

State of the City 2019

Good morning and happy New Year! Thank you for starting your day right here in Beaverton.

Thank you Doug Menke for that introduction. I'd like to begin by recognizing my colleagues, the hard-working and dedicated members of the Beaverton City Council.

With us are Council President Lacey Beaty, Councilors Marc San Soucie, and our newest Councilor Laura Mitchell. Please come forward for a moment and be acknowledged. We are going to have a fun 2019!

I also want to take a moment to say hi all of the elected officials who are here this morning. Please raise your hands. Thank you for your service.

I hope you are enjoying the breakfast provided by our partner, the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce. You can recognize the Chamber Ambassadors by their red vests this morning. Lorraine Clarno and team, please give us a quick wave.

I'd also like to thank FT Equities and Specht Properties for letting us use this space. My team tells me that you went above and beyond to make today a success.

As you look around the room, you will find video game consoles. Our creative team has taken our city goals and transformed them into an interactive game. How fun is that?

Beaverton is committed to connecting with our residents. Studies show that games help people engage with information, even boring stuff like government. So, I invite you to play today, with more opportunities throughout the year.

The game is Mayor's Quest II, full of accomplishments and challenges our city has taken on this past year with a glimpse of what's on the horizon. Oh sure, I have a few highlights to share today but I'll keep my remarks brief so that we can all get back to networking and improving our high score.

I'm so proud of all the work that's being done in our community. This past year was full of new initiatives and continued hard work on important projects.

In 2018, we were honored to receive several awards and grants to support efforts that make our city great.

We were an All-America City Finalist by the National Civic League for our work on community visioning, cultural inclusion and public safety outreach.

Two of our neighborhood groups received awards from Neighborhoods USA. Livability.com ranked Beaverton #3 as the Best Place to Raise a Family, beating out more than 2,000 other cities.

After two years in the top 12 on Money Magazine's *Best Places to Live* list, we are proud to see a similar honor to go our neighbor, Hillsboro! Mayor Steve Callaway, congratulations on that one!

Even last year's State of the City Video won two 3CMA national awards and was positively reviewed by Willamette Week.

The City was awarded a number of important grants, including \$400,000 from the EPA for brownfield clean-up at the Public Safety Center site.

Our municipal court received \$500,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for our award-winning B-SOBR program. B-SOBR provides intensive services for alcohol and substance abusers and truly saves lives. The recidivism rate for those who complete the program is under five percent.

Just recently, PGE awarded us a half-million dollar grant for the solar rooftop project for our new Public Safety Center.

We broke ground on the Center this summer and construction is well underway. Our dedicated police officers and emergency management team will move into the new building in 2020. Thank you again to our voters for your support.

Also this summer, we announced the lead donor and gift for the now-named Patricia Reser Center for the Arts. We are thrilled to tell the world that Art Lives Here in Beaverton—and we are so grateful for the generosity and vision of Pat Reser.

Funding for the PRCA – or as I like to call it, “the Pat” —is already over 80% complete.

Thanks to our major donors including Jordan and Arlene Schnitzer; Geno and Lindi Biggi; Jin and Julieann Park, The Todd Baker Family, Dave and Christine Vernier, Roy and Francesca Kim, and all of the Arts Foundation Board Members.

Other recent gifts include the Oregon Community Foundation matching fund, the PGE Foundation and Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund.

I am truly humbled by how many donors have stretched beyond their normal donations for this once-in-a-lifetime project.

These generous gifts bring us closer to the community vision of a center honoring the arts and our diverse cultures. We are creating a regional tourist draw for all of Washington County in the heart of downtown.

I look forward to inviting you to the groundbreaking for the center later this year.

There are so many reasons to come to Beaverton! I love showing off our city, and there are more reasons than ever to visit.

We are giving visitors more lodging options with four new hotels open or under construction, and more to come.

We also have a reputation as the Westside destination for great food. Did you know that we have 49 independently owned restaurants in downtown alone? 12 new restaurants opened last year and more are coming soon!

This year, we supported restaurants and other businesses with storefront grants and tenant improvement dollars. Just another way that Beaverton is open for business.

We welcomed Fiserv, a global leader in financial services. They consolidated two Portland-area offices and brought their nearly 350 employees to Beaverton.

Chuck Eggert recently sold Pacific Foods and has started his next company. Basics is a nutrition focused retail store located at 5th and Western. We are thrilled to have this type of investment in our largest industrial district.

We continue to improve our services for businesses, developers and entrepreneurs. This past year, we went electronic with our development plan review process.

In the next 18 months, we will add electronic systems for permit tracking and inspections.

With so many good things, is it any surprise that people want to live in Beaverton?

Later this spring, the Rise Central will open with 230 units, including 15 affordable apartments. Built on the site of the former Westgate Theater, the Rise Central will add more transit-oriented housing options to our city's core.

