



Centennial State of Our City
Mayor Piko Speech
April 17, 2019

Centennial – a connected community where neighborhoods matter, education is embraced, businesses are valued and innovation absolute.

This City Council spent the last year dedicated to developing this vision for the City of Centennial. Organizations fundamentally benefit when they are able to establish their “why”. For us, determining “why we do the things we do” helps Council direct policy and process for engaging with our citizens, businesses and our community partners.

Of course nothing that Council does could ever be completed without the very dedicated staff that works to support our efforts and backed up our vision statement with a mission statement of their own: the City is driven to provide exceptional service to the Centennial community.

This brings me to the theme of this years State of the City – Live Connected. Grow Together.

Connected:

Centennial began by connecting neighborhoods with a common goal. Looking back, these neighborhoods already had established connections through our community partners – our schools, libraries, recreation districts and our public safety providers all made the idea of a new kind of city possible.

Over the last 18 years we have become even more connected -by means in which we could not even imagine in 2001. We undoubtedly live connected, let’s see what that means for Centennial.....

At this time I would like to acknowledge and thank all of our community partners – for they complete the experience that is “living in Centennial” –

In 2018, Centennial continued to be recognized as a Best Place to Live for First Time Home Buyers, Veterans and as a Metro-Denver suburb. We continue to attract and retain residents & businesses who appreciate all that Centennial has to offer. This is our opportunity to Grow Together. We face the challenges of growth by continuing to invest in our community with the support of our residents.

Our schools are a big part of what brings neighborhoods together. We are looking forward to the exciting days ahead as Littleton Public Schools is able to revitalize and grow by investing in its infrastructure and designing new opportunities in education for their students. Cherry Creek School District will see the opening of its new STEM school this fall- another signal from our

community that we are investing in the things that bring us all together. As a City we are excited to work with both districts to see their plans implemented and are happy to announce that we have been able to utilize our infrastructure – our fiber backbone – to bring internet connectivity to the newest of Cherry Creeks schools.

We continue to partner with South Suburban and Arapahoe Parks and Rec Districts – along with Arapahoe County Open Space to improve trail connectivity across the City and upgrade “play” for residents of all ages and abilities.

We are working regionally to find solutions to the impacts of growth in the Denver metro Area – as I travel around and meet other Mayors across the country I find it to be an unusual experience – whether it is working with our partners in Aurora to complete the widening of Quincy Road – or working with our neighbors in Lone Tree and Greenwood Village to better coordinate traffic along Yosemite – we should all be proud to be a part of a region that not only sees the benefits of working together – but actually gets things done. Our partners at Denver South Economic Development Partnership, the South Metro Chamber and the Aurora Chamber all work with us for the benefit of our local businesses... the foundation of strong economic vitality.

Live Connected. Grow Together. The connections Centennial has with our neighboring cities and innovative ways of doing business connect our residents with efficient and effective services leading us to grow together and enhance the quality of life for the south metro region.

Our strong foundation leads to the ability to innovate and grow together.

Having completed our FiberWorks project in 2018 – on-time and under budget – we have put in place a new infrastructure that brings the opportunity for affordable and accessible high speed internet to help residents and businesses achieve their goals. Service providers like Ting extend internet connectivity to our community.

As you saw in the video, places like the Interaction Lab provide citizens the opportunity to see what that connection at home can do for them.

The interaction lab is a partnership with Arapahoe Libraries – It offers visitors a chance to explore possibilities that range from a “smart house” to a home with Universal Design standards that allow homes to be adapted to meet the needs of the resident. Providing all residents (including our seniors) with the opportunity to successfully remain in their homes for as long as possible.

We also highlighted how our fiber infrastructure is being utilized along Yosemite, but that is just the beginning. The city looks to utilize this infrastructure to reduce traffic congestion, provide real time data on road conditions and prepare Centennial for the evolution of connected and automated vehicle technologies. The installation of the needed sensors, cameras and advanced controllers will continue throughout 2019 and be completed in 2020.

Switching to a different type of light...

We look forward to our continued partnership with Xcel Energy in the implementation of our Energy Action Plan – the goal is for Centennial to create a future for Centennial that is resilient for its citizens and businesses through improved energy efficiency, enhanced connectivity, education and cost savings.

I am also pleased to announce that the city is receiving a Charge Ahead Colorado grant from the Regional Air Quality Council and the Colorado Energy Office to install 2 Electric Vehicle charging stations 1 at each of our City owned facilities.

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Centennial NEXT – our comprehensive plan was the result of this outreach – it highlights 4 areas where we are going NEXT....

Our NEXT Innovation
Our NEXT Economy
Our NEXT Communities
And Our NEXT Places

As previously mentioned we strongly believe that our Fiber Backbone is key to our Next Innovations and Economy. However it is our NEXT Communities and Places that will, create connections within our neighborhoods is where it means the most to our citizens.

As we implement the ideas within Centennial NEXT we will continue to work to make Centennial a place where residents embrace the experiences that keep them connected to their community.

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And to further connect directly with our citizens – a couple of exciting 2019 happenings include:

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I am also pleased to announce that the Centennial Citizen Newspaper will – starting in May – be available to all of the 44,000+ households within the city of Centennial. A subscriber based

weekly opportunity with the additional perk of a monthly Magazine will be mailed to every household whether they are a subscriber or not. We are excited about this opportunity for all of Centennial to share in our community news.

With all the different ways we have looked at to connect with our community – it is important to me to recognize that it is the PERSONAL Connections we share that have the greatest impact in our ability to reach and serve our constituents and one another. I want to thank you for taking the time to join us today – I know the Rotary Club appreciates your time as do I.

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