



**City Council**

# *Proclamation*

*Whereas*, Denis Law is retiring from service to the City of Renton, as its mayor for 12 years and as a City Council member for 4 years; and

*Whereas*, we won't entirely blame the Great Recession on Denis, but it did begin during his first year as Mayor; but regardless of how it started, he successfully guided the City through it with minimal reductions in service to the public, kept Renton's financial condition sound, and worked hard to make Renton the best run, best managed, and best lead city in King County; and

*Whereas*, from his first days in office, Denis has championed inclusion and equity, and long before other communities in the region and nation recognized the importance of inclusion, Denis and the city organized the Mayor's Inclusion Task force, the Renton African American Pastors Group, and the Latino Community Forum to help ensure that Police and other services were delivered in the most effective and respectful way; and

*Whereas*, his leadership in opening Renton City Hall facilities to create the REACH Center of Hope has resulted in shelter, protection, retraining, and transitioning back into productive society for hundreds of vulnerable Renton residents; and

*Whereas*, Denis also worked hard to ensure that Renton had a vibrant business economy, and his impact can be seen in businesses throughout Renton: the new IKEA store, Kaiser Permanente, Providence Headquarters, Seahawks Headquarters, The Landing, the Southport Development, Downtown redevelopment and development in the Highlands; and

*Whereas*, Denis developed a very effective working relationship with The Boeing Company, but is still waiting for the delivery of the city's own private Boeing 737 (even though there are a few 737s sitting idle at the Renton plant); and

*Whereas*, Denis has presided over many city events and was asked back year after year, even though at Clam Lights he would "flip the switch" and the lights wouldn't come on, and as judge of the quilting competition at Renton River Days he "broke" into Renton Community Center (didn't have the right code) and the police had to stand down once they saw it was the Renton mayor; and

*Whereas*, Denis truly enjoyed his relationship with the Seattle Seahawks (especially the opportunities where he shared the stage with the Sea Gals), but perhaps the best outcome from having the Seahawks in Renton has been the partnership with former Seahawk Doug Baldwin, and the development of the Family First Community Center, which will impact the lives of youth and families in Renton for years to come; and

*Whereas*, during his 12 years as mayor, Denis has been a leader in supporting education in Renton by giving both his time and money to Renton Technical College Foundation, Friends of Renton Schools, Communities In Schools of Renton, and other efforts; and worked hard to strengthen partnerships with Renton Technical College and Renton School District; and

*Whereas*, the Renton Police department and Renton Regional Fire Authority will now have to get by without one of their “First Responders” since Denis was usually one of the first to arrive at many incidents, responding to more crime scenes than a seasoned detective; and

*Whereas*, Denis has been well respected and sought after as a leader in the region, and has served on many regional boards and commissions such as Sound Cities Association, Valley Communications Center, SCORE, and other multi-city partnerships—groups that are viable today because of Denis’ leadership at critical times during their administrations; and

*Whereas*, while Denis will be giving up his Black Tahoe, he has plans to get back to his six-month rotation of new Corvettes that he enjoyed before his time as Mayor; and

*Whereas*, while his staff have been “following the Law” since 2008 here in Renton and heard his favorite saying many times at staff meetings (said with a smile) “you know you’re all AT WILL,” Denis will now be following “Patty Law” in Anacortes beginning in 2020; and


*Whereas*, as the only three-term mayor in Renton’s history, Denis leaves a legacy and accomplishments that he can truly be proud of, and that the Renton community will benefit from for years to come;

*Now, therefore*, we, the Renton City Council, do hereby proclaim December 9, 2019, to be

## *Denis Law Day*

in the City of Renton, and we encourage all members of the community to join us in this special observation.

*In witness whereof*, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the seal of the City of Renton to be affixed this 9th day of December, 2019.

  
Don Persson, City Council President  
City of Renton, Washington

