



# This Week from the Mayor



MAY 10, 2018

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## Downtown improvement initiative launched

THE REVITALIZATION OF DOWNTOWN RENTON has been one of my priorities for many years. Private developers are investing hundreds of millions of dollars and the city has invested tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure and other improvements with more on the way.

These investments have brought a new spirit to downtown, but more still needs to be done to create an inviting, walkable community.

To help achieve this, we are launching an [aggressive initiative](#) to help clean up the downtown area and improve public safety. This comprehensive effort will involve all city departments and also require the support from residents, businesses, and community groups.

As my first step, I'm asking the police to increase patrols in the area. In addition to addressing any illegal activity, their presence will increase the sense of security and allow officers to build relationships with businesses and citizens.

Second, the city will continue to enforce code compliance complaints and administer no trespass orders to those violating the laws.

Third, I'm calling on the support of the Renton Chamber of Commerce and the Renton Downtown Partnership to take a strong role in engaging local businesses and property owners in this effort. Downtown businesses must play an active role in the initiative and understand the value of taking steps to make downtown a desired place to be and locate businesses.

Fourth, volunteers and neighborhood groups will be mobilized to help beautify and maintain common areas throughout the community.

This initiative is foremost about cleaning up our downtown; but it's also about accountability. With everyone having some skin in the game, and by working together, we can ensure our downtown continues to be vibrant and successful.



*The Lofts at Second and Main*



*Parklets downtown*

## Police to crack down on illegal street racing

ILLEGAL STREET RACING has been an issue Renton police, as well as those in surrounding cities, have battled for years. Despite a number of enforcement efforts, this dangerous activity continues.

Our officers will be implementing a new approach designed to make Renton unappealing as a street racing venue. This will involve closing roads that are used as race tracks, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. Officers will also have zero tolerance for those who violate the rules of the road or drive vehicles that violate equipment laws.

Oaksdale Avenue SW will be closed between SW 16th and SW 41st streets. SW 27th Street between Lind Ave SW and Oaksdale Avenue SW will also be closed. SW 34th Street will be open, but will have a staff controlled access point at Oaksdale Avenue SW.

Through these actions, it's our intent to discourage this dangerous and reckless activity.



## Public Works crew aids accident victim

A POST ON FACEBOOK made us aware of the quick and heroic actions by one of our Public Works crews Monday morning.

The crew was working on Second Avenue North when they witnessed a rollover accident. They quickly sprang into action to assist the driver and direct traffic safely around the accident until emergency personnel arrived. The post from Alexandra Freckles, read "their quick actions were performed without hesitation and deserved recognition."



*Street Maintenance Services crew (left to right) Randy Wyatt, Brett Baker, Bill Betts, Russ McClurg (Lead), and Brian Akana.*

Alexandra Freckles

MON 10:50AM

I would like to pass on a Kudos to the City of Renton crew that was working on 2nd ave N in downtown Renton this morning. They witnessed a rollover accident today on 2nd and Park and immediately jumped into action to assist the rolled driver and direct traffic. Their quick actions, performed without hesitation, deserve a kudos and I hope that their supervisors will agree.

I'd like to salute Russ McClurg, Street Maintenance Lead, and his work crew of Brian Akana, Brett Baker, Bill Betts, and Randy Wyatt, and thank them for their quick thinking in responding to this accident.

## 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. | [Newsletter archive](#)