Syracuse City, Utah

A Report to Our Citizens 2014-2015

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality, affordable services for its citizens, while promoting community pride, fostering economic development, and preparing for the future.

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Syracuse City Public Safety

Did you know that Syracuse City has its own police and fire department? 2015 marked Syracuse fire departments 50th anniversary and Syracuse police departments 65th anniversary. The City pays for these services with property tax and sales tax paid by our residents.

Prior to 1965, our fire protection services were contracted through Davis County and Clearfield City. In 1965, Syracuse and West Point worked together to start a volunteer fire department that would service both cities. Volunteers were trained by the state Fire Marshall.

Keith West was selected as the first fire chief and served for a short time until the end of 1965. Roy Miya was appointed by the Syracuse City Council as the second fire chief. He served for 19 years and helped the department establish its roots. He was paid a salary of $25 per month. The other volunteer firefighters were paid $2 for each meeting they attended and $2-3 per hour for any fires they fought.

In 2002, Syracuse City purchased two ambulances and began providing ambulance services to its residents. Syracuse City transitioned to a full-time fire department in August 2002. Today, our fire department is staffed 24 hours a day 7 days a week by a minimum of 3 full-time firefighters and 1 part-time firefighter.

Prior to 1950, all law enforcement services were contacted through the Sheriff's office in Davis County. On March 1, 1950, Elvin Hansen was sworn in as the first Syracuse Town Marshall. He received pay of $5.00 per month plus expenses. He had no equipment with the exception of a revolver and handcuffs that were on loan from the Sheriff's office.

In 1971, Henry Martin became the 3rd Town Marshall and his title was changed to Chief of Police. He received a police car, radio, radar, and a small office in city hall. In 1977, two additional police officers were added to the force. Today, we have 20 police officers including the Chief of Police.

Demographic Information

	2013	2014	2015
Population	25,118	25,775	26,639
Per Capita Income	$24,474	$24,901	$25,625
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	3.5%	3.4%
Full-Time City Employees	69	68	71
Antelope Island Visits	307,239	312,933	380,611

How We Have Progressed

Fiscal year 2015

2015 Highlights

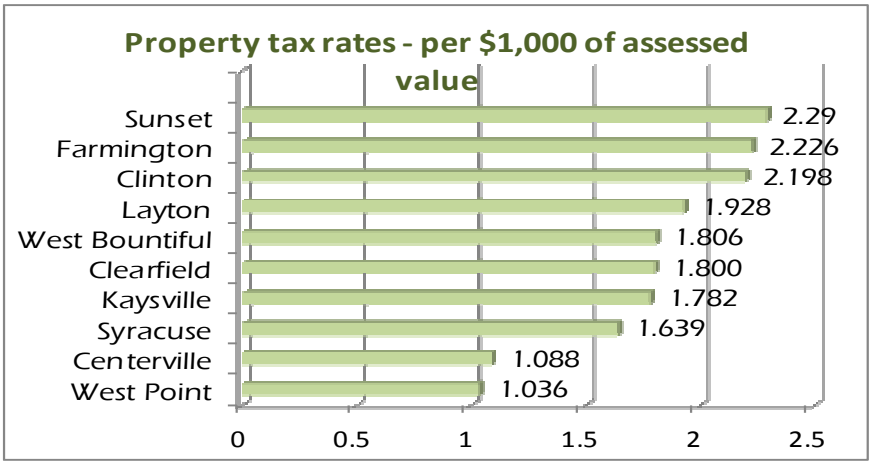
- Chloe's Sunshine Park was completed with a grand opening on May 9, 2015. The park was inspired by Chloe Bennett who has cerebral palsy. The park is fully accessible for children of all ages and disabilities.
- The City refinanced its 2006 Municipal Building Authority bonds with a lower interest rate saving the City an estimated $286,000 over the remaining life of the bonds.
- The City was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 5th year in a row from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- The City elected to pay off its 2005 Sales Tax Bond 6 years early saving the City $108,875 in interest cost. The total principal payoff was $985,000.

Performance Measures & Statistics

Fiscal Year	2013	2014	2015
Police			
Total Incidents reported *	7,628	12,085	14,320
Citations written	2.023	1,773	1,677
Total violations on citations	2,780	2,441	2,406
Theft Incidents	332	218	291
Assault incidents	151	83	77
Fire			
Number of calls dispatched	743	805	910
Average response time	4:31	4:16	4:08
Streets			
Street sweeping miles	784	812	775
Street sweeping hours	257	291	291
Water			
Service connections	6,863	7,184	7,330
Average daily consumption (gallons)	1,705,000	1,928,000	1,930,000
Recreation			
Community Center memberships	1,929	1,172	998
Sports program participants	4,090	4,105	4,014
Community Development			
Number of new homes	163	212	174

** Starting in 2014, all incidents were counted even if it didn't end up in a written report.*

Property Taxes - How do we stack up?



