
Mayor Pro Tem Mark Burroughs

Fostering the Next Generation: Burroughs' View of Denton's Future

Interviewed by: Antonio Puente, Jr.

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Burroughs shared his dreams for Denton in a recent conversation. His thoughts for the future are to be shared with citizens of Denton in the year 2025.

Introduction

With a yearly growth rate of five to six percent, the city of Denton is poised to become a major city in the metroplex by the year 2025. According to recent estimates from the North Central Texas Council of Governments, Denton's population will reach 181,015 by 2025. This represents an increase of 101 percent in a little more than 20 years. Growth will continue to be a challenge faced by the city of Denton but it will also bring new and exciting opportunities.

Local Leadership

Leadership at the local level will be a crucial factor in guiding the city of Denton to a healthy and prosperous future. The City Council will be one that pursues common goals that are rooted in unity, respect, and diversity. Individual's self-interest will be replaced by broader goals that "foster the next generation" and ensure efficient and quality services for future residents. The belief in community engagement will be a focal point by which citizens are encouraged to participate in local government. Fostering and encouraging the development of grassroots efforts, especially for future city leaders, will ensure that trust and cooperation exist between citizens and local government. Denton's future promises to have local leaders that are more similar than different and more united than divisive.

Development

The city of Denton also promises to be a major area of development and redevelopment. New residential developments will offer greater areas for green space, interconnecting trails, and pedestrian and bike-friendly access. The city will also include a greater emphasis on mixed-use developments where residential and commercial tenants coexist. Similar projects like Addison Circle in the Town of Addison, Texas, will become part of the city's landscape. The preservation of existing neighborhoods and the downtown area will continue to be vital in maintaining Denton's hometown atmosphere. Existing neighborhoods will be preserved through cooperation with neighborhood and homeowner associations. The downtown area will continue to be a place that families are encouraged to visit and commercial activity continues to flourish. In order to promote these types of local projects and encourage high quality development, the city will strive to be a place that encourages development through streamlined and user-friendly processes. Reducing negative perceptions will be a primary goal of the city.

Metroplex/Regional Leadership

As the city of Denton moves closer to becoming "the third city" in the metroplex, it will continue efforts to become a metroplex/regional leader. The city of Denton will be recognized for innovative redevelopment projects, leadership in municipal affairs, mass transit, and a model for commercial and industrial incubation based on its two universities. Surrounding the Williams Trade Square will be a major area of redevelopment that will ensure the preservation and vitality of the downtown area. The current plans for a Fire and Police Training Facility and the improvement and expansion of the Denton Municipal Airport will prove to be cornerstones of the city's role in regional affairs. Mass transit will be a reality that will improve the region's environment and traffic congestion and connect Dallas, Fort Worth, and Denton into a three-city metroplex. The city's two universities will continue to play a pivotal role in attracting commercial and industrial development by providing a highly educated workforce. There is no doubt that the city of Denton will become a regional leader and a model for success.

Premier Health Care Destination

The city of Denton is poised to become a premier health care destination, not only as a major provider of health care services for the region but as a state and national destination for specialized treatment. Recent announcements for major expansions of the two existing hospitals point to the possibility that Denton will become recognized as a major source of health care services. Furthermore, existing programs in the health care profession at both universities promise to provide Denton's health care institutions with the educated and trained workforce they require. With the right combination of facilities and staff, it is not far-fetched to believe that Denton could become a premier health care destination by the year 2025.

Conclusion

By the year 2025, the city of Denton will be twice as large as it is today and it will be a premier place to live, work and play in the metroplex. The city will offer a wide array of residential developments that will range from high-end homes to condos above neighborhood shops. Commercial and industrial development will be commonplace due to the city's efforts and the availability of a highly trained workforce from the two universities. All the while, the city will maintain its hometown atmosphere by preserving existing neighborhoods and the downtown area. Endeavors such as mass transit, innovative redevelopment projects, and leadership in municipal affairs will make the city of Denton a regional leader and the third city in the metroplex. Furthermore, as a provider of premier health care services, the city will be recognized throughout the state and nationally. The city of Denton promises to be a place of continual growth and opportunity by the year 2025 and beyond.