



# This Week from the Mayor



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## Houstons worked to make Renton a better place

I'm very proud of the strong relationships that we have developed between our diverse community and city leadership.

Mutually-beneficial partnerships like these are not built overnight and they must be nurtured through both good and bad.

In Renton we're fortunate to have community leaders who donate their time and talent to make groups like the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force and RAAP, the Renton African-American Pastoral Group, successful. Members of the two groups have worked hard to make Renton a great place to work, live, play, and learn.

That's why I'm sad to learn that Pastors George and Sheila Houston of the Living Hope Christian Fellowship will be leaving Renton and moving to Detroit.

George was a founding member of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force and a member of RAAP. It was Sheila's community forum on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day that was the impetus for the creation of RAAP. Her forum brought together city, police, and community leaders, and members of the public to discuss issues. This meeting demonstrated the value of a group like RAAP, which allows frank dialogue between religious leaders and our police department.

Last February, during our celebration of Black History Month, the Houstons brought "Unspoken Truths," Delbert Richardson's American Traveling Museum, to Renton. The displays depicted African life in the Americas and Europe as told through a collection of unique artifacts. It was an eye-opening experience for all of us who attended.

George and Sheila were leaders in our community; genuinely interested in breaking down barriers, creating partnerships, and finding new ways to work together. They were proactive, caring, and the embodiment of inclusion. I wish them the best in their next chapter and will always remember the contributions they made to our city. We're a better city and a better community because of the commitment they made.



*(top) Pastor George Houston and Mayor Law at "Unspoken Truths." (bottom) Members of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force, including George (standing far right) and Sheila (second row, second from left) Houston.*

## Appreciating our Public Works crew

I spent a couple hours today with our Public Works crews at their annual staff appreciation barbeque. Perhaps no other division in the city impacts our daily life more than these men and women. From maintenance to transportation to utility, they are our "first responders" when something breaks.

Remember the slurry that was spilled on Grady Way a couple weeks ago? The potential was there to cause major problems for both rush hour traffic on Grady Way and to the environment. But it didn't, and that's because of the quick, professional job by Public Works crews.

Nearly every week, I receive emails or calls from residents, offering praise for the efforts of our staff from Public Works, who frequently go the extra mile to help homeowners resolve an issue.



*Mayor Law and Chief Administrative Officer Jay Covington with Public Works staff at their annual Employee Appreciation barbeque.*

## 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.