

State of the City – Glendale, AZ; 3/07/19

Glendale has earned the right to sing and dance Everything's Coming Up Roses.

Thank you to Miss Karen Grijalva and Mr. Zack McGrew, the dancers who just performed... and Robert Doyle, the manager of the Fred Astaire dance studios here in Glendale. Also, thank you to the Southwest Singers for their performances tonight.

A smart guy once said, "knowledge is power". If everyone would look at the screen, you will see addresses to follow the City of Glendale, the Glendale Chamber and myself on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. These pages provide details about "all things" Glendale.

Speaking of people who know everything about social media. The Mayor's Youth Advisory commission is made up of high school students who live in, or attend, a high school in Glendale. These students are the cream of the crop and they're tasked with being servant leaders in their communities. The chocolates they are selling tonight fund their community activities such as the annual "Christmas Angels".

Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the 68th Annual State of the City and my 7th State of the City as your Mayor. Gentlemen, each of you received a boutonniere. Our theme tonight is Everything's Coming Up Roses for Glendale and the boutonniere is a gift from me. Please join me in wearing it with pride and if you haven't had a chance to put it on yet, I am sure there is someone at the table willing to help you.

Thank you to the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, its Board of Directors and it's over thirteen hundred businesses and members for hosting the 68th annual state of the city address in partnership with the City of Glendale.

I would like to give a warm welcome to the guests at my table. Colonel Michael Richardson, the Vice Commander of the 56th Fighter Wing and Colonel James Greenwald, the Vice Commander of the 944th Fighter Wing at Luke Air Force Base. Tonight's National Anthem singer, Dr. Mai Ly Duong. Arizona Christian University's Dean of Students, Jared Black and his wife Natalie. Tyler Francis of Francis Roses and his guest Ashley Weed. Glendale Chamber of Commerce President & CEO, Robert Heidt. The Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission President, Aditi Galande. My wife of nearly 37 years, Sandy. Sandy, you've supported me and challenged me to be a better man, and for that I am eternally grateful. And last but not least, the Queen MUM, my mother of 61 years.

I would also like to welcome the members of the military who are guests at the Chamber's Military Affairs Committee's table. Thank you for your service to our country and for sharing your time with us.

Thank you as well to my staff. They have the joy of working 18 hours a day, 7 days a week. They always make sure I am where I need to be with either a speech or the "need to know" bullet points in hand.

They also ensure that the city vehicle stays gassed up, the office phones are answered, the events I started are planned and executed to my specs and most importantly they help me succeed in being the Mayor you have come to expect. All, while never, ever, ever, ever, EVER complaining. Some days I'm sure they feel like the office is a circus, and I am their ringleader.

Thank you to the businesses who have chosen to invest their futures in Glendale. And finally, thank you to our Glendale residents who have come to expect the highest standards. Your city Council is committed to providing you streamlined processes, quality services, and trained staff ready to meet your expectations.

Vice Mayor Joyce Clark, Councilmember Lauren Tolmachoff, Councilmember Ian Hugh, Councilmember Bart Turner, Councilmember Jamie Aldama, and Councilmember Ray Malnar, please stand and be recognized.

We have worked hard and long to see Glendale's future become bright and stable. When I say "we" I am referring to my fellow Councilmembers. Thank you to each of you for your time and your commitment to making Glendale what it is today and where we want it to be tomorrow.

I'd like to recognize the leadership of Kevin Phelps and his management team and the more than twenty-one hundred full-time and part-time employees who support the Council's vision. I thank each of them for their dedication to providing reliable and quality services to customers, working with the constraints of tight budgets which wouldn't make a difference without the solid financial decisions, from this Council. Their willingness to help Glendale rebuild its financial credit has resulted in ten-fold rewards.

Glendale has done a complete one-hundred-and-eighty- degree turnaround, in the last five years and we are committed to making smart financial decisions that makes certain, businesses are proud to be in Glendale and residents are proud to call Glendale home. I am honored to stand before you as the Mayor of a city that has overcome some incredible financial hurdles. Tonight, I will share my vision for Glendale. And why, as far as I am concerned, Everything's Coming Up Roses?

You will hear how Glendale is becoming better partners in the community, how our economic future will continue to blossom and how we plan to tackle issues Glendale still faces. And finally, how we are improving our customer service experience.

Glendale's Economic Development team is small but mighty. With a team of 6 they work and partner with businesses to make roots in Glendale, invigorate new development for those businesses who already call us home, all while fostering business expansions.

Currently there are over one million square feet under construction with another seven million square feet of development in the pipeline and that's not including the thirty-two residential projects of more than three thousand three hundred new homes.

I love to unveil new projects. Here is another example of just how amazing Glendale is doing.

Many of you took pictures in front of our State of the City backdrop with several props, including wings. The Council recently approved a project code named, T-2. Just so you know we have many businesses come to us and ask that we use codenames for their projects to keep them anonymous while the project rolls through the planning stages.

