

**MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020; HYATT REGENCY OC**

Thank you and good afternoon.

I'd like to take a few moments to pay our respects to the nine victims that perished in the helicopter accident on Sunday taking the life of basketball legend Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter and future basketball star, Gianna, as well as many others from Orange County.

While Kobe was truly bigger-than-life, he always took the time to inspire greatness in young people around the world, including a basketball team from Garden Grove's Santiago High School, looking to win a league title...

(PLAY KOBE VIDEO)

"We had a phenomenal year last year, Garden Grove. And it's just the beginning. Don't get lazy. Let's do it again this year! Yeah?? Ok!"

Thanks, Kobe, for those inspiring words, and for leaving an imprint of your greatness on Santiago High School in Garden Grove!

I am truly grateful to serve as YOUR Mayor and deliver today's State of the City address. My thanks again to the Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce for facilitating this event.

Throughout the course of our lives, there are special times when the stars align and we may find ourselves in exactly the right place, at the right time, surrounded by the right cast of characters all coming together in perfect harmony, and we are able to create truly magical outcomes...

(PLAY INTRO VIDEO)

"It's all about the family. And you know, we all family right here in this room. So let's use this to build what we wanna do!"

I'd like to introduce, the O.G. Original Gangsta Arabian Prince from NWA. Where you at my friend? Thanks for being here!

Marshall Goodman, aka: The Field Marshall, or Ras MG from the band Sublime. Thanks for takin' that trip to Garden Grove! Also, a quick shameless plug for his current band Long Beach Dub Allstars who's got some brand new stuff just about to drop!

Bradley Mayo, aka: Know-Madik - please keep on spreading that love, peace, and hair grease like only you can do. I love you, brother!

USC Rose Bowl winning quarterback, Raiders Quarterback, and the amazing artist behind the Roots mural in Garden Grove, Todd Marinovich, with his beautiful bride Alexandria. Please stand and be recognized.

Special thanks as well to Bob Marley's best friend and Stage Director, Neville Garrick, who was also a soccer player for UCLA and artist behind "The Black Experience" mural.

Also, NHL Hall of Famer, Stanley Cup Winner, six-time Olympic medalist, and Wagyu beef burger flipper extraordinaire, Teemu Selänne, who just opened "The Penalty Box" restaurant at SteelCraft! Let's show them all our Garden Grove thanks!

Garden Grove is in the midst of a transformational reinvention of itself at this very moment. From City Council to City Management, to our department directors and staff members, to our relationships with businesses, non-profit organizations, religious leaders, and the community at large, we have tapped into a formula for wild success.

We need to recognize that, embrace it, cherish it, nurture it, preserve it, and protect it. So, as we dive head-first into a brand-new year, let's take a deep breath, step back, and appreciate what we've got, where we came from, where we're at, and where we're heading.

Let's stay focused and keep our eyes on the prize as the Reimagine Garden Grove vision continues to blossom and take form in all directions. Good things are happening all around town and we just need to keep the band

together, keep the team together, keep the family together, and always work hard to keep the magic right here in Garden Grove!

If I were to sum up 2019 in two words, I'd say "VALUED PARTNERSHIPS." It was a year of prized collaborations between our wonderful city staff and so many other amazing people, organizations, and businesses to accomplish tremendous successes.

When I think about the most meaningful partnerships, the first thing that comes to mind is my beautiful wife, Manivone, and my two best corner men, Jaden and Ashton, whom I'd like to acknowledge with a big round of applause.

The best example of teamwork makin' the dream work comes from my terrific City Council colleagues who have diligently worked together to serve their districts and the city.

I'd like to acknowledge each of them and ask them to remain standing so we can applaud them at the end.

Starting with our Mayor Pro Tem, John O'Neill from District 2;

Council Member George Brietigam III, from District 1;

Council Member Diedre Thu-Ha Nguyen, from District 3;

Council Member Patrick Phat Bui, from District 4;

Council Member Stephanie Klopfenstein, from District 5;

and Council Member Kim Bernice Nguyen, from District 6.

Let's show them our appreciation!