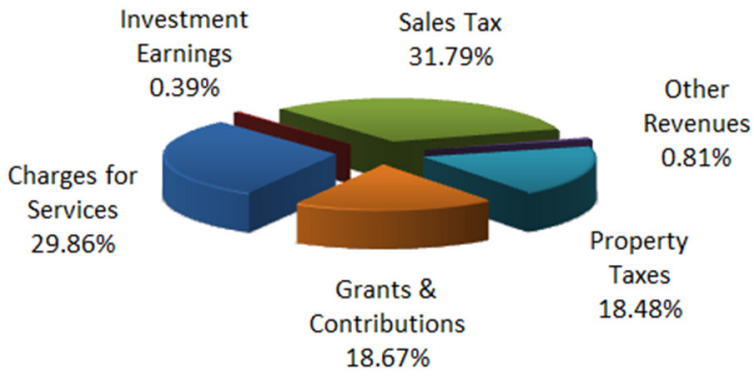
The measures reported on this page were included based on information collected by the City. What would you like to see reported on in this page? Please let us know by contacting Stephen Marshall at 801-614-9621 or by email at smarshall@syracuseut.com.

Our Finances - Revenues vs. Expenses

What are the costs for servicing the citizens and how are those costs paid?

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the City. It exists to account for the resources used to pay for the services traditionally associated with local government. Included are police and fire protection, parks and recreation, planning and economic development, general administration of the City, and any other activity for which a special fund has not been created. For a complete review of all City Funds please refer to the website below.

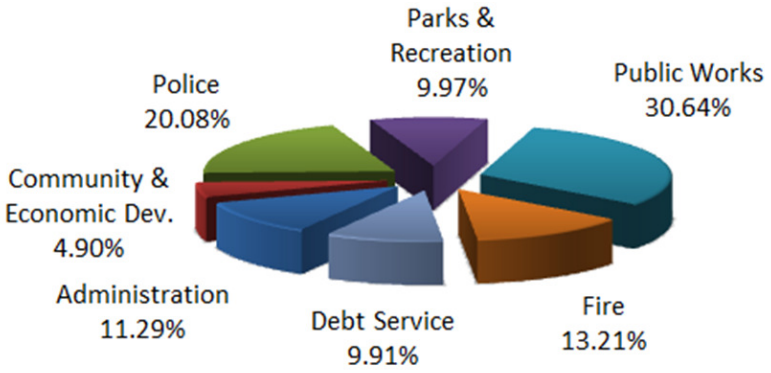
Revenues by Source - General Fund



Fiscal Year	2013	2014	2015
Sales Tax	$2,953,427	$3,096,540	$3,309,455
Charges for Services	3,025,005	3,523,990	3,108,326
Property Taxes	1,896,493	1,918,942	1,923,133
Grants & Contributions*	1,005,661	881,459	1,943,565
Other Revenues	659,134	180,578	84,036
Investment Earnings	30,593	34,600	40,521
Total Revenues	**$9,570,313**	**$9,636,109**	**$10,409,036**

** This large increase can be attributed to a one-time grant received from Utah Department of Transportation for a road expansion project totaling $1,047,677.*

Expenses by Service Area - General Fund



Fiscal Year	2013	2014	2015
Police	$2,185,654	$2,319,013	$2,249,540
Administration	1,561,525	1,183,955	1,264,472
Fire	1,631,358	1,467,692	1,480,127
Public Works *	2,170,559	2,381,973	3,431,863
Parks & Recreation	1,050,209	1,044,047	1,116,707
Community & Econ. Dev.	551,143	506,987	548,641
Debt Service **	260,128	271,256	1,109,642
Total Expenses	**$9,410,576**	**$9,174,923**	**$11,220,992**

*** Our City paid off the 2005 Sales Tax Bond 6 years early with a total principal payment of $985,000. This saved the City $108,875 in interest cost.*

Independent Audit

An Independent audit of the City's finances was conducted, resulting in a clean opinion. Complete financial information, including the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, can be found at **www.syracuseut.com.**

What's Next? Future Projects and Challenges.

