



# WAVES OF PROGRESS

COUNCILMEMBER MATT MAHONEY

HIGHLINE FORUM

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025



# WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- City Overview
- Challenges We Face
- Exciting Projects for 2025 & Beyond
- Vision for the Future
- Q&A





# WHO WE ARE

- **Mission:** Des Moines is a waterfront community committed to maintaining safe, sustainable environment, while ensuring a high quality of life for all to live, work and play.
- **Vision:** To be the premier waterfront destination in the Pacific Northwest.
- **Values:** Safety, Sustainability, Integrity, Transparency, Innovation.



# MEET YOUR CITY COUNCIL



Mayor  
Traci Buxton



Deputy Mayor  
Harry Steinmetz



Jeremy Nutting



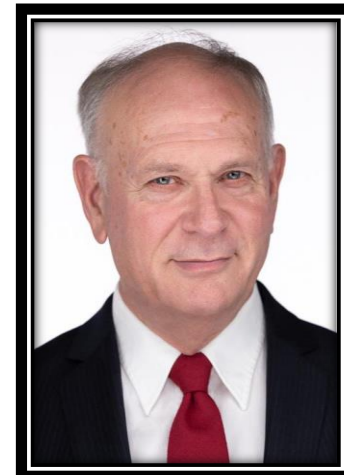
Yoshiko Grace - Matsui



JC Harris



Matt Mahoney



Gene Achziger



# MEET OUR CITY MANAGER



- Katherine Caffrey
- City Manager since November 2024
- 20+ years of local government experience
  - Former Deputy City Manager, Cedar Park, TX
- Oversees city operations
- Education
  - MPA (University of Kansas)
  - BA in Politics (Hendrix College)
- Active in ICMA & WCMA
- Advocate for Women in Leadership
- Lives in Des Moines with family



# ADDITIONAL NEW LEADERSHIP IN DES MOINES

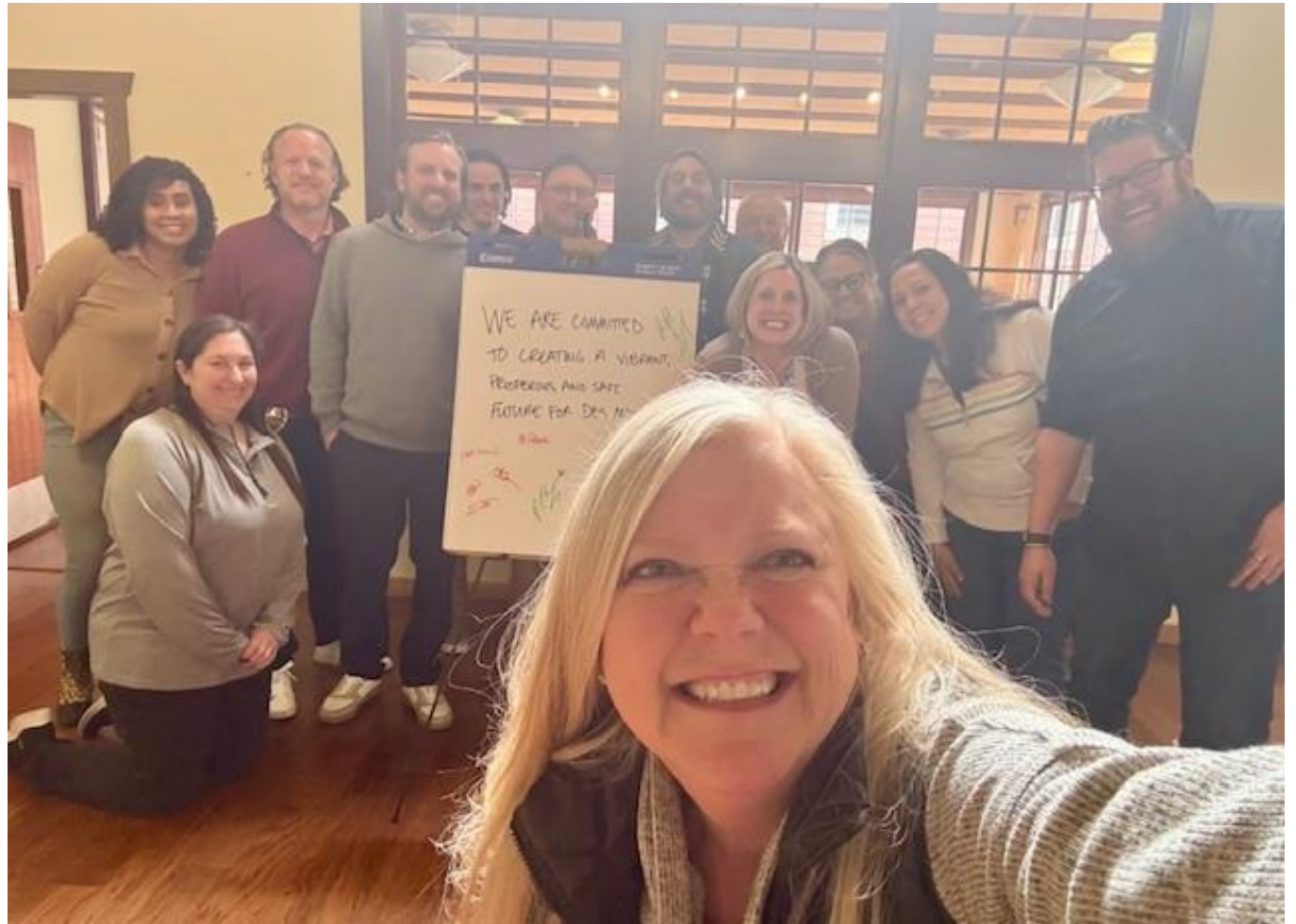
- Community Development
  - Rebecca Deming
- Police
  - Chief Ted Boe
  - Assistant Chiefs – Kevin Penney & Cory Stanton
- Public Works
  - Mike Slevin