Your Garden Grove City Council works together cohesively, and each individual council member is championing their own unique ideas about how to improve the city. As colleagues, we are respectful of each other's points of view, and that leads to healthy, robust discussions and thoughtful decisions with the best interests of the city in mind.

Our City management team consists of City Manager Scott Stiles; Assistant City Manager Maria Stipe; Assistant City Manager and Community and Economic Development Director Lisa Kim; Police Chief Tom DaRé; Orange County Fire Authority Division Chief Ron Roberts; Community Services Director John Montanchez; Finance Director Patricia Song; Human Resources Director Laura Stover; Information Technology Director Anand Rao; and Public Works Director Bill Murray. Thank you for your leadership!

Each City department has its own scope and budget, but what makes the magic happen is when all the various departments work together in accord by taking the time to understand the world through each other's eyes and truly coordinate. Our inter-departmental collaboration is the secret sauce that has allowed Garden Grove to take such huge strides forward in a relatively short period of time.

Now I'd like to take a few minutes to talk about something that affects all of us. The upcoming 2020 Census is something we can all take part in and make a lasting impact.

Let's take a look...

(PLAY GG CENSUS VIDEO)

Be sure to complete your 2020 Census form online or by mail and remind your employees and others to do the same. The results of the Census will be used to make important determinations affecting our City, businesses, and community, particularly in how needed funds are allocated. It's important for Garden Grove to be counted! Thank you!

Last month, The Orange County Register published a list of Orange County's Top 10 Foodie Spots with the Biggest Buzz in 2019, and yep, you guessed it, SteelCraft Garden Grove ranked #1!

Steelcraft's magical seeds, planted by founder Kim Gros and Howard CDM President and CEO Martin Howard, sprouted into a vibrant public/private partnership that's made SteelCraft Garden Grove our Civic Center masterpiece. My personal thanks to Kim and Martin, along with the incredible Steelcraft Garden Grove tenants, and our fabulous Economic Development team for this highly successful joint endeavor.

Furthering our Reimagine Garden Grove efforts, our Community Services Department partnered with the Garden Grove Unified School District last spring for the inaugural Art in the Park event, which drew local students, artists, businesses, and organizations to showcase colorful and unique art forms in the Village Green. The event led to the addition of new downtown art installations, including colorful swarms of hand-painted Monarch butterflies, metal pole banners, and playful quotes.

Art in the Park returns to the Village Green on Saturday, March 7th, so don't miss it!

Also returning this fall is our next Open Streets event, offering a day and evening of car-free streets and activities. The event will inaugurate new bike and pedestrian paths along the old Pacific Electric Right-of-Way. These new paths will showcase the progress of our Active Transportation Plan developed to create a healthier, more connected, and more vibrant Garden Grove. Imagine bicycle and walking trails that will connect the city in a fresh new way, complete with proper landscaping, lighting, public art, unique gathering places, kiosk retail, and perhaps even a dog friendly café. Well it's all in the works! Watch for future announcements about Open Streets 2020 coming soon!

A new alliance was forged between the Garden Grove Unified School District and the Garden Grove Police Department to heighten school safety by expanding the School Resource Officer or SRO program.

The program will now include specially-selected and trained full-time sworn police officers providing law enforcement for GGUSD schools along with classroom education, student services, and working closely with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Garden Grove.

Let's watch them in action...

(PLAY SRO VIDEO)

The expanded SRO program was made possible through the Measure O Public Safety Plan to hire additional police officers that went into effect last year. 182 sworn police officer positions—the most ever seen by the department—are now fully funded thanks to Measure O and the trusted partnership we share with the community. Thank you!

That strong level of community trust and partnership was equally seen in our transition to the Orange County Fire Authority. While we've only been with the Authority for about 6 months, I know that our community is always safe under the capable hands of the OCFA. My thanks to all the City and OCFA personnel who contributed to the smooth transition.

Speaking of significant transitions, the dedication of the Christ Cathedral, following the 77 million-dollar transformation of the former Crystal Cathedral, was a history-making event. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange, besides becoming our new good neighbor, is now the spiritual home to more than 1.3 million Catholics living in Orange County. The Cathedral's majestic glass-paned structure continues to be the city's most recognized landmark around the world.

