

Thank you, Kevin, for a great introduction. I have not played handball in many years but in my 30s it was an amazing challenge and, I thought at the time, and still do, a beautiful sport. Being able to hit a ceiling ball with my left hand was the athletic accomplishment of my lifetime. The bone bruises, however, were brutal.

I'd like to begin by introducing members of Kirkland's staff who are with us today because this address is largely about bodies of work that we could never accomplish without them. Kurt?

OK, let's get started. First, it is a great privilege to be here to present the 2019 State of the City Address. I am honored to have been selected by the City Council to serve as your new Mayor. I want to thank my colleagues for their faith in me and promise that I will do everything in my power to be worthy of their trust. They were all scheduled to be in Olympia for the Association of Washington Cities conference, but then we were all supposed to do a lot of things that didn't happen this week, right? Jay and Dave did go down today for scheduled meetings advocating on behalf of the City for our legislative priorities. I'll reserve

my advocating for the weekend, when Larry is home and I get as long a meeting as I want.

One more thing as a preface to the state of the city, I want to express my profound appreciation to my dear friend and Representative Amy Walen for nine amazing years on the Council and an incredible five as our Mayor. Snowgate, snowmageddon, snowpocalypse, made us have to postpone her farewell celebration, but the theme for that event, because she was also the Mayor of Munchkin land in Studio East's production of the Wizard of Oz, is to send her off in sparkly green slippers on the emerald green road to Olympia. Amy may "not be in Kirkland anymore," but she has left an incredible and evolving legacy. Under her leadership Kirkland truly became one of the best places in America to live, work and play.

Each and every one of you has contributed to making Kirkland such an exceptional place. As a fellow business owner, I am so proud to give this speech in front of the Chamber of Commerce - this year of all years. Because our Chamber marks its 100th anniversary and this year we will meet our all-time membership high with 511 members now and growing.

This year of all years because Edgar Martinez was finally elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame and to honor Edgar I am bringing out some of my favorite Yogi Berra quotes. This year of all years because Celebrate Kirkland's 4th of July Celebration is marking its 20th anniversary this July. These are historic milestones. Kirkland Urban will open its doors in late May. The Shake Shack will open for business right across the street from Peter Kirk Park. The Purple Cafe will return to downtown! A fabulous dumpling shop called the Dough Zone will attract patrons next to a new Mud Bay pet store. Also look for Café Ladro, Homestreet Bank, Bright Horizons Daycare and much more to come.

The Village at Totem Lake will complete its first phase in June, including the Eastside's first Salt and Straw gourmet ice cream shop made famous in Portland. We will also see 205 coffee shop (205 is apparently the perfect temperature for coffee) serving several hundred new apartments and the new parking garage. Thank heavens for the parking garage what with Ulta, Ross, The Rack, Trader Joes and Whole Foods open right now, as Yogi Berra would say; "Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded."

Cranes have sprouted everywhere as we have 2,400 units of housing, 750,000 square feet of commercial space and 295,000 square feet of institutional building under construction today. In the development pipeline we have another 1,400 housing units, another 840,000 square feet of commercial and institutional improvements.

Ladies and gentlemen, just like the fireworks over Lake Washington on the 4th of July, the State of the City is booming!

I have lived in this community, owned The Grape Choice and been a member of this Chamber for almost 35 years. I have never been more excited or seen more opportunity. There is a whole new Kirkland vibe! I am so confident about our future. Google is doubling down on its investment in Kirkland and technology and aerospace companies are flocking to our town. Yogi also said “You don’t have to swing hard to hit a home run. If you got the timing, it’ll go.” Well, we have timed it right. We have hit a home run. We are transforming into a city of energy and innovation! And moving on to a grand salami.

However, we cannot keep Kirkland an Ozian emerald city on the lake if we don't have the brains, the heart, and the courage to meet the challenges that come with our success.

These challenges include the impacts of such explosive growth. First, we must meet our obligations as a City to serve all these new structures and the people they bring. We need to provide critical utilities for water and sewer and garbage and recycling services. We must face up to difficult regional conversations about the future of water supply and the use of reclaimed water. We must do the difficult work of siting solid waste transfer stations and deciding where and how we dispose of our garbage and recycled materials. And that's just the fun stuff. We must also invest in parks, open space and recreational opportunities and in infrastructure such as roads maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes and transit improvements.

These new developments are bringing great companies and are creating great jobs, great homes, and great amenities. They are attracting new immigrants, new families and new visitors in great numbers. But

with these new people come new traffic, new congestion, a high cost of living, a lack of affordable housing, and an increase in homelessness.

We must find a way for those who serve our community, to be able to live in our community. The bank tellers, cashiers, the folks who work in our shops, our teachers our plumbers and the care givers at our health care facilities deserve to live and have their families approximate to where they work. Too many of our Police Officers and Firefighters live in North Bend, Duvall and Monroe. We cannot be safe if they cannot live here. It should not be normal or acceptable to us that working-class men and women must commute 50 miles or more per day to work.

As most of you know I own the Grape Choice with my husband Larry Springer. Like for many small businesses, this is a personal issue for us. Our own employees often must work multiple jobs just to live here. These challenges affect everyone. And they cannot be solved by just a few. A community is not just shaped by those who show up. It is also shaped by those who don't and those who can't. We must engage everyone. If we do, I believe that together, we will succeed where others are struggling.

We will succeed because we have the brains to do it. Every two years the City Council identifies opportunities and adopts a City Work Program designed to seize those opportunities. At your tables are copies of the 2019-2020 City Work Program that will be approved by the Council at the February 19 Council meeting. The handout includes a check list of past Work Programs that Amy has shared in these talks in the past years and what we have accomplished. The Work Program tells you where we will focus our time, resources and political capital over the next two years. Every challenge I have mentioned is addressed in some way in the Work Program. Each of these twelve ambitious initiatives could be the subject of its own 30-minute speech, so I'm not going to describe them all. But I encourage you to review them carefully. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan." The City Work Program is not just wishful thinking. It is our plan for what we do and how we do it. According to Yogi Berra, "If you don't set goals, you can't regret not reaching them!" And we generally reach ours.

Our businesses and our residents should use this document to hold us accountable, make sure we reach our goals and that as a community we have no regrets.

We also have the heart to be successful. Helen Keller said, “The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt by the heart.” Michelle Obama tells us that “success isn’t about how much money you make; it’s about the difference you make in people’s lives.” I love Kirkland because I believe we feel with our hearts and we care about making a difference in people’s lives. We proved that time and time again in 2018. It was exactly one year ago, on February 14 when a gunman opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing seventeen students and staff and seriously wounding seventeen others. Our community response was to come together. We did not simply get angry although many of us did get angry. We got engaged. Groups like Kirkland Safe, Kirkland Indivisible and the Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods came together along with individual moms and dads and students and said that is not who WE are or who WE want to be. We strive to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive community and we are willing to do the work to make that our truth.

And we proved it. We had a difficult but thoughtful community conversation about gun safety and school safety. We ACTED to reduce the chances of gun violence from happening here, and to help those who

are suffering and in pain. We identified the need to invest in mental health services, domestic violence programs, suicide prevention programs, gun safety training, mental health professionals and new community police officers and school resource officers. We learned we needed proactive policing to combat drug crimes, property crimes and shoplifting which often involve weapons. And as a community we showed our true heart when we overwhelmingly passed Proposition 1 last fall. Now nearly two million dollars every year will flow to these programs, to help those who need it, and make our community safer. In December the Council also adopted a budget that made our largest investment ever in human services, housing and homelessness programs to help those who have been left out of the region's prosperity.

We proved our heart again when we learned about the incident at Menchie's in November. As a community we were devastated to learn that an African American man left the shop after an encounter with our Police feeling he was unwelcome in Kirkland based on his race. Again, these same groups and others came together and said this is not who WE strive to be. Again, we are acting to live up to our ideals of being a safe, welcoming and inclusive community for ALL people. Last Tuesday Council

approved funding to provide diversity training to all Kirkland Police Officers and all other City employees including the Council. The Council also approved funding for a partnership with Leadership Eastside, to facilitate community conversations with all Kirkland residents and businesses on race and diversity. I encourage everyone in this room to join that conversation and I hope that Kirkland will ultimately be a model and lead the way for communities like ours to be renowned for our efforts and performance in inclusion.

