

# The Historic Fourth Inauguration Ceremony of

*Mayor Frank G. Jackson*

*January 2, 2018*

**Below are Mayor Jackson's remarks from his historic inauguration held in the Cleveland City Hall Rotunda on January, 2 2018. Livestream of the ceremony is available at [facebook.com/CityofCleveland](https://www.facebook.com/CityofCleveland).**

Good Morning and welcome to my fourth Inauguration address. I want to open by saying thank you. Thank you to all of you who have worked with me and my administration over the last 12 years. Thanks for showing confidence in me.

I want to thank the President of City Council and the entire Council as well as all elected officials. Thank you to my Cabinet and every City of Cleveland employee.

To the corporate, small business and philanthropic communities and the clergy, who invest in this city and work with us to make it better everyday - thank you.

Thank you to my campaign team.

Thank you to my family for allowing me to the time to do this work.

And most importantly, thank you to the people - the citizens of Cleveland.

We have come a long way over the last 12 years, and we have the opportunity to continue to build on our successes as well as meet and overcome the problems and challenges still facing our city. We have become a successful city recognized in many ways for our innovation and for meeting and overcoming challenges.

Our success thus far has allowed us to:

- Balance the budget - 12 years in a row - through some difficult times.
- Attract national and international events, like the Induction Ceremony that will happen this year
- Successfully host, the Republican National Convention of 2016
- Rebuild our Central Business District and many of our neighborhoods, creating thousands of jobs throughout the city, hundreds of millions of dollars in development & infrastructure work all over this city

These are just some of the tangible things we can see, but just as important are those intangible signs of success. We have moved away from celebrating second place to having an expectation of being a winner.

We have transformed our way of thinking from complaining about our situations and circumstances to doing something about it - a can-do attitude.

We can talk about the success that we have had over the last 12 years, but whatever they are it is not enough.

The challenge before us is: how do we as a city ensure that everyone is able to participate that the quality of life and the prosperity that we collectively have created? How do we become a great city?

A great city will be measured by the condition and well-being of the least of us. Not in terms of welfare and charity, but in terms of all being able to participate in the quality of life and the prosperity we have created and the elimination of inequities and disparities. If we do not become a great city, then all of our success will have a short life span. A great city, however will guarantee that our success is sustainable and it will guarantee our future.

It will not be easy, but it can and must be done for the sake of this city and its people's future. Not in a political sense by addressing multiple issues and not alienating anybody, but what does it take to make the right decision at the right time, no matter how hard or difficult it is so that this city and its people can prosper and have a good quality of life and will share in that prosperity and quality of life that we create.

We are a successful city, but we have many challenges to overcome. Now, what are some of those core challenges that we have to address as a community?

One is education, which, we have already begun to address in terms of the Cleveland Plan and Reform plus the passage of two operating levies and a capital levy. We are looking at the Say Yes for Education program, which will help us move our education agenda in a way that will provide quality education for all of our children. Education is the foundation of our children's future. Our schools have to provide the families of this city with the tools needed for a great future. Traditional Public and Charter schools alike must educate young people to be ready for the future. That future can be college, entrepreneurship, trade or other training opportunities, as well as, the ability to make the right decision in a challenging environment. The Cleveland Plan and the passage of the levies are only the beginning. There is more to do.

Economic development must ensure job and career opportunities for Clevelanders. The more careers we develop the brighter the future will be for citizens and families. As a city, we have to be committed to creating jobs and careers in multiple sectors. From the manufacturing jobs that help create Cleveland's middle class, to the jobs in innovation that will define the city's future, and jobs that will help Clevelanders work and attract great talent to the city.

Economic empowerment can only be accomplished through wealth creation. Wealth creation is about making sure citizens have the opportunity and resources to own and not just consume. The ability to give a job and create careers. This is essential for us to become great. Long term sustainable prosperity and quality of life is connected to creating wealth.

Another challenge is public safety. Public safety comes in many different forms. It comes from law enforcement and we will be doing things to increase our ability to have a stronger presence in law enforcement, not only in additional police officers, but also in terms of our partnership with other law enforcement agencies.

But crime is only a symptom of a greater illness.

That greater illness is the inequity and disparity that many neighborhoods and people face every day: inequity and disparity in jobs, careers, wealth, education, health and condition of our environment.

To be a great city we have to eliminate disparity, eliminate inequity and make the hard decisions necessary. I am not only challenging myself to this. I am challenging each and every citizen, elected official, clergy, business and philanthropic and other leaders - Everyone.

We can do this!!

We will do this.

But it will take all of us. It will take the entire community. So that is why I am thanking you, elected officials. That is why I am thanking you business community, philanthropic community. That is why I am thanking you clergy. That is why I am thanking you, city employees.

That is why I am thanking the people of this City of Cleveland and all of our leaders.

I am thanking you in advance.

Because Cleveland: Our Time is Now!!

So let's get to work.

Thank you.