

## Kiplinger names Cleveland No. 3 for economic growth, stability

### Publication credits industrial diversity

Posted Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:16 am

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— MAYOR TOM ROWLAND

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Cleveland has been recognized by another national publication spotlighting its economic growth and stability

The Kiplinger Letter, a weekly publication for executives and investors, has listed Cleveland among 11 United States cities which it forecasts will power ahead, outpacing the U.S. average for job creation as employers look for places with skilled workers and a lower cost of living.

Cleveland Mayor Tom Rowland said the Washington, D.C., publication placed the city among the fastest growing cities in the U.S. this year, putting it No. 3 in a list of 11 cities.

It described Cleveland as home to a wide range of manufacturing operations. Rowland said, “Once again, I’m not surprised with this good news. We get so many reports that indicate our business climate and economy is good. It confirms even more that Cleveland is not only a great place to live, but a tremendous place to do business and to invest.”

The Kiplinger Letter focuses its reports weekly on economy, finance, real estate, health and budget issues, giving an overview from a national prospective.

Cleveland was cited for its industrial diversity. The mayor emphasized Cleveland is the sixth largest in Tennessee in manufacturing employment, home to 14 Fortune 500 companies and four Fortune 1000 companies.

“Not only do we have new industries looking at our area for investment, we can be proud of the fact that since 2009, existing and new industry has invested over \$3.3 billion in our city and county,” Rowland continued.

“I have found that potential businesses and visitors are often amazed when I relay how many national brand items are manufactured right here in this community,” he added.

Rowland noted that in 2015 Cleveland/Bradley County added more jobs than any other city in the United States.

The mayor had praise for the Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce, saying it “focuses daily on promoting our area for business and industry investors, but also works hand in hand with our existing industries to assure our city and county meet their needs for growth and expansions. We have a great Chamber team on board, and that’s one of

the reasons we are being recognized by organizations and publications across the country.”

Rowland pointed to the Chamber’s new initiative for workforce development called “Your Skills, Your Future,” as being a great example of how the organization helps us prepare for the future.

“Through this new program, we will be assured to have a qualified, skilled workforce in place to meet the current and future industry demands,” he said.

Other cities spotlighted in The Kiplinger Letter, and the reasons for selection, included the following:

— St. George, Utah, citing its tourism and climate; Redmond, Ore, noting its attraction for retirees and tourism; Prescott, Ariz., cooler climate compared to Phoenix; Savannah, Ga., fourth busiest ocean port in the U.S.; Reno and Sparks, Nev., tourism; Athens, Ga., with the University of Georgia and its business development hub; College Station and Bryan, Texas, with rising enrollment at Texas A&M University; Salem, Ore., its industrial base; Boise, Idaho, citing its low real estate costs, health care, construction and manufacturing surge; and Spokane, Wash., with its rise in hiring in transportation and healthcare industries.

The mayor said that in the Kiplinger list, he noticed that tourism was a major factor in some of the cities’ recognition. He noted Cleveland and Bradley County have a booming tourism industry as well, and its economic impact and generation of dollars into our economy contribute to our growth and notoriety.

Rowland added that the state has recorded that guests spent a total of \$137.23 million in Bradley County in one year (2015). This was an increase of 3.4 percent over 2014.

The year also recorded a total of 900 workers employed in tourism-related fields in our community.

The general area of Cleveland, Charleston, and Bradley County, alongside neighbors in the Ocoee Region, offers a variety of outdoor activities, special public events and historic sites.

“This, coupled with our diverse industrial base, makes us a well-rounded city and makes me proud to see recognition come to us from publications such as this most recent report,” Mayor Rowland said in conclusion.