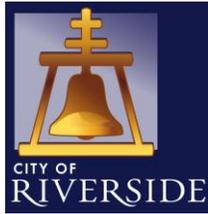


January 19, 2012

State of the City Address



Mayor Ronald O. Loveridge

Riverside, California

PRIDE IN RIVERSIDE...AGAIN!

Thank you.

This is my 19th, and last, State of City. 2012 will also end my 32 years as a local elected official.

Robert Kennedy is one of my three political heroes. I have dedicated myself to making a difference, to realizing Kennedy's vision for the good city: "The city is not just housing and stores. It is not just education and employment, parks and theaters, banks and shops. It is a place where men should be able to live in dignity and security and harmony, where people can see and know each other, where children can play and adults work together and join in the pleasures and responsibilities of the place where they live."

Many thanks are in order; let me emphasize five.

The first is the continuing support of Riverside residents. I have stood for election nine times. I am honored by your confidence, trust, and thus the opportunity to serve as your Council member and Mayor.

The second is the sustaining support of my wife, Marsha. She is central to whatever success I have had being a good mayor, council member, and professor. For over 50 years, Marsha has been my best friend.

The third is the long standing partnership with the best Chamber of Commerce in the State of California, led so ably, first by Art Pick and now by Cindy Roth.

Fourth, over the years, many people answered the Mayor's call to come together, to set directions for the City. Many tables were set: including Task Forces on Use of Force, Santa Ana River, Clean & Green, Go Riverside, and High Technology.

And fifth, governance is not a solitary act. Success depends on collaboration with many others. Kudos to elected and appointed City officials. I am especially proud of the civility at City Hall, and our "best practice" focus on the quest for the good city.

I must also thank members of the Mayor's Office; no mayor in California has a better staff, led for 10 years by an outstanding Chief of Staff, Kristin Tillquist.

SUCCESS STORIES

The overarching message is Pride in Riverside...Again!

Over the years, I have been asked, what were my most important successes, what stands out? Specific highlights also profile why there is Pride in Riverside... Again!

First Election - Running against four other candidates, I was elected to the Council with 63% of the vote in 1979. I studied the best of campaign texts. I took an early survey -- out of 226 voters in Ward One, I was liked by twelve and disliked by one. All others did not know who I was. I knocked on nearly 5,000 doors. This was the Proposition R election. For the first time in the City's history, no incumbent council members were reelected. Across the City, the election was a defining call for a change in direction.

Restoration and Reopening of the Mission Inn - There was an extraordinary community effort to save the Mission Inn. The Mission Inn reopened in 1992; the highest kudos go to Duane Roberts, Keeper of the Inn. With his personal commitment, genius, and financial resources, the Mission Inn is back, and better than ever. It is the iconic key to the rebirth of downtown and surely the primary reason why most people visit Riverside.

Good Neighborhood Program - Since 1979, I have emphasized that neighborhoods are the building blocks of a good city and have sought their improvement. As Mayor, my signature effort is our monthly Mayor's Night Out; they now number 160. In 2000, I proposed a Good Neighborhood Program; most of its 22 proposals are being implemented.

Two Parks - The Citrus State Park and the Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park deserve special mention. In the early 1980s, Riverside competed with other major citrus areas to become the State site for the Citrus Park. A great place to visit, it captures the time when citrus was king in Southern California. And, we will keep it open! Sycamore Canyon Wilderness Park is 1,800 acres, the largest wilderness park in any city dedicated after World War Two. It is a wonderful location for hiking and biking.

University Research Park - The University Research Park is a different kind of park. Established in 1997 by a partnership between the City, County, and UCR, it is a 56-acre campus for technology transfer. Led by Bourns and Surado, the Park is a dynamic contributor to high tech start ups in Riverside.

All-America City - In 1998, Riverside was selected as an All-America City. The message -- we can be a leader in the 19,000 cities and towns in America. Thirty cities were invited to present their story and 10 were selected by a panel of expert judges. The President of the National Civic League, Senator Bill Bradley -- and my second political hero -- called out Riverside as an All-America City.

Shooting at City Hall - On October 6, 1998, Joe Neal fired over 20 shots in the Council Board Room. Chuck Beaty and Laura Pearson courageously fought back, and Chuck was seriously wounded. I was shot first, receiving a slight wound to the back of my neck. At high personal risk, the police officers at the scene decided to force the door to the Council Board Room; this decision saved my life -- I would not be here except for their courage and skill.

