BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

January 2, 1996 **10:00 AM**

Members of the City Government elected at the Municipal Election held November 7, 1995 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. Ovide Lamontagne, Master of Ceremonies, called the meeting to order. The elected officials, ushered by representatives of the Fire and Police Departments, were seated. The colors were then presented by the members of the Manchester Fire Department, following which Lindsay Basoukas sang the National Anthem, followed by posting of the colors. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dianne Roy. Mr. Lamontagne then advised that we were 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, Member-elect of the Board of School Committee, Ward Clerks-elect, Moderators-elect, and the Members-elect of the Board of Selectmen, in their respective wards who were duly chosen by the Electorate of the City of Manchester at the last Municipal Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 1995, to administer the affairs of our Municipal Government and 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 was administered to each official thus chosen.

The invocation was then given by Rev. Monsignor Thomas Hannigan, of St. Catherine Church.

The Oath of Office was then administered to the **Members-Elect of the Board of Aldermen** by Leo R. Bernier, City Clerk as follows:

WARD 1 DAVID M. WIHBY
WARD 2 FRANCOISE ELISE
WARD 3 TIMOTHY S. REINIGER
WARD 4 MARY A. SYSYN
WARD 5 JAMES J. CLANCY
WARD 6 DONNA M. SOUCY
WARD 7 WILLIAM P. SHEA
WARD 8 JACQUELYN M. DOMAINGUE
WARD 9 ROBERT J. PARISEAU
WARD 10 WILLIAM B. CASHIN
WARD 11 THOMAS M. ROBERT
WARD 12 KEITH HIRSCHMANN

The Oath of Office was then administered to **Members-Elect of the Board of School Committee** who were present at the Inaugural and so designated by an asterisk beside their names by Mr. Bernier as follows:

WARD 1 LESLEE M. STEWART
*WARD 2 RICHARD A. DUMONT
*WARD 3 LYNN ZEBROWSKI
*WARD 4 VANESSA L. M. JOHNSON
*WARD 5 KATHERINE M. LABANARIS
*WARD 6 JOHN P. GATSAS
*WARD 7 DANIEL J. HEALY
*WARD 8 SANDRA DUBISZ PARADIS
*WARD 9 SUSAN A. DESROSIERS
*WARD 10 LOU D'ALLESANDRO
*WARD 11 LORRAINE M. LAMONTAGNE
*WARD 12 JANICE L. TREMBLAY

The Oath of Office was then administered to the **Ward Clerks-Elect** who were present at the Inaugural and so designated by an asterisk beside their names by Mr. Bernier as follows:

*WARD 1 DAVID W. ROBINSON
WARD 2 GREGORY S. TIMBAS
*WARD 3 PATRICIA L. MARTIN
*WARD 4 MARION MCMILLAN
WARD 5 J. FRANCIS LAUGHLIN
*WARD 6 JON M. GROSS
WARD 7 JOHN G. GIMAS
*WARD 8 MARIE POIRIER
WARD 9 RICHARD F. PARKER
WARD 10 RITA B. LACHANCE
WARD 11 FELICE I. GOUPIL
WARD 12 LUCILLE M. BOISVERT

The Oath of Office was then administered to the **Moderators-Elect** who were present at the Inaugural and so designated by an asterisk beside their names by Mr. Bernier as follows:

*WARD 1 WILLIAM E. ARNOLD
WARD 2 DENNIS A. HEBERT, JR.
*WARD 3 JOANNE A. O'ROURKE
*WARD 4 DANIEL P. O'NEIL
WARD 5 ERIC PALANGAS
*WARD 6 MICHELLE CHAMPAGNE-FIELD
WARD 7 PAUL J. DWYER
*WARD 8 PHILIP W. CROASDALE
WARD 9 DONALD D. FOLEY
WARD 10 HENRY R. DUFRESNE
*WARD 11 EVERETT GODBOIS
*WARD 12 EUGENE L. GAGNON

The Oath of Office was then administered to the **Selectmen-Elect** who were present at the Inaugural and so designated by an asterisk beside their names by Mr. Bernier as follows:

WARD 1 *MARK E. FERDINANDO
*SHIRLEY C. FRANK
*SANDRA J. REEVES

WARD 2 *DORIS A. ROBITAILLE
*JANET M. STILES
*BEATRICE P. VARKAS

WARD 3 *LUCIENNE A. COTE
*STEPHEN A. MCNALLY
*HAROLD M. WORTHEN, JR.