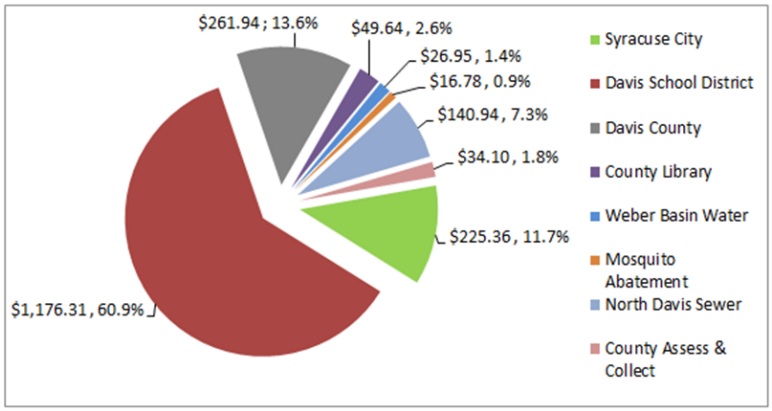
Property Tax Information

Did you know that Syracuse City only receives about 11.7% of the total property tax you pay each year? The average home value in Syracuse City is approximately $250,000. Each home owner who lives in their primary residence is given a 45% tax exemption on that home. This means that a home with an appraised value of $250,000 is only subject to a taxable value of $137,500. This home is assessed a total property tax of $1,932.01 each year. Syracuse City only receives $225.36 or 11.7%. The remainder of the taxes are distributed to other taxing entities as shown below in the table on the left. Davis School District is the largest taxing entity. The average home owner pays $1,176.31 or 60.9% of their property tax bill to the Davis School District. The table below on the right shows how Syracuse City uses the $225.36 from the average home to provide services to that home. The police department receives $60.26 or 26.7% per year and the fire department receives $41.75 or 18.5% per year. Together, approximately 45.2% of the taxes paid to the city go to fund public safety.

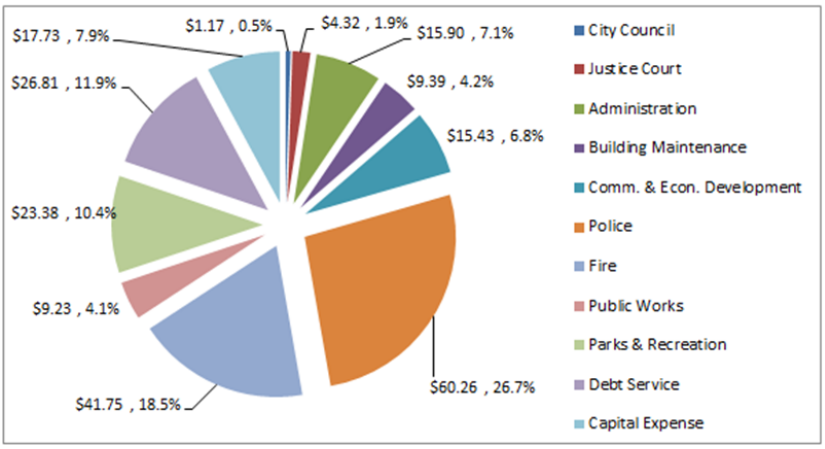
Resident Property Tax Bill - What is Charged and Where Does It Go?

Average Value of Home in Syracuse:	**$ 250,000.00**
Estimated Taxable Value:	**$ 137,500.00**
Estimated Property Tax:	**$ 1,932.01**

Estimated Total Property Tax Bill - Breakdown by Taxing Entity



Syracuse City Portion of Tax Bill - Breakdown by Department



Maintaining Level of Service

One of the biggest challenges that Syracuse city faces is maintaining our level of service to its citizens. The city has grown from a small farming community in 1990 with a population of 4,864, to a thriving bedroom community with a population of approximately 27,000 residents today. We estimate that the City will grow to approximately 35,000 residents in 2025 with a projected build out of approximately 55,000 residents. With a growing city, challenges arise in making sure we maintain a high level of service to our citizens. This means that we will likely need to add staff, equipment, vehicles, and other resources in order to ensure the needs of the citizens will be met. Syracuse City is proud to say that the property taxes in Syracuse are one of the lowest in the surrounding area. We will continue to work hard and strive to keep your taxes low all while providing great service to our citizens.

We want to hear from you.

Do you like this report? Would you like to see other information? Please let us know by contacting Stephen Marshall @ 801-614-9621 or by email at smarshall@syracuseut.com. For more information on our services, visit our website at www.syracuseut.com.