

2016 Beaverton State of the City Address Mayor Denny Doyle

Good evening Beaverton!

Let me start by saying thank you to Mayor Pete Truax. You are a true friend and community leader. I appreciate your kind words. It is great to have you and your lovely wife, Pat, here with us tonight.

I'd also like to take a moment to recognize my colleagues, the hard-working and dedicated members of the Beaverton City Council. **Will you please stand for a moment** and be recognized?

With us tonight we have Councilors: Cate Arnold, Lacey Beaty, Betty Bode, Mark Fagin, and Marc San Soucie. Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to Beaverton. I also want to take a moment to recognize **all of the elected officials**, from throughout the region, who are with us. Will you please stand for a moment to be recognized?

There are **far too many** people to list, nearly 30, from state officials to Mayors, and everyone in between. **Thank you for your service.**

As I stand with you tonight – **I am so humbled. So honored.** It is a tremendous privilege to serve as Beaverton's Mayor.

When I stood before you last year, I declared the, "**The Future is Bright for Beaverton.**" And I outlined **three** priorities

for **2015**. Well, I can tell you...I think we did a pretty good job meeting those efforts.

Priority 1: To focus on our Open for Business Brand... **WHICH WE DID... together** with Washington County, our support of **Nike's \$380 Million** dollar expansion added more than 2,000 jobs to our area.

The city also invested in a new partnership with our amazing Chamber of Commerce called **Impact Beaverton** to help us achieve our vision of being the most development friendly city around.

Impact Beaverton provides resources and assistance to attract, retain and grow successful businesses.

Priority 2: To pass the Washington County Cooperative Library Services Levy... **WHICH WE DID....** with a **strong 64 percent approval rating** from county voters, which translates into **\$2.5 million dollars** for our Beaverton City Libraries over the next 5 years.

Priority 3: To continue our strong investment in Community Partnerships... **WHICH WE DID...** with our joint efforts with private and non-profit developers bringing much needed affordable and workforce housing to our downtown.

This year saw the **grand opening** of Community Partners for Affordable Housing's **\$10.6 million dollar Barcelona**, creating **47 units of affordable housing** for seniors and people with disabilities.

Soon to be sharing a plaza with the Barcelona, will be La Scala, 44-units of work force housing plus commercial space, being built by Roy Kim Development.

We also saw the **ground breaking** for the **\$20 million dollar** Rembold investment, **The Signal, 87 units** of market rate housing in the heart of our downtown.

2016 will see the ground breaking for Beaverton's next great home... not just for seniors... but also for families in the process of adopting foster children. The highly anticipated **Beaverton Bridge Meadows** will be under construction, creating 37 new affordable units.

You know, as Mayor, I get the opportunity to hear "experts" talk about what it takes to be equipped to deal with today's challenges.

The experts tell us, you need a mix of **market-rate**, **affordable**, and **work-force** housing, all centered in the same area to boost your downtown.

Well, I say, look at what Beaverton has accomplished lately! We've got it all—coming together—because **Now is our Time!**

Thank you to everyone in this room who worked on these efforts and helped make them such a success. I think we hit it out of the park with last year's priorities!

Nothing happens in a vacuum. And together we are making real, meaningful change for the city.

As we reflect on our accomplishments this year and look to the future, I find myself focused on one idea...

Now is the time for Beaverton.

I say this with great optimism for our future and with great confidence in what we are building together.

We are on the cusp of exciting change in our city. We've done the visioning, we've done the planning. We know where we are headed and what we want to achieve.

Now is the time for Beaverton... the time... we begin to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

Our investments in planning for our future, working on the redevelopment of our downtown, investing in job growth strategies to boost our local economy, and focusing on community involvement and cultural inclusion are producing amazing... positive changes in our city.

I stand before you... **Energized ... Prepared... and Ready... to work with you...** to lead Beaverton through our next great phase as a city.

Now, is the Time for Beaverton, as we look to our future and deepen our commitment to get there together.

This year in order to achieve our community vision, my focus will be in three key areas:

Priority 1: To grow our local economy. I want to help our business community thrive and stay strong.

We will invest in our strategic partnerships, like our friends at the Chamber of Commerce, and do our part to expand opportunities for our 4,500 local businesses.

We will focus the efforts of our economic development professionals to support innovation.

Speaking of our economic development professionals, we have a video tonight to share, that highlights the work they do every day to support our business community.

[See link: bit.ly/1Sj2ZAb]

We have with us tonight, a representative from each of the companies in the video. Please join me in thanking Frank Helle with Axian, Tuan Nguyen of Prolfiq Software, and David and Christine Vernier with Vernier Software & Technology.