WARD 4 *LIONEL W. JOHNSON
*MAURICE R. LEBEL
*DONALD F. MCMAHON

WARD 5 ROGER G. HEBERT
*JAMES A. MCDONALD, SR.
*THOMAS R. STEWART

WARD 6 BENJAMIN C. BARODY
*WILLIAM F. COUTURE
*JOHN F. DEMERS

WARD 7 EDWARD J. CROTTY
JOSEPH G. LAFRANCE
*RONALD LAVIGNE

WARD 8 *RALPH N. CHASE
*PAUL J. RILEY
*SANDRA N. ROGERS

WARD 9 *GERALD O. GOSSELIN
*LUCIENNE C. JOBIN
MAUREEN M. LILLIS

WARD 10 MARILYN A. CASHIN
*CHRISTOPHER R. MESSIER
*MADELEINE G. ROY

WARD 11 ERNEST E. CHABOT
JEAN M. COMTOIS
GEORGE R. PELLERIN

WARD 12 LUCILLE M. BOISVERT
*ROBERT "BOB" CHABOT
*LILLIAN T. RHEAULT

The Oath of Office was then administered to Commissioner of Welfare-Elect, Susan G. Lafond, by Mr. Bernier.

The Oath of Office was then administered to the Mayor-Elect Raymond J. Wieczorek, by James S. and Robert J. Wieczorek, following which, Mayor Wieczorek delivered his Inaugural address as follows:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE, ALL OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, FAMILY, FRIENDS, HONORED GUESTS, AND CITIZENS OF MANCHESTER, WELCOME TO THE CITY OF MANCHESTER'S INAUGURAL CEREMONIES.

FOR THE LAST 150 YEARS, OUR CITY'S ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE COME BEFORE THE PEOPLE ON INAUGURATION DAY TO ADDRESS THE DIRECTION AND NEEDS OF OUR CITY. IT BEGAN IN 1846 WHEN MAYOR HIRAM BROWN DELIVERED THE FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN OUR CITY'S HISTORY. WE DID TRY TO LOCATE THIS HISTORIC TEXT, ALL FIFTY PAGES OF IT, BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. IT APPARENTLY WAS NOT PRESERVED.

IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT CITY FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS. I HAVE BEEN HUMBLED BY THE STRONG SUPPORT MANCHESTER'S CITIZENS HAVE SHOWN FOR ME NOT ONLY DURING MY ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, BUT ALL THROUGHOUT MY PREVIOUS TERMS AS MAYOR. IT IS THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER THAT I WISH TO SPEAK ABOUT TODAY.

WE HEAR TIME AND AGAIN THAT OUR CITY IS AT A CRITICAL CROSSROADS IN ITS HISTORY AND THAT OUR VERY FUTURE IS AT STAKE. IN AS MUCH AS WE NOW SEEK TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS AS A CITY, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO EVALUATE WHERE WE HAVE COME FROM, ASSESS OUR OPPORTUNITIES, AND DETERMINE WHAT OUR FUTURE WILL BE.

THE TRUE CROSSROAD WE MUST DEAL WITH IS THAT OF "ATTITUDE". MANCHESTER WAS ONCE HOME TO SOME OF THE GREATEST INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS KNOWN TO THE MODERN INDUSTRIAL WORLD. OUR TEXTILE, SHOE, HEAVY MACHINERY, LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, AND MANY OTHERS WERE KNOWN THE WORLD OVER FOR THIS INGENUITY AND QUALITY. MANCHESTER HAD NO EQUAL. THE INDUSTRIALISTS OF MANCHESTER'S PAST DARED TO LIVE THE GREAT DREAMS THEY HAD, AND MANCHESTER'S CITIZENS WORKED TO MAKE THEM REALITY.

