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Sold-out event celebrates Business Person of the Year

By Pippa Fisher



Jennifer Perlmutter receives her award from Mayor Mike Anderson. Photo Andy Scheck

The city of Lafayette celebrated its 30th Business Person of the Year, Jennifer Perlmutter, Jan. 31 with a sold-out dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel and Spa. The annual event traditionally also features the mayor giving a State of the City address.

Mayor Mike Anderson gave a brief summation, touching on the city's concerns regarding congestion and the challenges of retaining local jobs while meeting needs for housing. He pointed to last year's acquisition of the Batwing property as an example of how the city is retaining open space and parks, and he highlighted the efforts currently underway to resurrect the Park Theater. "Overall, the city is in a good state," he said.

Incoming 2020 Chamber of Commerce Board President John McCormick made his remarks and then handed the evening over to master of ceremonies Hilary Shipway who works with Perlmutter.

And then the evening was all about celebrating Perlmutter. There were presentations of proclamations from local dignitaries along with one from the Lamorinda Arts Council, and one presented by the Mayor. Attendees enjoyed a musical performance from members of the Peter Pan Foundation. A series of speakers paid tribute to Perlmutter's vision and to the success of her two art galleries and the revitalization she has brought to the downtown.

Proof that art and business need not be mutually exclusive.

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