



This Week from the Mayor



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“Why & How We Lead with Racial Equity”



LAST FRIDAY I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT a session to a room full of elected officials at the Governing for Racial Equity and Inclusion Conference (GREI) – Advancing Racial Equity at Green River Community College on “Why & How We Lead with Racial Equity.” There were over 400 people attending the conference. Renton is one of the founding cities of this group and my staff helped organize this conference. Several members of our staff lead many of the discussions. Renton has clearly developed the reputation in our region of being a leader in addressing inclusion and equity initiatives.

In my presentation I shared Renton’s efforts. From 2000 to 2018, Renton has seen a tremendous growth in population and a significant growth in our diversity. This was an opportunity for us—a way to engage our community and find ways to serve the needs of our changing residents and businesses.

For Renton we integrated inclusion into our city’s priorities and way of doing business, and we created a five-year road map for the city’s priorities. We added inclusion as part of our mission statement and our city’s business plan.

We created a network of community liaisons, now called the [Mayors Inclusion Task Force](#), representing the diversity of our community. We also focused on community conversations, access and outreach. From various community forums to citywide festivals such as Black History Month, Renton Multicultural Festival and Juneteenth, we had several opportunities be inclusive and celebrate the diversity of our community.

With a dedicated consultant in Mayor’s office to provide expertise in inclusion, we have invested in building an inclusive city infrastructure. This has included mandatory annual training for all employees in equity and implicit bias, creating a citywide equity lens, adopting an HR Inclusion Tactical Plan, a citywide Language Line and emergency notification systems.

We are just beginning to scratch the surface and I realize there is a lot more to be done. I look forward to future discussion and brainstorming best practices with other mayors and city managers as we move forward on inclusion and diversity issues.

SKIS Commercial Painting moves to Renton

I WAS PLEASED TO BE part of the ribbon cutting for the new headquarters of SKIS Quality Commercial Painting. The ceremony also celebrated the company’s 50th anniversary.

SKIS was located in several buildings in Kent but found that arrangement unwieldy. Fortunately they found what they needed in Renton and now house all their operations under one roof.

They are a third generation, family-owned business that employs over 130. The new office complex at Southport is one of the many projects on their work list.



SKIS Painting vice president Jesse Ficks, founder Ski Biermanski, and president Jeff Ficks join Mayor Law in cutting the ribbon.

Input from residents helps guide city

WE CURRENTLY HAVE almost two dozen [boards](#), [committees](#), [commissions](#), and task forces that serve the city. The experience and expertise of the group members ensure that Renton remains a great place to live, work, play, and learn for everyone.

The individuals in these groups meet on a regular basis and give selflessly of their time and talents to not only maintain our current way of life, but to provide valuable input into issues that will affect the city for years to come.

As the year comes to a close, I’d like to thank everyone who participated in the groups. Your contributions are valued and respected by everyone in the city and you have my gratitude and respect.



Input from members of the Parks Commission is vital in determining the operation of the city’s 32 parks.

Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)