

2019 STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Introduce Choir: Grandview High School Boys Choir/20 members/Micah Horton, Director/Pianist
Daniel Peycke

(give welcome & recognize Michelle Jones, family, welcome all dignitaries: colleagues, elected officials, csd #4, bright futures, acknowledge the different boards & commissions, jackson county water district #1, jackson county advocate, chamber of commerce, gap, police chaplains.)

NOON (Mayor Ross, Larson, McDonough, Alderman Judy Bowman, Jackson County Executive Frank White)

Thank you to the Grandview Chamber of Commerce for hosting my State of the City address.

6PM

Thank you to the Board of Aldermen for hosting my state of the City address.

As Grandview Mayor, I have the privilege of working with some of the greatest people who make up your Grandview Board of Aldermen. They are a thoughtful group who care deeply about their choices for Grandview and its citizens.

Representing Ward 1 for Grandview are:

- Alderman Sandy Kessinger
- Alderman Damon Randolph

Representing Ward 2:

- Alderman Annette Turnbaugh
- Alderman Brian Hochstein

Representing Ward 3

- Alderman Jim Crain
- Alderman John Maloney

This is your Grandview Board of Aldermen.

[APPLAUSE]

Within our 26-thousand plus citizens and civic leaders, one stands out from the crowd every year and we honor that person with our Civic Leadership Award. For his hours giving to the community and modeling it to his congregation, help me welcome Pastor Tom Worstell of Southview Christian Church as Grandview's 2018 Civic Leader.

[APPLAUSE]

Recently, I was reading an article in "The Athletic" about Grandview High School graduate now Kansas City Chief Xavier Williams. The writer described how a former Grandview High School track athlete coined Grandview with a nickname I just have to share—DREAMVIEW. The story behind it goes like this: Because in Grandview, coaches, teachers, and parents can point to successful former Grandview citizens like Williams, former Utah Jazz now Cleveland Cavaliers Alec Burk, Mark Pender with Late Night with Conan O'Brien Band and President Harry Truman and tell kids, "When you're from Grandview, your dreams can come true." "DREAMVIEW"!!!!

Today, I will share with you our dreams for a greater city. As I thought about today, my thoughts first turned to the citizens of Grandview. The Board of Aldermen and I owe the citizens of Grandview an enormous amount of gratitude. We called on the citizens to help us secure the financial future of Grandview in **three consecutive elections**. The citizens voted to renew a Capital Improvement Sales Tax, supported a local use tax, and last but not least approved a half-cent tax increase for Public Safety. **The citizens delivered. Now it's our turn.**

Thanks to your support and the City's dedication to fiscal responsibility, the use tax brought in important additional dollars to the general fund. Our general fund reserves are rising and nearing 22-percent, and we've been able to provide improved city services, particularly in Public Safety.

Grandview is now in a position to make its mark in the Kansas City region. And the metro area is taking notice.

[ROLL VIDEO]

I want to emphasize something important Chief Iseman mentioned in the video. **Grandview's overall crime rate dropped 12-percent in 2018. 12-percent.** That's a significant accomplishment by our Police Department and our community working together.

Our plan is to become an even safer community. With the Public Safety Sales Tax, there are now four additional police officers on the streets engaging with the community, including more detectives dedicated to solving cases and getting them prosecuted. Officers will soon be equipped with body cameras to ensure the safety of the public and the police officers.

A safer community relies on the people who live and work here. Nearly half of our housing units are rentals. On Tuesday, our Grandview Board of Aldermen approved a new rental inspection

program. These inspections will help maintain the quality and safety of rental properties, but also educate property owners on doing their part to help keep Grandview neighborhoods safe.

When it comes to economic development, City staff and leaders are embracing a new philosophy: **everyone works in economic development**. It takes all of us talking about Grandview, bragging about our growth, the school district award for Outstanding Educational Achievement, and the significant drop in crime. **These are great opportunities for action.**

Speaking of opportunities— developers are already calling Grandview interested in taking advantage of our Opportunity Zone on the west side of the City. The designated areas across the United States are the newest federal incentive. Private investments in Opportunity Zones offer powerful potential to spur economic growth.

There's no question the Gateway Village Sports Complex is capable of impacting the economy of Grandview as well as the Kansas City metro. The Gateway development team is in the process of finalizing a transaction with a world-class private equity group. The deal would bring capital and sports and entertainment experience to the project. The team signed a contract with Block and Company. They're working on bringing restaurants, hotels, and other retailers to the site and the interest from the retail segment is getting stronger. Also important, the youth soccer community remains committed to the Gateway site **despite delays**.

The Board of Aldermen and I are hopeful that Transparent Brewing Company and The Chive: Simply Good restaurant have the opportunity to break ground this year on its new facility just off Highway 150 behind Gail's Harley-Davidson. We **recently** entered into a funding agreement with the group to examine the feasibility of a public-private partnership.

The Board of Aldermen and I recognize the importance of transportation and mobility as crucial components to the success of Grandview. We are excited for expanded KCATA bus service to start in Grandview this spring. This partnership with KCATA will bring a transportation option to our citizens and others who want to visit and/or work in Grandview. We are currently exploring other transportation options for our citizens, like bike sharing and e-scooters. Both of these have seen great success in other cities and encourage citizens and visitors to experience a city in a new way.

Citizens will have a chance to tell us their thoughts on transportation and many other City services when a citizen survey comes out this spring. Unlike years past, all citizens will have the opportunity to participate by taking the survey online. The Board of Aldermen and I look forward to reviewing the anonymous answers to see the good and the bad, then taking action to improve the City.

We want to know what our citizens, and our businesses, have to say about working in Grandview. This year, the Grandview Chamber and City of Grandview will partner to create and deliver a business survey. The hope is we identify what our businesses need from us to remain successful. One economic development issue getting a lot of attention across the region right now is workforce. Grandview C-4 District is answering the call for talent by starting a “Grow Your Own Workforce” Initiative. The Grandview Chamber is partnering with the Grandview C-4 School District and the South Kansas City Chamber to introduce this idea to local businesses so they can discover a path to partnership and impact the future of local students.

Grandview students make the most fun news to share. You might remember, Grandview C-4 students from the gifted FOCUS program won the Burns & McDonnell Foundation 2017 battle of the brains. In March, I expect a packed house at Union Station’s Science City when the students unveil their new one-million dollar exhibit based on their project. These students and their project are Grandview’s ambassadors and I know I couldn’t be more impressed or proud of these students and the Grandview School District’s recent successes.

Grandview is in a great place. The City is now in a position to be seen and heard. Grandview goes into 2019 knowing the importance of regional problem-solving and the power of public-private-nonprofit partnerships. We’re all in this together for the good of Grandview and to keep a beautiful nickname alive for our kids. **God bless “DREAMVIEW”!!!!**