

INAUGURATION & REORGANIZATION MEETING– JANUARY 6, 2014

A Special Meeting of the Lancaster City Council was held on Monday, January 6, 2014 in Council Chambers, Southern Market Center, 100 South Queen Street, Lancaster, Pa., at 7:00 p.m., with President Williams presiding.

Pastor Phil Hernandez, of In the Light Ministries gave the invocation.

Council led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present – Mr. Graupera, Mr. Reichenbach, Mr. Smith, Mr. Urdaneta,
Ms. Wilson, President Williams - 6

Excused – Mr. Roschel - 1

City Council approved the minutes from December 17, 2013 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Music for Everyone Strings performed two selections ... Directed by Michael Jamanis

Solicitor Barry N. Handwerger presented the Certificates of Election to the elected officials.

The Certificates of Election were for:

Mayor-elect J. Richard Gray
Councilman-elect Tim J. Roschel
Councilman – elect – Pete Soto
Councilwoman-elect – Danene Sorace
Councilwoman-elect - Louise B. Williams
Controller-elect – E. William Andrews
Treasurer-elect – Cheryl D. Holland-Jones

The Reverend David W. Peck, Rector of St. James Episcopal Church administered the oath of office to Mayor-elect J. Richard Gray. Mrs. Gray held the bible for the oath.

Mayor Gray's remarks were as follows:

“Good evening, Clergy, Elected Officials, Friends, Family, and Residents. Thank you for joining us in welcoming a new year and the inauguration of our new Administration. This inauguration conveys the special obligation of leading this City for more than a decade. We recognize that the course we chart today will shape the future of our community for generations to come. Tonight, we are humbled by the confidence placed in our leadership, and excited by the opportunities that come with this new beginning.

This inauguration also offers an opportunity to stop and reflect on where we have been, and where we are going. Thanks to our residents, our workforce, our business community, and our non-profit institutions, we are in a very different position today than we were eight years ago. Unlike many other cities our size, we've achieved financial stability; we've made critical investments in our parks, our public buildings, and our infrastructure; we've attracted new businesses; and older empty-nesters are moving back into our City just as more young people are choosing to make Lancaster their home.

This should come as no surprise. Lancaster is a diverse and beautiful city. This diversity and beauty are reflected in our people, in our architecture, and in our arts and cultural assets. The economic and social impact of the arts is measurable and significant as witnessed by the growing number of restaurants, retail, and entertainment venues that welcome tens of thousands of visitors and residents each year. City government will continue to support and promote Lancaster's cultural diversity and renaissance.

Indeed, over the past eight years, Lancaster has been ranked among the best small cities to raise a family, start a business, and experience an exciting quality of life. Our City enjoys a well-earned reputation for safe streets, attractive neighborhoods, and a vibrant downtown.

Still, while much has been accomplished, our work is not over and our full potential has not been reached. To achieve this potential, we must continue to avoid decisions that are short-sighted or simplistic. There can be no room for quick fixes or political expediency. We must, and we will, do what is in the best long-term interest of our community -- regardless of how difficult or politically unpopular.

We will continue to be confronted by problems that do not lend themselves to simple solutions. For example, we've known for nearly a century that we are polluting our water supply by mixing rainwater with sewerage and dumping it untreated into our rivers. As a consequence, today we are faced with a choice. We can either mitigate this pollution or pay stiff Federal fines for each day that we continue to ignore the problem. We can act as ethical stewards of our natural resources, or we can continue to destroy God's bounty. The choice is clear. We must finally confront this problem in a manner that is equitable and effective -- regardless of political impact.

Much has been said or written about the selection of Lancaster as one of the first cities to implement the CRIZ program. This designation offers great opportunity and bodes well for our future economic health. That said, we will work to ensure that the CRIZ designation provides a vehicle for establishing greater economic opportunity for our residents in the years ahead.

Academics, writers and opinion leaders all point to the important role that American cities play in creating broader policy solutions to some of the most difficult issues of our time. The negative national trends that undermined the health and prosperity of cities are being reversed. People are moving into cities as young and old seek walk-ability and convenience, and alternatives to the automobile are being embraced nationwide. We recognize these changing trends and will position the city to exploit the benefits that come with these changes.

We will continue to work to build long term financial stability for City government. This will require compromise and creativity. We will continue to create a 21st century city government that is smart, innovative, responsive, efficient and effective. We are committed to making Lancaster a leader in environmental sustainability, reducing our carbon foot print, and cutting energy costs where we can. And we will continue to rebuild our infrastructure and public spaces.

This is the challenge we face today: to build a City for future generations. I pledge to our residents that, with their support and the continued support of City Council, we will embrace that challenge and build that City.

I'm often asked "what qualities do you need to be an effective Mayor?" My answer is "a thick skin, a sense of humor, and a heavy dose of humility." I hope that I have those qualities, and I pray that I may ably serve the people Lancaster as your Mayor. Thank you very much, and may God Bless us all."