Their message is clear... we get it at City Hall. We are not perfect, but we do get it... and we do listen... in order to learn how we can change and grow.

We know we have a job to do... to help make your business thrive and we're ready to do our part. It's also clear that Beaverton **has a buzz.....an energy.**

Our efforts are paying off and we are experiencing steady improvements in our local economy.

Beaverton's unemployment rate is 4 percent and continues to improve. Washington County stands at 4.7 percent. Jobs

in our county grew by 3 percent over last year, adding approximately 8,700 jobs.

But we must not rest. We must not be complacent. We must push ourselves to **innovate** and support **new job growth** and opportunity.

One asset Beaverton has that sets us apart is our investment in the state's highest-rated technology start-up incubator, Oregon Technology Business Center, known as OTBC.

Portland State University gave OTBC top marks for its mentorship.

This past year, the city supported the OTBC Challenge, providing five companies, selected from a highly competitive 60 applications, the opportunity to receive \$20,000 each.

I want to recognize City Councilor Marc San Soucie for his work with OTBC and for his strong advocacy for the city's business development efforts. Marc has been an outstanding leader pushing for innovation.

Beaverton also made great strides in supporting minority owned, women owned, AND small businesses in Beaverton, adding **FOR THE FIRST TIME** inclusions in the city's contracting policies guaranteeing opportunities for state-certified businesses. This is something I have personally been pushing for—and I am so happy we got it done.

And last month, acting on the urging of City Councilor Lacey Beaty, a military veteran, the council adopted an

expansion of our purchasing policy to include additions for service disabled veteran owned businesses.

Thank you Lacey for your advocacy and leadership on this issue.

In 2016, we'll see the continuation of the city's efforts to revamp our development review process. Spearheaded by our Community Development Department, this important project is a cornerstone to my challenge to staff, to make Beaverton the friendliest city in the region.

I've heard you. I know the challenges our development community faces... And I am 100 percent committed to seeing our city do **its** part to make it easier for you to bring your opportunities to our front door.

Speaking of new opportunities at our front door...

Last month we had an exciting City Council meeting where we got an update on the plans to redevelop the former Westgate property.

The Beaverton Creekside Redevelopment is yet another signal, that **Now is the Time for Beaverton.**

We have a solid development team in place. Their plans call for two-mixed use buildings with ground floor retail, a minimum five-story hotel, and a "destination" restaurant.

A stone's throw away from this new development we are working to place our long-awaited Performing Arts Center.

In December, the city purchased a lot at The Round, which is hoped to be the **future home** of the Performing Arts Center.

Please watch our progress with these exciting projects as we see them take further shape and move forward from concept to a more fully-developed project this year.

My **Second Priority for 2016 is: To continue to expand our world-class public involvement efforts.** Beaverton has become known as a city with nationally recognized public involvement programs.

The **Beaverton brand** is one of inclusiveness, of strong community involvement. Your City Council and I will continue our efforts in this area.

Nationally, as is often the case during major political election cycles, it has been a tumultuous and divisive time.

In my heart, I believe one of the greatest assets Beaverton has against this national tidal wave of negativity... is the **strength of our local activism.**

It is no accident that our city hosts 17 advisory boards, 11 neighborhoods associations, and literally hundreds of opportunities to volunteer.

These volunteer jobs are more than service... They call for people to give policy advice to the City Council and I. We ask for your continued wisdom and guidance in the choices that come before us.

Our five-year update to the community vision plan will be presented to our City Council next month. Our volunteers on the Visioning Advisory Committee, have done their homework once again, conducting the research to give us clear direction on community goals.

We will continue to hold ourselves accountable to these vision goals and build our annual budget process around them, ensuring we are on track.

This past year, our hard working Diversity Advisory Board achieved amazing success. Through their work, our city was recognized with a National League of Cities Diversity Award. This board brought forward the city's first diversity, equity and inclusion plan. They hosted the first Beaverton Night Market... attended by more than **5,000 people!** What a great night that was!

I also want to take a moment to personally thank City Councilor Mark Fagin, who served as liaison to this group for their first two years. Mark has been a strong champion for their work, and was a huge advocate for the Night Market idea from the very beginning.

This year Beaverton joined the Welcoming Cities Initiative, celebrating our commitment to be a welcoming and inclusive city. The week-long celebration included a Naturalization Ceremony hosted at our Beaverton City Library, where 49 new Americans were sworn in as US citizens.

Since I became Mayor, I have taken every opportunity to shine a spotlight on Beaverton's rich cultural diversity. And I

am so honored to be able to support the work of the Diversity Advisory Board, the message of the Welcoming Cities Initiative, and the work of our cultural inclusion program.