The T-2 project is a partnership of three companies that will bring over 700,000 square feet of Factory, Distribution and office space for their new multi-million-dollar filling operation in Glendale. This facility will add more than one hundred forty new jobs, of which, more than one third are high wage level. This facility will give its employees, customers and Glendale Wings. Yes, I am proud to announce Ball Corporation, Rousch and RedBull are coming to Glendale!

With developments like these, Glendale will continue completing projects such as the new and much-anticipated extension of Ball Park Boulevard that will connect Camelback Road to the Sports and Entertainment District allowing easy access between Camelback Ranch Ballpark and Westgate.

Just recently, we renamed Cardinals Way from 91st to 99th avenues, crossing over the Loop 101 as a testimony of our commitment to honoring the Cardinals organization that positively impacts our community.

Speaking of streets, our Transportation department recently installed new technology. An Emergency signal system that allows emergency vehicles to provide faster and safer response times, while also helping to protect our first responders and citizens. Also, the newly installed, Bell Road Adaptive program helps commuters with real time traffic flow data, so they can navigate our streets more safely and easily.

While we are immensely proud of all we have accomplished, make no mistake, We Aren't Done Yet! We have worked hard for years getting our finances in order to allow us the capability to shape Glendale's future.

In fact, while working on this speech less than 2 weeks ago, at 8:10 in the morning I received a call from our Public Affairs Director and was notified that Standard and Poor had raised our General Obligation bond rating from A+ to AA with a stable outlook. Along with this upgrade, Fitch Ratings reaffirmed our Triple A Bond rating.

We are ready and able to tackle important issues Glendale faces. One being, our aging facilities. We understand that asset management is key for us to retain the forward momentum that we have gained, and we are committed to continuing preventative maintenance, to make certain that our facilities last.

Proof of our commitment is found in our streets. This Council approved a fast-tracked Pavement Management Plan that is halfway through touching every street with a repair, treatment or replacement.

Our Council is committed to meeting expectations and keeping it on track so that the seven hundred and fifty miles of our streets receive the proper attention they deserve.

As an avid outdoorsman, I am immensely proud to say that Glendale owns more parks per capita than any of our neighboring cities and we are determined to make the funding match the needs. Our Council is working hard to make sure our Parks system receives the maintenance and attention it needs with upgraded systems, new equipment and adequate staffing levels.

With the new Heroes Park Library slated to open by June 2019 and projects such as the proposed new conservation, free flowing lake that wouldn't use any electricity while providing fishing and recreational opportunities to Heroes park visitors, make no mistake, we are committed to providing excellent recreational and community areas.

Speaking of recreational areas, our continued success in capturing three Super Bowls, two Final Fours, eleven Fiesta Bowls and many other premiere sporting events and other types of large events means that we will provide our Convention and Visitor's Bureau the support it needs to ENSURE visitors can enjoy all types of events, top notch entertainment that is second to none here in Glendale, the sports capital of the world.

Just last month, AEG, our Gila River Arena management company announced that they acquired SMG, the company that manages State Farm Stadium. Glendale supports this merger wholeheartedly and we

are excited about the benefits to Glendale and our guests. In fact, next week State Farm Stadium will host a brand-new event in Arizona, the Mecum Auto Auction.

The Mecum Auto Auction was originally intended to be a two day, five hundred vehicle event and then was expanded to three days and seven hundred and fifty vehicles and just recently expanded to a fourth day with an expected thirteen hundred cars, making it their fifth largest event, to date, without even happening yet.

Five years ago, I did a 24-hour ride along at Fire Station 154 and quickly realized we made a lot more right turns into Phoenix than left turns into Glendale.

I questioned the Fire Chief at the time about why we couldn't join with Phoenix, share our station, saving both Glendale and Phoenix taxpayers money while providing much better response times. Recently our current Fire Chief identified the same issue and went to work with Phoenix to solve this issue.

The result is the first of its kind in the nation, where two cities' Fire departments work under one roof to reduce service times. Glendale Fire station is not only home to our Glendale firefighters, but now also home to the staff of Phoenix Fire and Medical Response unit MR154.

I'm extremely proud of how Glendale partnered with a neighbor city, resulting in both cities giving better services -- for less cost to our citizens. There is another program I am immensely proud of that provides a great service for our citizens.

I don't know if you noticed the lime green and white van in the back corner of the room. (since it's such a subtle and small vehicle.) It is a testament to Glendale's commitment to partnerships.

In a city that is growing as fast as Glendale is, partnerships are the key to ensuring the community is engaged in finding solutions to the problems facing Glendale.

In 2017, I heard about a program in Albuquerque that I wanted to learn more about, so I visited Albuquerque. I learned about a program that brought the city and community together to help the homeless population and upon my return I brought forth a Council Item of Special Interest asking for staff to investigate the feasibility of a similar program for Glendale. We named it Glendale Works. I just love that name.

