



This Week from the Mayor



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Proclamation reaffirms we are an inclusive city

In the months following the presidential election, our country remains divided. Hate crimes seem to be on the increase, and our local residents, especially immigrants, are seeking help from the city to address their fears of threats surrounding new enforcement efforts of immigration laws.

Without doubt, the immigration policies and directives coming from the White House have caused a lot of concern among immigrants over threats of deportation that may impact family members and friends.

I have been hosting regular meetings with members of my inclusion task force, representatives from the local African-American clergy, and community leaders from the Latino community to discuss the current situation. I am working with them to explore how we can build confidence among our immigrant population and let them know our history as a city of not checking immigration status has not changed. Our commitment to be an inclusive city and protect and serve everyone in our community remains strong.

At last Monday's City Council meeting, [I issued a proclamation](#), which was adopted by the Council, stating that Renton is an inclusive city in accordance with Renton's business plan and mission statement, adopted by the Council in 2012.

The proclamation reiterated the fact that City of Renton employees, including our police officers, do not check on the immigration status or documentation of our residents. We continue to work closely with leaders of our local immigrant communities to help spread the word. We want all immigrants to feel safe in accessing city services, including police, when they need help, without fear of their immigration status being checked. We have concerns that some immigrants may hesitate to call for help, fearing they will jeopardize their personal situations. I want to assure all our residents that the city of Renton is committed to their safety and well-being.

This doesn't mean that we won't arrest individuals that are committing crimes or have outstanding warrants. We will continue to arrest people involved in illegal activity. But we have never requested immigration documentation from people stopped for traffic violations or those reporting crimes. We also don't check to see if people have paid their taxes or filed required tax returns to the IRS.

In Renton, we continue to emphasize that we will not tolerate hate crimes, discrimination, or harassment. We believe in the dignity, equality, and constitutional and civil rights of all people; and we are committed to being a welcoming and inclusive place for all to live, work, learn, and play.

(This column also appears as an [Op-Ed](#) in the March 3 edition of the Renton Reporter.)

LifeNet brings cutting-edge technology to Renton

Renton is often referred to as the center of healthcare. We are home to UW Medicine/Valley Medical Center, a local icon, Providence Health & Services, the third-largest nonprofit health system in the United States, and Group Health, which is in the process of a merger with Kaiser-Permanente.

Another Renton-based healthcare company, [LifeNet Health](#), was recently in the news as they announced the start of production of their patented ViviGen technology in their Renton facility. The company recently completed a \$3 million facility upgrade to handle production. LifeNet Health is the only full-service, non-profit tissue bank in the Pacific Northwest. Currently they provide transplant tissue to more than 150 hospitals and surgery centers throughout the Northwest and provided over 40,000 patients with grafts in 2016. We are very proud to have such a cutting-edge company call Renton home.

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.



Mayor Law presented the proclamation to community leaders Rev. Dr. Linda Smith and Deacon Ted Rodriguez.

State of the City



Great things are happening throughout Renton. Travel through our city and you'll see new developments and improvements to infrastructure and quality of life.

On March 30, I'll discuss these and other areas of interest to Renton residents at the annual State of the City address at Renton Technical College (RTC).

Tickets are \$25, which includes breakfast, and [can be purchased on the RTC website](#). All proceeds will go to the Renton Technical College Foundation to support student success. We'll start at 7:30 a.m. I hope you will join me.

