100 DAY REPORT
Creating a City for Everyone

Mayor Lauren McLean
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Dear Boise,

Here I present a report on the activities I’ve undertaken during my first 100 days in office as Boise’s mayor. It’s an honor to serve; daily I am focused on how best to meet the needs of our residents, guide our city toward the future and make good on the promises of my election.

These past few months have challenged our community and nation in ways we’ve never experienced. Here at the City of Boise, we rapidly assembled an emergency team to prepare for and respond to a pandemic, took decisive action in passing emergency orders to protect our public health and worked daily with members of this community to ensure that we are supporting our residents during this difficult time. And throughout this, we maintained focus on the priorities that Boiseans, before the pandemic, made clear must be addressed because we believe they’re key to our community’s recovery and our residents’ prosperity.

I’ve focused my time based on my belief that we need collaborative and accessible leadership and innovative solutions to economic opportunity; affordable housing for all budgets so that our residents can live here; transportation to connect us with job opportunities; urgency to address climate change and harness the opportunities it presents. These priorities will also be central to our recovery from COVID-19 and to delivering on the promise of a vibrant and engaged 21st century city for everyone.

I have assembled a team of leaders who are motivated, curious, willing to innovate and take risks, and share a commitment to helping build a city for everyone, grounded in community. And I’m incredibly proud of the City of Boise employees that demonstrate their call to serve their community daily; it’s a privilege to work together with them to ensure our community thrives.

It’s an honor to serve as Mayor of Boise. These last 100 days have presented so many challenges, and yet I’m inspired and motivated by the ways so many residents have rolled up their sleeves to help. I look forward to working together throughout my term as mayor, building on the steps I’ve taken in my first 100 days in office.

Let’s do this together, Boise!

With great gratitude,

Lauren McLean
On April 16, 2020, Mayor Lauren McLean, Boise’s first elected female mayor, will mark 100 days in office.

100 days ago, no one knew that a global pandemic would threaten lives, jobs and families. Mayor McLean and her team at the City of Boise have been diligently working - not just leading crisis response, preparedness and recovery - but on all the issues that Boiseans made clear were necessary to tackle as our community grows. And as we move beyond the mayor’s first 100 days, address COVID-19 and its impacts, Mayor McLean believes that these priorities will be central to our community’s economic recovery, long-term resilience and the promise that Boise is a vibrant 21st century city for everyone.

Many of the issues discussed during the election campaign – increased economic opportunity; urgently addressing affordable housing; transportation that connects people with jobs and everything in between; and the innovation that addressing climate change requires - take on even greater importance as we work together to ensure that our community recovers resiliently.

It’s important to note that while the city is responding to the COVID-19 crisis at hand, Mayor McLean and city staff are focused on implementing bold solutions to our community’s needs. A highly engaged new leadership team is firmly in place and ready to work for and with the people of Boise.

The work included in the mayor’s first 100 days, and covered in this report, serves as the foundation for the mayor’s focus in the coming years. It includes efforts to create more transparency for the people of Boise, increased accessibility and opportunities for residents to engage on issues they hold dear, and the development of more opportunity for all Boiseans. Included in the mayor’s first 100 days are steps toward her goals of ensuring everyone has a home they can afford, can move easily from work to home, find economic opportunity to build a life here and have clean air and water to enjoy.
Boiseans voted overwhelmingly for a change in style and tone, embracing a vision for a transparent, accessible and accountable City Hall. You voted for more open doors at City Hall, and the mayor responded.

As promised, Mayor McLean hosts listening sessions every month, and will move them throughout our city meeting people in casual settings right in their own neighborhoods. These will continue virtually until social distancing orders end. The next session will be held on April 20.

The mayor holds bi-weekly round table meetings open to all media. These take place weekly as the city addresses COVID-19. Mayor McLean provides daily video updates during this time, available on Facebook and YouTube. She speaks with the media directly as a way to share information with the public regularly.

Mayor McLean announced an open-door office policy, which will continue when our city reopens, and people can again gather in person. The mayor
welcomes the public in her office, and if she’s available when someone drops in, she steps out for a conversation with constituents. Her daily calendar is posted online because people have a right to know who their mayor is meeting with and why.

Getting to know city staff is a priority in these early days. Mayor McLean has visited all city offices, meeting staff casually. She joins all-hands meetings by department so that she knows the people who have dedicated their lives to serving the city and maintains her accessibility within City Hall – for employees and the public alike.

