

## Milwaukie Vision Statement Mayor Gamba Draft (January 2016)

Good Morning fellow VAC members,

I hope you all had a nice holiday break and are raring for a productive year. I've been mulling our current iteration of the vision statement over for several weeks now and I have a burr in my saddle that I just can't shake.

The current vision is well written and inspiring but it leaves a whole lot to interpretation. In one sense that is a good thing because it doesn't box the future councils out of better ideas for creating our Visionary Milwaukie. On the other hand, if future councils were of a mind, it would allow them to interpret it very broadly and ignore the key points that are clearly defined in the goal area statements because "those aren't the Milwaukie Vision, just suggestions..." or some sort of nonsense. Believe me, I've been on a council that would have twisted it to their own interests.

I would love it if we could create a second version of the vision that was much more specific, one that clearly defines the vision and isn't open to broad (bad) interpretation. Then at our next meeting we could discuss the pros and cons between the two.

I have taken a first crack at this, which is included below. If someone else feels up to it, I would welcome your efforts. Thank you all for your hard work, and your vision.

Mark Gamba  
Mayor of Milwaukie

In 2040, Milwaukie will be a flourishing city that is utterly equitable, delightfully livable and completely sustainable. Its citizens will enjoy well-paying jobs, a myriad of powerful educational opportunities and affordable housing for all. Its neighborhoods are the center of daily life, with amenities and community-minded local businesses that meet most needs of residents and are happy to pay healthy family wages. The centers form hubs interconnected by a complete network of sidewalks, bike lanes and paths that complement the street and robust transit system. Art and innovation are weaved into the fabric of the city.

Our industrial areas are centers for innovation, a model for pollution free manufacturing and pay high wage jobs. Our citizens can easily access the training and education to win those jobs.

The city government is transparent and easily accessed, it maintains policy that truly protects and uplifts the poor and minorities. It strongly encourages engagement and participation by all and nurtures a deep sense of community through events and activities. Residents have the resources necessary to access the help they need.

Milwaukie actively nurtures a verdant tree canopy, promotes sustainable development and is a net-zero energy city. The waterways are free flowing, accessible, pristine and protected by a robust storm water treatment system. It is a prepared and resilient community, adaptive to the realities of a changing climate and prepared for the Cascadia Event.