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“I want to give back to the citizens”

Hello! I'm Brett Hales and I'm way excited to be here. Cindy and I have raised our five children here in Murray so this is truly an honor for us to serve the City.

I was sworn into office on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. It has been non-stop action since then! Though I served 10-years on the Murray City Council, I have been amazed by the amount of activity (work) that is involved with running the City. I did promise Cindy that I would not pass judgment on the 'job' for two weeks. Honestly, after the two-week deadline, I can say that I love this job and I love Murray City more than ever before!

I am so grateful for the hard-working and dedicated staff of this City. Though my head is still spinning a little from the barrage of non-stop meetings, it has been very good to do the deep digs into the departments and the operations of the City.

To the residents of Murray, I have an open-door policy. Of course, you will need to schedule time with our administrative assistant, but I am truly interested in hearing your ideas and thoughts on how to improve Murray. I won't promise that all your ideas will be implemented immediately, but I still want to know what's on your mind.

We are going to be watching the Utah State Legislature with guarded excitement. During a recent meeting with our elected state representatives and senators, we learned of some initiatives that could greatly impact our community. For instance, there has been some concern raised about short-term rentals in residential areas. There may be an effort to repeal or change the 2018 legislation that allowed those rentals. There may be legislation to ensure that drivers license tests are offered in multiple languages which is viewed as support to help people who need to be able to drive to or for their employment. We are also hoping for support of a request for \$2 million for the renovation of the Murray Theater. Other issues include watershed restoration, water conservation and mental health training efforts for our law enforcement officers.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I was invited to say a few words at the beginning of the program. It was the 30th Annual Human Rights



Celebration, which must be one of the longest-running recognitions of Dr. King's birthday in Utah. The program featured the Murray High School Madrigal and A Cappella Choirs, the Murray Jazz Band and the Murray Theater Department. Miss Murray, Morgan Workman also spoke to the crowd about her platform of helping underprivileged children afford after-school activities. The audience was also treated to a special musical guest, Brianny Christensen, from the MHS Class of 2016.

As the following days have more sunlight, I hope you will take advantage of the many outdoor venues that provide opportunities for activities. I recently told *The City Weekly* about the trail that runs northeast from the southeast corner of Wheeler Farm to Van Winkle Expressway. It's a hidden gem that Cindy and I love to walk. It's only 1.6 miles one way. I hope you will venture out and explore the trail as the weather gets nicer.