Heading over to the bustling Harbor/Chapman intersection (which is literally right outside of this hotel!), lies a shining star of cosmic business collaboration known as Nova Kitchen and Bar. This City-owned property was purchased by Investel Harbor Resorts LLC to create the beautiful, Asian Fusion concept restaurant that celebrated its grand opening to scores of fanatical high-end foodies. If you haven't tried it yet, then you absolutely must go because the food, the service, and the ambiance at Nova is "out of this world!" And I hear they even have a speakeasy called "No Bar" hidden behind a book rack somewhere in the restaurant!

While we're on the topic of food, two outstanding local restaurants received highly prestigious national attention for being the best in Orange County. Pho 79 was 1 of only 5 restaurants in the nation to receive the American Classics Award by the James Beard Foundation for their timeless appeal and quality of food that reflect the character of the community. Hit me up sometime and I'll be happy to come join you for a bowl!

Also, our well-known Garlic & Chives earned inclusion in the inaugural 2019 Michelin Guide California as one of Orange County's select Bib Gourmand (GOHR-MAHND) establishments.

Congratulations to both Pho 79 and Garlic & Chives!

It's no secret that our partnership with the Grove District Resort hotels has been remarkable, producing the highest revenues our City has **ever** seen last year. Our sights now turn to a key development that I can't wait to see break ground in the not-so-distant future. Let's watch...

(PLAY SITE C VIDEO)

This amazing project represents Garden Grove's largest development to date. It will be anchored by the luxury, four-star hotel brands, Le Meridien by Marriott, and one of the largest Kimpton Hotels in the nation. The project is expected to generate significant revenues, strengthening our ability to

provide our Garden Grove residents and businesses with the quality of City services they deserve.

Changing gears, last year, we successfully joined forces with the BN Group and Kia Garden Grove to explore a new Harbor Boulevard business frontier outside of the Grove Resort District.

Groundbreaking of a 124-room Home2 Suites by Hilton, developed by the BN Group, also broke new ground for the City by becoming the first hotel to be built south of the 22 Freeway. This hotel is currently under construction and scheduled for completion next year.

A few months later, the City helped celebrate Kia Garden Grove's very lucrative relocation from Garden Grove Boulevard to south Harbor Boulevard. Have a look at how Kia is keeping the band together and hitting all the right cords...

(PLAY KIA VIDEO)

Working with the Orange County Automobile Dealers Association, along with our six, local franchised auto dealers, which are: Kia Garden Grove, Volkswagen of Garden Grove, Simpson Chevrolet, Russell Westbrook Hyundai, Toyota Place, and Garden Grove Nissan, we developed the new \$500 Vehicle Rebate Program, or VRP.

The VRP, part of a major re-launch of the City's shop-local program, called Buy in Garden Grove, or BiGG, offers Garden Grove residents and businesses a \$500 rebate when purchasing a new car or truck from one of our six auto dealers.

The BiGG program features a new GIS-based City webpage, more shopper discounts and rebates, special seasonal promotions and giveaways, and a re-designed logo. If you're a local business interested in getting some free City promotion and can offer your patrons a special discount or incentive, visit ggcity.org/big to sign up for the Buy In Garden Grove program.

Our west side also saw several new and continuing projects working in tandem with outstanding partners. One project is the nearly completed “22 & Beach” mixed-use center located at Beach and Garden Grove Boulevards, shared with the City of Stanton. Mayor Dave Shawver of Stanton is here with us today and I would like to acknowledge him as a personal friend and mentor.

Several businesses have already opened, including Planet Fitness, In N Out Burger, Raising Canes, and Panda Express, with others opening in the next few months that includes the 27-tenant Rodeo 39 Public Market.

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of providing important health, social, and quality-of-life services to families through the Magnolia Park Family Resource Center, and the Families and Communities Together network. On Saturday, April 18th, the community is invited to enjoy Magnolia’s 20th year celebration, commemorating two decades of enhancing the development, self-sufficiency, and well-being of Garden Grove families.

This year, I look forward to continuing a very innovative partnership with songwriter, producer, rapper, DJ, scratch golfer, USC running back, and founding member of the Compton rap group N.W.A, known as Arabian Prince. Please stand and be recognized.

