

Inaugural Speech 2018

Rebirth of Franklin

As the great Yogi Berra once said, "This is like déjà vu all over again!"

First and foremost, I want to thank all the citizens of Franklin for electing me to be your Mayor for the next two years. I consider it a great honor and privilege to represent each and every one of you and our great City.

I'd also like to thank two very special ladies in my life-my wife Maryska for her great inspiration and support as I serve the City of Franklin-and my mother Pierina who at 92 continues to remind me about the importance of building family and community.

So, as many of you know, this is not my first go-around as Mayor. I was honored to serve as your mayor from 2000-2004 and having done so have the unique perspective to go back and remind us of where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. Think of it as a "Franklin Christmas Carol".

Looking back at my first inaugural speech, it was all about changing our perception. As you know, perception really is reality and our perception of ourselves wasn't very good. So I focused on reminding everyone of the incredibly successful history of our City and how we were a powerhouse in the New Hampshire economy. The Franklin mills produced wool second to none in the world. Sulloway Mills had the most modern textile equipment in the country. Peabody-Danielle paper mills produced the best paper and it was said everyone in the country wrote on Peabody-Danielle paper. While I was Mayor, we did everything we could to improve our perception and make positive visual changes to our city. To help us, we had the "Vision 2000 Plan"-and I vowed to implement as much of that plan as we could. As the plan recommended, we formed Choose Franklin-a powerful pro-Franklin organization, we built Marceau Park, Trestle View Park, and most importantly we gave a rebirth to our historic Franklin Opera House. When we look back, all of these actions-put into motion nearly two decades ago-are now the foundation of further revitalization today.

Let's move forward to today. Wow, the City is "on fire"! And what it took were some champions to step forward, to take some risk have, and have a vision. It also took a collaborate effort on the part of the city to team with these great champions and work together to get projects moving. As a result, we had the largest downtown infrastructure investment in modern times with a CATCH Housing 12 million dollar investment in the former Riverbend Mill complex now aptly renamed the Franklin Light and Power complex. We've had a major investment by PermaCity Life breathing new life into our most visible downtown Central Street structures... and they've only just begun. Then we have Mill City Park and their plans moving forward to create a premiere whitewater kayaking destination. Then, for those of you who may not know, we had a premiere mill developer purchase the JP Stevens mill-the largest mill building in our downtown. This is more spectacular news for our downtown businesses as revitalization of the Stevens Mill will mean more people working, eating, entertaining, and buying products in our downtown. We are also building a 1MW solar project up on

Industrial Park Drive. This project will provide clean renewable solar power to 100 homes.

And now, the most exciting part of the night... the future of our City. The Whitewater Park is coming and with it nearly 6.5 million dollars of economic activity. The Stevens Mill restoration will be spectacular and with it significant economic activity and business creation. Franklin Light and Power will bring nearly 50 families to our downtown. With all of this activity, downtown businesses will flourish resulting in continued upgrades and improvements to buildings along Central Street. There are more solar projects coming to Franklin slated to begin construction this spring. Then, I'm here to announce tonight a "Sister City" agreement between the City of Franklin and Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Although we are 8,000 miles apart, we are still all part of the human family. We all have the same problems-but often different solutions. So I look forward to sharing our cultural and socioeconomic conditions and look for ways to improve our cities and our lives. Also, Taiwanese investors are looking to invest in our City. So, how does the City of Franklin receive the interest of Taiwanese investors? Well, Taiwan's largest solar panel manufacturer is supplying solar panels for the 1 megawatt Industrial Park Drive project. Their representative assigned to this project have now seen and worked in our city. It didn't take them long to realize the opportunities here. They've shared those opportunities with their investors and they want to capitalize further to grow other businesses here in the City of Franklin.

With all of this literally happening over the next year, there's one giant Elephant in the room we haven't even mentioned... and that is-Northern Pass!

It's seems to have taken an eternity-but finally we are at the end of the process and Northern Pass will be built. Starting this spring, Franklin will see the beginning of the single largest infrastructure project in the history of our great City. During construction, it will mean 400-500 new local high paying jobs. And at its completion, it will result in lasting property tax revenue that will literally transform this city.

So, are you excited? Are you ready for some monumental success?

Councilors get ready to roll up your sleeves because we're going to get very busy.

And for a final word to the wise... back in 2000 when I was first elected as your mayor, I told my friends and relatives to invest in Franklin. I told them if you invested in our City you would double your investments in four short years. Those who listened did double their investment. So, today I'll make a bolder prediction. Invest in Franklin now, today, because in two years you won't be able to afford Franklin!

God Bless you and God Bless the City of Franklin.

Tony Giunta
Mayor - City of Franklin
January 8, 2018

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