



CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson

Second Inaugural Address
Mayor Frank G. Jackson
January 4, 2010

Good morning.

First, I want to say thank you to everyone for coming today. I give special thanks to my wife, Edwina, and my family for their continued support and to Judge Blackmon for being part of today's inauguration.

I also want to recognize all the elected officials, clergy and public servants here today. Thank you for your support over the last four years and I look forward to working with you for the next four years.

I also want to thank Cleveland's voters who gave me the opportunity to continue to serve them.

Four years ago, when I first became mayor, I talked about Cleveland and its greatness.

To bring Cleveland together as one city, with one people, living and working together to build a future for Cleveland – a future that gives our children an excellent education, that gives our businesses opportunities and our workforce prosperity and that makes Cleveland neighborhoods second to none.

Over the last four years this has been my vision. This is what I have been working towards and over the next four years, it will remain my vision.

My work every day will be to achieve these goals – so that every Clevelander can share in our success, so that Cleveland is once again a city that all look to as a vision for the future.

We cannot think of Cleveland as it is today – We must envision Cleveland's future.

That means decisions have to be made not based on where the world is now, but where the world will be tomorrow.

What will that Cleveland of tomorrow look like?

A Cleveland that is competitive in a global economy through ensuring that international commerce flows through Cleveland; operating as a regional economy; and, properly using our assets.

A Cleveland that works with its neighbors to reduce the cost of operating government and to reduce the cost of the private sector doing business.

Even as the economists talk about stability and recovery, the impact of the recession on the public sector is still challenging. The private sector is facing the same challenges and businesses are operating more efficiently, restructuring their operations and developing alternative ways to raise revenue – government must do the same.

Cleveland will continue to be fiscally responsible, deliver quality service, invest in our 36 neighborhoods and position for the future.

But, all of this does not matter without education. As the conversation about regionalism continues, it will lack sincerity and commitment if education is not included.

We have faced and overcome many challenges over the last four years. We will face more in the next four years and we will meet and overcome those too, because – Cleveland has heart and tenacity.

And when we do, I see a Cleveland as part of a region that is prosperous; businesses investing; people working; young people educated with a career path; a center for arts, culture, health care and innovation; a diverse city where everyone is welcome. This will not happen without work and commitment from our entire community.

Finally, and most importantly, the work that I will do over the next four years for Cleveland will continue to be for one purpose – to leave this city and all who call it home – better off than when I started.

For what is a city but its people?

What is an economy without its businesses and workforce?

What is a school district without its children?

What is a neighborhood without its residents?

The people of Cleveland are the reason I stand before you today, at the beginning of my second term as Mayor.

And make no mistake – we will be measured as a city and people by what we do for the least of us.

And in these difficult times, there are more people who are in need of our help. We must resist the temptation of saying “I got mine now you get yours.”

We will only survive as a city and people by helping each other, by giving when resources are limited and by being concerned about our neighbors and their wellbeing.

Thank you.