



*The Best of Oregon*

## CITY of BEAVERTON

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### BEAVERTON MAYOR HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES AND PRIORITIES DURING ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

**BEAVERTON, Ore.** – This evening, Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle reflected on accomplishments from 2015 and highlighted priorities for 2016 in his annual State of the City address at the Arts and Communication Magnet Academy (ACMA) performing arts center. A reception hosted by the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce preceded the address, with introductory remarks offered by Forest Grove Mayor Pete Truax.

Mayor Doyle shared his three priorities for 2016:

1. **Continuing to grow the local economy.** The city has strong partnerships with groups including the Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Oregon Technology Business Center.
2. **Expanding public involvement.** Through its nationally-award-winning public involvement programs, the city continues to strive for inclusiveness and local volunteerism.
3. **Laying a strong foundation for the future.** The need for a public safety center will continue to be a priority in 2016 as well as supporting housing and homeless initiatives through the leadership of the Beaverton City Council.

Highlights from 2015 include Nike's \$380 million expansion; successful passage of the Washington County Cooperative Library Services levy, which provides an additional \$2.5 million for Beaverton libraries over the next 5 years; new affordable housing downtown; and more.

"As I look to the future, it's clear that '**Now is the time for Beaverton,**'" said Mayor Doyle. "We've done the visioning, we've done the planning, we know where we're headed and what we want to achieve."

Beaverton's unemployment rate is 4 percent and continues to improve, while Washington County's stands at 4.7 percent. Jobs in the county grew by 3 percent over last year, adding approximately 8,700 jobs.

"We're not going to rest or be complacent, said Mayor Doyle. "We will continue to innovate and support new job growth and opportunity."

One asset that sets Beaverton apart is the city's investment in the state's highest-rated technology start-up incubator, Oregon Technology Business Center known as OTBC. This past year, the city supported the OTBC Challenge, providing five companies, selected from a highly competitive 60 applications, the opportunity to receive \$20,000 each. This is just one of the city's initiatives to support business development in Beaverton.

In the address, Mayor Doyle highlighted that his final area of focus for 2016 will be to continue to lay a strong foundation for the future.

"Last July when the *New Yorker* published their article, 'The Really Big One,' on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, the world woke up to the reality we've known," said Mayor Doyle. "There is an incredible chance we're going to experience a major earthquake in our lifetime... Beaverton needs a Public Safety Center we can rely on. We know our police building will collapse... we know our first responders in that building will be unable to help us... The time to act is now!"

Mayor Doyle has called upon the city's police chief to reactivate the citizen-led Public Safety Center Advisory Committee and come forward to the City Council with a plan for moving forward.

"I believe in Beaverton," said Mayor Doyle. "This is my home. I believe that together we can and will achieve great things. I believe, **Now is the Time for Beaverton**, and I can't wait to see what happens next for our city.

For more information, including photos from the event, as well as the complete speech, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/SOTC](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/SOTC).

#### **ABOUT BEAVERTON**

Beaverton is a welcoming and responsible city that enjoys one of the most diverse populations in Oregon. In 2015, Beaverton was recognized as one of the **safest cities** in the Pacific Northwest (according to CQ Press with cities more than 75,000). Recently, the city's award-winning finance department received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** as well as the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**. In 2012, the city was awarded the **Mayors' Climate Protection Award** from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It was named one of the **best places to raise kids** by *BusinessWeek* magazine. The city was named **one of the top 25 Suburbs for Retirement** by *Forbes.com* and **one of the 100 Best Walking Cities in America** by *Prevention* magazine. The city also received the **Recycler of the Year** award from the Association of Oregon Recyclers, named a **Tree City USA** by the Arbor Day Foundation, received a **Silver Award Bicycle Friendly Community** designation by the League of American Bicyclists, and recognized as one of the Environmental Protection Agency's **Green Power Communities**. Lastly, the city's nationally acclaimed visioning program was named **Public Involvement Project of the Year—Best Planning Project** by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Cascade Chapter and also received the prestigious **3CMA Award of Excellence**.

For more information, reminders and community news, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov). Also follow Beaverton on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.facebook.com/CityofBeaverton), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton](http://www.twitter.com/CityofBeaverton).

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**Caption:** Beaverton Mayor Denny Doyle delivers his annual State of the City Address to a near capacity crowd at the Arts and Communication Magnet Academy (ACMA) performing arts center. *(Photo/City of Beaverton)*