

It's hard to believe that I have less than 90 days remaining in my term as mayor of Renton. The past 12 years have flown by and I'm spending some time reflecting on what we have accomplished during this time. I have also been giving a lot of thought about new leadership that will take the helm at City Hall in January.

Two people who I have worked with for many years are running for mayor. Both care deeply about this community and they have contributed their time and personal resources to support important, local projects. Still, both candidates have very different skills when it comes to leadership, management and team-building.

I feel the best person to continue to move Renton ahead is Armondo Pavone.

For the past six years as a city council member, Armondo has worked closely with all of our department administrators and has earned their respect. He was born in Renton, graduated from Renton High, has been a successful business owner for over 30 years, and is a dedicated husband and father of two young boys.

Armondo has been an active participant as we developed significant goals for the City, and he understands the need to be flexible, collaborative and engaging of our residents as Renton moves forward over the next few years.

Renton has changed dramatically during the past decade, mostly in a very positive way. We have evolved into a city that is truly a desired place to live, learn and do business. We weathered the impacts of the Great Recession and successfully rebounded. Our economic development efforts resulted in billions of private dollars being invested in our community, adding thousands of new local jobs. The City is currently in strong financial shape and we have a lot of exciting projects underway. Hundreds of millions of dollars-worth of new development is in the permitting process including Top Golf next to the Landing, redevelopment of the old city hall property and relocation of the Construction Industry Training Council headquarters from Bellevue to the Bryant Motors site.

We have dedicated resources to building an effective, professional police force that not only is utilizing creative tactics to address crime, but has built strong relationships with our residents and business leaders, making people feel safer in our community. We have invested in our roads and utilities to protect these vital services, and we have dramatically improved our parks, recreation and trails system. We have also made significant strides in making Renton an inclusive community, which has earned us recognition from cities across the country.

We have been very successful in building partnerships with our state representatives, county leaders and local partners including the Renton School District, Renton Technical College, Valley Medical Center, several non-profits and our business community. We have received over \$50 million in grants from the State of Washington and our partnerships provide us with the opportunity to improve public services that would not have been possible on our own. The Family First Community Center is a prime example as well as the Meadowcrest Inclusive Playground.

Equally important to successfully managing a city this size, while meeting the challenges and opportunities that cities face, is maintaining a positive, respectful working relationship between the mayor's office and the City Council. I have been blessed to have a great partnership with the Council for the past 12 years. We have agreed on the goals for moving the city forward and worked as a team to get through difficult times.

I believe Renton's future is very promising. We will continue to attract new companies, private investment and more local jobs. We will also face significant challenges impacting this entire region, which will require a comprehensive effort to protect the interests of our residents and local businesses.

Maintaining a strong leadership team at City Hall will be crucial to the city's future. Armondo Pavone has the right mix of leadership experience, business acumen, and dedication to public service that will make him a strong mayor for our community.

Denis Law, Renton Mayor  
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