



This Week from the Mayor



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Renton River Days and Farmers Market draw record crowds in 2017

2017—A year of accomplishments

AS WE START THE NEW YEAR, it gives me an opportunity to pause and reflect on some of our recent accomplishments. We made great strides in 2017 and have a lot to be proud of. We have seen unprecedented investment in our city resulting in significant economic revitalization, new businesses and creation of new jobs. Our parks and recreation programs are among the best in the region. We have strengthened relationships between police and the community, and we continue to introduce new initiatives to meet our goal of being an inclusive community for all our residents. Most importantly we have set and achieved a very high bar when it comes to serving our customers, creating a culture of customer service that I frequently compare to Nordstrom.

Here are some of our headlines from 2017:

- » With a new Hyatt Regency, Southport offices and other developments, we have completely transformed South Lake Washington.
- » The transformation of downtown Renton into a thriving, urban environment continues with a new elementary school, apartments, shopping and restaurants.
- » IKEA opened its new state-of-the-art store and Boeing celebrated their 75th anniversary; the 737 program is rolling out 47 airplanes a month.
- » Valley Medical Center broke ground on a \$150 million expansion project.
- » Our special events had record crowds including Renton's Multicultural Festival, Renton River Days, Farmers Market and 4th of July Fireworks at Gene Coulon Park.
- » We emphasized our commitment to serving our diverse community with a proclamation to be an inclusive city.
- » We reduced crime and improved the sense of safety in many parts of the city.



New IKEA store



Crime rates reduced



Doug Baldwin speaking with the Family First team

An exciting project that we launched is a public-private partnership with Doug Baldwin to build the Family First Community Center that will connect youth and families in the Cascade/Benson area to recreational, educational, job readiness and wellness opportunities. We hope to break ground soon—stay tuned for more information.

Next week I will be at our annual retreat with city department heads where we will focus on our citywide goal of making Renton the “best City in King County.” We will use this time to translate that goal into action steps, review the progress we have made so far and continue to strive for excellence.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year.

Changes in our hiring policies and practices to further goal of inclusion

WE ARE MAKING CHANGES to our hiring policies to promote inclusion and help us hire the most qualified and competent candidates. Starting this month all online applications will be anonymous—without names or home addresses and other identifiable information of candidates during the application screening phase. We hope to eliminate the possibility of unintentional or implicit bias during selection, expand opportunities and promote greater diversity in hiring. We will also be incorporating inclusion principles into job announcements, interview questions and hiring panels, and expanding internship opportunities. These changes are fully supported by our City Council and administrators. Check out our website for more information on the new hiring practices and for job opportunities with the City of Renton.



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.