The mayor enacted new policies to guide election reporting, moving election sunshine reports from the City Clerk to the administrator of city elections, the Ada County Clerk, to reduce potential conflicts. She implemented new ethics rules prohibiting the mayor from soliciting donations from City of Boise staff.

The mayor’s citizen-led transition committee included over 70 Boise residents; Mayor McLean accepted and released their recommendations for her first term, in addition to her priorities.

To make good on her support for a downtown library while honoring the citizen initiative process and its results – because she believes a downtown library can be celebrated by our community - the mayor hosted a series of meetings with all parties involved in the prior downtown library project, including the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, Boise Working Together, Friends of the Library, the Boise Library Foundation, library donors, the Library Board of Trustees and The Cabin. Mayor McLean looks forward to working with the City Council and community to bring forward a library that is celebrated.
The mayor looks for leaders who are motivated, curious, willing to innovate and take risks, and share a commitment to helping to build a city for everyone, grounded in community.

The mayor opened the application process, encouraging diversity, for key commissions and staff positions within the mayor’s office, and has made the following appointments:

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

JENNIFER MOHR, an architect who lives near Boise State University, with an expertise in analyzing land use and zoning codes.

CHRIS BLANCHARD, a Central Bench resident with a strong background in urban planning, housing affordability and public service.

ASHLEY FORD-SQUYRES, an executive administrator from Southeast Boise, with direct experience in urban renewal, land use, and design.

CAPITAL CITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

KATE NELSON, Director of Economic Opportunity at Jannus, with expertise in economic development.

LATONIA KEITH, Dean of Concordia School of Law, with experience in affordable housing and finance.

CITY OF BOISE

Mayor McLean has named the following to positions in the Office of the Mayor and the Office of Community Engagement:

COURTNEY WASHBURN, Chief of Staff

JADE RILEY, Chief Operating Officer

KAREN BOE, Director of Communications

SEAN KEITHLY, Director of Economic Development

KATHY GRIESMYER, Director of Government Relations

SHIRLEY O’NEIL, Director of Community Partnerships

DANIELLE TORRES, Executive Assistant

SARA PEYTON, Special Assistant to the Mayor

MARIA WEEG, Director of Office of Community Engagement
When swearing in their next mayor, Boiseans never imagined that our community, nation and world would be upended by a global pandemic, requiring our city to declare a health emergency, pass an emergency health ordinance, and the mayor to then publish orders closing businesses, playgrounds, requiring physical distancing between people and the enforcement of a statewide stay at home order. The mayor signed an emergency health declaration on Monday, March 16, 2020 and announced the same day that all city buildings would close on March 17, 2020 to ensure that the city would be prepared to provide essential services remotely and could launch an incident management team ready to meet the needs of our community when the virus touched us directly.

The mayor, in consultation with public health experts, hospital executives, medical doctors and others (both local and national experts) prepared necessary and decisive steps to protect Boiseans. On March 17, 2020, the Boise City Council passed an emergency health ordinance, granting the mayor the authority to issue emergency health orders effective the
COVID-19 CRISIS LEADERSHIP & RESPONSE

next day, and on March 19, 2020, the mayor issued her first order, closing restaurants and bars for dine-in service, cancelling public events with large groups and cancelling any City of Boise gathering with more than ten people for thirty days. The mayor also ordered playgrounds closed on March 20, 2020, announced the suspension of in-person commission meetings and postponement of public hearings. The mayor issued a social distancing order on Monday, March 22, 2020. The City Council ratified the orders in City Council meetings conducted remotely.

The mayor joined the Bloomberg Coronavirus Local Response Consortium, bringing together mayors, public health experts and policy experts through the Harvard Kennedy School and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, to ensure that our steps to protect public health and ultimately to rebuild our economy are actively informed by experts from around the country.

The mayor also joined an emergency response group made up of mayors and county commissioners of Ada and Canyon Counties to seek shared solutions and problem solving locally.

The mayor convened over 100 business leaders to discuss by phone the city’s plans; met with non-profit leaders throughout the region to discuss community support programs and faith leaders to establish partnerships to meet community needs.

