



**The Historic Fourth
Inauguration Ceremony of**

Mayor Frank G. Jackson

January 2, 2018

Collection of Remarks

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Tuesday, January 2, 2018

Welcome

Neela Narine, 7th grader
Campus International School, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

National Anthem

Sgt. Kennedy Jones
City of Cleveland, Division of Police

Invocation

Rev. Dr. E. Theophilus Caviness
Senior Pastor, Greater Abyssinia Baptist Church

Remarks & Administration of the Oath of Office

The Honorable Patricia A. Blackmon
Judge, Court of Appeals of Ohio, Eighth Appellate District

Inaugural Remarks

The Honorable Mayor Frank G. Jackson

Special Prayer for the City of Cleveland

Dr. Kenneth W. Chalker
Senior Pastor, Church in the Circle
University Circle United Methodist Church

Benediction

Pastor Jose Reyes
Iglesia Nueva Vida (Church of New Life)

Musical Selection

City of Cleveland Urban Jazz Ensemble

————— **The Historic Fourth** —————
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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Given by Neela Narine, 7th grader at Campus International School

Good morning,

My name is Neela Narine and I am excited to welcome you all to the historic 4th Inauguration of Mayor Frank G. Jackson, the 56th Mayor of the City of Cleveland. I am a 7th Grader at Campus International School, in the Cleveland Municipal School District, and I had the pleasure of meeting Mayor Jackson when he came to visit my school.

We have had long conversations about how much I love reading, and some of my favorite books. Recently, I was also with a group of students who came here, to City Hall, to play Christmas music for the Mayor and his staff.

I know the Mayor runs the city and makes many decisions every day, so I was surprised that he remembered me and our conversation. I really appreciated that he took the time to not only listen to what was important to me, but also that he remembered our conversation after all this time.

It is so special and inspiring for me to be here today to welcome all of you, and I hope that it is equally as special for you as well!

Thank you.

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INAUGURATION INVOCATION

**PREPARED AND GIVEN BY REV. DR. E. THEOPHILUS CAVINESS
SENIOR PASTOR, GREATER ABYSSINIA BAPTIST CHURCH**

Eternal and Everlasting God, our Father, Thou in whom we Live,

Move and have our being. Thou, O God, who art never far from any of us especially when we have need of Thee. Thou who doth love us unconditionally with an everlasting agape love.

On this awesome, unprecedented day, we pray that Thou wouldst bring Thyself to be an integral part of our transpirations this day, indeed this momentous moment for we have come together this day to honor, celebrate and bless your faithful public servant, the honorable, illustrious and distinguished Frank G. Jackson as the 56th Mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

This outstanding and monumental leader has in his own inimitable humble way, accomplished what no other person has accomplished in being elected to an historic fourth term as Mayor of this great and diverse metropolis. Truly, there has to be something extremely and exquisitely unique and special about this iconic man who over and over again exemplifies to us integrity, honesty, character and moral rectitude.

A Man who is void and not given to hypocritical façade, nor ostentatious buffoonery, our esteemed leader is dedicated to seeing things as they are remembering "it is what it is" and making things what they ought to be and not allowing the people to bear the unbearable load of governmental ineptitude.

Undeniably impacted by the Sainted Veteran Councilwoman Fannie Lewis, whose vision of government weighing down on the backs of the people, this giant of a man makes sure that his form of governing would be of the people, by the people and for the people.

Really to know the depth, the profundity and the inward determination, the fidelity, the dynamism, the fortitude, the courage of this visionary leader you will have to search the pages of antiquity for Frank is always just Frank and you never get the truth about Frank G. Jackson, unless you get it straight from him.

So today, on this renowned historic and auspicious occasion, we pause to pray for the success of our esteemed leader, his family and those who serve in his administration.

Undergird him with your strength, your wisdom, your power and your Divine Providence.

Help him to be the force that calls for men a time like this demands.

Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;

Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;

Men who possess opinions and a will;

Men who have honor; men who will not lie;

Men who can stand before a demagogue

And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking!

Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog in public duty, and in private thinking;

For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,

Their large professions and their little deeds,

Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,

Wrong rules the land and waiting Justice sleeps.

Men who can keep their head, when all about them are losing theirs and blaming on you.