The shooting was a nightmare on Main Street yet a miracle at City Hall. Let me read a Press Enterprise letter written by my wife:

"It was one of those glorious fall days in Riverside. The Santa Ana winds of Monday had calmed down, the sky was incredibly clear and blue, the morning chill was being nudged aside by the rising sun. As I enthusiastically pursued my daily hike up Mt. Rubidoux I was thinking: This is the best time of year -- the enervating heat of the summer is over, the holidays lie ahead, fall is like a fresh start. As I rounded the southern curve of the down road I could hear sirens, then more sirens. "There must a terrible fire someplace," I thought. Soon after I returned home the doorbell rang, and there stood Ann Gore. She took my hand and said words that stopped my heart: "Ron's been shot...but he's OK."

“Elected officials and their families expect to make certain sacrifices -- loss of privacy, long hours, loss of time together, being “fair game” to reporters -- but to make the ultimate sacrifice is an unthinkable, yet latent fear. Tuesday October 6, 1998 took a very scary turn, but was not a tragic day. City officials, police officers, and emergency crews all did their job. Dead bodies were not removed from the Council Chambers.”

“The past few days have been a roller coaster ride -- and Lord knows I’m not a roller coaster fan. Dormant emotions rose to the surface. Not surprisingly, the powerful impact has been the outpouring of love and support -- the flowers, the phone calls, the e-mails, the cards -- from all over the world. We have heard from friends and neighbors, from former students, from colleagues, from strangers, from businesses, from people whose paths crossed ours recently or many years ago. People on the street have hugged us and shed tears with us. This affirmation is overwhelming and it is crucial to the healing of our wounds -- for we all have been wounded.”

“Those whose lives were spared on Tuesday have work left to do. And the people of Riverside will be with them to do it. This is a great city. Thank you all.”

League of California Cities/National League of Cities - In 2004 I served as President of the State League. It was the year of Proposition 1 A, a statewide ballot measure to keep the State from taking local revenues. The measure passed by over 84%, an extraordinary margin. And in 2010, I served as President of NLC. It was a year when I took the story of Riverside on the road, to D.C. and many states, as well as internationally. However, my most vivid memory was the NLC Board of Directors meeting at the Mission Inn -- I can still hear their kudos for Riverside.

Diverse Community - As an increasingly diverse city, I am proud of many initiatives that have taken form over my years as Mayor. The Mayor’s Multicultural Forum was the source of Building a More Inclusive Community Statement; it has been cited by leaders in the NLC as the best such statement in the country. The Grier Pavilion, named after civil rights and social justice advocates Jean and Barnett Grier, is also a striking statement of our commitment to be an inclusive community.

Downtown Mall - When elected as Mayor, the Downtown Mall was distinguished only by a red tripod sculpture outside of City Hall. Funded by the Riverside Renaissance, the Mall has undergone a \$10 million dollar restoration -- it looks terrific. As Mayor, I have strongly supported the memorials on the Mall to Ismael Villegas, Wall of Honor, Martin Luther King, Ahn Chang Ho, Mahatma Gandhi, and Eliza Tibbets. And in November, there will be a memorial to Cesar Chavez. Except for Washington D.C., I cannot identify any other U.S. city with these kinds of memorials and the stories they tell on our Downtown Mall.

Clean & Green City - Riverside is a green city, California’s first Emerald City. We have a defining Green Action Plan. By 2020, the City is committed to 33% renewable energy and to 20 megawatts of solar -- we indeed are the model solar city in Southern California. The City uses alternative fuel vehicles for almost all non-public safety uses. In competition among the greenest cities in Southern California, Riverside tied for first!

Sister Cities - Since taking office, our global reach has expanded from three sister cities by adding five more world class cities. We took the idea of a sister city to a new level by raising more than \$600,000 for the Sendai relief fund. Our sister city innovations have made us the best of class.

This final State of the City is not, however, a personal inventory. Rather, let me offer a City perspective, first by looking back, then at 2012, and finally -- and most importantly, looking forward.

LOOKING BACK

Riverside has an extraordinary history. According to Tom Patterson in Colony for California, “Riverside’s founder, John North, wanted the city to be well educated, well behaved, fair-minded, scientific, artistic, honorable, industrious, and wealthy.” In the first part of the 20th Century, Riverside had the highest per capita income of any city in the country. Kevin Starr, perhaps the best living writer on California, described Riverside as the “quintessential citrus town.” For many years, more oranges were grown in Riverside than any other city in the nation, and the Mission Inn was a major watering hole for Southern California.