Arabian is helping “Silicon Grove,” as he calls it, plant its flag in the ground as the hip new technology hub in Orange County. Together, we are connecting local entrepreneurs with the right resources to make things happen. As a high-tech guru in the eGaming space, always looking for up-and-comers, Arabian and his Black Dog Gaming group will be hosting another event called “Esports Pitch Fest” similar to the TV show Shark Tank, where tech entrepreneurs and start-ups pitch their ideas to a group of

accredited venture capitalists. To learn more about the February 28th event, go to vcfastpitch.com – it's gonna be supersonic!

Taking the eGaming endeavor even further, our Office of Economic Development is heightening our international tourism and investment appeal by promoting Garden Grove as an e-sports tournament center. Working with eGamers, industry experts, and corporate sponsors, the City will venture into one of the most popular and dynamic business arenas with expectations for a smashing success.

I'm proud to be a long-standing board member of the Orange County Transportation Authority and privileged to announce I have recently been selected as Chairman of the Board.

Two key OCTA projects for Garden Grove are the OC Streetcar and the 405 Freeway expansion.

Construction is well underway for the OC Streetcar's 4.1-mile route, from Garden Grove's multimodal hub at Harbor and Westminster to the Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center. The City of Garden Grove and the City of Santa Ana have been strong supporters of a modern rail connection that will lessen traffic, reduce parking issues, and create greater access between both cities. Completion of the project is scheduled for 2022.

I would like to commend Santa Ana Mayor, Miguel Pulido, for his tireless efforts in championing the OC Streetcar.

The 405 Freeway Improvement project will widen and add Express Lanes to 16 miles of the San Diego Freeway between the I-605 and the SR-73. The results will include reduced congestion, quicker commutes, and enhanced freeway operations and reliability. To receive weekly construction updates and commuter alerts, visit octa.net/405project.

I'd like to introduce OCTA's brilliant Chief Executive Officer, Darrell Johnson, and thank him for attending today!

Looking at our own Public Works projects, several major thoroughfares and residential streets, along with City facilities, park playgrounds and park lighting, well sites, water equipment, sewers, and storm drains underwent upgrades last year.

Several projects were made possible through significant grant monies awarded to the Public Works Department, such as an \$835,000 grant from the OCTA for additional turn lanes at the busy Westminster Avenue and Euclid Street intersection.

Last year, the Public Works Department began working side-by-side with the Police Department's homeless task force, the Special Resources Team, or SRT, to clean up unsightly and unhealthy abandoned homeless encampments on City streets, sidewalks, and alleyways. This hard-working tag-team has made noticeable improvements in keeping our city clean, while staying focused on finding long-term solutions.

While still in its early stages, the City is in the process of creating the Garden Grove Coalition to End Homelessness. This group will include community members, businesses, non-profits, and other concerned volunteers to share their time, ideas, and efforts towards finding community-shared solutions.

Also last year, the City Council unanimously approved a comprehensive plan to address all facets of homelessness affecting our city, and as a result we are now implementing a Tenant Based Rental Assistance program and actively pursuing the creation of a Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Trust in our abilities to adequately serve our community is a shared responsibility that depends heavily on our financial state. We're proud to

have a structurally balanced biennial budget that with prudent spending, smart strategic planning, anticipated grant funding, a healthy economy, and continued success in our development projects, we confidently expect to continue.

With the City Council's adoption of a pension stabilization plan and a general fund reserve policy, we're thinking ahead and starting to save up for rainy days.

Whether it's addressing deferred maintenance projects or needed facility improvements, we'll make it happen. Again, my thanks to our valued residents and businesses for placing genuine trust in their local government.

While we've arrived at the conclusion of our program, it wouldn't be a Garden Grove State of the City address without a memorable ending. And so I leave you in the most capable hands of our Emmy-award winning GGTV3...

(PLAY PARTNERSHIP VIDEO)

(REMAIN AT PODIUM FOR CLOSING)

Let's keep the band together and continue enjoying our magical moment in time right here in Garden Grove! Thank you, everyone, for attending!!

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