Men who can trust themselves when others are doubting you

But make allowance for their doubting too;

Men who can wait and not be tired by waiting

Men who are lied about, don't deal in lies;

Men who while being hated and don't give way to hating;

Men who don't look too good, not talk too wise;

Men who can dream and not make dreams their master;

Men who can meet with Triumph & Disaster

And treat those two imposters just the same...

As Thou has blessed us in this city to elect just such principled calibered man, as Frank G. Jackson, we pray for your anointing and your blessings upon himself, his family, his administration and we who are your people.

This, today, is our Common Prayer and all the people said, "Amen, Amen & Amen."

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REMARKS PRECEDING OATH OF OFFICE

**GIVEN BY THE HONORABLE PATRICIA A. BLACKMON
JUDGE, COURT OF APPEALS OF OHIO, EIGHTH APPELLATE DISTRICT**

To Mayor Frank George Jackson, his wonderful wife, Edwina, his family, the Reverend clergy, and all of those who laid hands on this day, I am pleased to administer the Oath of Office to the 56th Mayor of Cleveland and the longest serving Mayor in Cleveland's history.

The historical Oath is different than the ones taken after 1789 and after 1861. The Oath is an honor to serve, not necessarily a pledge of loyalty; although a pledge of loyalty was its historical tradition.

I have known the Mayor from his days as a clerk in the Cleveland Municipal Court, as a City Prosecutor, as Ward 5's Councilman, as President of City Council, and as Mayor, for four different terms. Our friendship has grown as we both have evolved as public servants.

We first met in the late 70s when I was a night prosecutor and he was the night clerk for the Cleveland Municipal Court. I would issue the warrants for a suspect's arrest, and he would process the paperwork. In 1986, I became the Chief Prosecutor under Law Director, Marilyn Zack, and appointed by then Mayor George Voinovich. Two years later, 1988, I hired Frank as one of my assistant prosecutors. A year later, he resigned and told me he wanted to help his Ward. I said, "don't do it." He did, and the rest is history. In fact, on many occasions, I advised him not to run. It is a blessing that he never listened to me.

The Mayor is a person of his word. He is loyal and consistent, which is why I have always sworn him into public office from Councilman to Mayor.

He is a great leader; he leads by example. He sets the example.

You see, leadership in its best form takes many hands and many voices. Let all of us add our hands and voices to the uplifting of this city and all its people. Let us build a road to education. Knowledge is the 1st step from the bottom and the last step to a well lived life.

Always remembering what the Mayor believes, when we help the least of us, we help all of us.

Mayor, will you and Edwina please join me for the administration of the Oath of Office.

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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 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.

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A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE CITY OF CLEVELAND

**PREPARED AND GIVEN BY REV. DR. KENNETH W. CHALKER,
UNIVERSITY CIRCLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Eternal Creator,

Thank you for this wonderful city along the lake; this place we are privileged to know as home. While it is a bit colder today than many would like, thank you for all the ways in which you inspire its people to warm this community with countless acts of care for others. Thank you for its neighborhoods, its Wards and its many diverse communities that create a great community for us all.

Thank you for all the people in this room and in many, many rooms across our community whose efforts are tangible prayers doing the work of caring for others and building safe places and places of opportunity. Thank you for the efforts of many – even in the face of years when people thought nothing good could come out of Cleveland – to make this a decent, loving and exciting place to live, work and grow. Thank you for all the ways in which prayers for this city are made tangible through the work of folks you inspire to create opportunity corridors for us all.

We gather here on this inauguration day certainly mindful that there are places in our community that are not safe, places where gangs seem to rule the day and night, places not safe because support, love, opportunity and challenge have not been encouraged or nurtured. Thank you for all the people who tirelessly step into this breach and endeavor to make a way forward.

Thank you for our mayor, O God. Thank you for this man who never has wanted to stay the course. Rather, thank you for his efforts to understand the course in order to transform the course where it is in the wrong direction and enable all of us to join with him as he charts the course for a dynamic future.

Continue to bless our City and each and all of us. Amen.

“ *It is characteristic of Frank Jackson's spirit that — on the day of his historic 4th inauguration — he requests a special prayer for the City as the first thing following his remarks.* ”

- Rev. Dr. Chalker

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**This new term allows us
to continue to move
Cleveland forward - to
build greater opportunity
and equity for all citizens.
Cleveland: Our Time is Now!**

- Mayor Frank G. Jackson

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CITY OF CLEVELAND
Mayor Frank G. Jackson