Glendale Works launched in November of 2018. It allows homeless individuals the ability to earn a day's wage while cleaning up city owned property, as well as, receive access to services to help break the cycle of homelessness. This program came together with unanimous Council approval, a willingness by Phoenix Rescue Mission to partner with us, as well as Glendale's Community Services Department to oversee the program. Without the support of the Phoenix Rescue Mission and the generous donation of THAT van from Sands Chevrolet, this program would not be as successful as it has quickly become. Doing exactly what our city motto says, Improving the lives of the people we serve, EVERY DAY.

Ensuring Glendale has a skilled workforce is also key to our future. Glendale's 51st to 59th avenue corridors have long supported the 3 educational institutions of Midwestern University, Arizona State University West Campus and Glendale Community College and now we have a fourth with the recent addition of Arizona Christian University. Dean of students, Jared Black, of Arizona Christian University, please stand up. Welcome to Glendale.

Each of these campuses reach unparalleled numbers of diverse students. Combined with the WestMec campus near Glendale's own Municipal airport, Glendale is absolutely ensuring the workforce of tomorrow is skilled, knowledgeable and ready to take their place.

It is in Glendale's best interest to support secondary education options as well as provide our children with a safe learning environment. I'm very proud that our Council stood up and made a quick decision, after several tragic incidents occurred in high schools across the Nation last year. We made the bold decision to protect our students, our school staff, and our teachers.

Glendale's School Resource Officer program places a Glendale Police officer on campus at each of Glendale's nine public high schools and is a testament to our commitment to supporting education and our resident's safety.

Candy Sheperd, can I have you make your way up to the stage please. Candy didn't know that she was being called up to the stage for this part because I know, if I gave her a heads up, she wouldn't have come tonight.

One of my favorite parts of the night is the Citizens of the Year.

Candy is a testament to the spirit of collaboration and community support and literally an example of "Everything's Coming Up Roses." Candy leads our food drive campaign every year

that is a huge part of the Hometown Christmas Parade. She is reliable, committed and handles this huge undertaking humbly, with efficiency and a passion second to none.

Candy and her husband Bill are both Glendale Rose Society members and Rosarians. She has dedicated much of her time to providing the attention needed at the Sahuaro Ranch Historic Rose Garden. She holds public classes, oversees the annual pruning and ensures the Rose Garden flourishes every year.

She is also an active member of her church and recently pitched an idea to the Chamber Military and Veterans Committee about an opportunity where the Sahuaro Ranch Historical Rose Garden could also

act as a Veterans healing garden allowing Veterans to learn a new skill while providing a therapeutic outlet for Veterans with PTSD.

Late last year Candy approached me about the possibility of a collaborative project where the Rose Garden would get a facelift. She asked if I'd meet with Tyler Francis of Francis Roses. I told her of course I would meet as I am always happy to meet and discuss the possibility of projects that benefit Glendale with little or no cost to our taxpayers.

With all that being said, for your volunteerism and dedication Candy Sheperd, I am proud to make you one of this years' Citizens Of The Year. Thank you, Candy.

For our second citizen of the year, Tyler Francis, would you please join me on stage? In October, I had the pleasure of meeting Tyler Francis. For those of you who don't know, Francis Roses has been growing roses on their three hundred plus acres, in the shadow of Luke Air Force Base for almost twenty-five years. They are one of the largest suppliers of bare-root garden roses in the world.

During our meeting, Tyler Francis explained his desire to reinvigorate Sahuaro Ranch Historical Rose Garden with a facelift and his vision to have Glendale as a destination for visitors to come and see the Rose Garden, in its glory.

On the last Sunday of December 2018, with \$2,000 from my office to help Parks resolve some irrigation issues, Tyler arranged for more than fifty professionals to remove the three hundred plus existing rosebushes, hand till in new soil and plant one thousand five hundred eighty-four brand new hybrid rosebushes, not even available to the public yet. Get this, valued at nearly \$50,000, at NO Cost. A 100% donation.

I am incredibly proud to honor Tyler Francis as our Citizen of the Year.

While I still strongly feel Everything's Coming Up Roses, we recognize we still need to do some weeding. One of the issues we are tackling is improving our service delivery. A city that anticipates its customer's needs while embracing technology is a successful city on all accounts.

Nothing conveys this quite like an easy to navigate website that meets the needs of its customers and allows its employees to respond to the questions and concerns of our citizens.

This new website includes an interactive, easy-to-use mobile App. Residents will find it's easy to pay their bills, get answers to their most commonly asked questions and submit service requests while allowing staff the ability to quickly respond and precisely track it all. Glendale's new website will go live this summer.

So, what does the future hold? Our commitment to the business community and our citizens. Our commitment is to communicate with them better, meet their expectations, make solid financial decisions and be the city they're proud to call home.

One final thing as an example to Everything's Coming up Roses. Ladies, thank you for attending tonight's event. You probably thought I forgot about you when the men received their boutonnieres and you received nothing. Upon leaving the ballroom, you will be handed a single stem rose as a token of my appreciation for attending tonight.

Thank you all so much for attending tonight and Thank you for allowing me to be your Mayor.