



210 East 4th Street, La Center, WA 98629

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Maria Swinger-Inskeep, Director of Administrative Services – 360-263-8663

La Center Mayor Greg Thornton Resigns

La Center Mayor Greg Thornton has resigned from office, effective March 22, 2023. Prior to his election as Mayor, Thornton served as a Councilmember from 2010-2015 and Planning Commissioner from 2007-2010.

Mayor Thornton successfully led the City of La Center through major organizational restructuring processes, policy updates, and staffing changes. Under his leadership, the City streamlined internal practices to better serve the community. In addition, Thornton established excellent relationships with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, staff at ilani, and developers interested in the La Center community.

La Center experienced tremendous growth during Mayor Thornton's time in office, growing in population by over 25% and expanding the City's incorporated areas to include large tracts of land at the Interstate 5 La Center Junction for future development. Mayor Thornton's leadership positively impacted La Center's vision and sense of place as planning efforts were undertaken to grow the City's economic base at the La Center Junction, the Historic Town Center, and Timmen Landing areas, as well as expanded access to parks, open space, natural areas, and recreational amenities.

Mayor Thornton's tenure and leadership as Mayor saw significant progress in City infrastructure investment, including federal and state grants to fund the Brezee Creek Culvert Removal/East 4th Street widening project and the NW Pacific Highway Shared Use Path project. Thornton also led acquisition of the new La Center City Hall building and obtaining state grant funding for its remodel as well as obtaining state grant funds to remodel La Center's Community Center building, providing and enhancing important community gathering locations.

Mayor Thornton asks for privacy while he focuses on his health. Councilmember Liz Cerveney is currently serving as Mayor Pro Tem.