

MARCH 4, 2015



State of the City



RENTON. AHEAD OF THE CURVE.

The State of the City today is great

With a positive reputation throughout the region, our future is bright!

PROPERTY AND BUSINESS OWNERS came together with our city leaders 20 years ago with a commitment to our city. A transformation began at City Hall that, over a period of years, moved Renton to become a model city in this state for our customer service and permitting process.

This commitment to improving our community continues today. The city is comprised of nearly 90 separate businesses. With a workforce of 686 people, we provide services to nearly 100,000 people spread throughout a 24-square-mile community. Our employees are responsible for providing a variety of vital services every day that citizens have come to expect. Here is a snapshot of some of what they do:

- Public Works staff maintains about 675 miles of roads, delivers nearly 2.5 billion gallons of water, services 223 miles of sewer lines, and gets rid of your unwanted waste.
- Fire fighters put out fires, conduct rescues and extrications, and handle more than 10,500 calls for medical assistance.



- Police officers risk their personal safety every day to serve you and keep you safe.
- Our parks division maintains over 1,200 acres of park land, while our recreation programs serve thousands; we have more than a million visitors at Gene Coulon Park alone each year.
- We also offer specialized services for seniors and local youth, and assistance to our vulnerable populations.
- Our popular aquatic center serves more than 70,000 people each summer. And every year thousands enjoy Renton River Days, the Farmers Market, the 4th of July celebration and Neighborhood Picnics.
- We license businesses and review hundreds of plans.
- We also operate an airport where more than 100,000 annual flights take place.

WE ARE A BUSY ORGANIZATION WITH LOTS GOING ON!

Last year we set a goal to be the **Best City in King County** and established four areas of priority for special focus.

- **Continuing our focus on economic development opportunities**
- **Improving service to our vulnerable and diverse populations**
- **Enhancing customer service and the productivity of our employees**
- **And developing a sustainable fiscal strategy**

We've made great progress in each of these areas.



Key Accomplishments

SERVING OUR VULNERABLE AND DIVERSE POPULATIONS

- Provided training for all of our employees on race, equity and inclusion.
- Strengthened our relationship with our community liaisons; working on an equity lens to evaluate several internal systems and emphasize inclusion.
- Working on the needs of our aging population.
- Working closely with local churches to address the needs of our homeless and vulnerable populations.
- Created Center of Hope, a shelter at City Hall to help provide services to homeless women with children.
- Collaborating with local leaders, community groups, and regional law-enforcement organizations to improve communications and relationships between our police officers and members of our diverse communities.

ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES

- Created an environment that accepts change and embraces creativity and performance improvement.
- Our management team provides on-going vision, leadership, training and motivation.
- Created a culture committed to solving issues for our citizens—multiple departments work together.

A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE FISCAL STRATEGY

- Instituted a Business and Occupation Tax to help overcome the structural deficit in our budget.
- Received \$118 million dollars in state and federal transportation grants for large infrastructure projects such as Rainier Avenue improvements.



OUR CITY IS SAFER THAN A FEW YEARS AGO

- Multi-department strategy addressed local establishments that were a huge public safety concern resulting in every one of the problem businesses closing down.
- Partnered with the Renton School District to reinstate School Resource Officers at our high schools.
- Fire department's February Heart Month has provided free blood sugar and blood pressure screenings for over 55,000 adults and children and found 18% at risk.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

- \$300 million dollars in new projects underway and another \$300 million dollars of projects planned. A total of \$600 million dollars of private investment in this community!
- New Group Health Cooperative to develop 12 acres of land at Longacres and bring 1,000 new jobs.
- Luxury hotel under construction on Lake Washington and a new 736,000-square-foot Class A office space.
- Renton Honda recently opened a new showroom.
- Hampton Inn and Marriott Residence Inn to build new hotels across Gene Coulon Park.
- Two new libraries to be completed this fall; aerospace training center at the airport under construction soon.
- PACCAR is currently constructing a new, 200,000-square-foot parts distribution center.
- Our downtown revitalization emphasis is moving forward including a five-story complex at S. 2nd and Main Avenue S. with 101 units and 4,000 square feet of retail space; and a new Piazza Park.
- Transformation in the Sunset area of the Highlands, including a new library, multi-family housing complexes, new housing units for low-income families and a 3.7 acre park.

*Renton has earned a positive reputation throughout this region. **Our future is bright!***