



# State of the City

**Our Vision. Our Legacy. Our Vancouver.**

Annual report to citizens

[www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)

CITY OF  
**Vancouver**  
WASHINGTON

Serving our citizens since 1857

## Making Vancouver a better place, now and in the future.

This is Our Vancouver. Working together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Together, we are making Vancouver a better place – today – and for generations to come.

Vancouver has passed an important milestone. We are emerging from the Great Recession, from hard times and tough challenges. Today we are better than before. Our future is brighter. Our sense of purpose is more resolute. Our vision, more focused.

Our City made fundamental changes, not quick fixes. Today, our reward is a more promising future – a living legacy for our community and our City.

Where do we want to be in 2020 and beyond? What kind of livability – prosperity lies ahead? How can the City move our community forward – toward 2020 and beyond? Today's bold vision is tomorrow's success. With this *State of the City Address*, we launch Vancouver City Council's strategic focus on our future.

Together, we are reinventing City government. Together, we are building a brighter future on top of a foundation that was reinforced in tough economic times.

*This is Our Vision, Our Legacy, Our Vancouver.*

Timothy D. Leavitt, Mayor



### CITY LEADERS

Pictured (left to right): Councilmember Larry J. Smith, Councilmember Alishia Topper, Councilmember Bill Turlay, City Manager Eric Holmes, Mayor Timothy D. Leavitt, Councilmember Bart Hansen, Councilmember Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Councilmember Jack Burkman

*"Our future is brighter. Our sense of purpose is more resolute. Our vision, more focused."*



## Our Vision. Our Legacy. Our Vancouver.

### City of Vancouver: ensuring a safe, livable and prosperous community

City services touch your life in many ways - police, fire and emergency medical services, water, sewer and recycling. Street improvements keep our community moving. Business support helps fuel the economy. Neighborhood associations and volunteers partner with the City to make Vancouver a better place. Community events, recreation programs, parks and trails help create a sense of place and bring us all together. These are some of the reasons why we love Vancouver.

### Strategic focus: building a brighter future

We care about making Vancouver a better place – now, and for generations to come. This is why Vancouver incorporated nearly 160 years ago. Vancouver is emerging from the recession with a focus on being better than before. With new leadership and recovery from the recession, the City will kick off a strategic plan update this year, defining our legacy for the end of the decade and beyond.

### The City's strategic investments: building our community's legacy

From bustling, modern east Vancouver to historic downtown, your City works hard to build community infrastructure. This helps attract employers and fuels economic recovery and jobs. Our new state-designated Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ) will take shape this year. It is a key strategy for building Vancouver's software and digital industries on our east and west sides. The City also continues to reconnect Vancouver to our Columbia River as part of the waterfront redevelopment.



**RESPONSIBLE, RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT**

- Conservative fiscal policies are paying off, City finances are stabilizing and our overall fiscal health is good
- Annual “clean” financial and accountability audits continue
- City helped the Redevelopment Authority refinance hotel/convention center debt to reduce payments
- Main Place Parking Garage sold for \$1.26 million; \$5.1 million Esther Short Building sale closes this spring; Slocum House leased to East Fork Cellars at market rates
- Realized \$1.2 million in annual savings from City Hall consolidation



**SUPPORTING ECONOMIC VITALITY AND ENHANCED LIVABILITY**

- Waterfront Access Project nearly complete, reconnecting downtown to the waterfront and attracting \$1 billion in private investments
- Messages on the City’s revitalized website, CVTV, *The Messenger* and social media channels were viewed 6.5 million times
- Vancouver ranked in Top 100 “Most Livable US Cities” and Esther Short Park named one of the “10 Great Public Spaces in America”
- Performed more than 32,000 building inspections, addressed 1,009 code compliance complaints and served more than 15,000 Permit Center customers



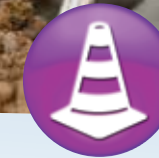
**FIRE AND EMS - MAKING VANCOUVER SAFER**

