



# This Week from the Mayor



MARCH 1, 2019

VOL. IV, NO. 5

## Looking back at the last 12 years with pride and to the future with great optimism



I delivered the annual [State of the City](#) address yesterday morning and since it was my last, I thought it appropriate to look back at some of the things we have achieved as a city over the last 12 years, to show how far we've come and establish a positive tone for the years to come.

One achievement of which I'm most proud is the great progress we have made to make Renton a more inclusive community for everyone. The efforts of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force have been instrumental in establishing meaningful relationships with leaders from all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

[Watch the State of the City Intro video "Coming to America"](#)



*Southport is nearing completion and will offer 650,000 square feet of Class A office space.*

Many residents will remember that things were looking good 12 years ago, but overnight, the nation was thrust into the worst recession since the Great Depression. In Renton, we had just annexed the Cascade/Benson community and my vision of having a big checkbook with lots of money for pet projects dropped as fast as the stock market. Welcome to City Hall!



*The Mayor's Inclusion Task Force is one of several resident-involved groups who work to make Renton a great place to live, work, play and learn.*

Despite that less than ideal start, the city has rebounded because of the efforts of a talented and hard-working group of administrators. Because in Renton we approach issues determined to find a solution.



*Sunset Neighborhood Park was dedicated last June. It is one of seven new parks opened in the past 10 years.*

### Over the past 12 years, we've:

- » Committed to making Renton a safe place to live and work.
- » Established a workforce culture that provides a high level of quality service to our customers every day.
- » Emerged as a national leader on inclusiveness and equity through the work of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force.
- » Invested almost \$155 million since 2008 to improve and manage roadways.
- » Saved residents money by installing LED street lights, installing 18,000 automated water meters and enacting a comprehensive recycling and composting program, which saved millions and reduced landfills.
- » Opened seven new parks, improved traditional city events and added new ones to enhance the quality of life.
- » Become a desired location for businesses to invest and for families to live and thrive thanks to the collaborative work of our stakeholders: Renton Chamber of Commerce, Renton School District, Renton Technical College and Valley Medical Center.

### And there is a lot more to come in the next few years!

- » The healthcare industry is growing faster in Renton than in any other community.
- » One of the finest hotels in the region is located on the shores of Lake Washington, with two new additional hotels just blocks away.
- » A 650,000 square foot Class A office campus is nearing completion in Southport.
- » Hundreds of millions of public and private dollars are being invested in the revitalization of the downtown and Sunset Neighborhood.
- » We are poised to receive benefits from the years of contributions to Sound Transit, including \$200 million to build a new transit center at Rainier Avenue and Grady Way. The addition of Bus Rapid Transit along I-405, with two stops in Renton, will be a huge benefit for Renton commuters.



*Renton has now won seven Governor's Smart Communities Awards, more than any other municipality in the state.*



*Volunteers donated 44,000 hours of service to city projects in 2018.*

In the coming years our city will continue to see significant investments, adding more family-wage jobs and public amenities. Downtown and the Sunset neighborhood will become destination locations, where people want to go to shop, dine and enjoy special events.

We will continue our work to make Renton a community that is truly inclusive, with that diversity celebrated more frequently through festivals and events.

**Renton is indeed a special community and its future is bright!**

## 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](#)