Mayor's Introduction

I am pleased to share with you the City of Kirkland's 2014 Performance Measures Report.

The report is designed around the City Council's ten goals for Kirkland – Balanced Transportation, Dependable Infrastructure, Economic Development, Human Services, Housing, Neighborhoods, Public Safety, Parks, Recreations and Open Space, Financial Stability and the Environment – and the long term goals associated with each of these key areas. Each year the Performance Measures Report is compiled to assess how well the City is meeting these goals and to impart to you the changes, challenges and accomplishments.

The City Council and staff use this report to inform budgets, prioritize projects and establish business strategies. These performance measures are City-wide which means they encompass every department and service from Parks and Recreation to Public Safety and these goals drive the commitment to responsive, decisive action united with fiscal responsibility in every work plan and budget.

The Performance Measures Report is an illustration of where we have been, where we are now and our focus for priorities to achieve the established targets. Consistent with the City's commitment to transparency and responsive government, we are sharing with you how we are meeting the goals the City Council has placed before us.

This issue of the Performance Report shares the challenges and successes in 2014 that lay the foundation for changes facing the City in the years to come. We hope this report encourages you to become engaged and work alongside the City to "go further" to solving the challenges and making the most of opportunities to address the future of Kirkland.

As I shared with you in my State of the City address, Kirkland has become a regional voice for change, but also responds to the changing needs in our own City. Keeping our citizens safe, revitalizing business and recreational spaces and striving to be fiscally responsible stewards help to maintain a healthy, vibrant Kirkland for all of our citizens.

Amy Walen
Mayor, City of Kirkland

City Council Values and Goals

The purpose of the City Council Goals is to articulate key policy and service priorities for Kirkland. Council goals guide the allocation of resources through the budget and capital improvement program to assure that organizational work plans and projects are developed that incrementally move the community towards the stated goals. Council goals are long term in nature. The City's ability to make progress towards their achievement is based on the availability of resources at any given time. Implicit in the allocation of resources is the need to balance levels of taxation and community impacts with service demands and the achievement of goals. In addition to the Council goal statements, there are operational values that guide how the City organization works toward goal achievement:

- Regional Partnerships - Kirkland encourages and participates in the regional approaches to service delivery to the extent that a regional model produces efficiencies and cost savings, improves customer service and furthers Kirkland's interests beyond our boundaries.
- Efficiency - Kirkland is committed to providing public services in the most efficient manner possible and maximizing the public's return on their investment. We believe that a culture of continuous improvement is fundamental to our responsibility as good stewards of public funds.
- Accountability - The City of Kirkland is accountable to the community for the achievement of goals. To that end, meaningful performance measures will be developed for each goal area to track our progress toward the stated goals. Performance measures will be both quantitative and qualitative with a focus on outcomes. The City will continue to conduct a statistically valid citizen survey every two years to gather qualitative data about the citizen's level of satisfaction. An annual Performance Measure Report will be prepared for the public to report on our progress.
- Community - The City of Kirkland is one community composed of multiple neighborhoods. Achievement of Council goals will be respectful of neighborhood identity while supporting the needs and values of the community as a whole.

The City Council Goals are dynamic. They should be reviewed on an annual basis and updated or amended as needed to reflect citizen input as well as changes in the external environment and community demographics.

Kirkland is an attractive, vibrant and inviting place to live, work and visit. Our lakefront community is a destination for residents, employees and visitors. Kirkland is a community with a small-town feel, retaining its sense of history, while adjusting gracefully to changes in the twenty-first century.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ensure that all those who live, work and play in Kirkland are safe.

Council Goal: Provide for public safety through a community-based approach that focuses on prevention of problems and a timely response.

DEPENDABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Kirkland has a well-maintained and sustainable infrastructure that meets the functional needs of the community.

Council Goal: Maintain levels of service commensurate with growing community requirements at optimum life-cycle costs.

BALANCED TRANSPORTATION

Kirkland values an integrated multi-modal system of transportation choices.

Council Goal: Reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles and improve connectivity and multi-modal mobilty in Kirkland in ways that maintain and enhance travel times, safety, health and transportation choices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kirkland has a diverse, business-friendly economy that supports the community's needs.

Council Goal: Attract, retain and grow a diverse and stable economic base that supports city revenues, needed goods and services and jobs for residents.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Kirkland values an exceptional park, natural areas and recreation system that provides a wide variety of opportunities aimed at promoting the community's health and enjoyment.

Council Goal: Provide and maintain natural areas and recreational facilities and opportunities that enhance the health and well being of the community.

ENVIRONMENT

We are committed to the protection of the natural environment through an integrated natural resource management system.

Council Goal: Protect and enhance our natural environment for current residents and future generations.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Citizens of Kirkland enjoy high quality services that meet the community's priorities.

Council Goal: Provide a sustainable level of core services that are funded from predictable revenue.

HUMAN SERVICES

Kirkland is a diverse and inclusive community that respects and welcomes everyone and is concerned for the welfare of all.

Council Goal: Support a regional coordinated system of human services designed to meet the basic needs of our community and remove barriers to opportunity.

NEIGHBORHOODS

The citizens of Kirkland experience a high quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Council Goal: Achieve active neighborhood participation and a high degree of satisfaction with neighborhood character, services and infrastructure.

HOUSING

The City's housing stock meets the needs of a diverse community by providing a wide range of types, styles, size and affordability

Council Goal: Ensure the construction and preservation of housing stock that meets a diverse range of incomes and needs.