Renton's future is bright

AS I LOOK OVER THE CITY FROM MY OFFICE AT CITY HALL, it’s a little surreal to think that it’s been 12 years of enjoying this view of downtown Renton. I can see the lake and The Boeing Company, as well as new buildings rising out of the downtown and Southport. The change in our city has been impressive!

With about 40 days remaining on my final term as mayor, I want to congratulate mayor-elect Armondo Pavone and two new city council members who will assume office January 1.

There have been many positive changes over the past decade. We have modeled the public benefit of developing local partnerships, collaborating with other jurisdictions, and working closely with county and state leaders. We have accomplished a lot and I feel the future for our city is very bright.

Renton has become a highly desired place to live, work and operate a business. It’s a far cry from the old days when the city, along with Kent, were regularly featured on KING 5’s Almost Live as communities to avoid. As a local government, we have developed a culture within our workforce of continued improvement in serving our community. Our employees routinely go the extra mile when working with residents to solve an issue, resulting in a steady flow of public recognition for their efforts. When I leave office at the end of December, I’ll most miss the employees and dynamic administrators who I have been blessed to work with all these years.

New businesses and quality development have been a testament to the exciting changes occurring in this city. Over the past decade, billions of dollars in new development and private investment have resulted in a stronger tax base to support local services while also providing thousands of new jobs. The largest healthcare providers in the country are now headquartered here. There are hundreds of millions of dollars in new projects currently in the pipeline, from Top Golf to more hotels, development of “Old City Hall,” and the redevelopment of the Highlands Shopping Center into a new urban center with housing and retail, just to name a few.

Renton is blessed to have a quality public school district that continues to receive tremendous support from the majority of local voters, which was very obvious in the outcome of the recent bond election. And few communities can boast to having a nationally-recognized technical college providing valuable educational training for local students and residents. All this plus a public hospital and medical center that continues to invest tens of millions of dollars in new state-of-the-art medical technology and services, providing access to quality healthcare for the entire community.

A dozen years flew by fast! It’s been a tremendous adventure for me and an honor to hold this position in a community where partnerships are strong, volunteers are abundant and people from all generations and backgrounds truly care about their community. Renton has become a premiere place to live, learn, work and play!

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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.