

MAYOR JONES' STATE OF THE CITY SPEECH JANUARY 30, 2019

Thank you, everyone, for allowing me the privilege of delivering the Garden Grove State of the City address here today. Before I begin our program, I'd like to pay a special tribute to a genuine hero who served our city with profound love, integrity, and dedication, until his untimely passing last Sunday. Fire Chief Tom Schultz became Garden Grove's 13th fire chief on April 29, 2015, following a 30-year career with the Fullerton Fire Department, where he led their management consolidation with the Brea Fire Department. For more than 25 years, he mentored future firefighters as an instructor at Santa Ana College, training students and academy recruits in fire technology. He held leadership positions in organizations such as the Orange County Fire Chiefs' Association, and chaired the committee that developed the county's Active Shooter Policy, now being used by all Orange County fire departments. As a trusted leader and mentor, he was pivotal in re-focusing and revitalizing the Garden Grove Fire Department at a time when it was most needed. He connected with this community on all levels, and always had a warm smile and a firm handshake to go with his charismatic personality. As with every challenge he faced, he met the final one head on, knowing his family and his GGFD team had his back. Since his passing, I have seen the most tremendous outpouring of support for his family, and his department from our community. Chief Tom Schultz has left an indelible impression in all our hearts. He will be truly missed, but never forgotten, for generations to come. Let's all please share a brief moment of silence in his memory...

Chief Schultz's Celebration of Life Memorial Service will take place on Wednesday, February 13, 2PM, at the EV Free Church, 2801 N. Brea Boulevard in Fullerton. Thank you.

Let's begin our program with a look back at some memorable moments from 2018...

Well, I decided to surprise everyone and actually show up for my speech this year! What isn't a surprise, is the pride we ALL share knowing that Garden Grove continues to move forward, stronger, wiser, with a true heart, and an unyielding commitment to improve the future of this remarkable community. 2018 was an historical year. Historical in the sense that we celebrated several major milestones, achieved a number of firsts, and experienced things that made us realize how uniquely fortunate we really are. The video you just saw is one of many productions that you'll see today from our Emmy-award winning GGTV3. And, they've planned something special at the end of the program, so please stick around.

I'd like to first thank the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce for the opportunity to speak today. I'd also like to ask my beautiful wife, Manivone, my two amazingly-gifted children, Jaden and Ashton, and the rest of my family members here in attendance to please stand for an applause.

Garden Grove has an amazing City Family who make things happen with quality and service every day. Let's hear it for the Garden Grove City staff! I have enjoyed the privilege of working alongside my wonderful city council colleagues, who genuinely share my love and enthusiasm for this city. Each of them wholeheartedly represents the interests of their respective districts and deserve recognition for so many of our city's successes. I'd like to take a moment to personally introduce your Garden Grove City Council leadership team. If I can ask them to remain standing after I read their names and for the audience to please hold their applause until all the names are read.

Starting with our Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Klopfenstein from District 5; our newly-elected District 1 Council Member George Brietigam III; Council Member John O'Neill from District 2; Council Member Thu-Ha Nguyen from District 3; Council Member Patrick Phat Bui from District 4; and Council Member Kim Nguyen from District 6. Let's show them our appreciation! I would also like to acknowledge our City Management team, led by City Manager Scott Stiles; Deputy City Manager Maria Stipe; Community and Economic Development Director Lisa Kim; Community Services Director John

Montanez; Public Works Director Bill Murray; newly-appointed Information Technology Director Anand Rao; and Human Resources Director Laura Stover. Thank you all for your brilliant leadership!

One of the most significant events of 2018 was the passage of Measure O, a 1% sales tax increase that will shape the course of our city's future for years to come. The measure was passed by an astounding 65% of Garden Grove voters. That demonstrates the remarkably-high level of trust and support this community has for their city. In the past, Garden Grove has always managed to get through hard times, but without the additional funds coming from Measure O, it would have been extremely difficult to keep pace with providing essential police services for our rapidly growing population.

Measure O goes into effect this April, with funds available in July, and is estimated to provide 19-million-dollars a year in funding for City services. Approximately 70% of annual Measure O funds have been earmarked for public safety, with 50% of the total, or approximately 9.5-million-dollars per year being allocated to our police department.