Yet after World War II and especially in the 1960s, the City lost its civic vision, its civic will. Tom Brown, then the City Planning Director, offered this conclusion to a report in 1966: “Unlike many communities, Riverside has an inheritance to lose, and there is a clear and present danger of losing it... Not by identifiable villains but simply by growth.” The City grew rapidly and in my judgment not well as we doubled our population from 84,000 in 1960 to 170,000 in 1980.

During the 1960s, smog levels were dismaying. In 1965, the year I came to Riverside, there were nearly 200 days with Stage 1 Alerts and about 75 days with Stage 2. There were even days at UCR when it was difficult to see the Box Springs Mountains. By contrast, we now have no Stage 1 Alerts.

The downtown in the 1970s was at best disappointing. Restaurants were very few. Retailers had left. There was a limited, and decaying, justice center. The Mission Inn was open, but in poor fiscal and operating condition. There was no downtown association. By contrast, in 2011, we hosted the Annual California Downtown Conference. The Justice Center is a regional model. The Mission Inn is a national beacon for our City. And currently, there is nearly \$250 million dollars of new construction that has or will be completed.

Another marker was our parks. They were few in number and disappointing in appearance and in use. Two examples -- La Sierra Park, jerrybuilt over time, too often hosted more gophers than ball players. And Fairmount Park was unsafe and badly deteriorated. By contrast, in 2011, our parks have never looked better. Andulka, Citrus, Hunter, Orange Terrace, and Sycamore are recognized as among the best in the State. And Fairmount Park was selected by the American Planning Association as one of America’s 10 Great Places for 2011.

During the 1960s and 1970s, our three universities and RCC were small and little known. Now with over 21,000 students, UCR is an internationally respected research university. CBU may be the fastest growing private university in America, with the possibility of 8,800 students by 2020. La Sierra University has achieved more international awards for its Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) than any university in the world. And RCCD is considered among the country’s finest community college districts.

When I ran for Council in 1979, I reviewed the City’s past, and its possible future. After many conversations, a general campaign theme emerged: Pride in Riverside...Again!

LOOKING AT 2012

We have come a long way since 1979.

Riverside now ranks among the best cities, in California, and across the country. In the past two State of the City speeches, ten reasons underscored why Riverside has come of age in the 21st Century. Today let me offer other markers of being a best city.

Despite these difficult economic times, Riverside has a balanced budget, with a General Fund reserve of about \$43 million dollars. No city of our size in California has this kind of reserve.

Local public opinion polls show that the City is heading in the “right direction.” Another marker was the overwhelming support for Measure I -- the 85% approval was the highest percentage of any revenue ballot measure before California cities last November.

At your table is an outstanding annual report, “Seizing Our Destiny: Celebrating Progress and A Call to Action.” The Report says: “Riversiders, across racial, age, and income groups, are uniformly happy with their overall quality of life and are proud to live and work here.” This high praise comes from a survey of over 1,450 residents.

Also at your table is a booklet titled “Riverside’s 25 Best Practices.” These are state and national best practices. I will send this booklet to all mayors and city managers in California, and to the NLC’s Board of Directors.

Beyond the 25 Best Practices, the City in 2011 received many awards and honors. Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful was honored as the best in the nation at what it does. Riverside was identified in a State of the Internet report as the Best Connected City in the United States. And I particularly liked Newsweek’s 2011 ranking of America’s fifteen top “can do” cities -- Riverside ranked third on their list!

I take special pride in our City’s signature event, the Festival of Lights. It keeps getting better and better. There was a national news story identifying the 50 best places to see Christmas Lights in America. Listing one per state, the choice for California was our Festival of Lights.

Likewise, I take special pride in the success of SmartRiverside’s Digital Inclusion Program. Over 5,000 computers have now been given, with training, to low income families. I know of no other city in the country with such a successful program to “equalize” information and opportunity.

The Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) offers perhaps the highest marker of Riverside’s emergence as a best city. The prestigious ICF focuses worldwide, on cities and their economic development in the broadband economy. In 2011, we were selected to be a Top Seven Intelligent Community of the Year. Over 435 cities applied. The ICF has a very sophisticated jury system. The point -- Riverside is now competitive with the best cities in the world! News bulletin: Yesterday, ICF selected Riverside as a Top Seven Intelligent Community of the Year for 2012. The only other American city selected was Austin, Texas.

