Greater Pensacola Chamber Hosts Inaugural State of the City Event

PENSACOLA, FL- August 21, 2019 – The Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce held its first ever “State of the City” luncheon attended by 250 Pensacola business leaders. This event is part one of an inaugural four-part community engagement series where the Chamber will be bringing local leaders to share their vision for the future with the business community.

Mayor Grover Robinson provided keynote remarks and reflected on the progress of Pensacola as he rallied around the “Florida’s First and Future” motto he’s adopted for the city. The mayor told the unique story of Pensacola’s history and how we can be a city other Florida communities look to as a model. Mayor Robinson stressed the importance of Pensacola having a good “quality of place” that provide residents a desirable location to grow, work, and play.

Robinson encouraged community leaders to maintain the momentum and reported additional progress to include; the expansion of ST Engineering, increased progress in maritime business at the Port of Pensacola, improvement in property value for both residential and commercial properties, and an 5.4% increase in city sales tax collection. The city also plans to support local educational efforts by acquiring Chromebooks from the school district to place in community centers for students to use.

Newly hired Assistant City Administrator Kerrith Fiddler also spoke at the event and shared his optimism for the city’s plans to manage and maintain the recent growth. Fiddler brings 15 years of local government experience to his new position and is also a Certified General Contractor, Certified Roofing Contractor, Certified Plumbing Contractor, Certified Floodplain Manager, and a Qualified Stormwater Inspector.

Luncheon attendees had direct access to Mayor Robinson and city staff and the opportunity to network with elected officials and community leaders before and after the program. Attendees also provided questions for the mayor to answer following his remarks.

The Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce would like to thank our Title Sponsor, the University of West Florida. In addition, we’d like to thank our Gold Sponsors: Titanium Wireless, Synovus, and Gulf Power Company.

The Greater Pensacola Chamber is dedicated to being a conduit for positive change and cross-sector collaboration. The Chamber will be hosting three more events as a part of the “State of” series to include: State of the Military, State of Education and State of the County.