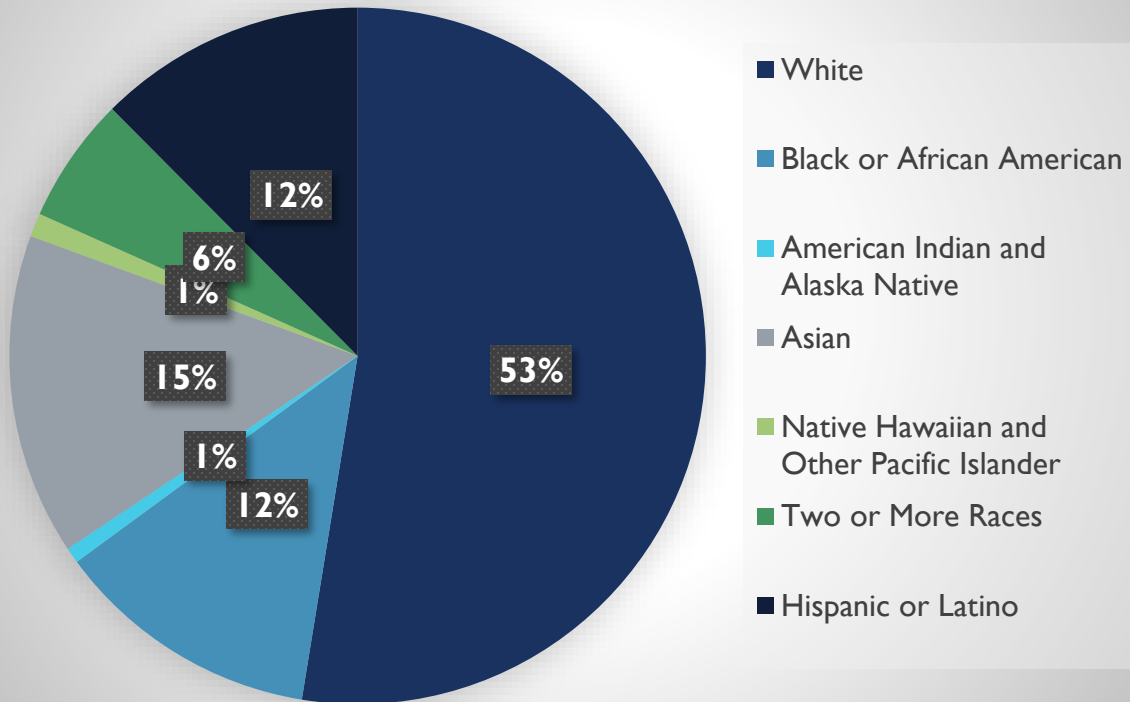
## CITY LEADERSHIP: ANCHORED IN EXCELLENCE

