



CITY OF MERIDIAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2015 – embargoed until 5 p.m.

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MAYOR TAMMY DE WEERD HIGHLIGHTS MERIDIAN'S STRATEGIC PLAN, NEW INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIONS IN STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

MERIDIAN – Nearly 600 people filed into the auditorium at Meridian Middle School to hear Mayor Tammy de Weerd deliver her 12th State of the City address that outlined the City's strategic plan for the next 5 years. The key points of that plan include: Strategic growth, economic vibrancy, responsive government, safe and healthy community, as well as culture, arts and recreation.

"Jobs make a city vibrant," said Mayor Tammy as she highlighted the focus on economic vibrancy with information from the Department of Labor showing the creation of 2,000 additional jobs in Meridian in the past year and a two percent growth in the average individual income.

To build on that, Mayor Tammy announced the New Ventures Lab, an Innovation Center that will open in downtown Meridian and is aimed at turning ideas into businesses. The lab is a joint venture between The City of Meridian, the Meridian Chamber of Commerce, the West Ada School District, College of Western Idaho and the New Ventures Lab, LLC.

The City of Meridian has many new initiatives in the works including the formation of a Mayor's Senior Advisory Board that will be comprised of residents 55 and older who live in Meridian and want to play a role in effecting change for the community.

The City is also putting together a working group to focus on launching a first of its kind Farmer's Market for the area that would be centered on the younger generation. The Youth Farmer's Market would give kids an opportunity to profit from their hobbies and projects.

Other highlights of the Mayor's address include major projects that will be completed in 2015, such as the Meridian Interchange and the Police Training Center.

Mayor Tammy presented this year's Legacy award to the co-founders of the Meridian Food Bank, Dan Clark and Bert Myers (Myers passed away so his family accepted the award in honor of him). Clark and Myers were acknowledged for their contribution to the community and their vision in serving others.

A copy of the Mayor's State of the City speech and a video of the address will be posted to the City's website, www.meridiacity.org.

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The City of Meridian is located in the center of the Treasure Valley in southwest Idaho. Founded in 1893 and incorporated as a city in 1903, Meridian is now one of Idaho's largest and fastest growing communities. Meridian is cited by Money Magazine as one of its Top 50 Best Places to Live, and by America's Promise Alliance and ING as one of the nation's 100 Best Communities for Young People. For more information, visit www.meridiacity.org.