Soon after the measure was passed last year, City Manager Scott Stiles announced commencement of the Measure O Public Safety Plan. In this 5-point plan, the Garden Grove Police Department will hire 16 additional police personnel, made up of 11 sworn police officers and 5 police support staff, on top of filling their normal vacancies. The additional sworn officers would make GGPD 179-officers strong, the highest it's ever been. Recruiting has already started, allowing us to begin filling these positions immediately, once our fiscal year budget is approved in June. With new personnel, comes the need for upgrades to existing police facilities, such as our 50-year-old police department headquarters. The process is already underway to hire design firms to plan out improvements covering the next 30 years. Another component of the plan expands efforts to assist our homeless community, starting with the addition of a full-time officer dedicated exclusively for the police department's Special Resources Team, or SRT, Homeless Task Force. Over the last year, the SRT has been effectively working with our local

homeless and transient population to solve many long-standing issues. However, much work is still needed to remedy Orange County's homeless crisis. Along with the SRT, the City's Neighborhood Improvement Division administers the federal Emergency Solutions Grant or ESG program. The program allocates resources to homeless service providers to rehabilitate and operate emergency and transitional shelters; provide essential social services; and prevent homelessness. Information on these programs as well as a list of local homeless service agencies are now available under the Homeless Resources webpage at ggcity.org.

The final point in the Measure O public safety plan is the development of a Community Oversight Committee. This committee will serve in an advisory capacity to ensure Measure O funding will be used for public safety and essential services, as promised. The formal plan will soon be presented to the City Council for approval, followed immediately with implementation. Even though he's not here today, I'd like to commend Garden Grove Police Chief Todd Elgin. The safety of our community and our officers has always been Todd's Number 1 priority and for his more than 32 years of service, he has placed every ounce of his efforts into making that happen. Thank you, chief!

Moving over to our fire department, last year marked another historic milestone in our city: completion of the new Fire Station Number 6, the first fire station to be built in 47 years. Located in Mayor Pro Tem Klopfenstein's District 5, the new station is a full-function, 7,680 square-foot facility that can accommodate up to eight firefighters daily. Not only will it enhance fire protection services to eastside residents, schools, and businesses, it further serves the needs of millions of tourists who visit our Grove District Resort hotels.

Over in our downtown area, Re:Imagine Garden Grove was hard at work last year, meeting goals to enhance public gathering spaces and identify placemaking opportunities. One example was through the addition of another colorful, giant Adirondack chair, this time in the Village Green, along

with 10 normal-sized ones in Civic Center Park. For a little back-story on our Adirondacks, let's watch this next video...

And the work doesn't stop there! Seven, new Adirondack benches will become part of a mobile museum around the downtown area using the hashtag Mobile Museum. And, colorful, contemporary, community-inspired art projects that include murals, sculptures, and paintings, will dot the fresh new face of our downtown area. Thanks Jen and Alana, for finding ways to bring so much heart and soul to Garden Grove through the arts.

Showcasing our local artistic talent and serving as a pre-cursor to the next Open Streets event in 2020, the City and the Garden Grove Unified School District will host the "Re:Imagine Art in the Park" event on Saturday, March 16th in the Village Green and Courtyard Center. The Friday before, LFA will host a performance by Stephen Marley at the Garden Amp. Plans are in the works for activities to begin the week prior, during the GGUSD's 41st annual First Impressions Art Show, leading up to the main event on Saturday. So, watch for more information, soon to come!

Another Re:Imagine plan in the hopper is the continuation of a bicycle and pedestrian trail along the former Pacific Electric railroad right-of-way, owned by OCTA. The current trail, part of a pilot project unveiled at the 2014 Open Streets event, ran from Nelson to Stanford. Now, thanks to a 1.8-million-dollar CalTrans Active Transportation Program grant, plans are underway to extend the trail all the way to Brookhurst. The full build-out of the trail will connect to the Orange County Loop, the planned 66-mile trail that links to some of So Cal's most scenic beaches and inland riches. Construction is anticipated to begin at the end of this year, with a ribbon-cutting to coincide with Open Streets 2020.

On Main Street, E-Patisserie has doubled in size by adding the Phin Smith Café, while Louie's is pursuing the addition of an enclosed outdoor seating area. And, a 3-story work/live project called Smallwood Plaza is in the works.

At the GEM theatre, the City recently approved a 10-year agreement with One More Productions for the exclusive use of the theatre.

Coming soon to the Civic Center on Garden Grove Boulevard, will be The Centre by Far West Industries, offering 16, 2- and 3-story townhomes, including two live/work units. Also, Lab Holdings is moving forward with their Cottage Industries project to commercially re-purpose a number of early 1900's Craftsman homes in the Acacia Parkway neighborhood and opening their first phase, called Farm Block, this summer. From the bottom of my heart, thank you Shaheen, Chris, and Roman for hanging in there. No one else in the whole wide world gets placemaking quite like you guys and I am eternally grateful for the game-changing movement you're about to bring to Garden Grove.

