

**CITY OF MANCHESTER
INAUGURAL CEREMONIES**

January 5, 2010

10:00 AM

Members of the City Government elected at the Municipal Election held November 3, 2009, gathered at the Palace Theatre in Manchester at 10:00 AM as required in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire and the Ordinances of the City of Manchester.

Mr. Charlie Sherman, Master of Ceremonies, stated good morning everyone and welcome. It is a pleasure to serve as Master of Ceremonies for the 2010 Inaugural Ceremonies for the City of Manchester here at the Palace Theatre. The processional will be performed by the Central High School Jazz Band, who I ask to stand and be recognized. At this time we will begin by introducing the Board of School Committee.

Ward 12	Committeeman-Elect Roger R. Beauchamp
Ward 11	Committeeman-Elect Stephen H. Dolman (unable to attend)
Ward 10	Committeeman-Elect John B. Avard
Ward 9	Committeeman-Elect Arthur J. Beaudry
Ward 8	Committeeman-Elect Thomas Katsiantonis
Ward 7	Committeeman-Elect David Gelinis
Ward 6	Committeeman-Elect Donna M. Soucy
Ward 5	Committeeman-Elect Cathryn Vaughn
Ward 4	Committeeman-Elect Christopher Herbert
Ward 3	Committeeman-Elect Michael J. DeBlasi
Ward 2	Committeeman-Elect Joseph Briggs

Ward 1 Committeeman-Elect Sarah Ambrogi
Committeeman At-Large Elect Kathleen M. Kelley
Committeeman At-Large Debra Gagnon Langton

Mr. Sherman stated your Board of Aldermen-Elect:

Ward 12 Alderman-Elect Patrick J. Arnold, Jr.
Ward 11 Alderman-Elect Russell Ouellette
Ward 10 Alderman-Elect Phil Greazzo
Ward 9 Alderman-Elect Barbara E. Shaw
Ward 8 Alderman-Elect Betsi L. Devries (unable to attend)
Ward 7 Alderman-Elect William P. Shea
Ward 6 Alderman-Elect Garth Corriveau
Ward 5 Alderman-Elect Edward Osborne
Ward 4 Alderman-Elect James Roy
Ward 3 Alderman-Elect Patrick Long
Ward 2 Alderman-Elect Ronald Ludwig
Ward 1 Alderman-Elect Joyce Craig
Alderman at-Large-Elect Michael Lopez
Alderman At-Large-Elect Daniel P. O'Neil

Mr. Sherman stated your Commissioner of Welfare-Elect Paul R.R. Martineau.

Mr. Sherman stated please welcome former Mayors of the City of Manchester.

The Honorable Frank C. Guinta
The Honorable Robert A. Baines
The Honorable Raymond J. Wiczorek

The Honorable Emile D. Beaulieu

The Honorable Sylvio L. Dupuis

Mr. Sherman stated please welcome Reverend Father Andrew H. Mahalares and His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios.

Mr. Sherman stated please welcome Pauline Gatsas, mother of Mayor-Elect Theodore L. Gatsas, escorted by her son, Michael Gatsas.

Mr. Sherman stated please welcome City Clerk Matthew Normand and His Excellency John H. Lynch, escorted by Manchester Police Chief David Mara. And now, the Honorable Mayor-Elect and Mrs. Theodore L. Gatsas, escorted by Manchester Fire Chief James Burkush.

Mr. Sherman stated kindly rise for the opening of these ceremonies with the presentation of the colors by members of the West High School NJROTC Color Guard. I would ask that you remain standing until the Colors have been retired.

Mr. Sherman stated kindly remain standing for the National Anthem performed by the Central High School Jazz Band.

Mr. Sherman stated please remain standing and join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, which will be led Noah Greenwood, Emin Kurtovic and Caitlin Pierson.

Mr. Sherman stated thank you Noah, Emin and Caitlin.

Mr. Sherman called up His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios to give the invocation.

His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios stated My Reverend Lord, we lift our hearts to invoke your presence this morning at these ceremonies. We reverently bow our heads before your heavenly throne to beseech your blessings upon our newly elected Mayor Ted Gatsas, as he assumes the responsibilities to lead this historic city. Guide him in his efforts to bring about a new era of public service. Inspire his decisions with your wisdom, and his evaluations and judgment with your mercy, fairness and kindness. Strengthen him as he faces the realities he will see - the hunger of the starving, the humiliation of the unemployed, the hopelessness of the neglected, the terror of those struggling with emotional illness, the bitterness of those victimized by terror, crime and all types of discrimination. Imbue him with the spirit of truth, and grant him wisdom, insight and boldness to address the challenges confronting this historic city. Captivate his heart. Mold his ideas. Inspire his mind and mentor him, as he exercises the responsibilities of his office. May he bring inspiration and innovation, integrity and intelligence and visionary leadership to the office entrusted to him by the citizens of Manchester. May he be protected by the shield of your righteousness and be armed with the sword of your spirit. We ask this in your name, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mr. Sherman thanked his Eminence Metropolitan Methodios and asked the audience to be seated.

