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D. Blair Camp  
Mayor

[mayor@murray.utah.gov](mailto:mayor@murray.utah.gov)

801-264-2600

Happy New Year Murray City! It's hard for me to believe that 2018 has come and gone and another new year is now upon us. With a new year comes new opportunities to seize, new challenges to conquer, and new relationships to foster.

Benjamin Franklin once said, "Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man." Along that same line of thought, it is my goal that every new year will find Murray City a "better city." During my campaign for mayor, I expressed my philosophy of "continuous improvement," and continuous improvement requires constant evaluation and changes where needed.

Unfortunately, "better" is subjective, and what one may consider as improvement another may see as diminishing. Change is sometimes a hard thing depending on a person's perspective and life experience. That's one of the challenges of local government. Maintaining a sense of community in the center of a rapidly growing metropolitan center will continue to be a challenge. But with that challenge comes exciting opportunities to welcome and manage growth, in the forms of both development and redevelopment.

While there is so much emphasis on high-density housing all around us to help alleviate the current housing shortage, I am pleased that we have a number of new single-family homes being constructed in Murray City in low-density zones. I believe it is good to have a balance of housing types being constructed, and I'm satisfied that we have struck an appropriate balance.

It is also exciting to note the progress in the development of our new downtown city center area west of State Street between 4800 South and Vine Street. The construction of our new fire department headquarters station is underway at the corner of 4800 South and Box Elder Street. The city has cleared additional structures in this area in preparation of site work and for our new city hall. We have selected



an architect and contractor for the new city hall in anticipation of the construction of the building to begin early in 2020. I am excited that we will be rolling out the conceptual plans for this area to the public this year.

Directly across the street from the new fire station at the site of the old Murray Elevators, a new three-story office building is being constructed with a residential community of townhomes to be built directly behind the new offices. We are excited that this currently underutilized part of Murray will soon be thriving and vibrant. I am confident that the State Street frontage in this area will soon be redeveloped into an area that we can be proud of.

I wish each of you a very happy and prosperous new year, and may you be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find Murray a better city!