

Inaugural Address:

Thank you

Good evening London, we are gathered here today not to celebrate the victory of any individual member of council or any campaign, rather, to celebrate the opportunities ahead for this great city.

On October 27th, Londoners chose the change that we celebrate today. Your engagement, your involvement -- with your voices, with your volunteerism and most importantly, by casting your ballot -- has signaled that our great City will now chart a new course.

You need to know that your new City council has been working hard over the past 5 weeks preparing ourselves to serve you. What I've come to learn about my 14 council colleagues; is that they are extremely talented, highly motivated and passionate about addressing the concerns we heard at the door and throughout the election campaign. We are so looking forward to working together to get things done for London.

We're going to get to this right away. Yes, we'll work the 2015 budget, but we'll also work on a strategic plan that will reflect the hopes and expectations that you shared with us over the past many months. This plan will direct our work. This plan will be something we can all rally

around. It will focus on big ideas and it will guide us through the next four years in office as we move our community forward together. It's going to be a lot of work, but I am proud to say that we will deliver this plan **within the first 100 days of taking office.**

Today signifies a new day for collaboration and for positive change. We stand here before you, truly humbled by the confidence you have given this new council and we remain grateful for the trust that has been given to us by all Londoners from every corner of **this great city.**

The world is changing quickly around us. Technology, our local and global economy, and the growing gaps between our most affluent and our most vulnerable. These realities are mixed with an unprecedented opportunity for London to re-invent itself. I said once that the London of the not so distant future will welcome and wow the world and Today, I'm certain that's possible.

We must together acknowledge, that so many Londoners are working harder for less and many others are not working at all. If we are to be successful as a council and as a community, we will need to face some hard realities about the state of our city and be ready, together, to meet those challenges with practical and achievable solutions.

Working together, your new Council will embrace bold, fresh ideas and take calculated and collaborative steps to move our city forward. It's

what we were elected to do, and it's what Londoners want today, and it's what the future generations of Londoners deserve from us.

So although the challenges we face are real, so are our many strengths.

This council is going to establishing a new era of positive municipal government focused on a prosperous community. That means investing in our infrastructure, that means, focusing on our local small and medium sized businesses, on our talented citizens of all ages, and on ensuring that we have a city that works for all Londoners.

We can have a City that is affordable for business and attractive for families.

We can build a future not just for us - but for our children and for our grandchildren as well. So that they can live across the City - not across the country.

We know this path is not going to be easy and we know it will require all of us, Council and community, to dig deep, to be open to new approaches and to different opinions, and to push one another forward with focus, with integrity and with purpose.

We must do this. We must invest in our city the way every parent should invest in their children, with passion and with commitment and with love for something greater than ourselves.

To my council colleagues, I cannot express in words, how much I am looking forward to serving alongside each of you over the course of the next four years.

My friends, **this is our London.** Every one of us must continue to play a vital role in our city's next chapter. As we all prepare to move forward with our work, to serve our community in so many different ways, it is clear to me that we need each other now more than ever before.

So let us begin this journey together, with hope and optimism, and with a commitment to integrity, to discipline and to hard work.

And lets begin today.

Thank you!

