

March 2016 – Mayor’s Message

Approximately every 10 years, the city goes through a lengthy process to update its General Plan. During the past year, consultants and our Administrative Services Department personnel have held public forums, meetings with target groups, and sought input from residents through online opportunities and a random survey.

In January, the survey was mailed to 1500 residents. The purpose of the survey was to allow residents another method of providing feedback on perceptions and attitudes about their community. We received a good representation of completed surveys from residents in all five City Council districts. Of those responding to the survey, 91 percent owned their home and 49 percent had lived in Murray for more than 21 years. I’d like to share some of the results with you.

Top Reasons Why People Enjoy Living in Murray:

- Central location
- Convenience of the community
- Neighborhoods
- Community and friends
- Schools

Phrases to Best Describe Murray:

- “Great Place to Live”
- “Home”
- “Small-Town Feel”
- “Great Community and Neighborhoods”
- “Well-Run/Good Government”

Included was a category for **Quality of Life Features**, the most valued feature was shopping close to home, followed by:

- Sense of security and safety
- Parks and open space
- Recreational programs
- Transitions between residential neighborhoods and commercial areas
- Access to and response from city government and elected officials

In the area of **Positive Neighborhood Elements**, these were the most important:

- Low crime
- Mixed socioeconomic range of residents

There were multiple questions about perceptions on **Housing** in Murray. Regarding whether we have enough different types of housing in the community:

- 65% felt we have enough single family detached homes
- 71% felt we had enough townhomes
- 78% thought we had enough duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes
- 86% indicated we have enough apartments
- 50% felt we have enough housing above retail or office

- 64% responded that we have enough condominiums
- 32% believe we do not have enough senior living facilities, compared with 42% that indicate we do have enough
- 60% of the respondents indicated that it is either very or somewhat important to create a true downtown center and cultural district
- An overwhelming number of respondents (94%) answered that property maintenance is very important in neighborhoods

The results of this survey confirmed what many of us have felt for generations; that Murray is a great place to live, has a wonderful small-town feel, and a sense of community derived from quality neighborhoods, businesses and schools. The survey also gave us an objective and unbiased appraisal of our city, derived from a cross section of home owners and renters of every age group. I want to thank all those who took the time to complete the survey and to those who have attended our public meetings and offered such valuable information for our General Plan. All of this input will help us continue to make Murray one of the finest communities in Utah.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Eyre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Eyre, Mayor