



Armondo Pavone, Mayor

This Week from the Mayor



State Capital Visit

Last Friday was my first trip to Olympia as your Mayor and the visit was very productive and energizing.

Along with City Council President Ruth Pérez and Councilmembers Ryan McIrvine, Valerie O'Halloran and Kim-Khánh Văn, we spent a full day visiting several of our state legislators to advocate for programs vital to Renton residents and businesses.

One of the top priorities on the City's [Legislative Agenda](#) is a request for \$250,000 to relocate the Renton Ecumenical Association of Churches (REACH) feeding program and the Catholic Community Services Severe Weather Shelter. They are currently housed in a building on airport property but will need to a different location. These organizations need a permanent facility to continue to provide services critical to our residents.

We also discussed transportation funding and support for law enforcement. The passage last November of I-976 has created a level of uncertainty about funding transportation projects in our area. The State Department of Transportation has prepared a prioritized list in case funding levels are reduced. We were pleased that the Bus Rapid Transit from Renton to Bellevue project is a priority on that list. We stressed to the legislators the importance of ensuring Renton residents have access to multiple public transportation options. We also urged our legislators to investigate new transportation revenue packages. Although there are no discussions planned for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy budget, we put our support behind HB 2560, which would ensure continued funding to minimum levels for this year.

We took time in the meetings to thank our legislators for their work in providing funding for the 2020 Census, which helps us reach into the community and ensure Renton gets counted. Rep. Mia Gregerson, among others, was instrumental in establishing a much needed statewide Office of Equity.

We're fortunate in Renton that we have a dedicated, caring group of legislators representing our interests in Olympia and I look forward to continuing our conversations during the year.



Mayor's Inclusion Task Force



It was also my pleasure to hold the first meeting of the [Mayor's Inclusion Task Force](#) last week. I've observed their work as a councilmember for years, and it was an honor to sit around a table and see first-hand their passion for Renton.

Our agenda was packed and one of the major items was explaining the City's plans for the 2020 Census. A complete count of our residents is vital in order to receive federal funding for schools, roads, and hospitals. Because of their standing in our community, members of the task force will play an important role in helping us contact those hard-to-reach sections of our population and make sure they are counted. The task force will next meet on Feb. 13.

Speaking of the Census ...

We had 28 residents attend last Saturday's initial Census Ambassadors meeting at the Renton Library. Ambassadors will share information about the importance of the Census and encourage participation in their communities.

If you're interested or know someone you think might be, we have more information on the [2020 Census page](#) on our website. Our ambassadors need to be at least 18 years old; live, work, or have strong community ties to Renton; and have a Social Security or tax identification number. Training is provide in one two-hour session.

Judge Jurado honored

[Renton Municipal Court](#)

Judge Terry Jurado was honored by the Washington State Association for Justice at Monday's City Council meeting.

Judge Jurado was presented with the William O. Douglas Judicial Service Award in recognition of his more than 20 years of excellence on the bench and for his commitment to justice.

Congratulations Judge Jurado. Your dedication to the residents of Renton is greatly appreciated.



Judge Jurado and Shawn Malcolm of Washington State Association for Justice.

Chamber names permanent CEO

My congratulation also go out to Diane Dobson who was just named the permanent president and CEO Of the [Renton Chamber of Commerce](#). Diane has been serving as the interim director since June of last year. Those of us who have worked with Diane know she's always been a passionate proponent of our Renton community and I know she will do an outstanding job leading the chamber.

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](#)