

**Mayor Dan Pike**  
**One Bellingham Speech**  
**Swearing In Ceremony - November 27, 2007**

Twenty years ago, I was working on the *Ursa Major*, a salmon seiner. Returning to Bellingham from Alaska, I still remember how beautiful and welcoming this city looked, and I remember the swell of love in my heart. I dreamed then, of someday serving this community – although I can't say *this moment* is something I ever imagined.

I trust that you will not see my unbridled enthusiasm for this job as arrogance about what I can accomplish. I fully understand it is the work of many who have come before me, and the future actions of the City Council, the County Council, the Port Commissioners, the Planning Commission, our neighborhood organizations, the many other commissions and local organizations, the design and development community plus the active involvement of citizens around the community that will decide our future.

I hope to play an important role in moving the community forward but I can go nowhere without your involvement and your support.

I must begin by thanking those without whom I would not be here today:

- My wife Laura Boynton, who gave key support both at home and on the campaign trail, by offering ideas, editing, and providing logistical support—Laura, your help was critical; thank you.
- My children, Gabe and Robyn, who are two of the key reasons for running to begin with, and whose cheerleading got me over any moments of doubt.
- My mother, Edith Pike, who instilled the values in me that drove my candidacy and which will drive my administration going forward.

I also must thank all the people who worked on my campaign. I will work hard to live up to your ideals, and am honored by your support and friendship.

Most of all, I thank Bellingham. Not for electing me your mayor, but for showing me what community truly means.

And this is the enduring lesson I have learned from you: that we are One Bellingham.

I like the motto *E Pluribus Unum* from the great seal of the United States, meaning, 'from many, one.' It is out of our diverse backgrounds and our common values that we will find our way in a challenging future. In

politics it has become increasingly common to focus on where we disagree, to divide into camps and to fight on the margins, while important public business languishes. I began my campaign last January with the conviction that it was far better to focus on larger and more important areas where we are in general agreement and which provide a foundation for our progress:

- We value our environment.
- We love our children.
- We want good jobs, and homes we can afford.
- We want a government that will work with us, not impede us, a government that embodies the best of who we are.

Throughout the campaign, I was humbled by the honesty, insight and commitment of residents from all walks of life. You gave me great hope and strengthened my determination to be your mayor. I learned that we all share a passion for keeping Bellingham livable, healthy and strong. I am happy to report to you that this passion extends into City Hall where there is a wealth of expertise and creative ideas from a truly caring staff.

We are a great place. We have a strong economy. We have safe neighborhoods and great schools. We have outstanding trails and recreation opportunities. We have a strong environmental ethic embodied in our recycling, our conservation and our green building practices. We have businesses showing leadership on a global level. We foster innovative solutions, like Sustainable Connections, strengthening our local economy while enriching the global environment.

We are also a city undergoing transformation. Over the next several years, we must make many critical long term decisions about waterfront and port redevelopment, about protection of water quality in Lake Whatcom, and about how we grow. The good news is that we have the will, the ideas and the core resources to make good decisions and implement wise, sustainable plans.

In order to encourage, recognize and capitalize on these great human resources our community has to offer I will be instituting, in 2008, an Annual Mayor's Award for Innovation, one for city employees and one for the community at large. There are no outside consultants as valuable as our home grown staff and citizens.

It is clear that to move forward on so many important issues all at once there is a huge amount of work for the city and the Council. What is even more clear, however, is that the citizens of Bellingham want to do just that.

It will be the core challenge of my administration to organize, prioritize and sustain open and transparent processes to insure the community pulls together and makes real progress. Nothing will come easy, there will be many tough decisions that must be made by the City Council and the community, but the rewards of our labor will be great.

This will require careful and thoughtful planning, close coordination with the City Council and ongoing outreach to the community. Developing such a program will take time but it need not stop our progress. Having spent the last few months immersed in your many ideas and proposals, I have identified several important ongoing and new tasks that are within reach. I firmly believe that regularly identifying and accomplishing incremental goals will provide fuel to sustain our energy for the heavy lifting that lay before us. I will focus on the following tasks during my first 100 days in office:

#### **Protect Lake Whatcom Reservoir**

- Complete and recommend to the City Council an interlocal agreement between the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County for joint management of the watershed.
- Establish a Quality Retention Initiative to encourage on-site storm water management for households within city limits.
- Initiate review of City of Bellingham's water treatment system to ensure continued excellence in water treatment service.

#### **Promote Green Bellingham**

- Maintain and enhance Bellingham's role as a national leader in environmental protection by reducing the environmental impact of municipal operations.
- Inventory resolutions and commitments to green practices.
- Develop inter- and intra-departmental implementation strategies.
- Research new technologies and practices utilized by other cities for their potential benefits to Bellingham.
- Enhance residential and commercial green practices.

#### **Create Healthy Waterfront**

- Identify a list of "early adoption projects," in partnership with the Port of Bellingham.
- Initiate an economic benefit analysis of redevelopment alternatives in collaboration with agencies and institutions of higher education.

### **Support Neighborhoods**

- Review all Neighborhood Plans.
- Establish Neighborhood Code and Character Task force to develop recommendations for resolving inconsistencies between zoning code and neighborhood character.
- Schedule a second Planning Academy series of workshops to strengthen the collaborative relationship between the city and neighborhoods.

### **Streamline Permitting Process**

- Complete change from sequential processes through multiple departments to concurrent processes.
- Assign each permit application, an ombudsman who will track and support the permitting process, through resolution.
- Establish a more predictable timeframe for permit processing.

These actions presented are only the beginning of a greater effort. The volume of compelling and concrete policy planks I have been presented with is too great to fit inside a "100 Day Plan."

In the past few weeks, I have met with many people both inside and outside government, and have many more meetings planned. The quality and volume of ideas presented to me are too great to fit neatly inside a one hundred day plan. As a result, I am developing a Pike Administration "workbook," that will encompass the arts, public safety, social services, economic development action steps – to name a few – that have been proposed. We will be developing this document over the coming months, to serve as a kind of working road map for this administration.

In closing I would like to repeat something from my City Club speech:

If future generations are to look back favorably on how we manage our affairs one thing is absolutely clear - we will need to work together as a whole community. Big issues cannot move forward with people pulling in different directions. If segments of our community feel pushed aside or slighted because of their politics, economic status, or philosophy we will lose their ideas and support. Bringing the broadest possible spectrum to the table in addressing our critical decisions is the only formula for success. To do otherwise would squander these precious opportunities we have been presented.

In practice this means respect and civility in our dialog, and a fair hearing for the ideas of others. I was faithful to that standard in my campaign. I will be faithful to that standard as your Mayor. We are One Bellingham. I humbly ask you, my fellow citizens, to join me in moving towards our best future.