



"I pledge, not to hire anyone from my own family to work in city government: I pledge, not to give special favors or use of your tax money to any company that employs members of my own family: I pledge, a new ethics in city government."

Mayor Mike Ochs

Breaking through what appeared to be defying odds, Mike Ochs became the agent of change for the city of North Vernon by winning the 2015 mayoral election. Sworn into office in early 2016, the newly elected mayor hit the ground running with an open mind and a desire to see change. Transparency, strong family values, and a

heart of compassion to see the citizens and City of North Vernon prosper are at the very core from which Mayor Mike Ochs operates.

Raised in an entrepreneurial home by a dad who had an undeniable eye towards seeing a good opportunity for business and moving on it, it's no surprise that Mike carries this same passion and entrepreneurial spirit into office. Within his first two years, at least five different companies have made the commitment to build and/or expand their companies to yield a potential increase of over 350 new jobs.

In addition, without hesitation, one of the most eye-catching initiatives in moving the city toward a greener and cleaner tomorrow includes the implementation of solar energy. North Vernon has now become the first city of its kind in the entire United States to produce its own solar power that will, in turn, be used to fuel the city buildings, street lighting, and traffic lights. All made possible without an increase in taxes and funded through a local financial institution. Besides the projected long-term energy savings, this initiative also gives the city better control over inventory and its use as well as improves the quality of life for the people in the community. This investment will not only equip the city in the future of renewable energy but it is also starting to attract the eyes of other cities, local and international, who are interested in exploring similar options.

With such changes, it's easy to see that business development, both large and small, is a major component of what lies ahead. What once seemed bleak and stagnant, the atmosphere has now become a growing and expanding one full of hope and anticipation.
