



# This Week from the Mayor

Armondo Pavone, Mayor



## Welcome ...

... to what will be the first of a weekly newsletter from me.

In each edition, I'll provide insight into what's going on around the city, draw attention to projects and initiatives that impact your lives and place the spotlight on the men and women who do such a great job of making Renton a great place to live, work, play and learn.

Even though I did not start as mayor until January 1, I did spend the month of December meeting with administrators and their staff familiarizing myself with ongoing projects as well as those in the pipeline. I found these groups to be totally committed to taking the extra steps in providing first class customer service to our residents. I hope when you see city staff you'll take a minute to see first-hand their commitment.

One of my themes as mayor is "[Our Renton](#)." In fact, you'll see that is the new name for the newsletter that comes in your utility bills and for its sister publication, "[Our Renton Weekly](#)" that is available via email subscription. "Our Renton" is an opportunity for us to work together and expand on the progress we have made over the past decade.

As mayor, my focus will be on public safety, affordable housing and the promotion of a vibrant economy, while ensuring that all sections of our community are heard and respected. We must have a city where everyone can prosper and have a safe place to call home.

Achieving these goals will not be possible without the help of the City Council. As a former councilmember, I both understand and respect the role the council plays in ensuring you have a responsive and effective government. The council in 2020 will have three new members, along with four returnees and I know this will lead to new energy and ideas.

I will be out and about in the community and I hope you will join me on this journey. You can always find out what's going by following us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram (@cityofrenton) or by subscribing to this newsletter and to Our Renton Weekly.

## Swearing In Ceremony

Last Monday's City Council meeting was a proud day as those of us who were elected last November took our oath of office to begin our four-year terms. The council chamber was packed with family, friends and staff to witness the proceedings. Four councilmembers were sworn in by family members or someone who played a significant role in their lives. Valerie O'Halloran was sworn in by her husband Michael; Ryan McIrvine by his wife Stephanie; Ed Prince by Washington Superior Court Judge LeRoy McCullough; and Kim-Khánh Va n by former State Representative Velma Veloria. I chose retired King County Prosecutor and Judge Charles Delaurenti.

I want to congratulate all of our new members and thank them as well as returning councilmembers Randy Corman, Ryan McIrvine, Ruth Pérez, and Ed Prince for making my first meeting as mayor run so smoothly.

One item of new business at the council meeting was the announcement that applications are now being accepted to fill council position 2, my old seat. Applicants must meet Renton residency and voter requirements and the deadline for submitting materials is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020. More information is on our [website](#).

## City to open severe weather shelter

The forecast for next week indicates a strong cold front is heading our way. Street maintenance plow drivers will be out on Friday driving their assigned routes just in case we get snow. Anti-icing crews will also be ready when they are needs.



Severe weather also affects the homeless in our community. The city will be opening our severe weather shelter in conjunction with Catholic Community Services on both Monday and Tuesday. The shelter will open at 8 p.m. and close at 7 a.m. The Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) will serve a warm-up breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. The shelter is located at the Old Chamber of Commerce building, 300 Rainier Avenue N, Renton, WA 98057.

## 2020 Census

Over the next few months you'll be hearing a lot about the importance of participating in the [2020 census](#) and our efforts to ensure we get a complete count of Renton residents.



The census is very important to Renton as results are used by the federal government to allocate funds for vital projects like transportation, school lunches, low- and middle-income housing, Head Start, Medicare and Medicaid to name a few. It's been determined that for every 100 Washington households not counted in 2020, the state will lose approximately \$5.8 million in federal aid.

During the 2010 Census, Renton was one of the most undercounted cities in King County. Part of the undercount is because some of our residents have real concerns about providing the information on the census form. To help alleviate those fears we have established the Renton Complete Count Committee which will include community leaders who will act as trusted messengers within their communities.

Coordinating our community outreach efforts is [Ginna Hernandez](#), our full-time census program manager. If you'd like to be part of Renton's census community outreach, please contact her at 425-430-7728.



## Polar Bear Plunge

Renton residents rang in the New Year at the 13th annual [Polar Bear Plunge](#) at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park. Photos on our [Flickr account](#).

## 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. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)