Mr. Sherman stated we are assembled here in convention for the purpose of installing in office the Mayor-Elect, the Commissioner of Welfare-Elect, the Members-Elect of the Board of Aldermen, the Members-Elect of the School Board Committee, the Ward Moderators-Elect, the Ward Clerks-Elect and the Members-Elect of the Board of Selectmen for the respective wards, all of whom were duly chosen by the electorate of the City of Manchester at the last municipal election

held on Tuesday November 3, 2009, to administer the affairs of our municipal government in our wards for the ensuing term of two years. In carrying out this assignment in a legal manner as provided by the laws of the State of New Hampshire and the Ordinances of the City of Manchester, the required oath of office will be administered to each official, thus chosen.

Mr. Sherman stated the oath of office will be administered to Members-Elect of the Board of Aldermen by City Clerk Matthew Normand, who has accepted Mayor Gatsas' invitation to perform this solemn function. The Members-Elect of the Board of Aldermen will subscribe to the oath of office, and I request that each member-elect rise as his or her name is called. The oath will then be administered collectively. I ask that you hold your applause until all have been sworn in.

WARD12	PATRICK J. ARNOLD, JR.
WARD 11	RUSSELL OUELLETTE
WARD 10	PHIL GREAZZO
WARD 9	BARBARA E. SHAW
WARD 8	BETSI DEVRIES *
WARD 7	WILLIAM P. SHEA
WARD 6	GARTH CORRIVEAU
WARD 5	EDWARD OSBORNE
WARD 4	JAMES ROY
WARD 3	PATRICK LONG
WARD 2	RONALD LUDWIG
WARD 1	JOYCE CRAIG
AT-LARGE	MICHAEL LOPEZ
AT-LARGE	DANIEL P. O'NEIL

*Unable to attend

Mr. Sherman stated the oath of office will now be administered to Members-Elect of the Board of School Committee by City Clerk Matthew Normand, who has accepted Mayor Gatsas' invitation to perform this solemn function. The Members-Elect of the Board of School Committee will subscribe to the oath of office, and I request that each member-elect rise as his or her name is called. The oath will then be administered collectively. I ask that you hold your applause until all have been sworn in.

WARD 12	ROGER R. BEAUCHAMP
WARD 11	STEPHEN H. DOLMAN *
WARD 10	JOHN B. AVARD
WARD 9	ARTHUR J. BEAUDRY
WARD 8	THOMAS KATSIANTONIS
WARD 7	DAVID GELINAS
WARD 6	DONNA M. SOUCY
WARD 5	CATHRYN VAUGHN
WARD 4	CHRISTOPHER HERBERT
WARD 3	MICHAEL J. DEBLASI
WARD 2	JOSEPH BRIGGS
WARD 1	SARAH AMBROGI
AT-LARGE	KATHLEEN M. KELLEY
AT-LARGE	DEBRA GAGNON LANGTON

*Unable to attend.

Mr. Sherman stated the oath of office will now be administered to the Commissioner of Welfare-Elect Paul R.R. Martineau by City Clerk Matthew Normand.

Mr. Sherman stated the oath of office will be administered to Moderators-Elect of their respective wards by City Clerk Matthew Normand. Each member-elect will rise as his or her name is called. The oath will then be administered collectively. I ask that you hold your applause until all have been sworn in.

WARD 1	DIANNE D. BEATON *
WARD 2	WINFRED HUTCHINSON
WARD 3	TRACIE A. BUCKLEY
WARD 4	PATRICIA L. MARTIN *
WARD 5	PAUL CRAWFORD *
WARD 6	MARTIN F. QUIRK *
WARD 7	WENDY L. GARRITY *
WARD 8	ALBERTINE MORRISSETTE
WARD 9	GLORIA PILOTTE
WARD 10	MADELEINE ROY *
WARD 11	ROGER J. MAJOR *
WARD 12	RICHARD A. MARSTON

*Not able to attend.

Mr. Sherman stated the oath of office will now be administered to Ward Clerks - Elect of their respective wards by City Clerk Matthew Normand. Each member-elect will rise as his or her name is called. The oath will then be administered collectively. I ask that you hold your applause until all have been sworn in.