- 69 new grant-funded Automated External Defibrillators (AED) deployed to fire and police vehicles; Pulsepoint CPR/AED smartphone app launched, allowing citizens to respond to cardiac arrests
- Successfully tested SUV paramedic response to 911 calls based on citizen panel feedback
- Hands Only CPR kits deployed; 600+ high school students received CPR training
- Redesigning regional EMS system to assure stable and efficient services for our customers
- Began planning for fire station replacement



**COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING**

- New police Chief James McElvain, Ph.D., sworn in
- Independent review of police services complete; changes reviewed and supported by community task force
- Evaluating staffing changes to align with crime trends and calls for service
- Specialty teams of officers and volunteers focused on proactive policing and crime prevention
- Staff of 212.5 serve 165,000 citizens in 49 square miles with budget of \$32.6 million



**COMMUNITY STREETS, UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

- NE 137th/138th Avenue completed, improving safety and reducing congestion
- Vancouver’s water utility served nearly 9.4 billion gallons of water
- East Vancouver Train Horn Quiet Zone realized with citizens’ support
- New City Traffic Calming Program launched with neighborhoods to help address concerns
- Maintained 1,800+ miles of streets, 3,800 acres of right-of-way property, 234 traffic signals and thousands of miles of lane striping - the City’s single largest physical asset



**PARKS AND RECREATION – REFOCUSING ON CITY RESIDENTS**

- Renewed focus on City parks system and programs under new Parks Director Julie Hannon
- City received \$355,208 in grants for Lieser Crest Neighborhood Park and John Ball Neighborhood Park
- Recreation services recovered 70% of the cost of services
- Firstenburg, Marshall and Tennis centers hosted more than 1 million visits
- 5,200 Citywide volunteers worked 56,000 volunteer hours for 10 departments across the City

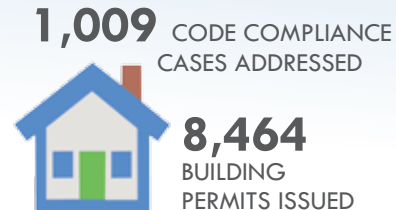
**Vancouver at a Glance: 2013**



**FIRE AND EMS**



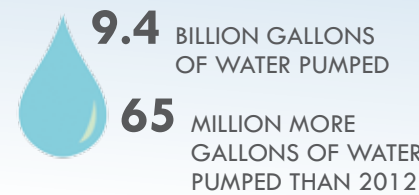
**DEVELOPMENT**



**OUTREACH**



**UTILITIES**



**PARKS AND RECREATION**



**POLICE**



View report online:  
[www.cityofvancouver.us/StateoftheCity2014](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/StateoftheCity2014)

CORE COMMUNITY SERVICES

FIRE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



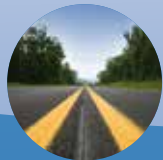
PARKS & RECREATION



POLICE



STREETS & UTILITIES



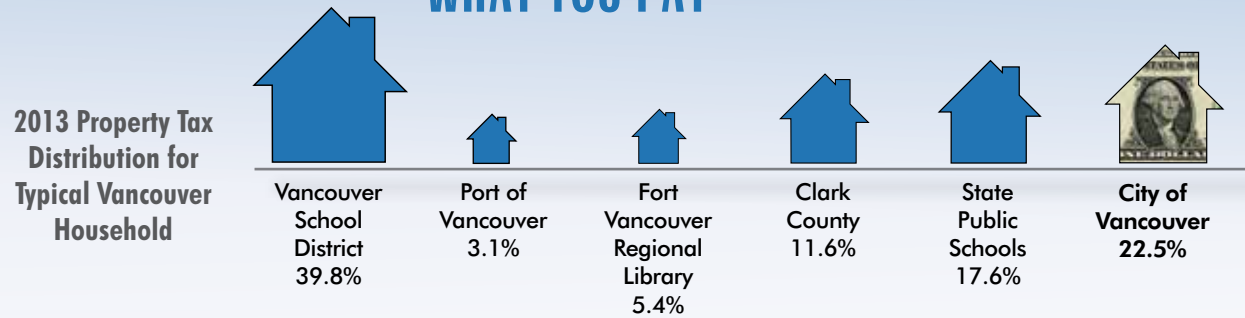
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