EVEN AFTER THE MILLS HAD FALTERED AND COLLAPSED, THE GREAT SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR CITY, WHICH BECAME FAMOUS AS "THE

CITY THAT WOULD NOT DIE," NOT ONLY SAVED MANCHESTER, BUT MADE IT PROSPER. MANCHESTER'S FUTURE HAD NEVER BEEN SO DARK. BUT MANCHESTER'S CITIZENS AND CIVIC LEADERS HAD NEVER WORKED TOGETHER SO SELFLESSLY. TODAY, WE ARE A LIVING PART OF THAT LEGACY. WE ARE HERE BECAUSE THEY DARED TO DO THE BOLD THINGS NECESSARY TO RESCUE MANCHESTER FROM A CERTAIN DEATH THAT STOLE LIFE FROM SO MANY CITIES LIKE IT.

TODAY, BATTERED BY FIERCE ECONOMIC STORMS AND PLAGUED WITH FUTURE ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY, MANCHESTER IS ONE AGAIN AT A DEFINING POINT IN ITS EXISTENCE. WILL CITIZENS AND CIVIC LEADER ALIKE PUT PARTISAN AND PERSONAL BICKERING ASIDE AND AGAIN WORK SELFLESSLY TOGETHER FOR MANCHESTER'S FUTURE? WILL WE SIT IDLY BY AND WATCH OUR CITY FURTHER DETERIORATE? OR WILL WE ONCE AGAIN DARE TO DREAM GREAT DREAMS AND TAKE BOLD ACTION?

I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER, ITS BUSINESS LEADERS, AND MANY OF ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY STEPPED FORWARD TO DO THE DIFFICULT WORK THAT MUST BE DONE TO BUILD A PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR OUR CITY. ONE NEED ONLY LOOK AT THE RESOUNDING SUCCESSES WE HAVE EXPERIENCED WITH INITIATIVES LIKE CITIZENS PLANNING REVITALIZATION, THE LDR URBAN DESIGN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY, THE MANCHESTER AGENDA, MANCHESTER NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, THE ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY, AND THE WAR ON CRIME TO SEE THAT THE SPIRIT THAT SAVED MANCHESTER SOME 60 YEARS AGO, IS STILL ALIVE AND WELL TODAY.

THE PEOPLE, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND BUSINESSES HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY WILL NOT LET MANCHESTER SLIDE INTO INFAMY, BUT WILL WORK FOR ITS FUTURE. IT IS OUR DUTY AS YOUR LEADERS TO GIVE DIRECTION TO THAT EFFORT.

AS MAYOR, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY VISION TO MAKE MANCHESTER A "DESTINATION CITY;" A PLACE TO OPEN A BUSINESS, RAISE A FAMILY, AND RETIRE SECURELY. THIS IS WHY I PUSHED FOR THE EXPANSION OF OUR AIRPORT AND FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE NEARLY SOLD OUT MANCHESTER AIR PARK, IN ADDITION TO THE INITIATIVES I PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.

IMPRESSIVE AS THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN, AND ACTION WILL CONTINUE ON THEM WITH MY FULL SUPPORT, THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH. IF WE ARE TO TRULY REALIZE THE VISION OF MANCHESTER AS A "DESTINATION

CITY," WE MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TWO PROJECTS: U. S. FIRST AND CENTERPLEX. I BELIEVE MANCHESTER'S FUTURE PROSPERITY COULD VERY WELL REST WITH THESE TWO PROJECTS.

I AM PLEASED TO TELL YOU THAT U. S. FIRST, A PROJECT RECOMMENDED IN THE LDR INTOWN MANCHESTER PLAN, HAS SELECTED AN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM THAT IS WORLD CLASS FOR MUSEUM PLANNING AND EXHIBITS DESIGNED TO DEVELOP THE FULL MASTER PLAN FOR THE BUILDING. PHASE ONE SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

BECAUSE SOMEONE DARED TO DREAM GREAT THINGS, AND OTHER HAD THE COURAGE TO SUPPORT THE CONCEPT AND MAKE IT HAPPEN, MANCHESTER WILL SOON BE THE HOME OF ALL THE WORLD'S NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING. IT IS NOT JUST A MUSEUM THAT WILL GENERATE THOUSANDS OF TOURIST VISITS EACH YEAR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IT IS GOING TO BE A WORLD CLASS, INTERACTIVE, SCIENCE FACILITY THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO OUR SCHOOL CHILDREN AND BUSINESSES. THE BENEFITS TO ALL PARTIES OF THIS INTERACTION ARE IMMEASURABLE. AGAIN, THIS IS A MAJOR STEP IN MAKING MANCHESTER A DESTINATION CITY.