WARD 1	PAUL ALLARD *
WARD 2	E. NICHOLL MARSHALL
WARD 3	KATE V. DONOVAN *
WARD 4	MARGARET LEUZARDER
WARD 5	JEFFREY LUEBKERT
WARD 6	JON M. GROSS *
WARD 7	WILLIAM M. COTE
WARD 8	D. LYNN LAVIGNE *
WARD 9	BRIAN MCCOY
WARD 10	RUTH D. SMITH *
WARD 11	FELICE I. GOUPIL *
WARD 12	LUCILLE M. FOREST

*Not able to attend.

Mr. Sherman stated the oath of office will now be administered to the Selectmen-Elect of their respective wards by City Clerk Matthew Normand. Each member-elect will rise as his or her name is called. The oath will then be administered collectively. I ask that you hold your applause until all have been sworn in.

WARD 1 JAMES E. TOWNSEND
JOCELYNE D. CHAMPAGNE *
KAREN SHEEHAN LORD

WARD 2 CATHERINE L. HAMMOND *
JANET M. STILES
CAMERON DEJONG

WARD 3 ROBERT M. FREMEAU *
JEAN L. JEUDY
DENISE D. BOISVERT *

WARD 4 DAVID A. HORNE
NICKOLAS J. LEVASSEUR *
KIMBERLEE ANNE ROUX *

WARD 5 NORMA GREER CHAMPAGNE *
SANDRA A. PROULX
DAVID E. WALSH *

WARD 6 JAMES C. BURKE
PETER F. DELMASTRO
LEO VEILLEUX

WARD 7 MARY C. FREITAS
CAROL A. WILLIAMS *
CLAIRE ROY

WARD 8 NANCY M. PHILBIN
DONNA M. POWERS *
DIANE BURROUGHS

WARD 9 PAULETTE ASSELIN
DAVID R. LESSARD
JEAN E. KROCHMAL *

WARD 10 MARILYN A. CASHIN *
IRENE E. DUPONT
CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER

WARD 11 RAYMOND F .LAMY *
PAULINE C. BLANCHETTE
GERARD PROVENCHER

WARD 12 SIMONE F. LAROCHELLE
LORRAINE R. CHARRON
YVETTE G. SMITH

*Not able to attend.

Mr. Sherman introduced His Excellency Governor of New Hampshire John H. Lynch for a brief address and to administer the oath of office to Mayor-Elect Theodore L. Gatsas.

Mr. Sherman stated it is an honor to have you here today.

Governor John Lynch stated thank you Charlie and good morning everybody. Thank you very much for coming. My wife Susan is here today and I want to congratulate Ted Gatsas on his election as Mayor of Manchester. But more importantly we want to thank him. Thank him for his commitment to public service, not only to the people of Manchester, but also to the great State of New Hampshire. I've known Ted for a long time. We grew up in Manchester. We went to school in Manchester. He knows Manchester well and he loves this City. And I know that in all he does, he will do what he thinks is in the best interest of

the people of Manchester. And as Governor and with Manchester being New Hampshire's largest city, I very much look forward to being a partner with Ted Gatsas, to help make the great City of Manchester even greater. And with that, I am truly honored to administer the oath of office to Ted Gatsas.

Governor John Lynch administered the oath of office to Mayor Gatsas.

Mr. Sherman stated next I welcome Edward L Wade, Jr. to introduce our new Mayor, who will then deliver his inaugural address.

Edward L. Wade, Jr. stated good morning Governor Lynch, Mayor Gatsas, former Mayors Guinta, Baines, Wieczorek, Beaulieu and Dupuis, current and former members of the School and Aldermanic Boards, honored dignitaries, invited guests, friends and relatives. It is both an honor and a privilege for me to introduce our new Mayor Ted Gatsas today - my former ball player, Central High School student, State Senator, Alderman and the loving son of my former secretary Pauline. I was totally unprepared for this honor when Ted called my home and asked me to introduce him at the inauguration ceremony. It has been ten years since I retired from education. The last position I held was as the principal of Parkside Middle School. Quite honestly, I enjoy my privacy at this stage of my life and I agreed to speak today only because of my deep respect and feelings for Ted and the Gatsas family. For years, as Ted has pursued his political ambitions, I have asked myself several questions. Why would a successful business man of independent means now want to lead a city in such difficult economic times? Why wouldn't Ted just put his feet up and relax? Why not just take advantage of enjoying your residence at the seashore and walk the beach? Why not spend more time with your family? Or, why not enjoy eating a hot dog outside a bench at Cremeland and not worry about people interrupting your lunch

with political questions? The answer to those questions comes with an understanding of when and where Ted's sense of passion, drive and integrity was molded. My goal this morning is to introduce Ted to you through the eyes of a former coach and teacher at the school he attended. My career at Central began in 1965, after two years of viewing the world from the turret of an army tank overseas. It was at Central that I first observed Ted and had the pleasure of meeting him. To paraphrase a novelist Pearl S. Buck, 'One faces the future with an understanding of one's past'. And Ted's past has much to do with what he is today. Ted is a product of two wonderful and devoted parents, parents who were there, rain or shine, at every game that Ted and his brother Michael played. His parents sitting in the bleachers at the Central gym and Gill Stadium was a constant at all of their sons' games. And Ted's constant was how he played and excelled in those games. To put it in coaching terms, Ted came to play, game in and game out, with an unbridled willingness to compete that coaches love. However, his greatest strength was how he placed the team's goals above his outstanding and natural talent. He was a coach's dream. It always pleases me to hear Ted's praise of the quality of education he received at Central during his high school days. However, it should also be noted, that the quality of education during that time was being delivered by a long list of dedicated and devoted teachers throughout the city, including my father, who worked for years with limited resources, limited materials and minimal funding at best. Also, there were few, if any, female athletic teams in 1965. And it would be then a decade before there would be equal opportunities for our female athletes. And sadly, it was also a time when a number of our special needs students and their teachers were grouped together, taken out of the main stream of the student population and relegated to antiquated, underutilized and neglected buildings in the city - a sort of out of sight, out of mind solution for our special students in need. A great deal of progress has been made in all areas of the city since those days. But we still have a ways to go. And now over 40 years later, I find myself standing here with high hopes for the

city, and with the confidence Ted will apply his abilities to benefit the greater good of the city. Ted's political experience, business acumen and compassion are characteristics which will help him to continue to improve the quality of residing in our community, as evidenced by the hard work of our city laborers. One of the many reasons I cast my ballot for Ted was because I knew that if he were elected, he would insure that the budgetary process would include reasonable requests, adequate funding and responsible spending. And the voters of this city must have felt the same way, since they voted loud and clear in all wards for the person they want to lead them through these tough times. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct honor to be the first to introduce our new mayor, my former ball player and now my dear friend, Ted Gatsas.

Mayor Gatsas delivered his Inaugural address as follows:

THANK YOU COACH WADE FOR A WARM AND HEARTFELT INTRODUCTION. IT MEANS A LOT TO ME AND MY FAMILY TO HAVE YOU AND YOUR WIFE HERE WITH US TODAY. AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO GOVERNOR LYNCH FOR DOING ME THE HONOR OF SWEARING ME IN, AND TO DR. LYNCH FOR ALSO BEING HERE.

FIRST, I WANT TO THANK THE FIVE FORMER MAYORS THAT ARE HERE WITH US: MAYOR GUINTA, MAYOR BAINES, MAYOR WIECZOREK, MAYOR BEAULIEU, AND MAYOR DUPUIS. I THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE. AND NOW, I WANT TO WELCOME OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FELLOW CITY OFFICIALS, FORMER CITY OFFICIALS, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND FELLOW RESIDENTS OF THE GREAT CITY OF MANCHESTER TO TODAY'S INAUGURATION.

I ALSO WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO RECOGNIZE MY WIFE CASSANDRA WHO IS ON STAGE WITH ME TODAY. SHE HAS STOOD BY MY SIDE AND LOYALLY SUPPORTED ME, AS I WORKED HARD TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS AND IN PUBLIC SERVICE. THANK YOU, CASSANDRA. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESIDENTS OF MANCHESTER GETTING TO KNOW HER. SHE IS A PASSIONATE, ENERGETIC AND CARING PERSON WHO HAS A LOT TO OFFER THIS CITY.

AND I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT ALSO RECOGNIZE MY MOTHER, PAULINE, WHO IS ON STAGE WITH ME TODAY. AS MR. WADE SAID, SHE HAS BEEN MY NUMBER ONE CHEERLEADER. THANK YOU, MOM, FOR BEING SO SUPPORTIVE THROUGHOUT MY LIFE, REGARDLESS OF WHAT I WAS INVOLVED IN.

TO THE NEWLY SWORN IN MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE, TODAY IS AS MUCH ABOUT CELEBRATING YOUR SWEARING IN AS IT IS MINE. YOU'VE ALL WORKED VERY HARD TO BE HERE AND ARE DESERVING OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE WORK WE WILL DO TOGETHER ON BEHALF OF THE QUEEN CITY RESIDENTS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS WORKED SO HARD TO MAKE THIS CELEBRATION POSSIBLE, FROM MATT NORMAND AND HIS TEAM IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, TO THE GOOD FOLKS AT THE PALACE THEATRE FOR OPENING THEIR DOORS TO US ONCE AGAIN, TO MR. SHERMAN OUR EMCEE, TO HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN METHODIOS FOR THE INVOCATION. A SPECIAL THANKS TO BILL

SKOUTERIS WHO LED AND MANAGED THE CEREMONY ON BEHALF OF OUR TEAM. THANK YOU TO THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND FOR PROVIDING US WITH SUCH WONDERFUL MUSIC, THE WEST HIGH SCHOOL ROTC COLOR GUARD, THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS FOR YOUR IMPORTANT PARTICIPATION, AND FATHER ANDREW WHO WILL DELIVER OUR BENEDICTION. THANKS TO NOAH, EMIN, AND CAITLIN WHO DID A GREAT JOB WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. THESE THREE CHILDREN ARE SYMBOLS OF THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY, ALL SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS WITH BRIGHT FUTURES. I AM SO PROUD TO HAVE YOU HERE TODAY.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE FRANK GUINTA FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY FOR THE BETTER PART OF THE LAST DECADE. FRANK, YOUR IMPACT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN FELT, AND YOUR DEDICATION WAS EVIDENCED THROUGHOUT YOUR TIME IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND AS ALDERMAN. MY TEAM AND I THANK YOU FOR HELPING US ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION LEADING US TO TODAY. AND TO MORGAN GUINTA, WE ALSO THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE CITY AND TO THE VALUE THAT YOU HAVE ADDED DURING FRANK'S SERVICE.

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES. FORTY YEARS AGO I NEVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT A GREEK KID FROM BELMONT STREET WOULD BECOME THE MAYOR OF THIS CITY. WHILE TODAY IT BECOMES A REALITY, YOU ONLY NEED TO ASK MY BROTHER MICHAEL OR EVEN MY MOTHER PAULINE, AS SUPPORTIVE AS SHE IS, AND THEY WILL TELL YOU THAT AT TIMES NO ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THIS WAS POSSIBLE. BEYOND HARD WORK, SUPPORT FROM FAMILY, AND BLESSINGS FROM GOD, WHAT HELPED MAKE IT

POSSIBLE WAS THAT NO ONE TOLD ME IT WASN'T POSSIBLE AND I WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN ME.

AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF MANCHESTER WHO THINK WE ARE DESTINED TO UNDERPERFORM, DESTINED TO HAVE SCHOOLS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT, DESTINED TO HAVE HIGH CRIME, DESTINED TO HAVE ALDERMEN AND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO CANNOT WORK TOGETHER.

SIMPLY PUT, THEY AREN'T WILLING TO IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES, BECAUSE THEY STOPPED BELIEVING IN THIS CITY A LONG TIME AGO.

WELL LET'S BE CLEAR. I'M NOT ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE, AND AS LONG AS I AM ABLE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, I NEVER WILL BE. TODAY, I ASK YOU TO IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES WITH ME.

THOSE WHO KNEW ME WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND FOCUSED ON OTHER THINGS THAN PUBLIC SERVICE, COULD TELL YOU THAT BECOMING MAYOR WAS CERTAINLY MORE FARFETCHED THAN MANCHESTER OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES IT FACES AND REALIZING ITS FULL POTENTIAL. IF WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES AND DEDICATE OURSELVES TO MAKING IT HAPPEN, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES TOGETHER. IMAGINE WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH IF WE WORK TOGETHER AS ONE COMMUNITY WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVE.

IMAGINE HAVING A SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT SUCCESSFULLY PREPARES OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURE, AND BECOMES A SHINING EXAMPLE OF HOW TO DELIVER EDUCATION.

IMAGINE HAVING TAXPAYERS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE GETTING GOOD VALUE FOR THEIR DOLLAR.

IMAGINE CITY SERVICES THAT ARE MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE.

IMAGINE BEING ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE IN MANCHESTER, AT ANY TIME, AND FEEL SAFE.

IMAGINE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY WANTING TO COME TO MANCHESTER AND STAY IN MANCHESTER.

IMAGINE OTHERS SAYING WE HAVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN THE STATE.

AND IMAGINE MANCHESTER LEADING THE GREEN REVOLUTION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, WE NEED TO COLLECTIVELY STOP SAYING WE CAN'T AND START THINKING ABOUT HOW WE WILL. AND STARTING RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO BELIEVE IN OUR COMMUNITY AGAIN.

