

SWEARING IN REMARKS

*Mayor Dr. Yxstian Gutierrez*

I am humbled tonight by the presence and support of my family members, friends and colleagues. I appreciate the confidence that the City Council has demonstrated by selecting me as your Mayor and am honored to work beside Mayor Pro Tem Giba, former Mayor Molina, Council Member Price, and Council Member Jempson in continuing to move our City in a positive direction. We are an active and innovative Council and I am excited about the amazing things we are going to achieve for Moreno Valley as we work together in 2016.

First and foremost, I would like to give special recognition to my Mom and Dad and supporters for joining me tonight.

As your new Mayor, I will continue to move this City forward by working collaboratively with our Council, staff, and community, and truly focusing on the needs of our community.

While serving as Mayor Pro Tem and Council Member, I have helped bring over 4,000 jobs to Moreno Valley. I'm proud to have voted to approve the World Logistics Center, which will bring a world class logistics park and 20,000 local jobs to our community. And our work is just beginning. Every resident deserves the dignity of a job. Therefore job creation – and shortened commutes, higher incomes, and much-needed city revenues that come with it -- must continue to be a top priority. To this end I will continue to propose and advocate for job creation incentives to attract new businesses. Earlier this year I sponsored the Hire MoVal program – an initiative that promotes hiring local Moreno Valley residents while offering economic incentives to businesses through lower utility rates. This has really proven to be a “win-win” situation for the City, the business community and most importantly our residents.

I will continue to find ways to expand the success of programs such as Hire MoVal. Additional goals of mine include reducing red tape for our small businesses; addressing our infrastructure needs, particularly improving our city streets; advocating for small business and homeowner friendly programs; and continuing a dialogue with our non-profits on how to best leverage funds such as Community Development Block Grants.

Additionally, my commitment to public safety remains strong. We need to search for grant funds and identify innovative ways such as our Citywide Camera program and community policing to hold down costs. I would like to approach public safety this year looking to build upon exceptional collaborations such as our Cops and Clergy program - working with our pastors, extending and replicating many of the community crime prevention programs from the District Attorney's office in our City. I will continue to meet with our Police Chief and District Attorney on a regular basis to keep up to date on the latest crime prevention programs. Likewise, we must concentrate police in neighborhoods and improve our quality of life by: improving community relations, focusing our police units in areas where they are most needed, ensuring adequate police funding, and working with our faith based communities to educate our youth and foster a positive atmosphere.

As your Mayor, I will continue to support the education of children throughout our City by investing in them, as they are our future leaders and future taxpayers. I will support our after school programs and continued development of the performing arts component. Additionally, I will support our Youth Council in their endeavors to be the voice of the young adults and youth.

This year they have created programs to address our at-risk youth. Furthermore, I will introduce to the Council a free Youth Leadership Program for at-risk High School students where students will receive high school credit this summer in leadership, education in local government, career readiness skills, as well as paid internships.

As Mayor, I look forward to leading the effort to bring data-driven decision making and strategic planning into the City Council's decision making process. Data-driven decision making involves our City seeking input from our residents about their needs and wants through a variety of sources including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and questionnaires. Your opinions must be not only heard but listened to. Using these methods, I will champion efforts for our City to respond to residents' needs.

As you have seen throughout this past year, I'm goal oriented and community focused. There will be times, I am sure, when some of you may disagree with me. Please know that, in my heart, I remain fully committed to working in the best interest of all residents not only now but well into the future. This is why I encourage all residents of our City to contact me via email, on my cell phone, or through face-to-face to discuss your needs and concerns.

One of the Mayor's roles is to serve as the face of the City in our community; therefore, I will be implementing several community outreach programs to receive public input. I want increased civic engagement to be a foundation of my term as your Mayor and will implement programs such as "Meet the Mayor" biweekly office hours, Mayor's Night Out events, and a Mayor's Monthly Message on the latest happenings in City Hall.

Lastly, I ask that whatever decisions we make as a Council, that you will support the decisions and help move this City forward in a positive direction. So, ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. God bless you all and may God bless our Great City.