The city organized community service organizations and established a plan to protect the most vulnerable in the event of an outbreak. The city is prepared to repurpose staff to support programs for children, the elderly and English language learners; is offering childcare for essential workers at Community Centers; and developing food security planning for our most vulnerable.

The city waived rent for city-owned low-income properties for April and May and committed not to cut sewer service for those who were unable to pay. The city established a resource page for residents to help connect those with needs to those with resources, deployed librarians to answer calls related to the virus on a newly established hotline and is developing community programming in every department. In a manner of days, the city established pandemic leave, work from home policies and is delivering essential services remotely.
Our city — and world — sit at a crossroads. The challenges we face are urgent, from climate change and extreme weather, to a housing crisis and growing economic disparity. Our ability to thrive is bound to this place we call home. We depend on its abundant natural resources and green spaces, its clean air and clear waters. In these critical moments of uncertainty, strategic, informed leadership is required to fight for collaborative and just solutions for an equitable, clean, renewable city for everyone.

Here are the steps taken since January:

The city established a pilot pesticide program at our parks, to determine the feasibility of phasing out pesticide usage. This is a big step towards reducing toxic chemicals.

The mayor met with Idaho Power leadership to discuss ways we can partner to ensure that we meet our 100 percent clean energy goal. City staff is working to develop recommendations that will allow the city to meet the mayor’s advanced climate and clean energy goals.

Mayor McLean met with Suez Water, our drinking water utility, to share her commitment to seeing the Bench water issues addressed more urgently. A town hall on the Bench will be rescheduled when our community can again come together in person.
**Boise deserves a responsive government** that welcomes their engagement. The mayor established goals that City Hall welcomes the voice of everyone – particularly those who are typically underrepresented - because she believes that unique and diverse perspectives help create a more vibrant and inclusive city. Her goal remains that Boise is truly a city for everyone.

Mayor McLean delivers video updates “Mondays with the Mayor” to engage residents on issues of the day. Leading through the COVID-19 crisis, she now offers daily updates to ensure open, frequent and honest communication about the challenges our community is experiencing.

Mayor McLean recognizes that relationships matter, and has focused on establishing them with local, state and federal partners so as to open doors of opportunity for our city. The mayor attended the US Conference of Mayors and while in Washington D.C. sat down with Senators Risch and Crapo to discuss funding opportunities around her priorities, particularly transportation, housing and economic development. She met with the governor and legislative leadership early in the legislative session. She hosted the commanding officer of the Mountain Home Air Force Base for a conversation about ways to build connections between our city and the base and accepted an invitation to visit Gowen Field for a briefing by their command staff. Her team interviewed and selected a federal lobbyist and a state lobbyist. And to begin building her climate innovation focus, she met with leaders of Climate Mayors and C40 Cities, national and global organizations dedicated to supporting city leaders in their efforts to impact climate.

Mayor McLean is making good on her promise to form valley-wide collaborative relationships to impact issues that require regional solutions. She attends every meeting of the Treasure Valley Partnership, was elected to the Executive Committee of Valley Regional Transit, serves on the COMPASS board, and has met with Mayors Evans, Stear and Simison. While COVID-19 cancelled her meetings with Mayor Kling and Canyon County Commissioner Dale, she joins regular calls on the COVID-19 health crisis with all city and county leaders of the Treasure Valley. She has hosted regular calls with community support organizations, foundations, faith groups and business leaders to build cross-sectional plans to meet our residents’ needs during the current crisis.

The mayor represented Boise during the National Salute to Veteran Patients Week and has spoken at events including meeting with AVID students at Capital High School, the Young Women Leadership Conference, Global Ties Idaho, Corpus Christie House, Boise State’s Women in Business, Associated Students, and the Boise State University GIMM Lab.
The mayor is working with the team at the City of Boise to more urgently address our community’s housing needs. Our residents need access to affordable housing at every price point. The city has prioritized a community land trust and an affordable housing strategy that includes incentivizing building of accessory dwelling units, fighting to protect existing affordable housing and is making space for creative solutions from those innovating in the affordable housing sector.

To protect existing affordable housing, the mayor opposed bringing F-35s to Boise, given the impact that the Environmental Impact Statement suggested it would have, as more than 272 homes would become unsuitable for living and schools in our community would be impacted. She committed not to use taxpayer dollars to encourage such a mission. This winter, the Air Force announced that the jets would not come to Boise.

