

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Mayor's Inclusion Task Force

Accomplishments and contributions in support of the City of Renton goal of Inclusion.



MAYOR'S INCLUSION TASK FORCE

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Task Force goals and selected accomplishments for 2019

RENTON MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Co-sponsor and co-chair the annual Renton Multicultural Festival.

Task Force members co-chaired all Festival planning subcommittees in partnership with City staff members.

Task Force members volunteered during the two-day Festival in a number of capacities including planning, recruiting performers, marketing, decorating, distributing Festival flyers and attending the Festival with their guests. Task Force high school representatives created an opening ceremony on Saturday called Parade of Traditional Cultural Dress. They exceeded this portion of the program and recruited youth from their respective High School to participate.

A subcommittee of Task Force members partnered with the Renton River Days board to discuss and agree on combining the Renton Multicultural Festival and Renton River Days in 2020 as a way to enhance and broaden the experience of the community.

INCLUSION & SAFETY IN RENTON

Explore actions the Task Force can take to help all residents feel safe and welcome in Renton.

In 2018 the Safe Spot Subcommittee conducted research and learned of programs in other cities in support of this goal.

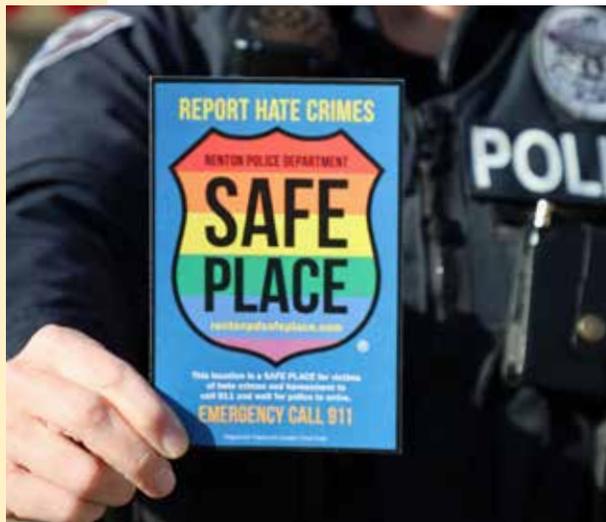
In 2019 the subcommittee partnered with the Renton Police Department who agreed to take on implementation of the Safe Place concept in partnership with Renton businesses.

ENGAGING RESIDENTS

Initiate actions that connect residents with the City and connect communities.

Inclusion Task Force members chair or co-chair community groups whose historical and/or lived experiences in the U.S. or their countries of origin have led to fear or feelings of exclusion from government entities or police organizations. These include:

- **Renton African American Pastoral Group (RAAP)** co-chaired by Rev. Dr. Linda Smith and Police Chief Ed VanValey. In 2019 RAAP co-sponsored a series of community dialogues, co-sponsored the Black History Month program in February and the 2nd annual Renton Juneteenth celebration and worked together to resolve areas of concern areas between the African American community and the police department.





Task Force Effectiveness

Members of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force have consistently acted as a two-way conduit of information between their respective communities and all of the departments in the City.

- **Vietnamese/Chinese Community Forum** co-chaired by Councilmember Kim-Khanh Van and Chief Ed VanValey. In 2019 this Forum worked to enhance relationships between the Vietnamese/Chinese community and the police department. Chief VanValey appointed Officer Quan Nguyen, who is fluent in Vietnamese as a liaison to this group.
- **Latino Community Forum** co-chaired by Deacon Ted Rodriguez and the Mayor. This group worked to enhance relationships between the Latino/Hispanic community and the police department. Sgt. John Awai was appointed by the Chief as a liaison to this community.
- **LGBTQIA+ Community Group.** Task Force member Kevin Poole worked with Chief VanValey to establish a relationship between the police department and the LGBTQIA+ community. Deputy Chief Jon Schuldt was appointed as a liaison to this community and has attended meetings to address their questions and concerns. The Executive Department worked with the LGBTQIA+ Community to celebrate the first flag raising at City Hall in celebration of Gay Pride Month in June 2019.

- **Task Force members regularly share announcements** about city events, policies and services within their respective communities.
- In 2019 they assisted the Senior Advisory Committee in survey outreach for needs of Seniors. They also assisted in outreach to our diverse communities for input in various categories of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas Plan.
- **In July, Task Force members invited** US Census staff to their meeting. As a result, they decided to make the Renton 2020 Census campaign a priority and to make Census 2020 one of their standing agenda items. Although Census Ambassadors (trusted messengers) were not formally recruited until January 2020, in the months prior Task Force members began actively working as trusted messengers for Census 2020 in their respective communities.
- **Task Force members interviewed** with journalist Glenn Nelson to provide input for his article, How One Town Developed a New Way to Police that was published in The Nation in November 2019.
- On September 12th, Task Force members partnered with the Renton Police Department to host a workshop, Surviving Mass Violence at Harambee Church (now Renton Community Church). During this workshop which was open to the community the Renton Police Department provided guidance and addressed questions on how to remain safe in active shooter situations.

In 2019, the Task Force met seven times to conduct business and in December for their annual Holiday Celebration. In meeting months their agenda included updates on their goals for the year, acting as a policy sounding board to the Mayor and Administrators of the City, sharing current issues or bringing guests from their respective communities to bring concerns and issues to the attention of the City.

In March 2019 the Task Force set goals for the year using the processes of brainstorming, dialogue and consensus. They established subcommittees to address each of the goal areas and each member decided on which subcommittee they would like to serve. In some meetings a portion of the agenda was set aside as a work session for the goal subcommittees to meet and then report back to the entire body.

Task Force members regularly share information about opportunities, policies, events, community engagement with their respective community members. In addition they have actively partnered with the City to inform members of their communities about their various opportunities to provide input in city policy and planning.

The relationships that have formed among members of the Task Force is what inspired them to initially host an event bringing members of their respective communities together and later to partner with the City in launching the Renton Multicultural Festival which took place for the fourth year in a row in 2019.



Ongoing Need for the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force

The Mayor's Inclusion Task Force has demonstrated its strength and effectiveness since its launch in May 2014. Several members came from the predecessor of this group, the Community Liaisons whose members also had a track record of providing two-way communication between their communities and the City.

The Mayor's Inclusion Task Force has demonstrated its value and fulfilled its Charter in the following ways:

- **Envisioning and co-sponsoring the annual Renton Multicultural Festival.** A celebration of the diversity of Renton and an opportunity for attendees to learn more about cultures other than their own.
- **Providing technical assistance** to the City when requested on language translation of information shared with residents.
- **Partnered with several City departments** to provide access, engagement, and voice to communities that traditionally have not been easily accessed by the City.
- **Personally engaged in community outreach** and arranging community meetings for residents to interact with City staff.
- **Regularly shared critical information** on a timely basis with members of their respective communities.
- **Served as advocates for their respective communities** and for the most vulnerable communities.
- **Assisted in recruitment for positions** in the City such as staff, boards, committees and commissions.
- **Invested in forming relationships** with each other and among their respective communities to meaningfully further the City's goal of Inclusion.

For these reasons, we recommend continuing support by the City of the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force and its endeavors.

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