Shelter, and other service and mental health entities will now receive assistance and support from the County to help facilitate the proper offering of services for people truly in need.
- Green Developments (**BYD Lancaster, Nexus system, solar collage**)
  - Net Zero
    - On the green energy front, the City remains on a diligent path to becoming Net Zero.
    - Lancaster not only reached 54% of phase one before the close of 2014, but the City was also pleased to see numerous green advancements take place, which will contribute to our sustainability goals.
      - The rollout of KB Home's Zero House 2.0,
      - The inclusion of gray water systems for homes,
      - Nexus E-Water's advanced system for capturing and reusing residential water,
      - And the unveiling of BYD's first 60-foot articulated electric bus, named "The Lancaster"

- Streetlights (**Same photo as before**)
  - One move that truly sets us apart as a city is the acquisition of 18,000 streetlights from Southern California Edison.
  - This investment will save the City significant funds in maintenance costs while giving us countless options for retrofitting streetlights to enhance public safety and community services.
- Lancaster Choice Energy (CCA) (**see before pics**)
  - The City's grandest and most exciting venture by far is the coming implementation of our Community Choice Aggregate program, "Lancaster Choice Energy."
  - Lancaster is taking control of its power in order to give citizens control over their power.
  - Last year, we set the foundation in place, and this year, we will roll out our own utility service at lower rates than Southern California Edison.
  - By October of this year, everyone in Lancaster will have the power to choose the energy options that work best for their homes and businesses.
  - Being able to provide this affordable, greener service to our citizens is an excellent incentive for pursuing Community Choice Aggregation.
  - The icing on the cake is that becoming a CCA is a real game-changer for the City and the community at large.
  - There are so many avenues of growth, expansion and energy independence associated with this project.
  - The advantages this gives our residents, businesses and local economy are immediate, long-term and extensive.
  - Lancaster Choice Energy will reinvigorate and revolutionize local municipal economics while encouraging public-private synergy and expanding public trust.
- Economic Growth and Potential (BLVD shots, Auto Mall, Hotels)
  - The Growth
    - The road to Lancaster Choice Energy has been paved by the demands and the endurance of our local economy.
    - We are persistently seeking new avenues for strengthening our economic infrastructure to ensure future sustainability.
    - In the meantime, the past year speaks to our community's resourceful ability to thrive even in the most challenging times.

- Ten more new businesses launched on The BLVD, welcoming more than 100,000 visitors to our many special events throughout the year.
- The Lancaster Auto Mall was renovated, with our auto dealers investing more than \$12 million toward revamping their dealerships.
- 18 new eateries and two new high-end hotels opened in Lancaster in 2014.
- We now have more than 7,500 local businesses in Lancaster, and that number will continue to increase.
- The Potential
  - The City is leveraging its assets and innovation to attract more businesses.
  - When Lancaster Choice Energy launches in May, it will be strategically marketed as an incentive for key job creators and revenue generators to locate, expand or remain in Lancaster.
  - By fervently addressing community wellness, engagement, social health and environmental responsibility, along with championing a “most business-friendly” mantra, the City is creating a sustainable marketplace conducive to jobs, education and personal success for all citizens.
- Conclusion **(the “key” is – you! slide)**
  - 2014 was an extremely productive year for the City of Lancaster.
  - I’ve only mentioned some of the large-scale developments today, but there are pages and pages of highlights outlining the many accomplishments achieved over the past year.
  - What I want to leave you with today is this:
  - The key to becoming the best community we can be is found not only in maintaining our momentum for progress and innovation, but also in understanding and embracing our ability as a city to take control of our future, in spite of the world’s economic, social and environmental vices.
  - The City Council and I are immensely grateful for the City Staff’s dedication to supporting and serving the greater good of our citizens and our Valley.
  - We are equally grateful for all of your support as community stakeholders.
  - Without the enthusiasm, encouragement and hopeful optimism of the majority of our citizens, none of our successes can be truly realized.
  - All I ask is that each of you consider how you, your family and your business can become just a little more committed to advancing the welfare of our community.
  - Let us all keep charging forward to ensure the City of Lancaster reaches its full potential and continues to grow an exemplary foundation for economic, social, environmental and cultural excellence.