YOUR PROPERTY TAXES AT A GLANCE

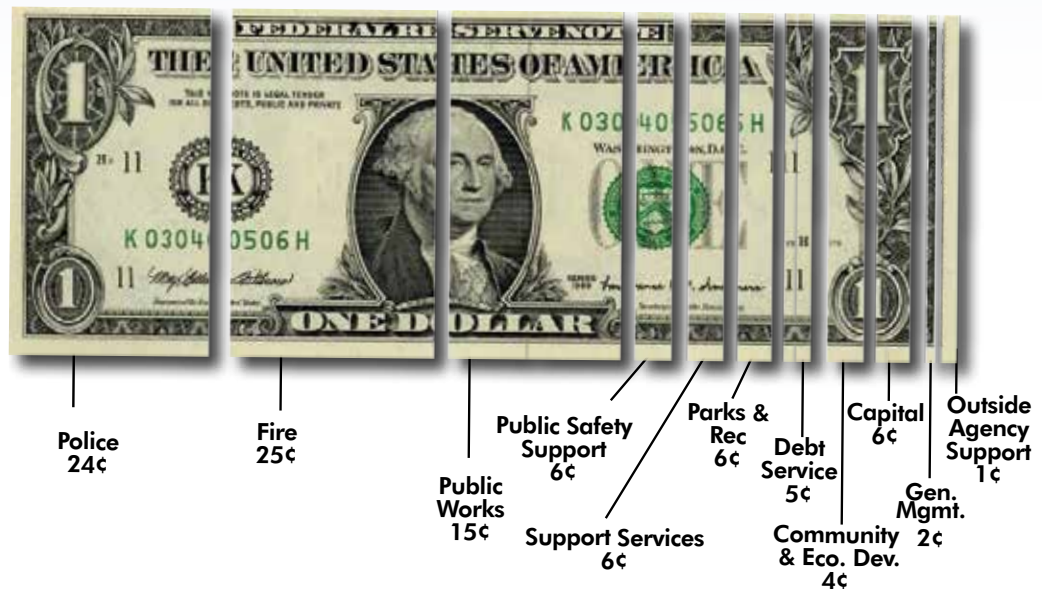


WHAT YOU PAY



WHAT YOU GET

From every \$1 in CITY property taxes, here is how your money is spent:



Our City. Our Economy. Our Future.

The City of Vancouver makes strategic investments for a bright future, including:

- Investing in and building needed infrastructure to support our community
- East Vancouver investments and growth, including 192nd Avenue corridor
- Annual water, streets and sewer improvements
- Reconnecting people to the Columbia River through the City's Waterfront Access Project and future waterfront community park
- Streamlined permitting process
- Electronic plan review (coming soon!)
- Pre-lease program supports businesses opening or expanding facilities
- Connecting neighborhoods and stimulating the economy with great events and summer concerts
- Providing education and resources through VancouverBusinessResource.org
- Promoting Vancouver as a great place to live, work and play
- Launching City's "Columbia River" brand and Why We Love Vancouver campaign to enhance our region's reputation and foster economic development
- Ongoing business recruitment efforts resulted in announcement of Integra headquarters relocation to Vancouver

RECENT STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Designated a state "Innovation Partnership Zone" for digital innovation
- Esther Short Park named one of America's 10 great places
- Livability.com's top 100 cities to live





# We are Vancouver: Join us!

Since 1857, the City of Vancouver has served the greater good and worked hard to build community pride and a brighter future for our citizens. Join us as we make Vancouver a better place today and work for a brighter tomorrow. Together, we are Vancouver.

#### Attend

City Council meetings  
Monday evenings  
at Vancouver  
City Hall

#### Watch

your government  
in action on  
cvtv.org, YouTube  
or CVTV cable 21  
and 23

#### Get involved

in your  
neighborhood  
association

#### Serve

on a citizen  
board  
or commission

#### Volunteer

or partner,  
sponsor,  
offer feedback,  
vote

Visit the City online, not in line [www.cityofvancouver.us](http://www.cityofvancouver.us)

**E-MAIL** the City Council/City Manager: [vanCMO@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:vanCMO@cityofvancouver.us)

**CALL** the City Council/City Manager: **360-487-8000**

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