Property taxes also impact affordability. In her first month in office, the city proposed savings of over $2 million, with another $2-3 million in savings currently under development. The mayor is using priority-based budgeting to address current priorities, legacy programs and the urgent financial impacts that the pandemic is having on our community, and city budgets.

The mayor also proposed that $3 million held in the capital fund for a baseball stadium instead be used to fund affordable housing programs.

The city announced funding for a program to connect those experiencing homelessness with the services they need to move into shelter and eventually a home. The city dedicated $100,000 to street outreach teams to support rapid rehousing in partnership with CATCH. To address the potential of an outbreak of COVID-19 in homeless shelters, the city leads a team that developed strategies including emergency isolation housing and day shelter services.
Ensuring that our community has the jobs necessary to build a life in Boise requires a commitment from the city.

Ensuring our community has the jobs necessary to build a life in Boise requires a commitment from the city. This requires strategic investment and a commitment from the city to increase its resources dedicated to economic opportunity. And due to the economic crisis caused by the pandemic, it’s imperative the city have a plan against which we will measure progress towards recovery, and ultimately create a more resilient economy with opportunity for everyone.

The mayor named a Director of Economic Opportunity and the city has begun the process to develop a strategic plan to guide its economic opportunity efforts. Business leaders and innovators will inform the strategy and the city’s efforts.

The mayor spoke to CEOs and leaders of the Boise Metro Chamber and Boise Valley Economic Partnership and attended a listening session with CEOs of technology companies throughout the valley to foster relationships and inform her administration’s economic plans. She will continue to meet with leaders in other sectors to inform her priorities.
The mayor’s transportation priorities include regional transit, increased access to buses, and pathways for people so that Boiseans can move from home to work and everywhere in between. She committed to rebuilding the relationships needed to make a transit vision a reality, and began that work immediately upon being sworn in.

On her first day in office, the mayor met with the Director of the Ada County Highway District (ACHD). She has met individually with a majority of the members of the ACHD Commission to build relationships so that both agencies’ leaders work more constructively together.

The mayor serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Valley Regional Transit, the board of COMPASS and attends monthly meetings of the Treasure Valley partnership. When meeting with Senator Crapo, she met with Banking Committee staff to learn about funding opportunities for our community and region, and looks forward to being able to return for more discussions, and to host the committee staff here in Boise to see the potential for transportation projects directly.
The mayor is committed to leading by example, so is seeking ways to ensure that the City of Boise is an equitable workplace with policies that support a diverse and engaged workforce. The city developed work from home policies and pandemic leave, and is currently investigating childcare needs and opportunities for our employees. The mayor has committed to equity training for her staff and supports the effort by Councilmember Sánchez to provide training to department leadership and the City Council.

The mayor kicked off and participated in Moving Toward Freedom, a fun-run to support the trans community. She spoke at the Idaho Conference on Refugees, volunteered at Corpus Christi and increased diversity on city commissions through her appointments to date.
The mayor has issued proclamations that reflect the value that our community places on community, equality, education, justice and advocacy. Since January, the mayor has proclaimed the following days:

**BOISE SUFFRAGE DAY**  
Jan 29, 2020

**BOISE PUBLIC LIBRARY 125th CONTINUOUS LIBRARY SERVICE CELEBRATION DAY**  
Feb 29, 2020

**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK**  
March 8, 2020

**WOMEN AND CHILDREN’S ALLIANCE TWIN AWARDS**  
March 31, 2020 to honor the outstanding professional achievements of women in the workplace

**CENSUS DAY**  
April 1, 2020

**FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH DESIGNATING**  
April 2020

**EDUCATION AND SHARING DAY**  
April 5, 2020

**WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD™**  
April 11 -17, 2020

**DENIM DAY**  
April 29, 2020 – to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month
With a collaborative team in place, a blueprint for the future and measurable achievements to date, the City of Boise is already building plans for economic recovery.

Working together with the entire community and valley-wide partnerships, it’s possible to foster a 21st-century city for everyone with shared prosperity across all neighborhoods.

Mayor McLean’s vision is that Boise is a city where everyone can find an affordable place to live, has a good job, where our commutes are short and our air is clean. It’s a city where we work together to help protect beloved open spaces just as quickly as sustainable development takes place. These issues take on greater importance as we seek strategic policies and smart investments to rebuild and recover together.