



This Week from the Mayor



OCTOBER 6, 2016

VOL. 1, NO. 13

Mayor presents balanced budget for 2017 & 2018

On Monday, I presented my proposed [city budget for 2017 and 2018](#) to the City Council.

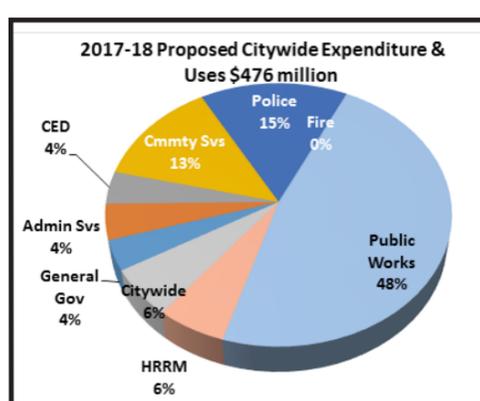
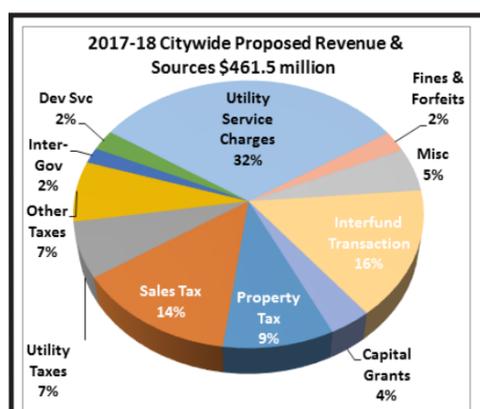
The financial health of our city remains strong. Significant private investment in the city has put us in a strong position for the future. We currently have over \$2.2 billion dollars of private investment being made in Renton. However, we need to be mindful of future increases in labor and healthcare costs and the loss of the sales-tax credit in 2019 from the Cascade/Benson annexation.

The budget contains expenditures of \$476 million, with \$196 million from the General Government fund available for police, parks, street repair, and other city services.

Highlights of my proposal:

- adding positions in public safety, including police investigators
- adding positions in economic development due to an increased workload
- continuing to fund our highly-successful Inclusion program
- strengthening the work of the Human Services Advisory Committee
- establishing contingency plans to cover critical maintenance and capital projects
- funding art projects
- increasing the resources necessary to maintain and improve several parks and facilities

Like every large city, we have challenges before us but we also have great opportunities. Renton has never better than it is today.



Trees glow purple to remember domestic violence victims

Every nine seconds a woman in this country is beaten by her husband or boyfriend. In 2015, 54 people died in Washington state as a result of domestic violence.

The numbers are appalling. October is [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#) and to remember victims of domestic violence, the trees at City Hall are glowing purple 24 hours a day. In our lobby are silhouettes with the names of local victims of domestic violence. As a city we are working to improve our response to domestic violence through awareness of the cultural differences



that exist in our community. Our police department has a [Domestic Violence Victim Advocate](#) to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence who live within the city limits. If you or someone you know are the victims of domestic violence please call our advocate at (425) 430-6654. If you are in imminent danger, please call 9-1-1. Domestic violence has no place in our community.

Fire Prevention Week; Chief Retires

October 9-15 is [National Fire Prevention Week](#) and it will seem odd to review and complete the tasks necessary to keep our families safe without the guidance of Fire Chief Mark Peterson. The chief retired from the department in September after a distinguished 36-year career. He came to Renton in 1980 and worked his way up to chief doing whatever served the good of the department. His final act was leading the transition from a city fire department to a Regional Fire Authority. Now the department has its own funding source and the ability to work directly with our citizens to determine the department's needs. Renton was lucky to have Chief Peterson; no one was more dedicated to service. I hope you'll join me in wishing him all the best in retirement.



Multicultural Festival

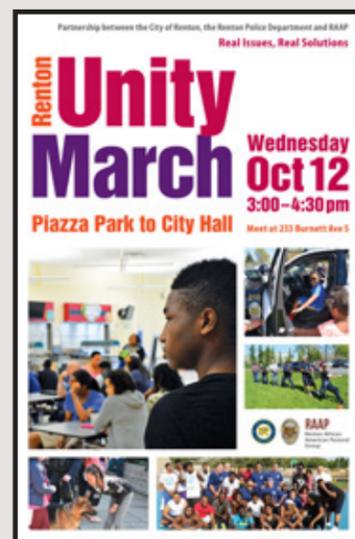
Renton hosted its first [multicultural festival](#) last weekend drawing hundreds of local residents who came to enjoy a variety of music, dances and other cultural performances. It was an outstanding event!



Members of the Mayor's Inclusive Task Force, along with city employees and other groups, worked several months to organize what was a very successful, two-day event. This celebration kicked off with a variety of performances on Friday at Carco Theater. Dennis Bounds (recently retired anchor with KING 5) was our MC on Saturday and Miss Washington Alicia Cooper attended both days.

We achieved our goal of creating an environment where people, from all backgrounds, came together to learn more about and celebrate the diverse cultures that make up our community. It was a very special two days in Renton.

DID YOU KNOW?



UNITY MARCH

Regular and frank dialogue between the police and citizens can only help relations, and our African American Pastoral group plays a key role. On October 12, the city, the police and RAAP will come together for the first Unity March. We'll start at 3 p.m. at Piazza Park and march to City Hall, ending at about 4:30. During the event we'll hear from speakers, listen to music, and discuss the issues. I hope you can join us.

FEEDBACK

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