



Dear Citizens of Houston,

Thank you for honoring me with your trust and your hopes. I love the City of Houston! To serve you has been my highest aspiration. To work with you on the pressing issues and challenges we face is my mission.

In turn, I ask your help with four things:

1. Your prayers. We have enormous challenges ahead. All that we must do will be done. All that we should do can be done. We will strive mightily for it. I know we can achieve anything with hard work...and with your prayers.
2. Your patience. Some things we cannot rush. A city is a continuum. Projects begin under one administration and finish under another. It may seem as if little progress is made. And the compromise - the give-and-take of government - can be a slow and difficult process. But we have a range of voices and opinions in the City of Houston Council Chamber because no one has all the answers. And because all voices must be heard.
3. Your persistent commitment. We are in this together, for the duration. You must commit your time and energy to Houston. We rise and fall together. We succeed or fall together.
4. Your forgiveness. As much as we try, and as hard as we work, and for all the right reasons, we will make mistakes. We will have failures. I ask for your forgiveness in advance.

Houston is a city of open arms and warm hearts. We are a city filled with optimism, with a sense of partnering, with real respect for each other. Houston is a city built on dreams, but dreams powered by hard work, common sense and creativity. A city must be a place, said anthropologist Margaret Mead, where groups of women and men are seeking and developing the highest things they know. And that's what we are set to do.

I respect the office of Mayor and revere the oath I have taken. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

Respectfully,

Annise D. Parker
Mayor

To read the entire text of the inaugural address,
<http://www.houstontx.gov/mayor/inauguration2010.html>