When you see how far we **can** comehow much we **can** achieve together... when we have a **clear vision** and **dedicated participation** from community leaders... **it is truly amazing.**

Again, I say, **Now is the Time for Beaverton.** We are embracing our **changing** community and finding new ways to strengthen our connections.

This past year, I have been impressed by the leadership of our Beaverton Police Department in strengthening community involvement.

Beaverton was once again honored to be recognized by CQ Press as the **Safest City** in the Pacific Northwest for cities with over 75,000 people.

Our police department has participated in more than 130 community events this past year. They began new initiatives such as **Shop with a Cop** and **Coffee with a Cop**. They are in the process of expanding our School Resource Officer Program.

And, something that you may not have heard of, they started a Chief's Breakfast that hosts culturally diverse community leaders to build relationships and dialogue.

In terms of expanding service, it was another great year for our Beaverton City Libraries.

Last spring, we expanded the Murray Scholls Branch, creating a dedicated space for children. Visitors have increased from 530 to **750** people per day. Library program attendance has also grown tremendously, with a projected 7,000 people participating, almost quadrupling the number of people. Amazing! Absolutely amazing!

Speaking of expanding service. This year marked the first time our Public Works Department and our Neighborhood Program partnered to bring leaf clean up events to **every single neighborhood** in the city.

This brainstorm came because our staff sat down and said, "How can we work together to provide better service?"

Through this new effort, we picked up **A LOT of leaves**.

Enough to fill **110 large fully loaded dump trucks!** People also donated more than **2,900 pounds** of food for local pantries as they dropped their leaves off.

Our public works crews are so excited about the community's participation in the clean-up days. They are crediting the public for helping to **minimize street flooding** during the recent heavy rains.

This is but one more example of what makes Beaverton such a special city. We come together in times of need.

And now, in 2016, I am committed to continuing to support public involvement opportunities by listening to community feedback and ensuring that our city adjusts to people's needs.

My final area of focus for 2016 will be, **Continuing to Lay a Strong Foundation for our Future.**

While so much is before us today, there is still work to be done to prepare Beaverton for the coming years.

First and foremost, **Beaverton needs a Public Safety Center we can rely on.** Our need is real.

In July of last year, when the *New Yorker* published their article, "The Really Big One," on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, the world woke up to the reality we've all known. There is an incredible chance we are going to experience a major earthquake in our lifetime.

We know our police building will collapse when a strong earthquake strikes. We know our first responders in that building will be unable to help us.

We know the building's design is unsound for police services and we can and must do better. This year, I am calling on our police chief to reactivate the citizen-led Public Safety Center Advisory Committee and come forward to the City Council and I with a plan for moving forward.

I won't leave this problem unaddressed and I want to come to the community **this year** with a plan.

I also want to thank City Councilor Cate Arnold for her passionate support of this project and her constant advocacy for the importance of emergency preparedness.

Another area of focus for the city is the on-going development of South Cooper Mountain. We have Beaverton's newest high school beginning construction and opening its doors in 2017.

We have over 700 new residential units being proposed right now. As the years unfold, this area will be home to nearly 9,500 new residents and we will continue to focus on the **sensible development** of this newest addition to our city.

Speaking of the needs of our residents, we have all been following the regional conversation about the need for more affordable housing.

The fact is that people are being squeezed right now. Rents are climbing. Buildings are being sold and new owners are raising rents.

Beaverton is not alone in that some of our most vulnerable residents are suffering right now from these challenges.

I spoke earlier about many of our successes to support affordable housing—but we can do more. Our Community Development Block Grant Program and Social Service Funding dollars go to support local non-profits that are working to address the issues of affordable **housing** and **homelessness**.

I want to take a moment to recognize City Councilor Betty Bode. Betty has a deep understanding of social service needs and has been a strong voice on the City Council advocating for those in need in our community.

Recently, the city **successfully advocated** at the state level for legislation to help us with local control over affordable housing tax exemption criteria. But again, I think we can do more.

This year, as part of our budget process, the City Council and I will be working **together** to direct additional funds to support these important issues.

During the economic downturn we temporarily added **\$100,000** to social service spending and we are calling on the city to take **similar steps** this next budget year to support housing and homeless initiatives.

Before we say goodnight, please indulge me for one moment, as I say a final thank you to the person who keeps me going, who puts up with my crazy schedule, and frankly who puts up with me...my loving wife Ann. I couldn't do this without you.

I believe in Beaverton. I believe in the people who live in our city. I believe that together we can and will achieve great things.

I believe, **Now is the Time for Beaverton**, and I can't wait to see what happens next for our city.

Thank you and Good Night Beaverton!

#