There is Pride in Riverside...Again!

LOOKING AT THE FUTURE

The Urban Land Institute makes this powerful observation: “In a global world, cities have become more -- not less -- important. They really matter...They are increasingly the ‘wealth of nations.’ Whether a city performs well or poorly is not its location or history, but rather the choices its leaders make...quality of decision making is important and quality of life is critical.”

We are on our own! The City cannot look to Washington or Sacramento for help.

For the foreseeable future, the emphasis in Washington is on deficit reduction. Most existing city programs will be cut, or even eliminated, and it is highly unlikely that any new federal initiatives for cities will be proposed, much less funded.

As to Sacramento, the verdict is worse. There is little statewide attention or support for local economic growth. And there is a significant mandate for realignment of our prison population without any funding for cities.

But most dismaying, the Governor has eliminated the City's primary economic development tool, redevelopment. As a large and older city, the loss of redevelopment is, quite simply, devastating.

We are a best practice example of redevelopment's relevance and value. Redevelopment has helped to fund or support almost every good initiative in our City: affordable housing, historic preservation, downtown and commercial revitalization, neighborhood improvement, and major capital projects. Looking back, without redevelopment, the Mission Inn, Plaza, major improvements in Casa Blanca and along University Avenue would not have happened.

Proximity to the beaches, mountains and desert does not explain the City's success as a best city.

Rather, Riverside's success pivots on our civic will, vision, and social capital. We have demonstrated the capacity to invent our future.

But in 2012, I certainly agree with the call of the Red Queen in Alice in Wonderland, "...it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that."

Today I offer ten challenges for Riverside's future. How we respond to these challenges, what decisions we make will define our City for decades ahead, and especially our aspirations that Seizing Our Destiny calls out: "Intelligent growth, catalyst for innovation, location of choice, and unified city for the common good."

1) Economic Prosperity - First, economic development must be the highest priority of the City. We must be a best place to do business. We must do economic development better and smarter than other cities. And we must understand that we compete in a global marketplace.

Seizing Our Destiny offers an innovative economic game plan. Organized in Eleven Routes, it centers on improving our economic future through strategic choices for quality of life. Much has been done, yet much remains.

How can Seizing Our Destiny succeed? Public and private sectors must partner to achieve what neither can accomplish alone. Economic development must be the "work" of every city employee. Kudos to Scott Barber for setting this objective as his governance approach as City Manager. And we must set and effectively implement measurable goals for the Eleven Routes.

2) University Community - Second, the City must recognize that Riverside's most important assets are UCR, CBU, LSU, and RCC. They are our major employers, they have the highest economic impact on our City, and they distinguish us from other cities in Southern California. The success of our future is closely tied to being a university community -- to wit, UCR's medical school.

We must go beyond good town-gown relations and continually look for ways to work together. Our three universities and RCC must be fully involved as partners in the future of Riverside.

3) Social Capital - Third, social capital is a concept I often use to explain why Riverside is a successful city. Harvard Political Scientist Robert Putnam says, "Social capital makes us smarter, healthier, safer, richer, and better able to govern a just and stable democracy." Social capital centers on connections among people, social networks, and the resulting reciprocity and trust.

Successful cities require effective governance, but government alone cannot create successful cities. Our challenge is to continue to respect and increase social capital. We must value its many different sources.

The City must also be an inclusive community, for it is who we are. The 2010 Census offers a diverse portrait of Riverside. We all should support, and strongly so, the City's Statement on Building A More Inclusive Community.

4) Middle Class - Fourth, the City's most difficult competition is for middle class residents. Where we live is among our most important personal choices, and the middle class can choose to live in many different cities.

Improving neighborhoods must continue to be high on the agenda of the City. They are where the middle class lives, raises their families, and has their greatest economic investment. Neighborhoods are likewise the litmus test of city services and where quality of life is experienced.

RUSD uses a performance chart to show that test scores are increasing, despite decreasing affluence. This chart captures our challenge. Nearly two thirds of all RUSD and three quarters of AUSD students now qualify for free lunch. We must change the income direction. We must encourage middle class families to live and educate their children in Riverside. As we did for Shop Riverside, we need an even more effective campaign to Live in Riverside.

5) K-12 Education/Talent Dividend - Fifth, K-12 is both our Achilles heel, and our opportunity. For the middle class, K-12 schools are the center of virtually every residential real estate decision.