- Our leadership team is committed to driving a culture of:
  - Customer-Centered Service
  - Transparent Communication
  - Fiscal Stewardship
  - Employee Wellbeing

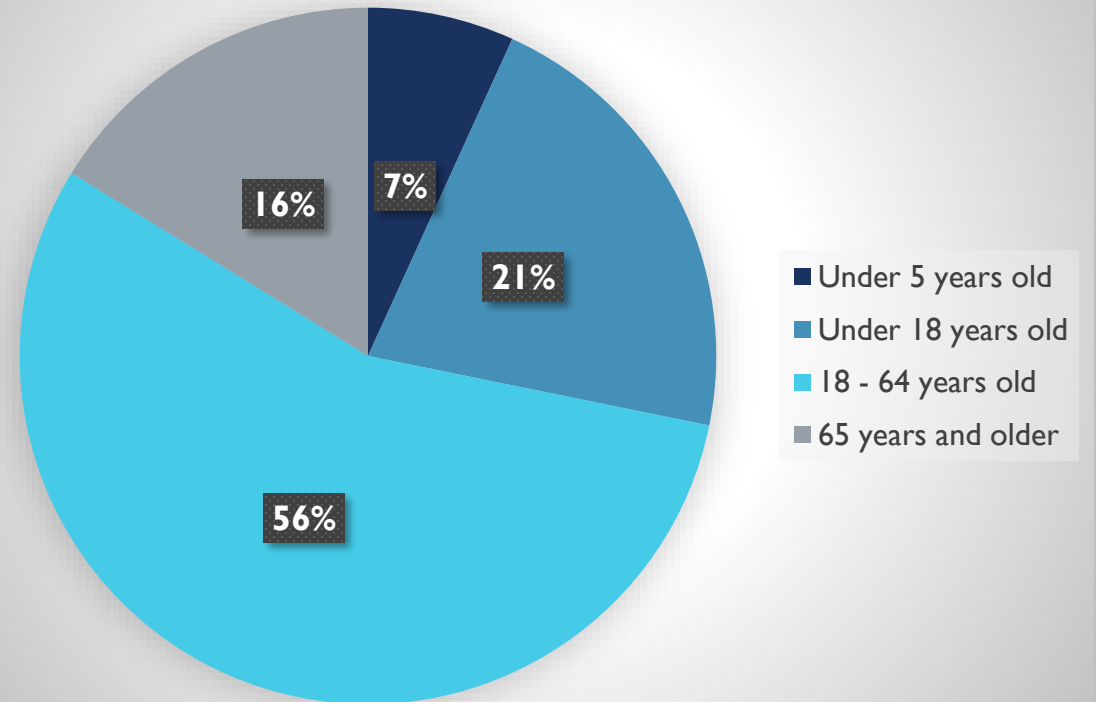


# THE HEART OF THE WATERLAND CITY

## Racial and Ethnic Composition



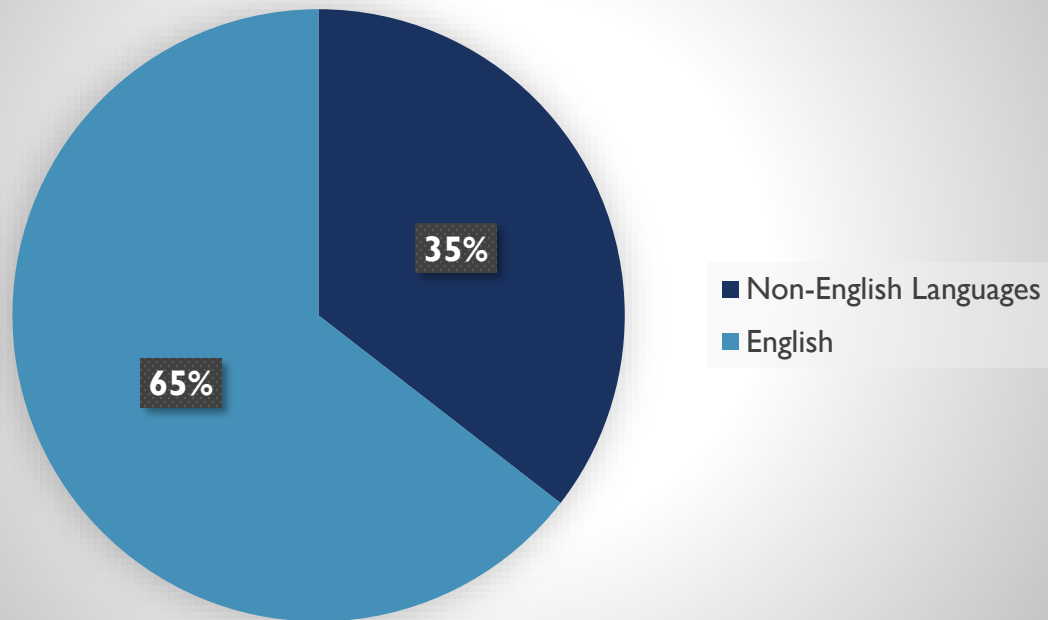