Mayor Gray administered the oath of office to Ms. Danene Sorace, who was joined by her husband and daughter.

He next administered the oath to Pete Soto, who was joined by his wife and family.

He next administered the oath to Louise B. Williams.

Mayor Gray then administered the oath of office to E. William Andrews as Controller of the City as City Clerk, Janet Spleen, held the bible.

He then administered the oath of office to Cheryl D. Holland Jones, as Treasurer of the City. Ms. Holland Jones was joined by her husband David Jones and her mother, Hazel Jackson.

President Williams commended the retiring members of the City Council, Todd E. Smith, and José E. Urdaneta, saying we will miss their spirited conversation. She thanked them for all of the hard work they have done for the City Council and the citizens of the City of Lancaster.

Mayor Gray presented Mr. Smith and Mr. Urdaneta with plaques designating their times served on City Council and commended them for the good work they have done.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Urdaneta both thanked Council and the Mayor and made brief remarks as they thanked their families.

Councilman Graupera made the motion to adjourn and Councilman Smith seconded. President Williams adjourned the meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

President Williams called the meeting to order and invited the new members to take their seats.

The City Clerk called the roll of Council.

Present: Mr. Graupera, Mr. Reichenbach, Mr. Soto, Ms. Sorace, Ms. Wilson, President Williams – 6

Excused: Mr. Roschel – 1

Mayor Gray called for nominations for Council President.

President Williams placed the name of Councilman Graupera in nomination for President of City Council and Councilman Reichenbach seconded the motion.

City Council approved the nomination by a unanimous roll call vote.

President Graupera took the President's seat and thanked the members of Council for their vote of confidence and for giving him the opportunity to help direct this body and serve the City of Lancaster in a new capacity. He thanked President Williams for her years of leadership

conducted with authority and grace. He stated that without Ms. Williams support he would not be sitting in this chair tonight. He congratulated the Mayor, the re-elected officials and the newly elected members of Council. He looks forward to working with everyone to keep Lancaster moving in the positive direction it is now. He thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Urdaneta for their time on Council and stated that their contributions to the City of Lancaster will be felt for many years to come.

He stated that he was asked recently what project he would like to see realized in the coming year. He responded to that person with a single word—neighborhoods. The Mayor and his administration have done a magnificent job in helping neighborhoods in broad and far-reaching ways; the implementation of single hauler trash collection and recycling program, holding disruptive tenants and negligent landlords accountable, improving the quality of life for our citizens. All of this while holding the line on taxes. However, more work needs to be done in our neighborhoods at the micro level, by providing residents the means, if they so choose, to physically improve their individual blocks by enhancing the streetscape, adding lighting for safety, litter receptacles or plant vegetations. These efforts instill civic pride, enhance livability, and we are all the better for it. Means don't always refer to dollars and cents. There are creative ways of making this a reality without additional costs to taxpayers. City Council is a body with legislative powers passing ordinance and appropriating funds. But he also sees City Council as a conduit between the residents and City Hall. As council members we have all been approached numerous times by residents to be their advocate on a problem to be solved or for a certain cause. He asked that each councilmember embrace these requests by residents and form an agenda, or take under their wing, a project from within their committees that they feel strongly about and take ownership of it. The more of us that work together for a common cause, the more we can accomplish. He thanked everyone for braving the cold and he wished everyone a happy and healthy new year.

Administration Resolution No. 1-2010, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT L. PFANNEBECKER AND THE LAW FIRM OF ZIMMERMAN, PFANNEBECKER, NUFFORT & ALBERT, LLP, BY MAYOR J. RICHARD GRAY, AS CITY SOLICITORS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Williams seconded. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 1-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

Administration Resolution No. 2-2010, (the title) was read by the City Clerk as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER APPOINTING THE LAW FIRM OF GIBBEL, KRAYBILL & HESS, AS ASSISTANT SOLICITORS FOR THE CITY OF LANCASTER.

Councilman Reichenbach made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Wilson seconded. City Council approved Administration Resolution No. 2-2014 by a unanimous roll call vote.

President Graupera stated that he would like to take a moment to announce the Chairs of the Committees of Council. They are as follows: Community Development and Planning – Councilman Soto; Economic Development – Councilman Reichenbach; Finance – Councilwoman Sorace; Personnel – Councilwoman Williams; Public Safety – Councilwoman Wilson; Public Works – Councilman Roschel. Also Councilwoman Williams has graciously accepted to be Council Vice President.

Councilwoman Sorace stated that she thanked the Mayor, fellow City Council members and the voters of the City of Lancaster for entrusting her to be a steward of the City for the next four years.

Councilman Soto thanked everyone, he appreciates the fact that he is sitting in this chair, that he has gotten the support of his community and his family and he is looking forward to working with the rest of City Council. He looks forward to working with every individual in the City.

Reverend Roland P. Forbes, Jr. gave the benediction.

President Graupera adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

John E. Graupera, President

Attest:

City Clerk