South Cooper Mountain is seeing tremendous growth! The first homes are currently under construction and we expect more than 3,400 homes at full build-out.

This wonderful new neighborhood will have more than 100 acres of open space, and a robust trail network by 2023, bringing this new Beaverton community to life.

Thanks to Metro for its decision last month to open the Cooper Mountain area for development located a little to the west and north of South Cooper Mountain. This space has the potential for more than 3,700 homes through the urban growth boundary expansion.

We are proud of the neighborhoods coming in South Cooper Mountain and we will work with the community and developers to up our game while honoring the unique landscape of Cooper Mountain.

Housing has been my top priority for the past couple years and I am proud of the work that we are doing to make housing available and affordable. People want and need a greater variety of housing types at all income levels.

Last year, we launched the Housing Options Project, talking with residents about what types of housing they want to see in their neighborhoods. This project is balanced in a way that supports revitalization efforts while ensuring that our city remains welcoming, inclusive and within reach for everyone.

Our affordable housing efforts got a huge boost from voters this November with the passage of the Metro Bond and statewide measures.

I was an early champion for the Metro bond measure, serving on the Metro Stakeholder Advisory Table, writing editorials, and speaking in support of the measure at area events. Our City Council campaigned tirelessly as well.

It was a huge effort and the results were remarkable. Thank you voters!

Metro's new funds will translate to more than \$30 million in Beaverton for affordable housing over the next 5 to 7 years, and we already have projects in the pipeline.

A perfect example is the plan for 54 apartments by the REACH Community Development Corporation at First and Main.

We are also working with Community Partners for Affordable Housing on their Cedar Grove development, providing 44 housing units that will open later this year.

While we continue to make progress on the housing front, we know that there are still people in great need and we continue to expand our efforts to help them.

Through Community Action, we expanded street outreach and added an outreach worker at the Beaverton Library.

Partnering with Washington County, we will be adding a behavioral health liaison to our municipal court.

This year, we will be looking at adding specialty courts to handle low-level crimes connected to homelessness, mental health, addiction and other issues that have a social impact.

We financially supported Family Promise of Beaverton helping families with children every night of the year. In fact, we were the first city in the nation to be a host site when we hosted families in our community center for two weeks in the fall, and we look forward to hosting again this year.

Today is Thursday, which means that we will be opening the Beaverton Severe Weather Shelter as we have done every Thursday night for the past two winters with our partner Just Compassion and many, many volunteers.

This summer, we initiated a car camping ordinance to ensure the quality of life and safety for everyone.

I have directed staff to create a Safe Parking pilot program. Those who are living in a car or RV will have safe place to stay as they transition into stable housing.

At my request, the Budget Committee approved funds for additional police officers to provide outreach to people experiencing homelessness.

We also budgeted funds that officers can use to cover things like motel vouchers or car repairs to bridge the gaps and help people get off the streets.

We are a community that cares for every person who calls our region home. We continue to make diversity, equity and inclusion a priority.

This year, 40 percent of applicants for our boards and commissions self-identified as a person of color. We've come a long way in the past 10 years, there's more to do, and we are not sitting down!

We supported the release of the *Leading with Race* report, held two Beaverton Night Market events, and partnered with a dozen organizations to hold Welcoming Week events throughout the city.

Our library hosts a wide variety of programs and services in multiple languages, from computer classes in Arabic to story times in Spanish and Korean.

We are a welcoming city. A sanctuary city. A responsive city. And a city that takes its commitment to the environment seriously.

This spring, I will bring a Climate Action Plan to City Council for adoption and will propose eliminating plastic bags.

We will also explore eliminating single use plastics such as straws in 2019.

I call upon our county commissioners and other cities to join Forest Grove, Hillsboro-- and soon Beaverton—to enact a plastic bag ban in all of Washington County.

We will continue to work with our partners to improve our community and our environment.

We have a strong relationship with the Beaverton School District, Tualatin Valley Water District, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, Washington County, Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation, Metro, neighboring cities, and many more.

I truly value our cost-effective partnerships that add to the quality of life for Beavertonians.

[Ann Doyle joins Mayor Doyle on stage for special announcement.]

Our friends at Cambia Health Solutions have invested \$750,000 towards the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts. With this investment, we have secured 86% of our funding goal with only \$6.5 million left to raise. Thank you Mark Ganz and the board at Cambia Health Solutions!

We could not serve our residents and businesses without your support. It is my strong belief that we do not reach our dreams or face our challenges alone.

We are one city, one community, one region and we stand strong beside our partners. We are never alone.

It has been an honor to serve as your Mayor for the past ten years. We have achieved so much in the past decade, and I know that the next ten years will be even brighter for Beaverton.

And for me, every day is bright and filled with potential because I am blessed with the loving support of my wife, Ann.

Thank you for coming today and for making Beaverton the Best of Oregon!

- Mayor Denny Doyle