## Age





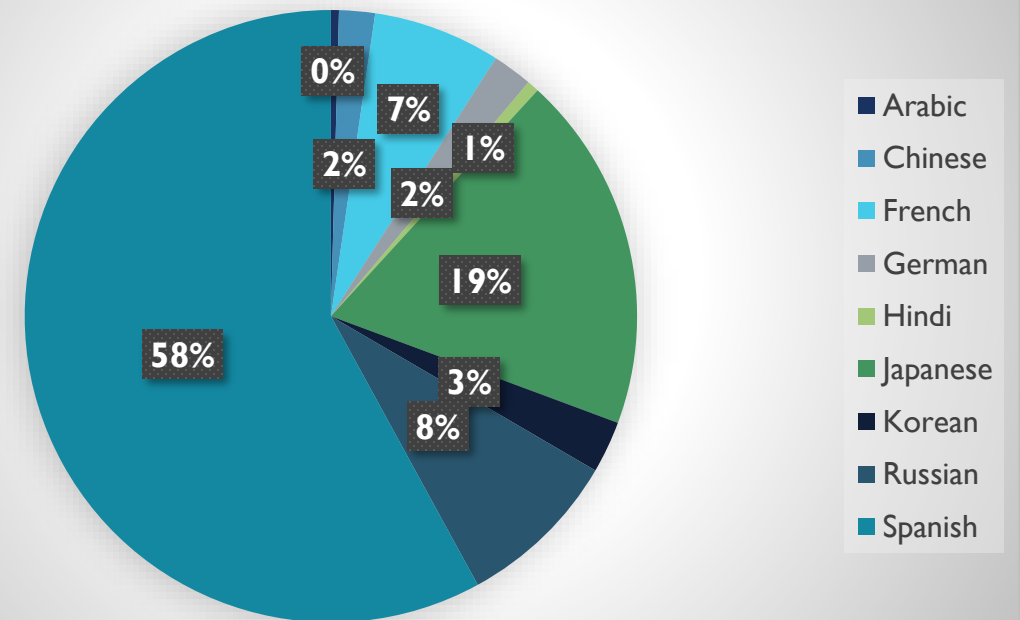
# THE HEART OF THE WATERLAND CITY

## Languages Spoken at Home\*



\*Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts Des Moines, Washington.  
Retrieved from  
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/desmoinescitywashington/PST045224>