RUSD and Alvord have many good stories to tell, and these stories can make a persuasive difference. Visit At Home in Riverside; it tells good stories about our neighborhoods and their schools.

However, we must recognize that Riverside test scores are too low and those who complete a post secondary degree too few -- only 17 out of every 100 Riverside students will complete a degree or credential.

Beyond tasking RUSD and Alvord for excellence and innovation, the challenge is for the community to be fully engaged, to become exceptional partners with the two school districts. We must connect the City's social capital with improving the performance of K-12 and with increasing college graduation rates.

As to directions, I propose three strategies for community partnerships. First, I like the approach of the United Way of Central Indiana and their focus on two educational goals: "Children are ready to learn when they start kindergarten and are at grade level in reading and math by the 6th grade." Consulting with the United Way of the Inland Valleys and our two school districts, I will appoint a task force to report on how this national best practice from Indiana can take root in Riverside.

Second, I strongly recommend a look at the Lighted School House or what others have called Community Schools. Expanding after hours services for kids and parents is an important strategy for improving school performance, especially for Hispanics. As explained by Juan Sepulveda, director of the White House Initiative

on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, “Community schools bridge the gap between education and antipoverty services by partnering with nonprofits and local agencies to invest in the care of the whole child.”

And third, Riverside is one of four cities to receive a \$3 million grant from Bill & Melinda Gates to increase college graduation rates. Completion Counts is a defining opportunity for Riverside. The Talent Dividend is becoming the best marker of a successful city in the 21st Century. The presence of college-educated people explains much of a city’s success. In Riverside, a one percentage point gain in college completion would yield an estimated \$185 million dollar increase in per capita income.

6) Arts and Innovation - Sixth, Riverside has branded itself the City of Arts & Innovation. Successful branding requires commitment, ingenuity, and hard work.

As a destination brand, Arts & Innovation can attract visitors, engage all residents, and help retain talent workers in the 18-35 age bracket. Arts and innovation are a key economic driver. A recent Sunset article recommends that visitors go to Riverside and “Check out the artsy side of the Inland Empire.”

With the opening of the Fox Theater and Culver Center, the facilities necessary to be a City of Arts & Innovation are largely in place, and will be so when RCC completes its construction of the School for the Arts.

The challenge before Riverside is to celebrate, coordinate, and support the arts, effectively and financially. Route 9, Creativity Central, should advocate, monitor, and report on the City’s Arts Plan.

7) Downtown and the Creative Community - Seventh, Downtown is everybody’s neighborhood. I do not know of a good city that does not have a good downtown. Riverside has a good downtown -- there is no other like it in the Inland Empire. And I should say that as downtown residents, Marsha and I are happy campers.

Urban economist Richard Florida has introduced the creative class. Composed of highly educated professionals, they regard lifestyle as particularly important in choosing a place to live. The members of this class demand social interaction, culture, nightlife, diversity, and authenticity.

Demography is destiny -- there is a growing choice among Americans for walkable urban places. Many young people want to be in the center of things -- downtown. And even among the boomers, there is a desire for easy access to shopping, food, music, art, and health care.

The City needs to focus on the interests of the creative class and match them with the characteristics of a walkable urban place. The challenge -- we should set a goal for market rate housing downtown, say 5,000 units by 2025, and then figure out how to finance and support such an objective. A vibrant, 24/7 downtown requires full time residents.

We also need to figure out a way to rehab the downtown library, prepare a Complete Streets Plan, expand the federal court complex, and develop a major business center in the area of the Mission Inn Annex.

8) Green Machine - Eighth, being a green machine saves the City money, energy is used more efficiently, and we become good stewards of the environment.

The challenge is to stay the course. The City Charter Review Committee is proposing a Sustainability Commission. This Commission will both advocate and monitor our green initiatives, current and prospective. Please vote yes in June for a Sustainability Commission.

9) Fit, Fresh, & Fun - Ninth, as President of NLC, I attended a European Green Capital Conference in Stockholm. An internationally renowned keynote speaker, Richard Scase, emphasized that successful cities in the 21st Century will be judged on being Fit, Fresh, & Fun.

The challenge for Riverside is to commit ourselves -- in word and deed -- to be a city that is Fit, Fresh, & Fun. Many exciting initiatives are taking form. To focus on the "big picture," a Forum of stakeholders was appointed. The Forum has so far agreed on six goals, including a city wide campaign -- with milestones -- to reduce obesity.