IF WE SUCCEED IN CONVINCING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TO EXPAND ITS PRESENCE IN THE MILLYARD AND IN ESTABLISHING A HI-TECH BUSINESS INCUBATOR THERE AS WELL, U. S. FIRST WILL TRULY MAKE MANCHESTER THE NATIONAL HOME OF SCIENCE AND MATH EDUCATION FOR HI-TECH INNOVATION. IT IS A PROJECT WITH SOME VERY EXCITING POSSIBILITIES FOR OUR CITY. I WANT TO PUBLICLY THANK ALL THOSE IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND ON THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN WHO HAVE SHOWN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR MANCHESTER AND IT PROVES THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF TAKING THE BOLD STEPS NEEDED TO MAKE A DREAM COME TRUE FOR THE GOOD OF OUR CITY.

EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF MANCHESTER IS CENTERPLEX. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL AND POLITICAL DIFFERENCES THAT MUST BE PUT ASIDE FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY.

FRANKLY, I AM TIRED OF ALL THOSE WHO SAY THEY SUPPORT CENTERPLEX BUT OPPOSE IT AS TOO COSTLY FOR THE TAXPAYER. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AND I SAY TO YOU, AND TO ALL WHO CLAIM TO

SUPPORT THIS PROJECT, THAT THE TIME FOR RHETORIC HAS COME TO AN END AND THE TIME FOR ACTION IS AT HAND. WE ARE EITHER GOING TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A PROJECT THAT CAN BE SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY OR WE ARE GOING TO LOSE THE BEST OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE HAD IN THE LAST THIRTY YEARS AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE IN THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS TO GET THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT DONE.

SO FAR, EVERY MARKETING, DEMOGRAPHIC, AND FEASIBILITY STUDY WE HAVE SEEN, CLEARLY INDICATES THAT A CENTERPLEX COULD BE A HUGE SUCCESS. WE HAVE MOBILIZED THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S INVOLVEMENT IN A MANNER UNMATCHED, EVEN WHEN MEASURED AGAINST THE AIRPORT EXPANSION EFFORT.

WE HAVE OBTAINED A COMMITMENT FROM THE AHL TO BRING A HOCKEY TEAM HERE AND AN OWNER THAT IS WILLING TO SIGN A TEN YEAR LEASE, WHICH I AM TOLD IS UNHEARD OF IN THE INDUSTRY, IF WE BUILD CENTERPLEX.

WE HAVE THE FRAMEWORK OF A FINANCING PLAN THAT PROVIDES FOR A 70%/30% PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP WHICH IS WHAT MANY CITIZENS WANTED RATHER THAN HAVING IT COMPLETELY FUNDED PUBLICLY. THIS ARRANGEMENT GIVES THE CITY LEVERAGE TO INSURE THAT THE CENTERPLEX WILL BE AFFORDABLE AND WILL PROVIDE FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT.

ANOTHER EARLY PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED WAS THAT THERE COULD BE A POTENTIAL $500,000 PER YEAR OPERATING LOSS. THE COMMITTEE WENT TO WORK ON THIS AND NOW HAS COMMITMENTS FROM THE WORLD'S TWO LEADING MANAGEMENT COMPANIES GUARANTEEING THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY OPERATING LOSS IN THE CITY OF MANCHESTER. ONE OF THESE TWO FIRMS HAS MANAGED THE WORCESTER CENTRUM, WHICH IS ADDING ANOTHER 2,500 SEATS AND SEVERAL LUXURY BOXES, SINCE IT WAS BUILT TWELVE YEARS AGO. THEY HAVE STATED THAT THEY HAVE NEVER HAD AN OPERATING LOSS AND, AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT HAS SHARED SOME $15 MILLION WITH THE CITY OF WORCESTER OVER THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