## Non-English Speakers\*\*



\*\*Data Source: Communication from KCLS regarding the most commonly checked out languages in Des Moines

# ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE AND GROWTH

- Des Moines Economy
- Primarily residential, but downtown and the marina are the heartbeat of the local economy
- New businesses joining our community:
  - Marina Mercantile
  - Iris & Peony
  - Jamar's Sports Bar & Grill
  - Laundry Day
  - Riot Games
  - ZEV Co-Op
- Ensuring a thriving downtown is KEY to Des Moines' future







OUR GEM – OUR DESTINATION – THE WATERFRONT

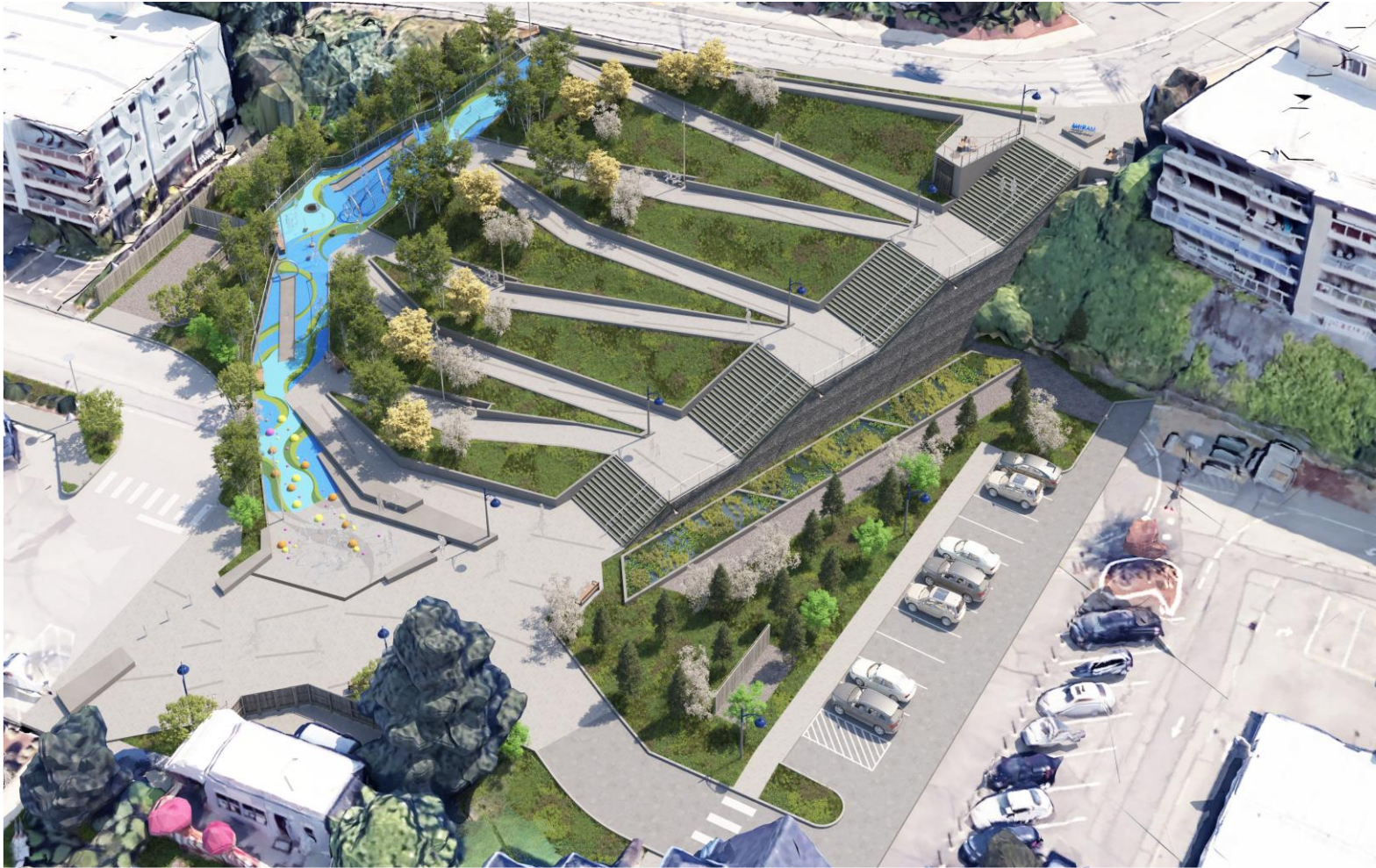


# DES MOINES PLACEMAKING

- Gathering spaces for:
  - People
  - Art
  - Recreation
