



This Week from the Mayor



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Annual retreat with department heads sets goals for 2017

There are lots of positive things happening in Renton today, but we're also facing some of the challenges impacting nearly every city in the country, including homelessness and the impacts from heroin addiction.

For a number of years, we have set aggressive goals to improve the service we provide our residents, and we have made great progress. Efforts to reduce crime and improve the sense of safety in new, creative ways, is beginning to show results. Our economic development efforts have helped attract billions in new investment in Renton and thousands of new jobs.

But there is plenty more to do. Last week, I spent three days with city department heads to reflect on what we have accomplished the past couple years, and to establish specific goals for 2017 to meet our objective of making Renton the "Best City in King County."

We don't want this to merely be a catchy phrase with no substance. Each department has worked hard to improve efficiency while going the extra mile when possible in serving our residents. Key areas of focus include continuing efforts to make our community a safe place to live and work, a city that is truly inclusive and serves everybody who lives here, a community that cares about the challenges facing our seniors and vulnerable populations and is actively addressing these needs, while continuing to attract new investments and jobs. We will also continue to provide support for our staff through ongoing training and effective leadership to support our ability to provide a Nordstrom culture of customer service.

I feel very fortunate to work with such a fine group of professionals who are dedicated to finding new ways of improving the level of service we provide to the residents of Renton. I look forward to working with our City Council members who are equally committed to making Renton the best city in King County.

Sound Cities Association provides united voice for local cities

I'm honored to be, once again, elected to serve on the Board of the Sound Cities Association (SCA). SCA is an association of 38 King County cities, representing over 1,000,000 residents, who work together to develop solutions to regional problems. The membership includes

mayors, councilmembers, and city administrators. I have been involved with Sound Cities for many years, including two terms as the board president, and am very proud of the progress we have made addressing the issues facing our region: economic and community development, transportation, land use, health, government operations, education and the environment.



Officer Kim joins Renton PD

Please join me in welcoming our newest police officer, Eric Kim. Officer Kim graduated from the police academy last week after completing five months of training. He will now undergo three weeks of post-academy instruction for procedures and laws that are specific to the City of Renton. After that is four months of "field officer training" where he will ride with a senior officer before assuming his own patrol. Attending graduation to congratulate Officer Kim is Deputy Chief Ed VanValey.



DID YOU KNOW



IKEA HAS STATE'S LARGEST SOLAR ROOFTOP ARRAY

I first mentioned IKEA's plans for the state's largest rooftop solar display in my September 1 newsletter. It's now completed and consists of 3,268 panels, covers 244,000-square-feet, and will produce about 1,261,000 kilowatt hours of electricity annually. IKEA said the power produced will be the equivalent of reducing 886 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, which is equal to the emissions of 187 cars or providing electricity for 131 homes yearly. We're excited about the store opening this spring.

Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [e-mail](#) me. Thanks for reading.