ALL THAT REMAINS TO BE DONE BEFORE WE ARE ABLE TO SOLIDIFY ALL THE PROJECT'S DETAILS IS FOR THE STATE TO GRANT OUR REQUEST TO GUARANTEE THE ROOMS AND MEALS TAX INCREMENT NECESSARY TO AMORTIZE THE BONDS. THE PREVIOUS BOARD OF MAYOR AND

ALDERMEN, MOST OF WHOM WILL SIT DURING THIS TERM, HAVE TWICE EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT. THEREFORE, I URGE THE MEMBERS OF MANCHESTER'S LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO STAND UNITED BEHIND OUR PROPOSAL TO THE STATE AND WORK VIGOROUSLY FOR ITS PASSAGE.

BEFORE I CLOSE ON THIS, I WANT TO STATE ONE THING CLEARLY. THE BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM THESE PROJECTS, U. S. FIRST AND CENTERPLEX, ARE ABOUT ONE THING AND ONE THING ONLY: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

PROPERTY MAKING UP THE TAX BASE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA WILL REMAIN SOFT AND UNSTABLE UNTIL WE REDEVELOP THIS AREA. THE CENTER POINT OF THESE PROJECTS IS THAT THEY WILL BRING THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE INTO THE DOWNTOWN ON A REGULAR, ALMOST DAILY, BASIS; PEOPLE WHO WILL STAY IN HOTELS, BROWSE THROUGH SHOPS, EAT AT RESTAURANTS, PATRONIZE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, AND VISIT BUSINESSES. WHERE THERE ARE PEOPLE, THERE IS A GENERAL DEMAND FOR GOODS AND SERVICES THAT WILL FILL VACANT SPACE THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN, MILLYARD AND ADJOINING AREAS. THIS WILL GENERATE RENT, CAUSE PROPERTY OWNERS TO RENOVATE THEIR SPACE TO COMPETE FOR TENANTS, THEREBY IMPROVING PROPERTY VALUES AND EXPANDING THE TAX BASE OF THIS CITY, WHICH SHOULD, IF WE KEEP SPENDING UNDER TIGHT CONTROL, ALLOW US ALL TO EXPERIENCE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

IT IS TIME FOR THE "NAY-SAYERS" TO GIVE MANCHESTER A CHANCE TO PROVE IT CAN BE DONE AND THEN WORK TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

AS I JUST ALLUDED TO, MANCHESTER MUST KEEP TIGHT FISCAL CONTROL DURING THESE HARD TIMES. THOUGH THE DOWNWARD TRENDS IN OUR TAX BASE AND ECONOMY SEEM TO BE MODERATING, THEY ARE STILL HEADED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. UNCERTAINTY IN WASHINGTON AND CONCORD, COMBINED WITH LOOMING CUTS IN SERVICES AND REVENUE MAKE IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE CONTINUE AND STEP-UP OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE CITY GOVERNMENT AS COST-EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE. IT IS NOT MY INTENT THAT THE FUNDING PROBLEMS OF THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS' BE ADDED TO OUR OWN. WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE FINANCIAL WHEREWITHAL TO PICK UP WHERE THEY LEAVE OFF.

THOUGHT I WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE ALL EFFICIENCY MEASURES, SUCH AS CONSOLIDATION, COMPETITIVE BIDDING, AND OTHER

INNOVATIONS, CHARTER REFORM IS PROBABLY THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL WE CAN USE TO HELP MAKE MANCHESTER'S GOVERNMENT BECOME MORE COST-EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND RESPONSIVE. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY. MANCHESTER'S GOVERNMENT IS CUMBERSOME AND WASTEFUL BY DESIGN. THIS IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TO CHANGE IT FUNDAMENTALLY.

A WORD OF CAUTION IS IN ORDER, HOWEVER. WHILE CHARTER REFORM IS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY, IT HAS ITS RISKS, ESPECIALLY IF IT FALLS PREY TO THE SPECIAL INTERESTS. MANY OF THE DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE WITH OUR CURRENT CHARTER ARE THE RESULT OF POLITICAL AND SPECIAL INTERESTS PROTECTING THEIR TURF. TO PERPETUATE SPECIAL INTEREST POLITICS SIMPLY IS NOT FAIR TO THE CITIZENS OF MANCHESTER WHO DESERVE EFFICIENT AND FAIR GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, I URGE ALL CITIZENS TO CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR CHARTER COMMISSION.

