



This Week from the Mayor



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City of Renton administrators flank Mayor Denis Law prior to one of their last weekly meetings. The administrators from left: Ed VanValey, police chief; Preeti Shridhar, deputy public affairs; Chip Vincent, community and economic development; Mayor Law; Robert Harrison, chief administrative officer; Kelly Beymer, community services; Shane Moloney, city attorney; Ellen Bradley-Mak, human resources/risk management; Gregg Zimmermann, public works; and Jan Hawn, administrative services.

Renton's future is bright

AS I LOOK OVER THE CITY FROM MY OFFICE AT CITY HALL, it's a little surreal to think that it's been 12 years of enjoying this view of downtown Renton. I can see the lake and The Boeing Company, as well as new buildings rising out of the downtown and Southport. The change in our city has been impressive!

With about 40 days remaining on my final term as mayor, I want to congratulate mayor-elect Armondo Pavone and two new city council members who will assume office January 1.

There have been many positive changes over the past decade. We have modeled the public benefit of developing local partnerships, collaborating with other jurisdictions, and working closely with county and state leaders. We have accomplished a lot and I feel the future for our city is very bright. Renton has become a highly desired place to live, work and operate a business.

It's a far cry from the old days when the city, along with Kent, were regularly featured on KING 5's *Almost Live* as communities to avoid.

As a local government, we have developed a culture within our workforce of continued improvement in serving our community. Our employees routinely go the extra mile when working with residents to solve an issue, resulting in a steady flow of public recognition for their efforts. When I leave office at the end of December, I'll most miss the employees and dynamic administrators who I have been blessed to work with all these years.

Renton leads the region in efforts to be more effective in addressing crime and protecting our community, while also building meaningful relationships between our police and our residents. We have made significant progress in becoming a more inclusive community, where diversity is welcome and celebrated. We take pride in our parks and trails and continue to grow special events that are vital to improving the quality of life for a growing number of families. And we work hard to address the needs of those struggling to get by, supporting a community effort to be more understanding and caring for those less fortunate or dealing with personal challenges. There is plenty yet to be accomplished.

New businesses and quality development have been a testament to the exciting changes occurring in this city. Over the past decade, billions of dollars in new development and private investment have resulted in a stronger tax base to support local services while also providing thousands of new jobs. The largest healthcare providers in the country are now headquartered here. There are hundreds of millions of dollars in new projects currently in the pipeline, from Top Golf to more hotels, development of "Old City Hall," and the redevelopment of the Highlands Shopping Center into a new urban center with housing and retail, just to name a few.

Renton is blessed to have a quality public school district that continues to receive tremendous support from the majority of local voters, which was very obvious in the outcome of the recent bond election. And few communities can boast to having a nationally-recognized technical college providing valuable educational training for local students and residents. All this plus a public hospital and medical center that continues to invest tens of millions of dollars in new state-of-the-art medical technology and services, providing access to quality healthcare for the entire community.

A dozen years flew by fast! It's been a tremendous adventure for me and an honor to hold this position in a community where partnerships are strong, volunteers are abundant and people from all generations and backgrounds truly care about their community. Renton has become a premiere place to live, learn, work and play!

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Feedback

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