Then right behind city hall, there's this edgy, new watering hole and foodie hangout made up of 21 shipping containers and a tenant lineup unlike any we've seen in Garden Grove, including their latest addition, Barrio, offering the homey feel of Filipino barbeque at a healthier, elevated level for modern diners. Also, a burger joint called The Penalty Box by ice-hockey legend Teemu Selanne. In case you hadn't noticed, Teemu is in the house! Can you stand for a moment, Teemu? Today, I'm announcing that the tentative grand opening date for Steelcraft Garden Grove is May 23rd, 2019. So, within a few short months, if you're wondering why I'm not in City Hall, you may want to check next door at Steelcraft where you'll probably find me spending my working lunches! Stay in-the-know of all things Steelcraft by following them on Facebook at Steelcraft LB.

Our City's hospitality industry remains strong, leading the way for continued growth of our Grove District Resort area. Upcoming Disney projects, such as the June grand opening of *Star Wars: Galaxy's Edge*, Disneyland's biggest "land" to date, is just down-right neighborly. Thanks Anaheim, for all the magic you sprinkle upon Garden Grove!

The Hyatt Regency Orange County is boasting a beautiful 10-million-dollar renovation, alongside its new neighbor, Nova Kitchen, primed for its grand opening next month. Let's watch their video...

South of the Grove District and 22 Freeway, in Council Member Kim Nguyen's District 6, the BN Group is slated to break ground for a new 124-room Home2 Suites by Hilton in February. And a block further south, will be the new home for Garden Grove Kia, relocating from Garden Grove Boulevard, which will be open within the next few months.

We are truly fortunate and thankful for what the Grove District provides for our city. Year after year, our hotels continue to be our city's biggest performers. Giving back to the community is another thing the Grove District does very well, as one of our city's most generous charitable sponsors. Last year, the Garden Grove Tourism Promotion Corporation, the City's marketing arm for the Grove District, awarded \$100,000 in sponsorships to four very-deserving non-profits that do wonderful work for our community. Let's have a look...

Let's give Jim Durslag a hand for the GGTPC's kind generosity in giving back to our community!

Another example is a recent newcomer, Bracken's Kitchen, led by world-class chef Bill Bracken, who offers a unique form of philanthropy to feed the hungry. Bracken's undertakes a food recovery program that provided over 140,000 meals last year, with hopes of doubling that number in 2019. This year, Bracken's Kitchen will partner with Grove District hotels to bring their culinary training program to underprivileged youth in our community. Bill, can I ask you to stand for a round of applause?

Talking about great kitchens, let's look at some delicious new eateries in District 4, represented by Council Member Patrick Phat Bui. Everyone knows the best Vietnamese food is found here in Garden Grove, right? Well, Oc & Lau upholds that claim by opening a second restaurant at the former Brodard's location behind the Mall of Fortune. And, soon-to-come at Brookhurst and Westminster, is the revolving sushi bar, Kura.

Also on Brookhurst, is the City's largest residential and commercial mixed-use development, Brookhurst Place. Last July, the City and Kam Sang Company celebrated the grand opening of Phase I. At the completion of Phase II, the project will offer 462 additional apartment homes, 58 for-sale condominiums, up to 200,000 square-feet of commercial and retail space, and a 100-key hotel. Hey, what's that huge rusty structure back there? Now called Garden Brook Senior Village, it's scheduled to break ground on February 12th. So, no more rusty skeleton jokes, please!

Continuing down The Boulevard, we arrive at The Village at Beach. Breaking ground last September, this mixed-use project encompasses the cities of Stanton and Garden Grove. With a planned Fall 2019 opening, the retail center will feature an In-N-Out Burger, Raising Cane's, Chase Bank, and Planet Fitness.

At the end of our new-projects road trip is District 1, belonging to our newest Council Member George Brietigam. One word to describe our Valley View business corridor, called the West Grove Business District, is "opportunities." A recent market assessment of the West Grove Business District, by the non-profit land-use planning organization, Urban Land Institute, showed that the development of identity branding, zoning overlays, community vision and engagement, and local spending would open new opportunities for long-term economic vitality of the Valley View business corridor.

Tapping the west side potential is Cinemas Management Inc., by investing 12-million-dollars into developing the 40-year-old Starlight 4-Star Cinemas and adjoining mall, and re-naming it West Grove Center. Located near the corner of Valley View and Chapman, the theatre's four screens will ultimately become twelve, along with a new restaurant, car wash, Jack-in-the-Box, and up to 10,000 square-feet of added food space. Look for a big grand opening in the spring.

