



# State of the City

RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

March 21, 2012

## FUTURE IS BRIGHT AS ECONOMIC TIDES TURN

While the last four years have certainly been difficult, the city has weathered them well. We've had challenges, but despite those challenges, our community continues to grow and thrive.

Overall, Renton's economy is diversified and growing. The number of jobs in the city increased by 9% between 2010 and 2011—and it's important to note that it's not just at Boeing. We had about 170 more businesses registered in our city by the end of last year than we did the year before.

Last year, I promised to continue to build on our partnership with The Boeing Company and work together with other elected officials to advance the aerospace industry in Renton and King County.

We kept that promise. The Boeing Company announced its landmark decision to build the 737 MAX here in Renton.

We promised to continue our commitment to help revitalize the downtown core.

We kept that promise. Our efforts have been the catalyst for investment and we continue to strive towards creating a vibrant downtown with businesses, restaurants, shopping, and residential communities.

For years, we have promised to help revitalize the Sunset/Highlands community.

We are fulfilling this promise.

When I met with you last year, I promised that the city was committed to focus on innovation, efficiency, and improved productivity despite budget challenges.

Once again, we kept that promise. The city you see today is more refined. It is leaner, it is stronger, and I believe it's strategically prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Sustaining the quality of our city must be our priority.

By focusing on this goal, we can continue the process of reorganizing the way we do business. Most major companies are reinventing themselves in order to survive and thrive. We must do the same.

In the months ahead, we'll continue stretching taxpayer dollars further. But the ability to maintain and grow the quality of life in our city will require partnering with our schools, business community and citizens. We will explore taxing options with our citizens in order to maintain our quality parks and trails, add new public amenities and protect our transportation infrastructure.

Five years ago, I maintained that keeping our community safe is our top priority, and that we would take proactive steps to find ways to reduce crime and to improve the sense of safety throughout our city.

We have made significant progress on that promise. We are one of the safest cities in South King County. We also have one of the finest fire and emergency services that keep our residents and businesses healthy and safe.

A strong commitment to public safety is very important, but it's not the only component needed to maintain a high quality of life in a city.

Our community programs are among the best in the region including our parks and recreation programs, human services, the neighborhood program, Farmers Market, and our festivals and events.

These programs and events bring tremendous value to our citizens. They also bring tourists and visitors to our restaurants and stores. They fill hotel rooms and provide entertainment for our families, while boosting the local economy.

One of the ways we can help jumpstart economic recovery is to invest in the infrastructure of our city.

We've been working hard and shall soon benefit from major improvements to Rainier Avenue, SW 27th/Strander Boulevard and Garden Avenue.

Renton is a city of distinct neighborhoods with unique character. I shared a vision with you where people

gather and businesses prosper. We said we would engage our community and together plan the future of our city.

We did, and in a big way. More than 3,000 of our citizens and business leaders participated in developing future plans for our city.

We are a group of people committed to working together to make Renton the best city in Washington. Renton is a special place and it's because of you—the people who live here, work here, and call Renton your home.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your Mayor.

— Mayor Denis Law

*For a complete copy of the Mayor's state of the city speech, go to [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov). To view the Mayor's entire speech, tune to channel 21.*

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PRIORITIES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- Continue strong partnership with The Boeing Company—they already have over 1,000 orders for 737 MAX, and 2,300 for the 737 Next Generation. They plan to produce over 42 airplanes a month and hire 600 to 800 people this year.
- As part of Washington State Aerospace Partnership, we're working on establishing the Renton Aerospace Training Center at the Renton Airport with \$2.5 million in appropriations funding from Olympia.
- Renton actually gained jobs during the recession—a 2% overall increase in total jobs. New companies have opened in Renton such as Sealed Air, the inventors of bubble wrap.

*continued on page 2*



COMMITTED TO INFRASTRUCTURE



DEVELOPED MAJOR FUTURE PLANS



HOSTED COMMUNITY EVENTS

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PRIORITIES

(cont. from page 1)

- PACCAR's Kenworth truck division has hired 540 people and is producing 18 trucks a day.
- Several investments in the millions of dollars from SpringHill Suites by Marriott, Townplace Suites, Brotherton Cadillac and Good Chevrolet for business improvements.
- Continue to see growth in The Landing and revitalization in downtown Renton and the Highlands.
- Over 3,000 people participated and helped develop several major plans including the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Natural Resources Plan; City Center Plan; Sunset Area Revitalization Plan; Renton History Museum Plan; Arts & Culture Master Plan; Trails and Bicycles Plan; and Shoreline Master Plan.

### CRIME PREVENTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY

- Crime rate dropped for sixth consecutive year in Renton and 30% lower than in 2007.
- Implemented trail safety initiative with speed limits, trail striping, signage and education, and volunteer park rangers.
- Utilized Special Operations unit to target repeat offenders; expelled offenders who repeatedly engaged in criminal activity from our parks and transit center.
- Anti-graffiti program resulted in 60% reduction in graffiti.
- Passed an ordinance to hold "nuisance" property owners criminally responsible for allowing criminal behavior and illegal activity on their properties.



"Today, according to the latest crime statistics, we are one of the safest cities in South King County."

— Mayor Denis Law

- Fire and Emergency Services Department responded to 12,800 calls for service within 5 minutes; kept our community safe during winter storms and used innovative methods such as social media and neighborhood displays in multiple languages to communicate with our community.
- Celebrated Renton Heart Month and provided free blood sugar and blood pressure screenings for over 10,000 people; specifically reached out to over 2,000 members of our various ethnic and non-English speaking communities.

### STREETS, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Starting construction on the \$40 million Rainier Avenue project that adds new lanes, improves traffic flow, and enhances pedestrian use and safety.
- Working on major improvements on SW 27th/Strander Blvd, Garden Avenue, and NE 3rd/4th in the Highlands

### OUR COMMUNITY

- Community Services received coveted national accreditation and our parks, trails and golf

course and recreation programs provided high-quality services to the community.

- Over 4,000 people attended the Farmers Market each week; record attendance at several festivals; strengthened and expanded the Neighborhood Program.
- Successfully hosted the Seattle International Film Festival and the Seahawks Training Camp, expecting record participation again this year.

### MOVING FORWARD WITH A "GREEN" AGENDA

- Launched our Clean Economy strategy to help lower operating costs through energy-saving and resource efficiency measures, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; significantly reduced paper use in city operations.
- Renton's recycling program one of the best in the country—residents diverted 70% of their garbage.
- Entire fleet of garbage trucks in Renton converted to compressed natural gas—saving money, reducing noise, and protecting the environment.
- Installed 13 public charging stations for electric vehicles.



"Few cities in the region enjoy the powerful sense of community spirit we have here in Renton.."

— Mayor Denis Law