10) Senior Friendly Community - Tenth, successful cities of the future must be senior friendly. The boomers are joining the ranks of seniors. And as Janet Goeske used to say, you too will be a senior one day.

Many seniors have good health, time and skills to volunteer, money to spend, and they can choose where to live. The challenge is to increase Riverside's leadership as a senior friendly community both in programs and services and equally important, in attention and respect. The Mayor's Commission on Aging should undertake an annual evaluation of our progress in being a senior friendly community.

I was struck by the first major speech I heard as a Council member, when James Rouse, one of America's great urban practitioners, said: "I believe there's nothing more important in America than the future of our cities. It's where we truly cradle our civilization, our families, and young and older people...we are responsible for cities...we have the opportunity within our own hands to do enormously important things about them."

NEXT SIX TO TEN MONTHS

I will be Mayor for six to ten more months. I am excited every day as Mayor. It will be a sprint to the finish line for which I have identified 12 goals for 2012! The torch has not yet passed!

Let me provide a preview of coming attractions...some of the events, meetings, and initiatives that I will be hosting or leading.

In conjunction with Seizing Our Destiny Route Seven, the Mayor's Office will host a PLACE summit, presented by Projects for Public Spaces.

The Mayor's Office will host a Community of Faith Summit focused on creating a college culture.

As Mayor, I will work with the Latino Network to help raise funds for the Cesar Chavez memorial.

Drawing upon a comparable event in Erlangen, Germany, the Mayor's Office will lead a Long Night of Arts and Innovation in downtown Riverside.

I will start and chair quarterly meetings of a Forum for Riverside Youth Sports. The objective is for Riverside to be the Youth Sports Center of the Inland Empire.

The Mayor's Office and Parks Department will work together to increase signage and other activities for the bike trail along the Santa Ana River. The Santa Ana trail from Seven Oaks Dam to Huntington Beach should be completed by the end of 2012.

To help be “Fit, Fresh, and Fun”, the City is contracting with Charlie Gandy, a nationally recognized leader, to expand the bicycling renaissance in Riverside.

Monthly walks with the Mayor will continue. And Walk Riverside, a nonprofit group, will likely be organized.

Several neighborhood initiatives will start. The Mayor’s Office will offer a Certificate for Realtors centered on information sessions about the City. I will support a major new web effort called NextDoor to foster greater contacts and sharing within the City’s 26 Neighborhoods. And I will work with the City Manager to start the first systematic evaluation of Riverside neighborhoods.

I will facilitate the City and the Chancellor in making University Avenue from Iowa to UCR more pedestrian and bike friendly.

I will organize a small group of Riverside leaders to meet with the Mayor of Los Angeles and members of the LA City Council to talk about local control of the Ontario Airport.

I will work with the Council and community leaders to understand the significance and choices involved in the Regional Transportation Plan, an historic effort led by SCAG, Southern California Association of Governments.

Enough of highlights of coming attractions -- the agenda of the Mayor, in summary, can be quite expansive.

NEXT MAYOR

In the middle of 1970s, I gave a speech to the Kiwanis Club on leadership in Riverside. Using the metaphor of the Greek philosopher Diogenes’ search for an honest man, I said that Riverside’s problem was not a lack of the honest man but rather a lack of leadership, and that such leadership could only be found in the Mayor’s Office. It is also my view of the Mayor’s Office in 2012.

Quickly framed, the Mayor has three major responsibilities. The first is to provide a vision for the City -- what policy and political directions? What best practices? The second is to bring people to the table, to be a facilitative leader, and to promote civility and inclusiveness. The third is to be the ambassador for the City, to be its representative locally, regionally, statewide, nationally, and globally.

Let the next Mayor’s campaign begin....

CONCLUSION

My third political hero is Henry Cisneros, the best big city mayor in the last half of the 20th Century. In a recent letter, I was honored by a handwritten note from Cisneros: “I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Riverside -- congratulations on the immense contributions you have made over the years.”

There is a quote from Robert Kennedy that is above Cisneros’ desk -- it is also my view of a mayor’s leadership, “The future does not belong to those who are content with today, apathetic toward common problems and their fellow man alike, timid and fearful in the face of new ideas and bold projects. Rather it will belong to those who can blend passion, reason, and courage in a personal commitment to the ideals and great enterprises of American society,” and I would add, to the City of Riverside.

Thank you for the honor and opportunity to work with you over the past 32 years, and God speed to the City of Riverside.