



News Release

CITY OF MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 22, 2009

2009 State of the City Address

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE--"Safe, healthy, and strong" was a key message about Mountlake Terrace from this year's State of the City Address presented to the City Council at a May 18 public meeting.

"This is an extraordinary time in the history of the community," said City Manager John Caulfield. "As we pause and look back over the past few years, we see many amazing stories and accomplishments. Our progress as a community the past few years has been memorable – and 2009 and beyond will be even better."

Caulfield noted that each year, the community has grown stronger as the Council continues to work toward its vision and goals.

"While there is no doubt that these are unprecedented times for our economy," remarked Caulfield, "the upside is that the city has implemented steps to mitigate the impact of this economic and financial crisis while maintaining services for residents at current levels."

Particularly notable in the address was the extraordinary capital improvement program (CIP) approved by the Council that focuses on community needs, especially streets, sidewalks, parks, open space, facilities, and water, sewer and storm water utilities. The CIP totals \$65.4 million over an eight-year span between 2006 and 2014.

The State of the City presentation pointed out the importance of economic development in commercial areas, including the downtown, to generate additional property and sales taxes. The generation of new revenues from redevelopment and revitalization in these areas will help meet the growing demand for services and lessen the tax burden on residents.

Caulfield emphasized the key role partnerships have played in the city's success. Assistance from community organizations, volunteers and intergovernmental agencies have helped stretch the citizens' tax dollars to manage limited resources and keep costs in check. Caulfield added that the city has been very proactive in building rapport with other communities as well as State and Federal legislators to leverage additional resources. He said this approach has resulted in grants and other appropriations totaling over \$2.441 million in the past 18 months.

The City Manager concluded his address by noting that Mountlake Terrace is well-positioned for the future and the community's best days are still ahead. He thanked the City Council, city employees, citizens and volunteers for their tireless work and dedication to assure that Mountlake Terrace moves forward, despite tough economic times.

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