Last October, I had the pleasure of inaugurating and touring the amazing new 208,000 square-foot facility belonging to Southland Industries & Enviser

on Western Avenue. As one of the nation's largest building systems experts, their fantastic growth in our city is extremely impressive and exciting! Congratulations!

In addition to making major developments happen in our city, the Office of Economic Development continues to directly assist our business community with valuable programs and resources, with proven results. Last June, family-owned Tam's Restaurant and Sandwiches opened its doors on Brookhurst, thanks in part to the City's Small Business Loan Program. The Broker Outreach Program offers one-on-one meetings with local brokerage firms interested in expansion, relocation, or start-up opportunities. And valuable business workshops in partnership with SBDC, SCORE, Go-Biz, and Trade Connect provide the tools and information needed to keep businesses moving forward in Garden Grove.

In the coming months, the Office of Economic Development will collaborate in re-launching the City's existing shop-local program, Buy in Garden Grove, or BiGG. A new, multi-functional GIS-based webpage, more shopper incentives, special seasonal promotions and giveaways, and Grove District staycation packages will make buying in Garden Grove even BiGGer and better than before! Businesses can list for free by offering a special discount or buyer incentive.

Construction continues on the northwest corner of Lewis Street and Garden Grove Boulevard, for Gardenia by Shea Homes. The grand opening of the 70 single-family, detached residential units takes place on May 4. And, on the west side of Buaro Street, south of Chapman, two modern buildings, offering a total of 17 new attached townhomes are nearing completion. Programs designed to help bridge the high costs of owning a home are welcoming more homeowners to Garden Grove. The City's First-Time Home Buyer Program provides qualifying families with up to 75-thousand-dollars to purchase their first home in Garden Grove. The Workforce Initiative Subsidy for Homeownership Grant, or WISH, is a forgivable grant that matches 3-dollars for every dollar the buyer puts towards their down-payment. And,

the CalHOME Loan is a 30-year deferred secondary mortgage that provides additional funding for home buyers who are unable to secure the full amount of financing through a traditional mortgage. The Senior Home Improvement Grant Program provides up to 5-thousand-dollars for eligible seniors over 62 who need help fixing their homes to alleviate health and safety concerns, and code violations.

Working to raise the quality-of-life for a local neighborhood led to an award-winning project for the City. Last September, the League of California Cities honored the City of Garden Grove with the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, for the City's revitalization efforts of the Palma Vista neighborhood. The effort was led by the City's Neighborhood Improvement Committee, chaired by Police Chief Todd Elgin and comprised of representatives from several City departments. The goals were to engage, enhance, and empower the neighborhood. The results were lower crime rates, more attractive surroundings, well-maintained properties, stronger City/community partnerships, a beautiful community mural, and a newfound sense of neighborhood pride. Great job, Allison and Nate, for bringing it all together! And let's give our Community and Economic Development Department Director Lisa Kim and her staff, along with District 2 Council Member John O'Neill, a round of applause for their outstanding efforts!

If challenges build character, then our financial concerns of 2018 made us one heck of a charismatic city! Despite all the great things that were happening, there were dark clouds looming ahead, creating the need to make some tough decisions: five-percent Citywide budget cuts for the next two fiscal years that included cuts to service; early retirement incentives; hiring freezes; and pension reform. And while we've been blessed with a community life-preserver that's gotten us safely to shore, we plan to continue living with our new normal. Five-percent budget reductions will stay in place; and vacancies created by our early retirements will remain unfilled for now. 2019 will be a year for rebuilding, re-prioritizing, and reciprocating the support of our community.

Well, this seems like a great time for a feel-good video! Let's catch up with the good works of Animal Care Services as they begin their third year of outstanding service!

Great job! We've seen some incredible stories like these coming out of Animal Care Services. They've reunited countless animals with their owners which has thankfully spared the lives of so many missing pets. Besides taking care of our pets, Public Works also took care of our streets, sewers, parks, commercial buildings, facilities, as well as continuing important outreach to our communities, eliminating graffiti, and applying for and receiving a number of state and federal grants.

One major Public Works project, currently underway, is a citywide energy-efficiency modernization project with Siemens Industries that will basically pay for itself in reduced energy costs, and in the long-run, save on energy bills and maintenance. Improvements being made to all city and park facilities encompass new LED lighting; electrical upgrades; energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems; and system control upgrades. Huge thanks go out to our Public Works Director William Murray for that light bulb!

Enhancing your local infrastructure doesn't always make the national headlines, unless you've got a streetcar coming through your city!