THERE ARE 108, AND CLOSE SCRUTINY WILL BE DIFFICULT, BUT IT IS CRITICAL. WE MUST BE CAREFUL TO ELECT THOSE WHO WILL HAVE AN OPEN MIND AND A SINCERE DESIRE TO MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE EFFICIENT, RESPONSIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE TO ALL OUR CITIZENS.

THOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN OUR CITY OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.

AS TO EDUCATION, OUR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT IS IN VERY CAPABLE HANDS, LED BY OUR SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT WHO, WITH HIS ADMINISTRATION, WILL BE UNVEILING A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN NEXT MONTH. I AM DETERMINED TO ADDRESS THE MANY ISSUES OUR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT IS DEALING WITH

INCREASING ELEMENTARY ENROLLMENT HAS CAUSED THE ONGOING DISCUSSIONS OF BUILDING A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE. WE CONTINUE TO POSITIVELY ADDRESS ISSUES THAT IMPACT ON THE ACCREDITATION OF OUR HIGH SCHOOLS. WE WILL BEGIN TO SEE THE RESULTS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES WORKING TOGETHER THAT RESULT IN MANCHESTER WINNING A $3 MILLION TECHNOLOGY GRANT AGAINST OVER 500 COMMUNITIES COMPETING NATIONWIDE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE DEPARTMENT'S MORE THAN $12 MILLION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS BY OBTAINING MORE MEDICAID MONEY TO LESSEN THE BURDEN ON THE TAXPAYERS. AND, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE PROBLEMS OF SCHOOL

VIOLENCE AS EVERY STUDENT ATTENDING OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS ENTITLED TO AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING.

IN ADDITION TO OUR SUCCESS WITH CPR, THE URBAN DESIGN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STUDY, THE MANCHESTER AGENDA, WHICH RESULTED IN CHARTER REVIEW, THE ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY, WHICH RESULTED IN A $3 MILLION GRANT TO REINFORCE OUR EFFORTS TO REVITALIZE THE INNER CITY ALONG WITH NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, THE WAR ON CRIME AND SO MANY OTHERS IS DEPENDENT ON THE CITIZENS AND LEADERS OF OUR COMMUNITY STEPPING FORWARD TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE.

MAKING U. S. FIRST AND CENTERPLEX HAPPEN WILL REQUIRE CITIZENS FROM ALL SEGMENTS OF OUR CITY TO GET INVOLVED. MAKING OUR CITY CHARTER MORE RESPONSIVE WILL NOT HAPPEN IF ELECTED OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS DO NOT WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE THE HARD DECISIONS THAT MUST BE MADE AND THEN START THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION.

SO, AS WE WORK TO CHANGE OUR CHARTER, AS WE WORK TO REINVEST GOVERNMENT, AS WE TRY TO ESTABLISH THE INTOWN MANCHESTER ENTITY AND THE DOWNTOWN MANAGER, AS WE OVERHAUL OUR CITY'S MORE THAN 30 YEAR OLD ZONING ORDINANCE, I URGE ANY AND ALL OF YOU TO GET INVOLVED. IF WE AS CITIZENS ARE UNWILLING TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY, NOBODY IS GOING TO STEP FORWARD TO DO IT FOR US. AND NO ONE, NOT THE MAYOR, NOT THE ALDERMEN, NOT A COMMISSIONER, NOT A CITIZEN, CAN DO IT ALONE.

COMMUNITIES ARE NOT BUILT ON THE INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS OR EFFORTS OF ITS CITIZENS. COMMUNITIES ARE BUILT AND SUSTAINED BY THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND TOWARDS COMMON GOALS. THE PEOPLE OF MANCHESTER, THIS "CITY THAT WOULD NOT DIE," HAVE PROVEN HISTORICALLY THAT THEY HAVE THE GRIT AND INGENUITY NECESSARY TO BUILD ANY DREAM AND OVERCOME ANY ADVERSITY. I KNOW THAT SPIRIT LIVES TODAY, WAITING TO BE FURTHER TAPPED, DEVELOPED, AND DIRECTED.