NOW COMES THE OBVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO TURN THESE POSSIBILITIES INTO REALITY?

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, WE WILL NEED ELECTED OFFICIALS, MYSELF INCLUDED, TO PUT ASIDE PARTISAN POLITICS, TO FORGET ABOUT MAJORITIES AND MINORITIES AND TO CONSISTENTLY WORK TOGETHER FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR CITY. THIS WILL ALSO REQUIRE US TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AS ONE CITY, RATHER THAN TAKING POSITIONS THAT WORK BEST FOR THE EAST SIDE, THE WEST SIDE, THE NORTH END OR THE SOUTH END.

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, WE MUST GET OUR FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER. OUR BUDGET PROCESS IS ANTIQUATED, INEFFICIENT AND FOSTERS BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT. WE NEED TO START THE PROCESS EARLIER, USE OUR TIME WISELY, ENGAGE ALL SCHOOL COMMITTEEMEN AND ALDERMEN IN THE BUDGET PROCESS AND CONDUCT MORE MEETINGS TOGETHER IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE THE DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING.

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, WE NEED TO MAKE MORE INFORMED DECISIONS AND TAKE SWIFT AND DECISIVE ACTION. FAILURE TO DO SO PUTS PEOPLE AT RISK AND ALMOST ALWAYS COSTS THE TAXPAYERS MORE IN THE LONG RUN. DEBATE IS GOOD AND SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED, BUT DELAY IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, WE NEED A CITY GOVERNMENT THAT IS CUSTOMER FOCUSED, RESPONSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE. WE NEED TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, STREAMLINE

OUR OPERATIONS, CONSOLIDATE WHERE IT MAKES SENSE, AND GENERATE SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS. WE WILL NEED TO OFFER MORE SERVICES ONLINE AND MAKE OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT MORE USER FRIENDLY. WE WILL NEED TO ROUTINELY SEEK FEEDBACK FROM THOSE WE ARE ENTRUSTED TO SERVE. AND, WE WILL NEED TO CONTINUALLY ASK OURSELVES, 'HOW CAN WE DO IT BETTER?'

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME A REALITY, WE WILL NEED SAFE CITY STREETS WHERE OUR FAMILIES CAN LIVE, WORK AND PROSPER WITHOUT FEAR. SAFETY ON OUR STREETS, IN OUR SCHOOLS, AND IN OUR NEIGHBORHOODS IS TANTAMOUNT TO REALIZING OUR FULL POTENTIAL. WE WILL NEED TO LEVERAGE OUR RESOURCES AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL TO THE MAXIMUM. WE WILL NEED TO UPDATE AND MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT, CRACK DOWN ON GANGS AND DRUG TRAFFIC AND THE VIOLENCE THAT FOLLOWS. AND WE WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND COMMUNITY POLICING.

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE A ROBUST EDUCATION SYSTEM, PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR FUTURES, PROVIDING THEM WITH OPPORTUNITIES, ENGAGING THEIR PARENTS, CREATING A MORE DISCIPLINED AND RESPECTFUL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT, HOLDING LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABLE FOR RESULTS, AND LOBBYING FOR FAIR TESTING STANDARDS. WE CAN AND WE WILL GET THE MANCHESTER SCHOOL SYSTEM BACK ON TRACK. IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, WE WILL NEED A FINANCIALLY SOUND AND DIVERSE GOVERNMENT AND THAT STARTS WITH OUR TAX BASE. WE NEED

TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESSES TO COME TO MANCHESTER AND STAY IN MANCHESTER. TO CONTINUE TO BE THE ECONOMIC HEART OF NEW HAMPSHIRE WE NEED TO EXPAND OUR TAX BASE, ATTRACT BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY. WE WILL NEED TO FOSTER OUR ECONOMIC ENGINES SUCH AS THE AIRPORT, REDUCE AND ELIMINATE THE UNNECESSARY BUREAUCRACIES INVOLVED IN STARTING A BUSINESS OR GROWING A BUSINESS, REBUILD OUR MANUFACTURING BASE AND AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN DELIVER VALUE TO THE TAXPAYERS WHILE REDUCING THE BURDEN THEY CURRENTLY FACE.