You've been hearing about it for the last four years: the OC Streetcar is coming! Well, last November, OCTA reached dual milestones by breaking ground on the project and signing a 149-million-dollar full funding grant agreement with the FTA. The construction phase now begins for the 4.1-mile route, from the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center to a new multimodal hub at Harbor and Westminster in Garden Grove. The streetcar is scheduled to begin operations in late 2021 and is expected to carry approximately 7300 passengers per day within its first year of operation.

One of the possible future stops along the OC Streetcar route is the 102-acre Willowick Golf Course site. There is a golden opportunity between the cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana to redevelop the property. Located in Santa

Ana, and owned by Garden Grove, this shared universe offers endless possibilities for both cities to boldly go where we've never gone before! Last fall, both cities collaboratively hosted a series of community workshops to gain ideas needed to create a Willowick visioning plan. Just last evening, both cities sat down for our second joint study session, discussing the outcome of various community townhall meetings, among other topics. It's going to be a fascinating journey, and if we play our cards right, Willowick could become the greatest economic development windfall for both Garden Grove and Santa Ana in the years to come.

Technological advancements, like many things in life, has its good and its bad. For example, our ongoing implementation of the City's Enterprise Resource Planning Software, re-named City Intelligence, will enhance our operational efficiency, facilitate transparency, improve internal controls, and integrate administrative business functions. Good, huh? The bad is that as technology becomes more sophisticated, it becomes a greater threat to our digital security, leading to cyberattacks, data breaches, and identity theft.

Thankfully, our Information Technology team has come to the rescue!

Through their proactive approach to network security that involves detection tools, employee training, and an effective incident response plan, they reduce the risk of costly recovery measures and breach of information.

Let's keep the technology fest going by watching a short video on our re-designed website and re-named URL. Don't blink or you'll miss it!

Another great video production from GGTV3! Please give it up for Marie, Jeff, and the lovely Rachel!

With so much going on in our daily lives, enjoying quality time with our families, or doing something healthy or fun for ourselves become higher priorities. At each of your table settings, you'll find information about taking a survey and attending community meetings, to help the City create a 15-year Parks, Recreation and Facilities Master Plan. It's important to complete this survey so residents and park users can offer feedback on what they'd like to see for our future parks and facilities. A portion of the funding for

these improvements may be coming from Prop 68, the Parks, Environment, and Water Bond, which was passed by California voters last June. The survey can be accessed on your phones using the QR code. The deadline to complete the survey online is Friday, February 8, 2019. Just go to our website at...what was it again? I'm kidding! GGCITY.ORG or [GGCITY.ORG/PARK SURVEY](http://GGCITY.ORG/PARK_SURVEY). Community meetings will be held on Saturday February 9th at 11 a.m., or Thursday, February 21st at 6 p.m.

Last year, we saw a number of park enhancements, including: a new community room and playground at Westhaven Park; new lighting installed in several of our parks; and a new shade structure added to Atlantis Play Center in Thu-Ha's District 3. We also had the pleasure of having Major League Soccer player Lee Nguyen host a soccer camp and invite some very lucky Garden Grove youngsters to participate. In early spring, the department and the City will celebrate a very special occasion: the unveiling of a bust honoring Garden Grove icon Jack Wallin at Atlantis Play Center. Jack had a very special connection to Garden Grove parks, especially Atlantis Play Center which he helped conceive, design, and physically build. He was a remarkable human who left behind an incredible legacy and will always have a place of honor in our City. Jack was also a founding board member of the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association. Last year, the Strawberry Festival celebrated 60 years! Congratulations to the Association on that magnificent accomplishment! We're all looking forward to attending this year's festival themed, "Celebrating Family."

We can't talk about our quality-of-life without talking about the exceptional quality of our beloved Garden Grove Unified School District. 2018 was a banner year for the district, not only because of their colorful street banners featuring college-bound high school graduates, but also because of their many history-making accomplishments: The first and only district in Orange County to be named a California Exemplary District. 11 schools named as California Distinguished Schools, more than any district in Orange County, and third highest in California. For the first time ever, all 7 high schools

named to the U.S. News and World Report's elite rankings of America's Best High Schools. And, Bell Intermediate, receiving the School to Watch Award, which is California's top honor for high-performing middle schools.

Would GGUSD Superintendent, Dr. Gabriela Mafi, and other GGUSD representatives please stand so we can acknowledge our amazing Garden Grove Unified School District!

And now, I want to share with you, a special performance by Garden Grove's own Foundations Dance Company under the direction of Crissy VanAllsburg.

Take it away, dancers!

Let's have the Foundations Dance Company come out and take a bow!

And with that, we've arrived at the end of our program! Thank you all again for being here today and making Garden Grove the special place that it continues to be!