

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 18, 2017  
CONTACT: Sue Breeding, 480-385-8467, Sr. PIO – Dept. of Public Affairs

## GLENDALE POISED FOR BRIGHT FUTURE FOLLOWING PRODUCTIVE 2016

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** – As 2017 kicks off, the city of Glendale is highlighting successful accomplishments of 2016.

**Glendale Gains Jobs and Celebrates Major Business Expansions** - The Office of Economic Development assisted six companies with their local expansion efforts and facilitated seven new business operations locating in Glendale, bringing nearly 1,400 new jobs to the city. Growing Glendale industries include manufacturing, medical technology, advanced business services and retail and entertainment. 2016 highlights include Conair's one million sq.-ft. expansion with the construction of a new distribution facility, making its campus in the Glen Harbor Business Park the second largest in greater Phoenix. Construction is also underway on the new Westgate Healthcare Campus that's projected to employ more than 1,500 people.

**Improved Financial Ratings** - Glendale received an unprecedented three-step general obligation bond rating upgrade from a BBB+ rating to an A+ rating by Standard and Poor's credit rating agency. Glendale also received a bond rating upgrade from Moody's Investors Service from A3 to A2, acknowledging the city's prudent budget management. The city added \$6.8 million to the general fund unassigned balance, bringing the total to just over \$35 million and is closing in on a targeted \$50 million by end of FY 2019-20. The city has transitioned from the financial crisis of three years ago to financial stability in 2016. Glendale is benefiting from the effects of increased sales tax revenues, from the implementation of new fiscal policies for spending and the positive impact of improved bond ratings.

**Pavement Management Program Hits the Streets** - Glendale City Council approved a total investment of \$77 million over the next 10 years towards city roadway rehabilitation projects. The Pavement Management Program impacts major arterial and residential streets and is a fiscally responsive way to address both immediate and long-term roadway maintenance needs while systematically improving and maintaining the overall quality of Glendale's streets.

**New City Manager** - Kevin Phelps assumed the top management role for the city in February. Phelps has focused on working to develop a strategic plan for the city and fixing damaged relationships with several important city stakeholders and organizations. His leadership led to the resolution of outstanding legal claims and disputes involving key city partners.

### Glendale 2016 Fun Facts

30 years of aviation services at Glendale Municipal Airport

12 signature festival events drew 350,000 people to Historic Downtown Glendale

50th season of music in downtown Glendale for Summer Band

72,922 Dial-A-Ride passengers served

8,170 potholes repaired

6% increase in building permits issued – 6,683 permits issued

13.9 billion gallons of water treated

7% drop in theft, burglary and arson crimes

83 Police Community Events

92% positive customer service rating at libraries

41,566 Glendale Fire Dept. incident responses- Valley's highest FD/DMS call-per-unit rate.

1,107 public records requests fulfilled

56,000 people attended Civic Center events

800 decorative lights cleaned for Glendale Glitters events

158,911 sq. ft. of turf converted to water-saving landscaping

20,200 city street lights operated at 99% reliability

14,019 miles of streets swept

-----MORE-----

**City Council Settles Dispute** - Critical to moving the city forward was the City Council's approval of a settlement agreement with the Arizona Cardinals and the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority that fully resolves a \$66.7 million claim filed in 2012 against the city over stadium parking agreements.

**New Chief of Police Takes Command** - Rick St. John was appointed Glendale's new Chief of Police due to his leadership strengths and knowledge of the community. During more than two decades of service with the department, Chief St. John has overseen or been involved with every division. He started his career by serving as a patrol officer and was part of Glendale's first neighborhood response unit and the first domestic violence unit. He was also a training officer who taught his colleagues the newest law enforcement techniques prior to assuming roles including serving as Assistant Chief of Police.

**World-Renowned Arena Manager Selected** - AEG became the new manager for Gila River Arena. AEG is one of the leading sports and entertainment presenters in the world and owns, controls or is affiliated with over 100 of the world's preeminent facilities including STAPLES Center in Los Angeles and The O2 in London. The agreement with AEG maximizes the potential of the state-of-the-art facility and Westgate Entertainment District.

**The "ARC" New Archery Range** - The new 16-lane archery range at Heroes Regional Park opened last fall. The project was funded primarily through grants and in-kind donations, including a \$7,000 grant from the State of Arizona Game and Fish Department and \$49,000 in grant funding from the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority. Members of the community donated labor and materials.

**First Scenic Corridor Established** - The Loop 101 Scenic Corridor was approved by the Planning Commission and City Council in 2016. Envision Glendale 2040, the citywide General Plan Update was approved by the Planning Commission, City Council and Glendale voters in 2016.

**New Elected Officials sworn in** - Four-year terms began for one new and three returning Councilmembers. During an installation ceremony in December, Mayor Jerry P. Weiers, Councilmember Joyce V. Clark of the Yucca District, Vice Mayor Ian Hugh of the Cactus District and Councilmember Ray L. Malnar of the Sahuaro District took oaths of office at the Glendale City Hall Council Chambers.

**Mental Health Court Success Story** - Glendale's Mental Health Court had a 28% increase in total cases during 2016. The Rule 11 Competency Exams Pilot program is saving money and time for the court, police, prosecutors and public defenders by having doctors meet defendants on site in Glendale instead of defendants being required to visit a doctor's office or go downtown for their court hearing. Glendale's Mental Health Court is helping to keep the city safer by reducing the risk of repeat offenders.

**Big Honor for Water Services** - Glendale Water Services Department's wastewater collection division was awarded the top honor of large wastewater collection system of the year from the Arizona Water Association. This prestigious valley-wide award was a result of the department's proactive approach with the maintenance and management of the city's wastewater collection system.

**Honorary Street Dedications** - In 2016, the city officially recognized Glendale's very own native son and famed country western star Marty Robbins and the legacy of history- changing civil rights activists Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez by re-naming portions of three major city streets in their honor.