  - Retail







# INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

## Marina Steps

Project is currently out for bid

If successful, contract to Council late  
October for a year-end 2025, or early  
2026 construction start date



# INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

## Marina L, M, and N Dock Replacement Project

Currently under construction

Carefully planned phases to minimize  
disruption to tenants

Over-water construction allowed  
between August-February due to fish  
window

Construction to be completed by  
February, 2026

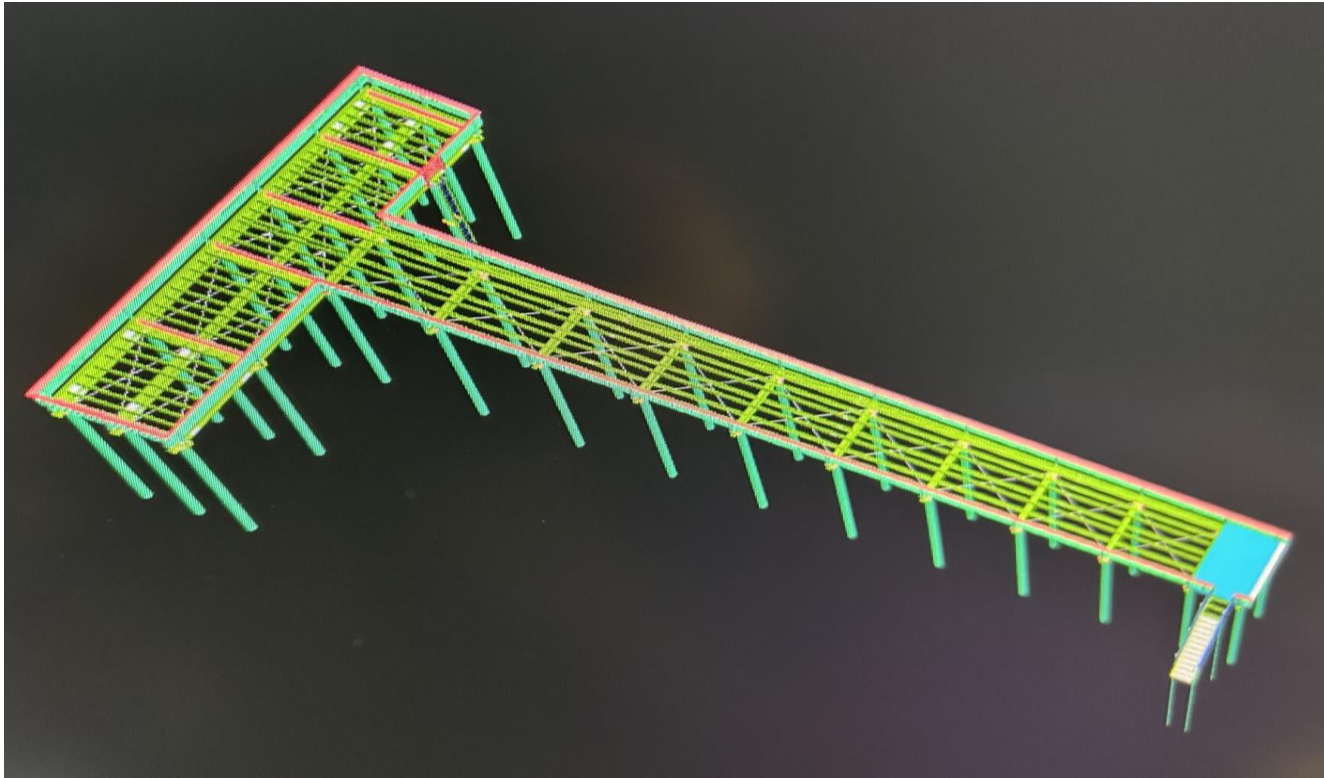




# INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Veterans Memorial Triangle  
Park

Project complete!



## INFRASTRUCTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### Redondo Pier Replacement

Project awarded with Construction Bid of \$3.8M

Permits received

Per Council direction, project fully funded with bond proceeds

Steel and material on order with construction mobilization date November, 2025



## QUALITY OF LIFE: COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT SERVICES (FORMERLY PARKS, RECREATION & SENIOR SERVICES)



- Recently Updated
  - Field House Park
  - Skateboard Park
  - Midway Park
  - Cecil Powell Park

# PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH



## Public Safety Efforts

Getting People Services (GPS) position to help our most vulnerable populations

Focused on crime reduction through aggressive enforcement of all laws, from traffic enforcement through violent crimes

2024 Crimes in Washington Report shows crime in Des Moines was reduced by 11% compared to 2023, led by reduction in burglary (-44.6%) and auto theft (-46.6%)

A 200% reduction in the enforcement of drug possession in the City





# EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



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Highline Public Schools

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Federal Way Public School

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Highline College

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St. Philomena Catholic School

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Holy Trinity Lutheran School

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Why Not You Academy

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# SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS: A COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

- Daily Nutritional Lunches
- Fitness Classes including Wii Sports
- Arts & Crafts Workshops
- Social Events & Day Trips
- ...and more!





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Weekly City Manager Reports
- New website - In process NOW!
- Strategic Plan
- Community Events/Farmer's Market





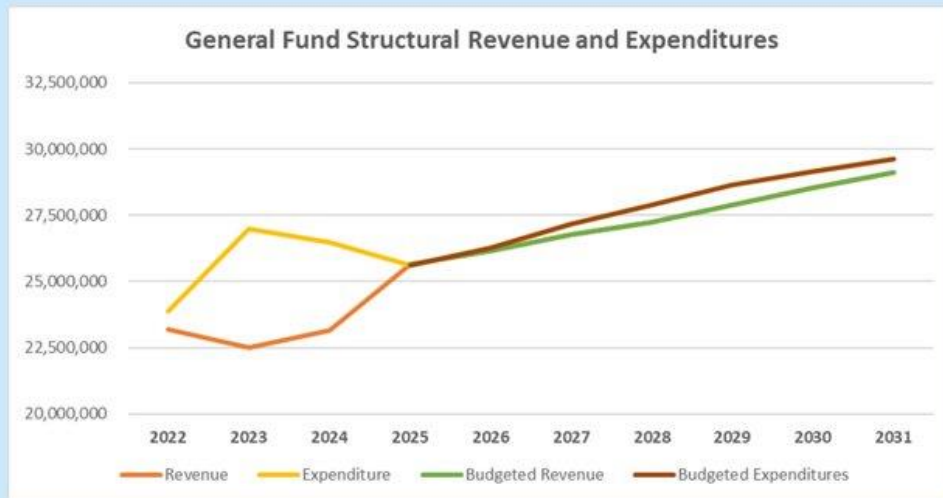
# THE CITY'S CHALLENGES: WHERE WE NEED HELP

- Longterm Financial Sustainability
- Public Engagement





# ON THE HORIZON



- City's revenue sources inadequate to keep up with expenditures
  - Must grow new revenue streams
  - Critical to develop aggressive economic development strategy
  - 1% property tax cap does not keep up with general inflation
- Critical look at any new expenditures or initiatives
- Service and staffing reductions necessary in short-term, but will not meet the expectations of the community long-term

# FUTURE VISION: LOOKING AHEAD

- Planned projects, goals, and priorities
- Building a brighter future for the City





THANK YOU!