IF POSSIBILITIES ARE TO BECOME REALITY, AS YOUR MAYOR I WILL NEED TO BE THE CITY'S BIGGEST CHEERLEADER, TO ASK THE TOUGH QUESTIONS, TO PUT SOLUTIONS BEFORE POLITICS, TO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY, TO FOSTER A POSITIVE AND PRODUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT AT CITY HALL, TO PUT EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS ON DISPLAY WHICH INSPIRE EVERYONE, TO HELP CREATE A SCHOOL SYSTEM WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF AND A COMMUNITY THAT IS SAFE BY ALL STANDARDS, TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE TYPE OF FIRST CLASS LEADERSHIP AND CONSTITUENT SERVICE THAT ARE SO DESERVING OF, AND TO CONTINUALLY CHALLENGE OUR CITY TO IMAGE THE POSSIBILITIES.

I AM CONFIDENT WHAT I HAVE OUTLINED TODAY WILL LEAD TO A BETTER PLACE, BUT I WON'T STAND HERE TODAY AND PRETEND I HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS OR THAT THE TASK AT HAND WILL BE EASY. WHILE I HAVE NEVER SHIED AWAY FROM SHARING MY OPINION, SOMETIMES QUITE FORCEFULLY, I KNOW THAT ALONE, I

CANNOT MAKE THESE POSSIBILITIES A REALITY. HAVING BEEN IN GOVERNMENT FOR THE BETTER PART OF THE LAST DECADE, I KNOW FIRSTHAND THAT CHANGE DOESN'T COME EASY, AND IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T COME OVERNIGHT. WHILE I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, I DO HAVE A PLAN THAT I BELIEVE WITH ALL MY HEART WILL GET US THERE. THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THAT PLAN, AND THE JOURNEY BEGINS TODAY.

I FUNDAMENTALLY BELIEVE THAT THE BEST ANSWERS TO OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES DON'T ALWAYS COME FROM GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS WHY MY ADMINISTRATION WILL CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE RESIDENTS IN THE PROCESS. WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY WITH PUBLIC HEARINGS AND TELEVISION BROADCASTS OF OUR CITY MEETINGS, BUT THAT SIMPLY IS NOT ENOUGH TO GET US WHERE WE NEED TO BE.

STARTING TODAY, WE WILL INITIATE TWO NEW OUTREACH PROGRAMS. THE FIRST IS A MAYOR'S NIGHT OUT, WHICH I WILL HOST, AND THE ALL THE ALDERMEN AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. THREE TIMES A YEAR, ONCE AT EACH OF THE THREE HIGH SCHOOLS, RESIDENTS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS OF THEIR ELECTED OFFICIALS IN AN INFORMAL SETTING. I WILL ENCOURAGE THEM TO SHARE THEIR IDEAS AND BE PART OF THE PROCESS.

WE WILL ALSO BEGIN A MAYOR'S NIGHT IN AT CITY HALL NINE TIMES A YEAR, WHERE WE WILL HAVE ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS AND SELECT STAFF ON HAND FROM 6:00 TO 8:00 PM FOR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE QUESTIONS OR ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

AND CANNOT COME TO CITY HALL DURING WORKING HOURS. THEY WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH THOSE WHO CAN HELP, FACE TO FACE. AND OF COURSE, IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR IDEAS AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS DIRECTLY WITH CITY LEADERS.

IN AN EFFORT TO JUMPSTART COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND TO QUICKLY BEGIN GENERATING IDEAS THAT CAN LEAD TO SOLUTIONS, TODAY I ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF TWO COMMUNITY TASK FORCE GROUPS. EACH TASK FORCE WILL CONSIST OF SEVEN MEMBERS WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP TO BE ANNOUNCED AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING TODAY AT CITY HALL.

THE FIRST GROUP IS THE TASK FORCE ON EFFICIENCIES AND CONSOLIDATIONS. THIS TEAM OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO REVIEW CITY DEPARTMENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATIONS, AND OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS ON AREAS WHERE CONSOLIDATION AND EFFICIENCIES CAN ADD VALUE TO THE BOTTOM LINE AND STREAMLINE OUR GOVERNMENT.

THE SECOND GROUP IS THE TASK FORCE ON STUDENT ALIGNMENT. THIS TEAM WILL CONDUCT A NON-POLITICAL AND THOROUGH REVIEW OF HOW WE ARE CURRENTLY ALIGNING OUR STUDENTS ACROSS OUR SCHOOL FACILITIES, HOW SCHOOL DISTRICT LINES ARE DRAWN AND WHAT BUSING ROUTES ARE IN EFFECT.

RECOMMENDATIONS WILL INCLUDE HOW TO MORE EFFICIENTLY ALIGN OUR STUDENT POPULATION, WHERE THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITIES TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING ARE, AND WHETHER

THE CURRENT FACILITIES USAGE IS OPTIONAL BASED ON THE ADOPTED K-5, MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL MODEL.

EACH OF THESE GROUPS WILL SEEK INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, SO ALL MANCHESTER RESIDENTS WILL HAVE A VOICE. BEYOND EACH GROUP HOSTING A PUBLIC MEETING, WE WILL CREATE AN ONLINE SURVEY WITHIN THE CITY WEBSITE WHERE RESIDENTS CAN OFFER THEIR IDEAS. AND FOR THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE WEB USERS, WE WILL ALSO ACTIVATE A SEPARATE TELEPHONE LINE WHERE RESIDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE.

THE TASK FORCE ON EFFICIENCIES AND CONSOLIDATION WILL PROVIDE A FULL REPORT, INCLUDING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS, TO THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN AND THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15TH IN LINE WITH THIS YEAR'S EXPEDITED BUDGET PROCESS. THE TASK FORCE ON SCHOOLS WILL PROVIDE THEIR REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY APRIL 15TH. ONCE SUBMITTED, WE WILL HOST JOINT MEETINGS OF BOTH BOARDS TO REVIEW THE REPORTS AND DISCUSS THE FINDINGS.

I BELIEVE WE CAN GENERATE GREAT VALUE FROM SUCH GROUPS WHILE EMPOWERING CITIZEN ACTIVISM, AND HOPEFULLY INSPIRING OUR NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS. MY EXPECTATION IS THAT THESE IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE GENERATED WILL BE WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS BY BOTH BOARDS AND BE FOLLOWED BY A SPIRITED DISCUSSION OF HOW WE CAN MAKE SOME OF THESE THINGS HAPPEN, RATHER THAN WHY WE CANNOT. COMMUNITY INPUT WILL SPARK DEBATE, HELP US

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES, AND INFORM OUR DECISIONS. THIS WILL NOT BE ANOTHER GROUP WHOSE HARD WORK IS LEFT ON A SHELF TO COLLECT DUST.

AND, LET ME BE CLEAR ABOUT MY INTENTIONS. I AM NOT ESTABLISHING THESE CITIZEN TASK FORCE GROUPS BECAUSE I LACK CONFIDENCE IN OUR CITY AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS, OR BECAUSE I AM ABDICATING THEIR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. I'M ANNOUNCING THIS TODAY BECAUSE WE MUST SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESS OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES, AND THAT WILL REQUIRE THE ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS THE OFFICIALS ELECTED TO REPRESENT THEM. ANOTHER INITIATIVE BEGINNING TODAY IS ALL DEPARTMENTS INCLUDING THE ENTERPRISE FUNDS WILL BE PLACING ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE ALL VENDORS, CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANTS AND PAYMENTS TO EACH FOR EVERY CITIZEN TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND. TRANSPARENCY IS A MUST IN CITY GOVERNMENT.

I AM CONVINCED THAT BY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, FOSTERING A HIGHER LEVEL OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, ESTABLISHING A NON-PARTISAN SPIRIT AT CITY HALL AND COMMITTING TO IMAGINING THE POSSIBILITIES WE CAN AND WE WILL ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US. WE WILL DO IT TOGETHER, AND WE WILL DO IT WITH OUR HEADS HELD HIGH.

LET'S BE BOLD ENOUGH TO IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES. LET'S COMMIT OURSELVES TO BUILDING A BETTER MANCHESTER TOGETHER. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS THE CITY OF MANCHESTER. THANK YOU.

Mr. Sherman stated before we close the ceremony I'd like to call upon the Reverend Father Andrew H. Mahalares of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral who has accepted Mayor Gatsas' invitation to deliver the Benediction.

Reverend Father Andrew H. Malares stated let us pray. O Heavenly King and Benefactor of all, we humbly thank you for the opportunity to gather together in honoring those elected to the City positions her in Manchester. We humbly ask Our Lord that you grant them the wisdom to understand the gifts that they have and the use that should be made of them. We ask, O Lord, that with that wisdom and that effort that the honorable leaders turn to hard work and all that they say, think and do be for the citizens of this great and honorable City, that all their work be for unity, progress and growth for each and every citizen in this City of Manchester and that your benevolent wisdom and grace be with them always. We ask this in the name of Tribune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mr. Sherman stated thank you, Father.

Mr. Sherman stated ladies and gentlemen, please remain seated until those on the stage leave during the recessional performance. The recessional will be performed by the Central High School Jazz Band who we again thanked for performing for us today. This inaugural ceremony is now complete and the assembly now stands adjourned.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk