



CITY OF  
**MUKILTEO**

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*Office of the Mayor*

**MAYOR'S REMARKS**

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

**JANUARY 4, 2014**

**Your Honor, Members of the City Council, to our Department Heads and City Staff,  
Honored Guests, Friends and Family, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Thank you for your presence this Saturday morning, it's an honor and a delight to see so many familiar faces! In this new year, full of new beginnings, I reflect on the tremendous changes the past few years have brought for me and for our city. For me, 2013 was one of the best ever—I got engaged, moved to a new house and the voters in my hometown elected me mayor! I'm committed to work hard and make all of you proud for the next four years and this morning I would like to share my vision and priorities for the path ahead of us.

As mayor, I am part of a great team leading this city, and I'd like to acknowledge our city council members, Council President Lord, Council Vice President Grafer, Councilmembers Vanderwielen, Schmalz and our newest councilmembers Wheeler and Champion, thank you for coming today. I eagerly look forward to working with you. You'll guide and shape our city's policies, and I am excited to lead our city staff and implement the day to day operations of city government.

I'd also like to thank Richard Emery and Kevin Stoltz for their service to our city and for joining us this morning.

And to Mayor Joe Marine, I would like to express the deep respect and admiration I have for him, and on behalf of the citizens of Mukilteo, we are all grateful for his dedicated service. On a personal note, I appreciate the friendship that Joe has shown through this transition, and the clean campaign he waged.

I'm also delighted to share this new journey with family: my fiancé, Jeff, parents Bill and Jill, and my sister and her husband, Anne and Alex. My parents launched me on this journey, back in elementary school as I watched them participate in the development of Harbour Pointe, voicing their concerns and being active citizens. Mom and Dad, this day is really for you,

Last fall, I promised that I would bring new energy and new ideas to the mayor's office, and this morning, I would like to share my vision for our city, and outline some of the actions I intend to take to get started.

### ***MUKILTEO PIONEERS***

Mukilteo has a rich history, I hope you've enjoyed the new photos up around the room. There are a number of interesting people (some that are in these pictures) that have helped shape Mukilteo, including Louisa Fowler Sinclair, the first child of a settler born in Snohomish County. She was a pioneer and a business woman, helping take care of her father's store, and creating items for sale (picture frames, shirts, knickknacks).

Louisa used to say she was the most popular girl in Mukilteo— for a time, she was the only girl in the town!

Her family also had an orchard, including the Fowler Pear Tree at the bottom of Park Avenue. This last fall, the City just replanted three saplings from this tree, hopefully ensuring it will continue its life in Mukilteo. Louisa led the way, defining what it meant to grow up in Mukilteo.

My life growing up here more than a hundred years later has been quite different, but I'm proud to also be a pioneer of sorts, in Mukilteo, as the first woman to lead our city as mayor!

I am excited to reach out to our schools, encouraging girls to pursue leadership roles. I have had many great role models in my life, and I want to give back and be an example as they were for me. I invited a couple great teachers that shaped my life to be here today, I would like to recognize-- Mrs Rowena Miller, my first grade teacher, (and Mrs Julie Russell, my Yearbook adviser and high school English teacher.) They opened up opportunities for me and made me believe I could do and be anything! Every girl in Mukilteo should have that same sense.

### ***A NEW VISION***

I am also excited to make Mukilteo a beacon of innovation, optimism and sustainability. Here in Mukilteo, we have built a strong foundation, our budget is balanced, our city services are efficient, and we have a wonderful team of public servants that come to work each day motivated to make this city great.

But our world is changing, and it is up to us to lead with innovation, or just be swept along. We sit in the first LEED Gold public building in our county. Mukilteo has shown that good environmental stewardship can enhance our local economy and set a good example.

Our citizens expect that we deliver services efficiently, and as city leaders, we can show that a regional approach, centered on partnership, can help us deliver services at even lower costs and better quality.

And, with changes coming to the waterfront, we must use this opportunity to envision this amazing space as a place for our residents, not just a transportation hub for the state. For the first time in generations, we have the opportunity to give this land back to the people, and once again make Mukilteo's waterfront a gathering place for people from near and far.

Realizing this vision, of a city that is safe, vibrant and sustainable will not happen overnight. It will take actions, large and small, but it will take action. So, I would like to outline a few of the steps I intend to take immediately to launch our city in this new direction.

### ***ACTION AGENDA***

Our city has already been a leader in sustainability, from our innovative city hall to our plastic bag ban. But, we can't rest on our laurels; we must focus on continuous improvement. That is why I am forming a Green Team, with city staff from every department, to help me identify new and innovative strategies for making our city government a better steward of the environment. This Green Team will help me develop actions that I can implement as mayor, and will help advise the Council's Sustainability Committee on policy changes that the City Council can make as well.

Delivering services more efficiently means we should always keep looking for the best ways to get the job done. I have heard loud and clear from citizens that our current pavement strategy is not working. So, I have suspended our chip seal program, to allow our city staff and the Council time to consider alternatives, costs, and quality. Paving our streets is one of the most basic functions of city government, and we should get it right.

I'm also committed to supporting our regionalization efforts for the fire service. We will work together with our neighbors to do this. I've always believed that we should fully assess all our options. Ensuring cost effective, high quality fire service is my goal, and I'll consider any strategies to get us there.

I am also committed to being innovative in how we deliver services, using our existing tools to tackle challenges in new ways. One of these challenges is domestic violence. Our crime reports show that on average, more than one person a week is arrested in domestic violence incidents. That is more than twice as many arrests as we see for DUI, with little attention from the media or public. We can do more to address these tragic situations, which is why I have asked our acting police chief to increase our city's efforts to support victims and connect them to services that they may not even realize are available to them. Protecting our most vulnerable citizens is a task I take seriously, and we can and will do more.

By spring, our city staff will be able to turn to a human resources professional inside city hall. Our staff deserves it, and our residents deserve the certainty that someone is at the helm of our personnel, our city's biggest budget expense.

Our waterfront will be a hub of change in the next few years, but I have plans for its near future, as well! I expect that you'll be beachcombing at Edgewater Beach—legally—in a matter of months. I have directed our city staff to take immediate steps to establish pedestrian access as soon as possible. This is a priority for me. We will also continue to partner with the Port of Everett to open up vehicle access by next year.

In a matter of weeks, we will finally own Japanese Gulch! Mukilteans should be proud stewards of this land, the hundred acre wood our families can hike, bike and play in for generations to come. New challenges face us, as we add this asset to our park lands. Mayor Marine expanded opportunities for volunteerism in Mukilteo and that legacy will be the foundation for supporting and caring for the Gulch.

As part of my action agenda, I have directed our interim city administrator to begin negotiating an interlocal agreement with the City of Everett to deannex our new park out of Everett, and into Mukilteo. We will also work with the Parks and Arts Commission to begin a master planning process for the new park.

### ***CONCLUSION***

To sum up my priorities and vision:

This year, I will lead our city government to focus on sustainability: aligning our budget with our goals and priorities, respecting our environment as a resource for our children, and respecting and empowering our residents, businesses and city staff.

I expect that you'll reach out to me with your ideas and concerns. I can always be reached at City Hall, in the grocery store, or even out for a walk on the boulevard. Email or call, and keep me on track!

I pledge to keep listening—you'll see me in our neighborhoods throughout the year, keeping you up to date and listening to your ideas. I'll reach out—I don't just expect you to come to this building to get involved in city government. I'll be visiting your door and I hope you'll be ready with ideas for me!

Again, thank you for your presence today, I'm honored and thrilled to share this exciting day with you. Stick around, visit the Mayor's office upstairs, check out the green features of this city hall, and share your thoughts for Mukilteo's future.

Here's to making Mukilteo a sustainable beacon in our region!

Thank you so much.