But even the smartest brains and the strongest hearts are not always enough. To truly tackle the challenges facing Kirkland today, we must have courage. We must have the courage to take the actions we need to take, whether they are popular or not. As Roslynne Carter once said “Anyone can take people where they WANT to go. It is much harder to take them to where they DON’T want to go but NEED to be.” Taking our community to where it needs to be requires courage.

The best example of this is our housing crisis. To provide homes for our children, our seniors, our workers and those who are homeless, we need new housing of all kinds and in all places. We must build missing

middle housing like condominiums, duplexes, triplexes and mother-in-law apartments. And this housing must be built in livable, walkable neighborhoods close to jobs and served by transit. But too often this needed housing is opposed by those who live nearby. Our attempt to create housing at the Houghton Everest Shopping Center was a failure. We missed the obvious opportunity to create new housing options right next to the Google campus, Metropolitan Market, PCC and Northwest College. We must find the courage to act no matter how difficult it is. Eleanor Roosevelt said, “do what you feel in your heart to be right – for you are going to be criticized anyway.” How true that is!

The great news is that we are not alone in this effort. One of the most inspiring experiences I have had during my short time as Mayor was when I stood with other Eastside Mayors and Microsoft when they unveiled their 500-million-dollar investment in workforce housing in this region. As Brad Smith from Microsoft announced “We have had forty years of success here. It is time to give back.”

The Eastside is uniquely poised to partner with Microsoft on this effort. Through ARCH, A Regional Coalition for Housing, we have the staff

teams and decision-making processes to make housing happen quickly. Especially near light rail lines and bus rapid transit that will come online from the ST3 ballot measure. Our City Manager, conveniently, is the current Chair of the ARCH Board, and ARCH is already working to convert this pledge to housing in our communities.

I would like to end where I began. By thanking my fellow Councilmembers each for their own love affair with our city. To paraphrase Yogi Berra, being a Councilmember is 90 percent mental and the other half is physical. And my fellow Councilmembers really do give 140 percent to Kirkland. We are fortunate as a City to have such a talented team of elected officials who all have the hearts, brains and the courage to act on our behalf.

Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold has been the swiss army knife of the council. He goes anywhere and does anything we need him to from regional smart growth policy leadership to legislative advocacy and his relentless attention to the King County Climate Collaborative assuring that Kirkland stays on the forefront of these incredibly important issues.

Councilmember Dave Asher is the driving force behind the pursuit of our legislative agenda. His leadership has provided tens of millions of dollars to the City for transportation and housing projects. And, for many years, he has persevered as our champion of regional transit.

Councilmember Toby Nixon is our incredibly talented municipal code expert and parliamentarian. Every city should have one. Almost none do. He knows a lot about everything and helps to guide us through tough policy discussions. He is a nationally recognized expert on Public Records and government transparency and a firm guide for Kirkland's Public Safety Accountability.

Councilmember Jon Pascal is passionate about delivering responsive service to our community in effective and efficient ways. His expertise helps us deliver quality of life infrastructure such as road maintenance, sidewalks, bike lanes, parks, trails and open space. He guides our Parks and Public Works committee in assuring the right projects get prioritized and done.

Lastly, Councilmember Tom Neir, our newest member and a second generation shot by the Neir family, provides an entrepreneurial creativity

and is an enthusiastic nonpartisan catalyst for change. He will keep us on the cutting edge as we develop our smart city systems and plan for a world with autonomous electric vehicles where ever they may operate.

Together, this Council is an all-star line up that would give the Boston Red Sox a run for their money. I am so proud to be a part of it.

Finally, Yogi said “It’s tough to make predictions, especially about the future.” But I will leave you with my prediction. We will stay this course together. We will overcome our challenges together. Our booming present will light the way into an even brighter future. And when we are done, everyone in Kirkland will agree that there is truly no place like home.

Thank you!

And now, backed by informed staff and wise colleagues from the council I’m happy to take questions.