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER TO OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND COMMUNITY. I INVITE YOU TO SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE WITH US. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, OWN THE OUTCOME, AND BE PROUD OF MANCHESTER.

THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS OUR CITY OF MANCHESTER.

Mr. Lamontagne advised that the Board of School Committee would meet, for organizational purposes, in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall at 12:00 Noon, and the organizational meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen would follow immediately. Mr. Lamontagne invited all present to a reception at the Senior Smile Center located at 66 Hanover Street at the conclusion of the program noting that after the benediction would remain in session for the purpose of observing brief ceremony acknowledging and commemorating the 150th birthday of the City of Manchester.

The Benediction was then given by Rabbi Arthur F. Starr, Temple Adath Yeshuran.

Mr. Lamontagne introduced Franne Ciriello, Chairperson of Manchester's 150th Birthday Celebration to continue with the commemorative activities.

Ms. Ciriello offered her congratulations to Mayor Wieczorek, the Aldermen, and School Board Members. Over the past 150 years, the history of Manchester has been filled with colorful and dramatic events most notably a City has been built based upon hard work and visionary interests of thousands of people who have made their home in a place we call Manchester. The name Manchester has special meaning in the history of our City. Originally, the area was known as Derryfield, the name of the Town that was chartered in 1751. Derryfield Center located on Mammoth Road near Somerville Street was the center of the community until 1840. During this period around 1794, Samuel Blodgett began to build a canal around the falls at Amoskeag, an effort that would take 13 years and consume Blodgett's entire fortune. The canal would open the northern reaches of New Hampshire to trade and encourage the development of the manufacturing in this area. Blodgett died shortly after the canal opened, however, based on its potential it created for trade and manufacturing Blodgett predicted that the City like Manchester, England would rise up on the banks of the Merrimack and in his honor in 1810 the Town of Derryfield changed its name to Manchester. Blodgett was indeed prophetic. Beginning in 1805 industrial's introduced textile production along the Merrimack. These early beginnings led to the organization of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in 1831, the Company that would grow to become the largest textile manufacturer in the world. With their capital reserves and technical know how Amoskeag began to build mills on the east banks of the river and to lay out the City we know today as Manchester.

With this development at the Town Meeting in 1840, the people of Manchester moved the Town House to Elm Street, and in 1846, residents voted to accept the Charter to become a City. On September 8, 1846, the first administration led by Mayor Hiram Brown took office and today we have witnessed the inauguration of the administration which begins Manchester's 150 years as a City and asked Mr. Lamontagne to read a very special proclamation.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Derryfield was chartered in 1751, became the Town of Manchester in 1810, and was chartered as the City of Manchester on July 10, 1846, and

WHEREAS, during the 19th and 20th centuries Manchester was home to some of the largest textile industries in the world and was a world center of industrial development, and

WHEREAS, today Manchester is the largest City in New Hampshire and the financial center of our State, home to many of our finest cultural and civic attractions, and

WHEREAS, Manchester's multi-cultural population has in the past and will in the future continue to enrich our State, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of New Hampshire recognize the contributions of the City of Manchester to the State,

NOW, THEREFORE, I Stephen Merrill, Governor of the State of New Hampshire do hereby proclaim 1996 as Manchester's Sesquicentennial Year and join the citizens of New Hampshire in recognizing the City of Manchester with pride and the accomplishments of the past and look forward to great achievements in the future.

Given at Executive Chambers in Concord, this 29th day of December, in the year of our Lord One Thousand, Nineteen Hundred Ninety-five and of the independence of the United States of America, Two-Hundred and Nineteen.

Stephen Merrill
Governor of the State of New Hampshire

Ms. Ciriello requested Mayor Wieczorek join her at the podium.

Mayor Wieczorek expressed his thanks to the Governor for his recognizing Manchester's Sesquicentennial Year and stated the City of Manchester had issued the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, our City of Manchester will celebrate its 150th Birthday in 1996, and;

WHEREAS, our City was home to the world renowned Amoskeag Manufacturing Company and was a world leader in the manufacturer of textiles, shoes, locomotive engines, and many other fine industrial products, and;

WHEREAS, our City's distinguished industrial history has created an ethically-diverse population that has contributed richly to our culture and heritage, and;

WHEREAS, Manchester looks forward to another prosperous 150 years as a leader in industry, culture, and society, and;

WHEREAS, all of our citizens of Manchester will look proudly on their past and work confidently together for their future,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Raymond J. Wieczorek, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Manchester in the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim 1996 as Manchester's Sesquicentennial Year in the City of Manchester and urge all citizens to learn of our City's history, participate in this celebration, and work together for the well-being and prosperity of our City.

Ms. Ciriello stated when we stop to consider the riches of our City, we're steeped in history, yet it is the people who live and work here that give us our greatest treasurers and stated the Committee wanted to reflect the personality of our City, the hard work, the dedication to the community when bringing forth our celebration. The 150th Birthday Celebration Committee has selected from the many families who typify the hard work, ethics, and values of Manchester citizens throughout its history - one family, one family which will serve as Chair Family during the 150th Birthday Celebration. We feel that we have made an excellent choice by selecting the Allard Family. Gerry and Anne Allard can trace a history of five generations in Manchester going back to Gerry's grandparents. Gerry's paternal grandfather ran a music school and built one of the first houses on the west side. His maternal grandfather was founder of Manchester's first bus service. In 1938, Gerry's father co-founded the Granite State Machine Company now known as Allard Industries and helped establish the Manchester Airport Authority. In 1964, after college and service in the Air Force, Gerry joined the business. He took over as President and Owner in 1972. Gerry and Anne's children Lisa, Mike, John, and Kim all returned to Manchester with their spouses where they are raising their six children. Every generation of Allard has volunteered within the community giving their time and talent to civic, philanthropic, religious, and health and welfare organizations. At the time of the 50th anniversary of Allard Industries in 1988, the Allard's celebrated a family tradition of dedication to honesty, integrity, and good old-fashioned hard work. Therefore, with five generations of commitment to Manchester, a business which has brought jobs to the community, and values which parallel those of generations of Manchester residents, the 150th Birthday Committee is very pleased that the family of Gerry and Anne Allard has agreed to represent the City of Manchester during the 150th Birthday Celebration. It is my pleasure to welcome Lisa Anne DiBrigida representing the Allard family.

Ms. DiBrigida stated one of the first things I need to say is unfortunately my parents can't be here today. When they found out about the privilege of being the host family for this year, they already had plane reservations to be back in Marco Island, Florida, where they are right now battling the flu that they picked up when they were here for the holidays. But, they send their best and are very excited about the honor that we have this year of representing Manchester and introduced the rest of her family - Joe DiBrigida, her son Joseph DiBrigida, III and daughter, Sara - her sister Kim Klop - her sister-in-law Karen Allard - John Allard, her brother, his son Tucker and son Max - sister-in-law Rickie with her son, Logan and her brother Mike and his son Chase. There's a lot of energy and they're very, very excited about this honor and look forward to a really exciting year celebrating Manchester's history, looking forward to learning more about the history and all of the wonderful things we have to look forward to in the future for Manchester and we are very pleased to be part of this, thank you.

Ms. Ciriello invited the Allard family and Mayor Wieczorek in lighting a flame that will reflect in the eyes of the young and the old, trades people and professionals, life-long residents and new arrivals as we begin our year-long celebration, a celebration of a City with a heart and a soul. As the year progresses, Manchester's history will be the keystone in the celebration. The prospective that 150 years of triumphs and disappointments provides will enable the people to see the positive aspects of our City. Once we begin to realize the good, we're drawn together by a common bond, the desire to see Manchester grow and prosper. There will be historical tours with an emphasis on the people and the personalities which helped to carve our character. On June 8th there will be a birthday party second to none and we hope to leave Manchester with a unique gift for the citizens who follow. The 150th Birthday Celebration Committee will work diligently, that I assure you and mentioned that the birthday candle, which hopefully will remain lit throughout the course of the year, was made right here in Manchester by Granite State Candle noting they did a wonderful job and do truly appreciate their efforts and thanked everyone for taking part this morning, and it will be the start of a very special year and was sure everyone was ready for a little libation. Thank you.

The assembly was then adjourned by Mr. Lamontagne.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk