[TOM ADAMS] Good evening – Welcome to the 2020 State of the City! Thank you all for your attendance, we have some really great things to go over this evening. We’re going to be sharing this as the entire council, but before we do that, I would like to call up Steve Baker for our invocation. Steve? If you would, please?

You know what I’ll do since I don’t see Steve, yet. Pastor Chris Bourne, could you come up and share some work with us? Pastor Bourne?

[AUDIENCE] Here he is!

[TOM ADAMS] Would you do that for me, please? Pastor Bourne is fairly new. Not to Monrovia, but fairly new as the Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Monrovia, so Pastor Bourne if you would please?

[PASTOR BOURNE] Thank you so much! Wow. There is a scripture that say “be ye also ready.” What a great night to be here to come together as a community, as a city, to hear the wonderful things that our city Councilmembers and our Mayor have put together. I’m excited for our city. I think that we have been blessed for several hundreds of years and I’m excited about seeing the future. And there’s an old saying that simply says “I see you in the future, and you look much better in the future than you do right now.” So to our Mayor and to each and every one of you, we’re looking forward to a great night. Thank you for coming and God bless you all.

[TOM ADAMS] Thank you, sir. Next up, the Presentation of the Colors will be brought forward by the Monrovia Boy and Girl Scouts. Troop 66! These are some pretty impressive young folks in Monrovia. Thank you for being here.

[PRESENTATION OF COLORS AND FLAG SALUTE]

[TOM ADAMS] Give these young folks another big hand, please. And I also know – I was talking to a couple of the Girl Scouts earlier – they’re selling cookies. When they approached me, I told them that I had put on way too many pounds to be eating anymore cookies, but I would buy a box if they could find somebody a little thinner than me to share them with, so if you do that I’m sure they’d appreciate the support. Now we have a great opportunity this evening to hear Berlynn Milliken sing the National Anthem. Berlynn? Please come down. This young lady has an amazing voice.

[NATIONAL ANTHEM]

[TOM ADAMS] What a voice!

We originally had it set tonight to hear two people singing. Mayor Pro Tem Spicer was going to sing Old Town Road for you tonight. He does an amazing job on it, but he’s come down with a sore throat so he’s going to pass on that part. Yes?

[Larry] Yes.

[TOM ADAMS] So as I look around tonight, this is pretty exciting – I see them bringing more chairs in because we got standing room only. It’s exciting to see this many people wanting to know about Monrovia and what they’re doing. And although you’re all very special to us, there’s a list of people that I need to read their names off – and this is where I always get into trouble, because if you didn’t get here early enough to get signed up you won’t be on the list, so I apologize for that, but before I get into that list, there’s a couple of people that are very special to me. My wife Sally is here with me. Sally. And my daughter asked me not to introduce her, so I won’t, nor will I introduce her significant other that are seated to the right of Sally, but thank you both for being here. It’s kind of fun when your kids live in town, it makes it pretty special.
So as we move into tonight, we’re here to celebrate the great work that the City is doing to make the community better. Not just better, but great. And as you drive around town, and you see the results of Monrovia Renewal – that’s where we’ve taken a commitment to make all of the infrastructure in Monrovia up to a minimum of 70 percent. We had failing streets. We had water main leaks every other day, we had sewer leaks, we had streets that were down to the dirt, and we came together five years ago and made a commitment to change that. And you’re going to see that we’re a long way towards that.

But last year when I stood up here, we talked about sales tax. And we talked about the fact that there was still three-quarter of a percent left in LA County in Monrovia sales. And our concern was that if the County took that, or AQMD, or somebody, that we would see very little of that money. So we put together a little campaign called Measure K and we went out into the community and tried to convince everyone, that that money would be better served here in Monrovia. We’ve had a lot of experience with money going away to the County and doesn’t necessarily come back as even as we think it should. So we took that out to the voters and the voters said yes. We like that. And I think, what was it? 63 percent. There we go. 63 percent said yes. So now comes the task of what do you do with it? And so the commitment we have is that we’re going to continue to go out into the community and ask the community, the people that we work for – what do you want us to do with that money? And you’re all going to be asked tonight when you leave to fill out a little ballot and tell us what you think we should do with that money tonight.

It’s $51.7 million that we’re spending on Monrovia Renewal. The Measure K fund will bring us about $4.5 or $5 million a year in extra revenue. But what we’ve managed to do with Monrovia Renewal is that we have over 8 million square feet of street improvements, 154 thousand square feet of sidewalk replacements, 114 thousand linear feet of new curbs and gutters, 2.5 miles of new water pipelines, 5 miles of sewer line improvements, and 800 new water connections.

Now if you don’t think that water and sewer are important, all I ask is that you go home and have yours turned off for a day or two and you realize that one of the most important things government can do for you is make sure that you have good clean water and that the sewer goes down to – actually ours goes to Whittier. I was going to say Long Beach, where the sewer meets the sea, but ours goes down to Whittier.

So on the renewal project, we’re getting into the last phase of that and we hope to have that completed next year 2021, and I think as you drive around – I know I got a brand new street, brand new down to the dirt. It was amazing because my street was so bad for so long that I just couldn’t believe that we were living in this Country. But it’s all brand new! And I think you will agree that we have renewed Monrovia. So give yourselves a hand.

So I get the privilege of working with four really great people and I can tell you that we don’t always agree, but we find a way to do what we think is right in the Monrovia way. We try to find compromise that works for everyone. And I truly am blessed that to have the four people on the Council that I get to work with on a regular basis. We all see the world a little differently, but we come together and we do what we think is right for Monrovia. So tonight you’re going to hear from each one of us, because even though we have been focused on delivering complex infrastructure upgrades, the City Council has also pushed forward on multiple other fronts to ensure that Monrovia remains the brightest gem in the crown that is the San Gabriel Valley.

In just a minute I’m going to invite up Councilmember Becky Shevlin to take the stage to share a few details related to some of the amazing capital improvements that we’re working on. And even though I can stand here and go on and on and on about what makes this city so great, I’m going to call up Mrs. Shevlin. Becky, where are you at? Right over here.

And while Becky is coming up, I’m going to go ahead and read the folks that are here and again I apologize if I missed you. Representing Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Hector Elizalde. Hector, thank you for being here. Representing Councilwoman Judy Chu, Lauren Jacobs is here. Lauren? Thank you. Representing Assemblymember Chris Holden, Hector Rodriguez. Hector? Thank you for being here.
Representing Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Vicky Paul. Vicky? Thank you. The Honorable Judge Bruce Marrs is here. Thank you, Bruce. I think maybe, Monrovia’s only judge.

[JUDGE MARS] There are two others.

[TOM ADAMS] There are two of you?

[JUDGE MARS] Three.

[TOM ADAMS] Three. Where are the other two?

[JUDGE MARS] AWOL!

[TOM ADAMS] I’m glad you said that. Not me. Okay, from the Community Services Commission, the Chair. Ed Belden. Commissioner Julie Bank, Commissioner Nancy Matthews, and Commissioner Genia Mills.

From the Historic Preservation Commission, Mark Houston, Sergio Jimenez, the Chair, Dan Ryan and Penny Zuk. I’m sorry Becky, I called you up too soon.

[BECKY SHEVLIN] Yeah. That’s okay.

[TOM ADAMS] I’ll give you a little more space time. From the Planning Commission, Scot Austin. Gary Schaeffer. What was that? Sounds like Kiwanis, Keshia Carter-Bowen. Bill Shief.

From the Library Board, President Janet Wall, Mark Harvis, John Carlson. From the MAD Town Council, and you may be wondering why they’re here for those of you that are new. MAD Town Council represents the Monrovia Arcadia Duarte areas that are unincorporated, and we started sometime rather unique four or five years ago. We have joint meetings with them because there are a whole bunch of people who move to Monrovia and don’t know until they go and get services that they’re not in the city. So we try to sort all that out and see if we can be better neighbors. When the days done – where is Terrance Williams? It’s all about community – isn’t it, Terrance?

[TERRANCE WILLIAMS] Yes, sir!

[TOM ADAMS] Thank you. So we have John Clayton, Linda Sells, Terrance you must not checked in because they didn’t highlight your name, but I know you’re here.

MOTAB is the Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board. Yes! They’re the merchants along Myrtle Avenue that advise the council on matters down there. Their Chair, Diane Balsamo, Kristin Miller, Dominique Strivings – okay we’re almost done folks.

From the Board of Education, and we do something unique with them as well. We started about five years ago having joint meetings with them. We haven’t had those for about five years in Monrovia and we activated that because they take care of our kids and they educate them. And there’s things we do together jointing that benefit all of us. We had a joint meeting where the two items most important were active shooter training, where we’re going to have our police department work with the teachers to understand how to handle that and the other is vaping. We all hear on the news how bad vaping is. What do we do about it? So we’ve come together and we’re going to working on it jointly – hopefully make it a little bit better. So we have Selene Lockerbie, and it says Maritza, but I thought Maritza was gone?

[AUDIENCE] she’s here in spirit.

[TOM ADAMS] she’s here?

[AUDIENCE] in spirit!

[TOM ADAMS] in spirit. You know that’s good, because when they’re here in spirit, we don’t run out of seats, so that’s good.
Chamber of Commerce, our executive director, Sari Canales. It says past president, but I know she’s the new president, Judy Scheffler. And although we don’t have his name highlighted, Bryan Wong. Thank you for being here. So is there anybody I missed?

[KIRSTI LOPEZ] Yes!

[TOM ADAMS] Who?

[KIRSTI LOPEZ] Kristi Lopez!

[TOM ADAMS] Kristi Lopez, where are you?

[KIRSTI LOPEZ] Here.


[TOM ADAMS] Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio! Thank you. Did we miss anybody else?

[BECKY SHEVLIN] The youth in government kids.

[TOM ADAMS] Who?

[BECKY SHEVLIN] The youth in government kids, I wanted to make sure they were acknowledged.

[TOM ADAMS] Who?

[BECKY SHEVLIN] The youth in government kids.

[TOM ADAMS] Oh, the youth in government! The youth in government folks. Take a stand please. It’s always good to see young folks coming down to learn about things, because they’re going to be the next generation who take over, aren’t you?

[AUDIENCE] Yes!

[TOM] Alright. Thankfully, someone will.

[COMMUNITY OVERVIEW VIDEO PLAYS]

[TOM] Is this back on yet? Now it is. My apologies. Now we give you Becky Shevlin.

[CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS]

[BECKY SHEVLIN] Wow. You ought to be happy that you’re sitting out there, sitting in that chair right there that close up, and at this side, it has a Picasso effect on our images up there. So, we all looked very interesting, but it was good, so can I say again? Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! Monrovia is extraordinarily wonderful and good, so I’ll start off on that note. Can we give a hand for all those great things said about Monrovia?

I do have to start by saying hello and introducing my number one fan. My husband, Chris Shevlin, who is up there. Thank you for supporting me and coming out tonight.

I am very excited to be here with you to share details on some other exciting capital projects throughout the City. And although we have been hard at work wrapping up that $51.7 million Monrovia Renewal Project, we haven’t neglected to continue making advancements on other priority capital related initiatives throughout the City. So, let’s discuss a few ....

Originally built in 1926, the Historic Santa Fe Depot has captured the hearts of many. Since the recognition of its restoration in 2018, it has served as the backdrop for many events including the MAFA
Annual Chalk Fest, the Monrovia Chamber Beer, Wine, and Music Festival. Yeah, you can clap for that. The City’s summer concert series. Most importantly, the Depot is located at Station Square, home of the Gold Line, the new MODA apartments, and the Mayor Bob Bartlett Memorial; and although there’s been a great deal of interest from a variety of operators, one of the major issues appears to be a desire to wait and see regarding the promise and approval of additional housing units, but not yet built. So stay tuned. We will get an operator for that site.

And talking about Mayor Bob Bartlett – the memorial. Given Bob’s long and outstanding service to Monrovia, the City Council commissioned the establishment of a mosaic art piece that would honor Mayor Bartlett’s legacy. If you have seen the art piece in person, I think you can agree that the work is phenomenal, especially with all the intricate details. As a matter of fact, the piece is so incredible that the 18th annual Mosaic Arts International Exhibition Series selected the Bob Bartlett Memorial as one of only 19 architectural and site-specific mosaics from around the world to be recognized. That’s pretty special. For over four months, a rendering of the art-work was displayed in Nashville, TN as a part of a special exhibit containing mosaic works from around the globe. Monrovia’s history has built such a strong foundation, allowing the community to shine so brightly today and at times like this. Lastly, I wanted to share that unfortunately, as many of you probably know, the memorial was recently damaged, however please also note that it is being repaired and it will be back to good as new very soon! It’s hard to imagine what’s in some people’s mind when they damage things like that.

And around town, if you find yourself walking outside, you may stumble upon a delightful poem imprinted in the sidewalk. These are a part of the Sidewalk Poetry Contest, known as Footprints - Footnotes, excuse me. In 2019, we selected six new poems to be installed. The best part about these poems is the fact that they are imprinted all over the city, so be sure to keep a lookout for poems in Old Town, near the parks, and even in your neighborhood.

And speaking of parks, in 2019 we made several improvements to our parks and open spaces.

In partnership with the Monrovia Youth Baseball League the City made significant improvements to the baseball field at Recreation Park. We performed extensive maintenance work on the score board, repainting the facility, and repairing locations that were in need of new turf.

Both Station Square Park and Julian Fisher Park received deep cleaning and pressure washing on the soft surfaces and an application of a sealant coat to protect and preserve the playground surfaces. If you think the lawn is looking extra green at Station Square, that’s not because we got more rain, that’s because the City also completed some turf enhancements! Additionally, the Station Square bandshell received a facelift, and it also got a new coat of paint this past year!

Now I can’t speak about our parks and not bringing up the city’s beloved trees. This past year, the City instituted a fairly substantial public improvement project to repair the entire stretch of crumbling and lifted sidewalk on Colorado Boulevard in front of Monrovia High School. By replacing all of the sidewalk, curb, and gutter, we were able to construct a wider and safer sidewalk that allowed for easier student drop-off and pick-up at the high school. However, due to this construction, 20 trees had to be removed, however, our commitment is to replace the trees on a 2 to 1 basis, meaning the City has begun to replant 40 trees, 20 of which have already been replanted in the parkway to replace the ones removed, and the remainder to be planted within the High School campus or other locations all according to a landscaping plan approved by MUSD, and yes, incorporating native trees! That’s for your Bryan. And that’s a good idea to use native trees.

From replacing the cushion cap at Library Park playground to installing new basketball courts at Julian Fisher Park, over the years the City has worked hard to enhance our open spaces, but we are most definitely not done as keeping our parks in great shape is an ongoing and never ending process.

This past year, the State of California solicited grant proposals through Proposition 68, the State Park Bond Program. Given the grant criteria, Lucinda Garcia Park was identified as an eligible and competitive
project. As illustrated in the pictures, we could certainly use upgrades at that location. There are specific improvements called out for Lucinda Garcia Park, including: expanding the park to the open space area located at the west end of the facility, replacing and upgrade the play equipment, adding all fall safety surfacing at the playground area, installing exercise circuit equipment along the pathway at the park, repairing the pathway, upgrading the landscaping at the park, installing interpretive signage on the history of Lucinda Garcia and the park, and installing a demonstration garden with drought tolerate and native species.

There are a lot of improvements that need to be made, all adding up to just over $1 million and I am excited to announce that the City has been granted, maybe not the one million, but $300,000 in Prop A funds from Supervisor Kathryn Barger – thank you, Kathryn - to put towards these improvements! We are also expecting to hear back if the City was selected to receive additional grant funding through Proposition 68 in March of this year, so stay tuned! And if we do get that funding, I understand that there should be sufficient funding to complete all those projects.

During the past year, we have also been engaged in coordinating the reconfiguration of the intersection at 5th Avenue and Huntington Drive. How many of you have been sitting there at that intersection and it’s not good? When this project is complete, as you're entering into Monrovia, you will see a new entryway monument, new landscaping, improved pedestrian space, wider streets to improve traffic flow at the location, new traffic signals to include protected left turn movements in all directions.

In addition to our parks and outdoor spaces, our facilities also received some T.L.C. this past year. The Community Center hallways received a fresh coat of paint on Make a Difference Day, new carpet was installed in the Senior Game Room, and a new water bottle filling station was added! The City was selected by the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District to receive the station as part of a community water savings grant program. Then, Eco Tech Services, a local Monrovia company, installed the station at no cost to the City! Thank you very much, Eco Tech. Additionally, the City recently partnered with the Monrovia Association of Fine Arts – let's give it up for MAFA - to install a new art gallery at the Community Center. And we had the unveiling of artist alley this last Sunday and it was great. You've got to go over to the Community Center and check out the art. And there will be quarterly receptions there, so you'll have lots of chances to see the great art. But don't let this short list fool you, or let you think that we don't realize that our community center needs a little more than T.L.C. As you heard earlier from Tom – Measure K – the community center is on that list of priority items that could be funded from Measure K funds and you will all have an opportunity, as he said, to vote on whether or not you'd like to see those funds go in that direction.

Then, for some time, the roof at Fire Station 102 had been leaking and was way overdue for a replacement. In fact, the roof and existing HVAC both date to the construction of the station back in 1996! Although our firefighters were so gracious, as they were occasionally exposed to the natural elements, they were finally given a new roof! Known as a “Class A” built-up roofing system, this new roof meets all building requirements, including Title 24 for energy efficiency! In addition, two new 8.5 ton HVAC Units were also installed. Now, our firefighters can stay cool and dry all-year round!

If you think our Fire Department has an old building, you are going to be blown away by our Police Station. And I have some issues with the date they used here about being blown away about how old it is, it says the Police Department facility was constructed – are you ready for this- in the 1960s! Be careful who you’re calling old. Throughout the years, the building has been updated, but given the high volume of traffic and the fact that the building is in use 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, the building was showing significant wear and tear. This past year, the police station received: replacement of more than 8,500 square feet of flooring, removal of all wallpaper, and a fresh coat of paint to all walls, door casings, and window trims.

On the digital front, Old Town Monrovia launched a new website. Over a year in the making – yes, it took us a while - the new digital home of Old Town features a listing of all the shops and businesses located in
Old Town, new interactive features including an interactive parking map and an overview of the public art located in Old Town, and details related to living, shopping, and dining in one of the premier downtown destinations in Southern California! If you haven't taken a look, be sure to visit the website – www.monroiaoldtown.org next time you’re looking for all that’s in store in Old Town, particularly helpful on Tuesday nights when everyone’s in Old Town for the City Council meetings… or maybe it’s for $5 movies at Studio Movie Grill! Go, Studio Movie Grill. And thank you Studio Movie Grill for our venue here.

Speaking of Old Town, this past year, the City also opened a new parking lot for public use! Yay! Sitting vacant for multiple years, the parking lot, located on East Lime Avenue just east of Ivy, went through quite the facelift, including weed control, new lights, new painted lines, new ADA stalls, and new signage. The lot now offers an additional 150 spaces for public use! And don’t forget about the available parking at the Colorado Commons – always room to park there! That's my favorite – always room at the Colorado Commons.

Now before I wrap up, I’d like to share a little bit about a building that recently celebrated – if you can believe it - a 10-year anniversary. Placed in the heart of our Community, this building is a welcoming space where our youth, adults and families gather to enjoy enriched experiences. The 28,000-square foot library held its grand opening on May 18, 2009. Can you believe it’s been ten years?

And Gloria to answer your little video there, I think Chris gets really tired of me every time I go by the Library. I can't believe that it's just so beautiful, especially at night - it’s so wonderful to know it’s here in Monrovia, and with the fountain and everything.

The Monrovia Public Library building is Silver LEEDS certified to be environmentally friendly, and boasts adult, child and teen areas, a large community room, a heritage room and expanded technology.

Year round, the Monrovia Public Library holds hundreds of events. These programs were all developed as a part of the Library Strategic Plan, a document used as a tool to guide us when developing enriched experiences at our Library. I am very proud – we just had a meeting at our Library board meeting- very proud to say that our Library team has accomplished 83 percent of the goals outlined in the Library Strategic Plan! Let’s clap! Since I’m starting to cough, it must mean it’s time to go.

Wow! That was a lot! Thank you so much for allowing me to share details related to capital enhancements that we have made in town this past year. Most importantly, we want to thank you for the immense amount of trust and patience that you’ve given to all of us. Although we are not perfect – no one’s perfect, even though my husband thinks I’m perfect. No, that’s not true - we want you to know that we will always be hard at work to keep you proud of Monrovia, a place that you can call your own, a place that you can call home, a great place to work, and play and just have a great future. And I liked that in our prayer, that talked about that we’ll all look better in the future. We look great now, but we’ll even look greater in the future. Something to really look forward to. So if you think that 2019 was a busy year, stay tuned for 2020!

And now, Tom, I’ll hand it back to you.

[TOM ADAMS] Thank you, Becky! Give Becky a big hand. Becky does an incredible job for all of you. And Chris, I know you think she’s perfect – we’ll talk later. She’s close. And I don’t all the Kiwanians are sitting up there towards my left. Did you notice on those entry-signs to the city that the Rotary symbol was just a little bit higher than the Kiwanis symbol?

How’s the popcorn? Can it get any better? I know Andy Montgomery asked for butter on his popcorn, and we couldn’t accommodate that. Other than that, are we having a good time? Everybody comfortable? Anybody need a refill other than Andy? You’re okay? Cookie? You good? Alright.

Okay, next up we’re going to bring up Mayor Pro Tem Larry Spicer – another great person that I get to work with on a regular basis. Yeah! Who said no? Was it Alex? So and I do apologize because we had really
planned on Larry singing – Larry’s got an amazing voice. He does. I’m not joking. He did Old Town Road for us once and I was hoping that he would do it tonight, but apparently not. Larry wasn’t with us last year. Do you remember that? He had knee surgery. How’s your knee doing?

[LARRY SPICER] It’s doing well.

[TOM ADAMS] It’s doing good? Both of them. Good for you. So before Larry takes the stage, we’re going to have another little video highlighting awards and recognitions that the city received, so take away the video.

[AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS VIDEO PLAYS]

[COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT]

[LARRY SPICER] Okay, so before I get started, I like to say happy birthday to my pride and joy, Delphine Spicer. Mine is the next day. Thank you.

[TOM ADAMS] Give me the microphone. Y’all please join me in singing happy birthday to Delphine.

[SINGS HAPPY BIRTHDAY]

Good evening, everyone!

I’m so excited to be back for the 2020 State of the City. If you were here last year, then you know that I was unable to make it due to a scheduled knee surgery. This year, my knee feels as good as new… and I mean I wouldn’t sign up to run and challenge Becky on the Fountain to the Falls race anytime soon, but I do feel blessed to be standing up on this stage tonight.

Can I be real with you? I feel blessed to serve all of Monrovia as a City Council member. I love Monrovia. I love the beautiful hillsides and I love the people. But above all, I love that we are a community. None the less, a community that is engaged and active in every possible way. And I am so proud that the City gives us ample opportunities to get together.

In 2019, the City hosted over 35 community events. And if you were like me, then you didn’t miss a single one!

There was:

- The Valentine’s Day Horse Drawn Carriage Rides
- Our popular Spring Egg Hunt event
- A parade and 3-day Monrovia Days carnival for the community
- Our renowned 4th of July fireworks spectacular,
- The Monrovia Old Town Wine Walk,
- An intense series of summer concerts in the park
- Our Veteran’s Day event honoring those who served,
- A new Old Town Fall Festival,
- Our Halloween Spooktacular event for kids, families, adults… and dogs of course!
- The new Thankful and Grateful Holiday Gathering, featuring the community tree lighting
- The record-breaking holiday parade with over 100 entries,
- The very Monrovia-centric Santa Tours throughout town,
- And of course, the most recent New Year’s Eve on Myrtle Avenue.

Together, these events brought thousands of people to our City! Just the 4th of July Fireworks Show, alone, packed 25,000 people onto the streets of Old Town. That’s right. TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE. I mean, I was so impressed by the amount of people, I personally felt like I had to give them the
show of a lifetime. If you were there, you know what I’m talking about. If not, tough. Just kidding. Take a look at this number.

[OLD TOWN ROAD FROM FOURTH OF JULY]

Year after year, we have been committed to offering premier community events because we believe that neighbors should have every opportunity to get to know each other better. And if there’s one program that exemplifies that Monrovia is about its people, it would have to be the MAP.

This year, MAP celebrated its 13th anniversary! For 13 years, the MAP program held block parties to connect neighbors, hosted the annual conference to inform the community on important topics occurring in Monrovia, hosted the MAP Adult and Youth Leadership Academy and in 2019 graduated 45 individuals, it unveiled its fourth Neighborhood Treasure honoring, Japanese Monrovians!

Has anyone seen the Neighborhood Treasures around town? They really are beautiful, aren’t they? And they’re unique. The program has been so successful that it was selected as a finalist for Best Neighborhood Program by the Neighborhoods, USA organization! Stay tuned for a fifth Neighborhood Treasure, honoring Felix Gutierrez, to be installed at Recreation Park later on this year.

I’m so proud to say that MAP has continued to grow and evolve, all while staying true to its mission to build connections and get people more informed and engaged in their local government. After all, our local government exists to serve the people of Monrovia.

Speaking of serving others, our code enforcement staff often come across residents with code violations at their properties that involve maintenance. Due to a resident’s age or life-circumstance, sometimes, the corrections cannot be made. Given these situations, here in Monrovia, we consistently find ways to help assist our neighbors in need.

This year, city staff and volunteers from the San Gabriel Valley Volunteer Center partnered with local churches to coordinate improvements at three properties in Monrovia. With the help of around 80 youth, we were able bring those homes up to code!

Each year, we are also proud to be a part of Make a Difference Day, a program coordinated by the Volunteer Center. Make a Difference Day not only allows for incredible work to be done throughout the city, but for the community to unite and truly make a difference. If you’ve never been a part of Make a Difference Day, be sure to reach out to the Volunteer Center today and be on the lookout in October for the next event! It really is a fulfilling day. From our public works department to our public safety personnel, everyone gets involved!

Speaking of our public safety departments, they also had a very busy year building relationships with the community!

The fine men and women of the police department hosted: National Night Out, community meetings, and multiple Coffee with a Cop events.

With an informal setting at each of these events, there were no agendas, no distractions, and no barriers... just time to spend getting to know our officers!

Additionally, Monrovia Fire and Rescue hosted: Sidewalk CPR, to provide the community with a quick, 5-minute lesson on what to do in a medical emergency incident, earthquake preparedness workshops, and they visited over 40 homes to install over 100 fire detectors - smoke detectors.

Aside from hosting events, our public safety departments have been recognized for going above and beyond their call of service.

The Monrovia Police Department’s mission is to serve with fairness, compassion and respect. And the Muslim Public Affairs Council took notice of this when a Muslim individual was reported as suspicious.
When our officers approached the individual on the streets and realized that she had done nothing wrong, the officers apologized. Moved by the kind and compassionate response, the individual shared the scenario with the Muslim Public Affairs Council where they decided to visit the officers for a formal thank you. A group of about 40 people, along with CBS News, were in attendance at the event.

Monrovia Fire & Rescue receive thousands of calls every year, but there was one in particular that really touched our firefighters. On this particular day, our paramedics arrived at a home and found that the home was in completely unlivable conditions. After treating the patient, the paramedics didn’t just stop there.

On their own accord, they went to several different stores in town to purchase new furniture and supplies for the family. As they shared this story with the stores, they were so moved, that they decided to donate EVERY. SINGLE. ITEM. Living spaces donated two beds, home depot donated the flooring, ServPro remediated the mold in the house, and the DoubleTree gave the family a two-night stay at the hotel and on top of all of that the Monrovia Fire Association, the Monrovia Police Officers’ Association, the Monrovia Municipal Employee Association, and several businesses in town donated nearly $2,000 in gift cards and supplies.

These stories are just two examples of city staff going above and beyond, as these types of extraordinary responses are happening every single day here in Monrovia. Why? Because that’s just the Monrovia Way.

Can we just take a moment to give it up for all of our public safety personnel?

[SAMSON THE BEAR ENTERS]

This past year, we also were also very blessed with an incredible famous, or should I say infamous, icon join the fire department. In the early 90s, he stole our heart as he was captured on video hanging out in the hot tubs after a hard day’s hunt. He is commemorated as a statue all around town, but most recently Samson the Bear has joined Monrovia Fire & Rescue as the official mascot! This next year, Samson will take an active role in embracing the department’s community outreach initiatives by assisting firefighters in spreading the word on important fire safety topics.

[SAMSON THE BEAR EXITS]

We can’t talk about community engagement without highlighting our beautiful Monrovia Public Library! Hosting about one event a day from storytime to arts and crafts workshop… video game lounge to a spring break science lab… to literacy programs to multicultural holiday celebrations, the library does it all!

To help you keep track of all the events, the library has significantly enhanced their online calendar. Launching in June 2019, the new calendar allowed patrons to: register for events online, easily filter events by age group, date, or topic, automatically receive notifications for registered programs, and allows patrons to easily share events on social media or via email.

As a veteran of the Army, I am proud that the City has the opportunity to serve men and women who have served our community through the Veterans Resource Center. This past year, nearly 2,000 veterans and their families have received help connecting with the benefits they earned through their years of service. Can we give it up for the award-winning Veterans Resource Center, and their volunteers AND all the men and women who served in our nations armed forces?!

Now, placed in the heart of our community, the library is a welcoming space where our youth, adults, and families gather to enjoy enriched experiences and I encourage you to visit any chance you get in 2020. You’ll also be seeing even more from our library as they were one of 26 recipients for the 2020 Book To Action Grant awarded by the California Center for the Book! This grant gives our Adult Services Team the chance to collaborate with community partners to create a dynamic series of events for adults and inter-generational groups across Monrovia. Stay tuned for all that’s in store at the library!
Before I wrap up, I'd like to share a little bit about a brand-new program. In partnership with Mountainside Communion Church, the City opened the first-ever Community Garden!

The garden has 21 private wooden plant beds, with four ADA-approved beds and seven small communal vegetable, yard and food scraps, provided by LA Compost.

The garden also features several public demonstration beds which provides a space for educational workshops, interpretive signage and communal access to vegetables! Although all garden beds are currently occupied, just be sure to keep an eye out for free educational workshops that all are invited to attend.

So, I have lived in Monrovia my entire life and I must say that I have never felt more connected to the community more than I do now. I am so proud of this community, but most importantly I am proud of the effort that each and every single person in this room has put towards building a stronger and united community.

I want to thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. It is such a blessing getting to serve all of you. And now I’d like to turn it over to Tom and let you do the Old Town Road.

[TOM ADAMS] Give Larry a hand. Thank you! if you haven’t been over to the library to see the Veterans Resource Center, you should. And we have someone with us tonight, who is an incredible asset. Hector, where are you at? Hector works for Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. And if you’re a veteran and you have not met Hector yet, you should. Hector is an amazing resource for veteran services. So Hector, thank you for that.

The other thing that kind of struck me when I was watching Larry’s presentation was how much fun we have as a council. And we do. Although we take our jobs very seriously, and there are times we disagree, and sometimes those disagreements aren’t fun, but then when it’s done, we come back and have a good time and enjoy working with each other and doing what we do in the community. It reminds me a little bit of Darryl Burke was the Monrovia Rotary club president last year, and Darryl’s theme was “having fun and getting the job done” and that’s what we do, so my thanks again to the entire city council for that.

So we’re going to be bringing up Gloria Crudgington. Sit still, Gloria. There’s a video. I’m starting to figure this out. Gloria is an amazing person to work with. Gloria has her thumb on the pulse of preservation. Gloria is an amazing asset when it comes to stormwater and I don’t want to steal her presentation but she just saved you all about $200 million. And I’m going to let her explain how that happened – with a little bit of help, but Gloria you can start to come this way, but we’re going to turn it off for the video. Please.

[CITY’S HISTORY VIDEO PLAYS]

[INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS]

[GLORIA CRUDGINGTON] Thank you, Tom. Well, good evening everybody! Many of you will remember my showing up in a mask last year, implying I was staying well prior to getting cosmetic surgery and I let that little ruse go on because I didn’t want to be a buzzkill, announcing I’ve been diagnose with cancer on my tongue and take the shine off the evening. I’m saying it now because I can happily, happily disclose to you that I am now one-week short of being cancer free for a year. I’m quite sure a lot of that had to do with prayers coming from people in this very room, so I thank you and my family thanks you as well. And we are so blessed to have an institution like City of Hope so close to home because they are truly special and do provide hope.

So, doesn’t Monrovia have an incredible history? If you ever want to learn more, I recommend looking into the Monrovia Legacy Online Collection. This database of over 5,000 historic photographs and over 1,000 historical papers is now online, so anyone with an internet connection can learn about the history of our great City.
Tonight, I get to share with you some of the unique solutions that Monrovia has implemented over the last year. The Monrovia Legacy Project is just one example of how our community works to find innovative solutions to the problems we face. We had mountains and mountains of information on our city’s history that was inaccessible to the community. With the help of our dear friends at the Monrovia Historical Society, we came up with an incredibly creative solution. Before we go on, can we please give the Monrovia Historical Society a hand. I’m going to put in a little plug for them. They have the Anderson Museum, right next to the new parking lot, and they are raising money to put a new roof on that building, so if you’re so moved, please contact the Monrovia Historical Society and donate. Thank you.

The best part is that we don’t just provide solutions for issues within city boundaries, but we also provide solutions to problems that affect cities all throughout LA County. Over the years, you’ve heard me talk about the topic of stormwater. To give everyone a brief overview of the issue, for more than half a century, our storm control drains and channels have become an open sewer that runs out to the ocean, polluting our local water bodies like Baldwin Lake and Peck Lake in the process. And although there was already a proposed plan to clean water running in the storm channels, five years ago, the original stormwater program was estimated to cost $1.4 billion - yes... you heard that right, billion - to implement! Monrovia’s share was $250 Million. Although clean water is very important, we also believed that financial realities should be taken into account, and there was no way we could ever raise that amount of money. By comparison, we raised $17 million to build our new library. We raised a total of $25 million to purchase our foothills and preserve them. So, $250 million – there was no way that was ever going to happen.

So over the past 4 years, we have been working collaboratively with our regional municipal partners. They are Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Monrovia, Duarte, and Bradbury. We’ve been working with them, we’ve been working very closely with environmental groups in the LA region, particularly those that sue cities for non-compliance and we’ve been working with the LA Regional Water Board in an attempt develop a more meaningful, a more measurable, and a more achievable stormwater management plan.

And I am proud to say that in March of this past year - I remember for a long time that it was a month after my surgery and had the ability to stand up in front of the LA Regional Water Board and tell them that – I think it was fair to say that even cancer couldn’t keep me away from that meeting. And at that meeting, the LA Water Board unanimously accepted our revised stormwater compliance plan, developed by our very own team here at the City! Our staff is miraculous at times. Our new plan achieves the same level of stormwater compliance as the previous plan, nothing about the water quality happened – we didn’t have to compromise ourselves in anyway. The new plan costs 90 percent less than the original plan.

The LA Water Board is also proposing to allow other watershed groups throughout LA and Ventura County to revise their plans as well based on what we all learned in the process of Monrovia developing theirs’s. Not only did Monrovia provide an innovative solution to a very complicated issue, the City was also selected to serve on the Rio Hondo Watershed Area Steering Committee, which gives us a front row seat in the process when determining which stormwater projects get funded. Not only are we saving money, we’re sitting right there like watchdogs on that money.

Another issue that we have worked hard to solve is on the transportation front. One of our most well-known programs is GoMonrovia. GoMonrovia leverages the strengths of the ride-share provider Lyft, in partnership with the City’s dial-a-ride operator, to provide fast and affordable transportation throughout the city’s boundaries. Since its inception, over 23,000 individuals have signed up to use Lyft through GoMonrovia, making the program Lyft’s most utilized transportation partnership in the Nation! The program fills the previous gap in reliable first and last mile transit connections to the Gold Line, reduces parking demand in Old Town, and eases commuter parking shortages. And I hope that if you’re downtown enjoying a cocktail or two you’ll take advantage of this and never ever, ever risk a 5-0. What is it? A 502? Well, I’ve never had one. The program fills the previous gap in reliable first and last mile transit connections. Over the past year, we have been invited to countless conferences, regional meetings that
we go to. And Becky, I think you would agree that in meetings that we go to we are many times approached in parking lots and ladies’ rooms saying you need to tell me more about GoMonrovia. And excitingly, the program received the President’s Award, by the Southern California Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration!

One of the best things about the GoMonrovia program is the sheer amount of people that it has impacted. In 2019, over 500,000 rides were provided by Lyft through this program. That’s half a million rides! And, on behalf of City Council and our entire staff, we want to tell you all that we sincerely appreciate the patience you have shown as we work through the funding issues that are an inevitable part of being first at introducing this form of partnership with a brand new source of transportation. Thank you! Thank you for your patience with us and please give yourselves a hand!

We have applied this same kind of innovation to another issue, namely homelessness. When it comes to homelessness, our first goal in Monrovia is always to help the individual in need. But what we’ve learned is that in order to make a real impact on homelessness, is it requires a community-wide effort; the city, residents, local non-profits, faith-based organizations, and community partners all working together. This past year, the city released the Homeless Response Kit, which provides resources to prevent and end homelessness. The Homeless Response Kit offers community members practical resources that outline tangible ways in which individuals can help address homelessness issues.

Take for example our Housing Displacement Response Program. In partnership with Mountainside Communion Church, the program was designed to help prevent homelessness for existing Monrovia residents by providing a “hand-up” to support current Monrovians in danger of displacement. Since we have implemented the program, I am delighted to share that we have been able to assist 15 families from being displaced. By offering assistance to these 15 families, we have kept 20 youth from having to leave their Monrovia school support system, and in addition, we helped prevent 3 seniors from losing their homes.

And this past weekend at the MAP meeting, at the Community center, I was lucky enough to have some extended discussion with two of our police officers. What they let me know, and what I’ve really appreciated as a mental health professional, is that our award winning training for our police officers in using de-escalation techniques, which is particularly important when dealing with people with mental health issues and/or addiction problems. They’re very appreciative of that. They also have access to a mental health professional that they consult with and I think the most heart-moving story – we don’t know because we don’t necessarily see is how these officers are outreaching on an individual behavior to all the homeless people in our community on an ongoing basis with the hope – and the hope that they express is so touching – that the next encounter will be the one where that homeless person says, I’m ready to accept your help now. Please join me in appreciating and thanking our police officers.

These are just a few innovative, Monrovia-Centric initiatives that have recently been launched. As we move forward, I assure you that we will continue to find solutions that keep our community premiere, solutions that improve the local quality of life, and solutions that set us apart from the rest. Because those solutions will keep Monrovia the gem that it currently is today. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to you tonight! And now I’d like to hand it back to Tom!

[TOM ADAMS] Please give Gloria another hand. You were a counselor for 30 years, Gloria? I think. 30. Really comes in handy. I have one of our homeless ladies in town who comes and sees me about once a month and up until her last visit, after we would talk for a while, she would always tell me that she wasn’t ready because she knew if she goes into a group home, that you have to be clean and sober. And she would tell me straight up, I’m not ready for that. And the last time she came over, she had tears in her eyes and I asked her what was wrong, she said her daughter was pregnant with what would be her first granddaughter, her grandchild. And her daughter had told her that she’ll never see her grandchild until she gets her life in order. So I pulled out my phone and I showed her pictures of my three granddaughters and shared with her all the joy they bring to me. And she laughed, then she cried. It was about an hour and then
she finally made the decision. She said I'm ready. And that may take several times before someone gets to that point, but you have to have the patience to stay with them. Thank you, Gloria. I appreciate that.

So next up we have Councilmember Blackburn. Don't come up yet, Alex, there's a video. But Alex is a really bright guy. Alex is an attorney. He's got a keen business mind and that's why he's going to be talking an awful lot about development and business. He's also on our audit committee – to audit our budget so that we know that what we have in front of us is accurate numbers. So if well go ahead and fire up the video for Mr. Blackburn, please? Welcome Mr. Blackburn.

[ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VIDEO PLAYS]

[ECONOMIC GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT]

[ALEX BLACKBURN] Good evening. Happy to be here with you tonight. I would like to give Ms. Crudgington another hand, just to show her how grateful we are that she overcame that cancer that afflicted her last year.

So tonight, I will be discussing some of our successes as they relate to our economic growth and development, and I will be ending with a cautionary word.

To begin with, I'd like to talk about some new real estate development in Monrovia.

Monrovia is seeing more development interest now than ever before.

On the surface, it may seem as though the City is having a sudden burst of development interest, particularly on the housing side, though in actuality the current development is the fruit of decades of preparation. The current development in the City is largely the result of the City's 1993 amendment to its General Plan, which was amended to promote transit-oriented development.

In March 2016, the Gold Line officially arrived in Monrovia. During the past several years, the City has been carefully managing proposed development initiatives to ensure that the vision developed over the past two decades are thoroughly executed. There are currently about 2,200 housing units in the development pipeline, which constitutes a 15% increase in our total housing supply. I don't know if the numbers I'm saying matches up with what's up there, but go with me.

Let's start by taking a look at a few recently completed projects.

MODA at Monrovia Station held its grand opening on January 24, 2019. This five-story development contains 261 residential units.

The Areum Apartments opened in May 2013. It sits on almost three acres and has 154 residential units.

These next few developments have been approved and are either under construction or will begin construction soon.

Approved in July 2018, the Richman Residential Project will provide 296 residential units.

A new, 100-room Marriott TownePlace Suites Hotel will soon be built on the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Huntington Drive, and breaking ground just a couple of weeks ago was Avalon Bay. That development will serve as a mixed-use residential development, with over 3,000 sq. ft. dedicated to commercial use and will have 154 residential units. Those units will include 13 very low-income affordable units.

The next two specific plans are currently under consideration and review:

At the northeast corner of Pomona and Primrose Avenue, the Fifield Project is our largest development project to date. This proposed seven-story structure would include 310 apartment units, 10,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial space, and a three-level, 479-space parking garage. In fact, I believe we just approved this project the other night. I will note that I voted against it because it's too tall. But
nonetheless, it is coming to town. Most importantly, with regard to the Fifield Project, 25 of the apartment units will be designated affordable for very low and moderate income households. It’s so tall, it’s looming over me now. It’s ridiculous. Okay.

Arroyo at Monrovia Station will be located at the northwest corner of West Pomona and South Primrose Avenues. That project’s Specific Plan would allow for the development of 302 residential units, over 7,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space, a parking structure containing 500 parking spaces, and 15 affordable units for very low-income households.

As part of our negotiations with foregoing developers, we made sure to place an emphasis on affordable housing. As a result, developers have made private investments of approximately $18 million towards affordable housing.

Of course, we at the City are not unaware of the potential negative impacts that substantial new developments could have on our community. Accordingly, we are implementing creative solutions to mitigate those negative impacts.

One way we are mitigating the negative impact of new developments is by implementing Mello-Roos Districts for new developments. Those districts are vehicles whereby the City can assess additional property tax against the new developments to offset the cost burdens that new developments will place upon the city in the areas of public safety, maintenance, operations, and public works.

Additionally, the City has adopted a Higher Water Rate for new developments. A higher water rate is appropriate because all water used by new developments will have to be imported and imported water is more expensive. Because of the City’s specialized water rates for new developments, existing residents and businesses will not be forced to bear the added cost of importing more water into the City to serve the growing population. Usually people clap for saving money. That’s too bad I can’t dance like Larry, I’ll be getting more applauses.

Also, there is no doubt that with more people will come more traffic. However, we are planning for these impacts now to help improve traffic flow and reduce congestion before it gets worse.

Thank you.

These efforts include traffic signal synchronization – you’re invited to every speech I ever give - improving the traffic flow of existing intersections, and new traffic signals.

Not only has Monrovia welcomed new residential developments, but we have seen a growth in businesses too. Monrovia Landing has been revived to include the additions of TJ Maxx, Homegoods, Aldi, and Ulta. We also gained the first-ever Lowe’s outlet. This outlet carries up to 1,000 scratch-and-dent appliances from 61 surrounding Lowe’s locations and are carefully vetted to ensure they are fully operational before hitting the sales floor. I could be a sales person.

You may have also seen a large building, formerly owned by Verizon, located a block north of us on Lime Avenue. This past year, the company recently vacated the building and the City has approved a proposal to turn the site into a self-storage facility with commercial storefronts.

The foregoing having been said, I do want to leave you with a cautionary word. Although the City is making great strides by attracting residential development and high-quality businesses, as well as by investing heavily in the City’s infrastructure, we still face some fiscal challenges.

The largest of those challenges is the City’s obligation to pay its pension liabilities. In years well past, the City was overly generous with its pension offerings, and consequently the City now faces the daunting challenge of having to fund those pensions. This fiscal challenge will be addressed in depth in February, when the Council reviews the City’s 2019 Comprehensive Financial Report, which Councilmember Crudgington and I have already had the chance to see as a result of being on the audit committee.
What that report will reveal, is that although the City is stable, we need to be very careful how we spend our new Measure K money. This is not the time to build shiny new city buildings, or institute or continue expensive public programs. We need to first allocate those funds towards paying down our debts and putting more money in reserve.

We may also need to rethink expensive programs such as GoMonrovia, which was a well-intentioned experiment, but which has also proven to be very expensive. That program may still have a place here in town, but, in my opinion, it may need to be re-envisioned as a public safety service that is available on a more selective basis intended to reduce drunken driving incidents or otherwise provide for safe travel at night. Other programs may likewise need to be re-envisioned to make them more affordable.

In conclusion, while there are many good works taking place in our town, we need to make sure that we move forward in a responsible way that will ensure the sustainability of those good works. I am sure the rest of the Council agrees with me on that point, and one of the things that I really appreciate about this Council, under our Mayor’s leadership, is its willingness to admit the city’s challenges and tackle them rather than defer them.

Thank you for your time this evening. I will not turn the mic back to our esteemed Mayor, Mr. Tom Adams.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

[TOM ADAMS] Thank you, Alex. Give him a hand, please. Very wise words about not building shiny new buildings. There are a lot of challenges that we face ahead and we take those challenges very seriously. Have you all got to meet the new city manager? Where’s Dylan at? Did everybody meet Dylan? If you haven’t met him, shake his hand on the way out. He’s a good guy - we’re pretty fortunate to have him. So you just heard from the five of us, but there are two other people that are here this evening, or at least one of them is here. Oh yeah, Steve’s here. Steve we missed you earlier.

[STEVE BAKER] You’ve heard of a wardrobe malfunction?

[TOM ADAMS] Did you really? So Steve, amongst other things is your elected City Treasurer. Thank you, Steve, for everything. And Alice Atkins is our – I always get this wrong – it’s not a Certified Municipal Clerk, it’s a Master Municipal Clerk. Something like 3 – 4 percent of the city clerks in California are masters municipal clerk, so thank you. And Ashton’s still here? Ashton, wave a hand. Ashton is also a certified municipal city clerk, so we got two of them. We’re pretty fortunate.

And together, I know Steve from time to time will actually go over and looks at the whole check run to make sure that everything is going where it’s supposed to go and he’ll ask me from time to time about things to make sure it’s okay. Thank you, Steve.

So that was 2019, now we’re facing 2020. We’ve got some pretty ambitious things on the books for this year. One is to finalize Monrovia Renewal and I think by last measure – is Sean out there somewhere? No, not that Sean. I mean we’re happy you’re here Sean, but I was looking for – is he here? Sean, so I heard just the other day that the new study on streets is everything’s up to 85 percent?

[SEAN SULLIVAN] That is correct.

[TOM ADAMS] and that’s not counting the fifth stage?

[SEAN SULLIVAN] Correct.

[TOM ADAMS] so your streets are up to an 85 percent ranking, which is almost unheard of in California, so give Sean and his crew a big hand. So a lot of big challenges – streets, sidewalks, pension obligations, and what you all would like us to do with Measure K funds. There is more need than we have money, I can assure you that, so it’s going to be a matter of what we think and what the community thinks is best.
Now, we have come to a point where we can focus our attention on not just fixing big problems because we pretty much have that behind us, but now we can look at really making things great.

And when I say that:

First is going to be customer service – we want to get our level of staffing up to a point where we can truly provide amazing customer service, because that’s what you all want. Isn’t it? Every time somebody walks into City Hall, I tell everyone that works over there, nobody goes over here because they want to. People go to City Hall because they don’t have a choice, so we need to respect that and we need to go back to being civil servants – with that second word servant.

Second - financial strength.

Third - management of our infrastructure. Just because it’s good now, doesn’t mean that it will be for the next generation, so we need to make sure we stay on top of it, and that we have adequate reserves so that we don’t end up like we were five years ago. Yes, thank you. Was that you, Sally? Sometimes Sally is my biggest fan. Sometimes Sally is my only fan.

Fourth is maintaining the important partnerships and relationships in our community. And that is so incredibly important. The relationship that we have with the school board, the relationship we have with the MAD Town Council, the relationship we have with all our commissioners, and all of you is what truly makes Monrovia very special and it makes it a Monrovia that I am so proud to be a part of. There’s hardly a day that goes by that someone doesn’t say to me – I like my street, I like this, I like that. Every now and then – because when you spend all day in town – every now and then I hear about what somebody doesn’t like and we try to fix that. Because that’s what we do.

So we’re going to be developing a performance management system to help us keep track of our progress in these key areas, so we can come back next year and tell you how we improved. Because if we can’t come back next year and tell you that it’s better, then we shouldn’t have this? Should we? We need to continue to move forward and improve the community that you all own a piece of.

2020 is a big year and there are a few more things that we need to keep track of.

Our census is coming up. Right? Every ten years? How do we get federal funding? The census. I know Hector’s on top of that because that’s how they divide up congressional seats – is based on the census. I read a report the other day that California might lose one because of the migration outside of California. Whatever it is, we want to make sure that Monrovia gets as many of the dollars that we’re supposed to get and maybe some of the ones we weren’t supposed to get. Because part of the role, like with our downtown, if we can keep you all spending money here in Monrovia, and we can get the folks from Bradbury and Duarte coming over to spend their money, then we’ve won.

So I also want to remind you that the last day to register to vote in for the upcoming elections, our elections is March 3. And I think that we have two other candidates in the audience tonight. I think Melissa Taylor is with us, I think Donna Baker is with us. I think I saw Steve Grollnek somewhere – maybe he ate and left. Anyway, our elections is March 3. The last day to register, I believe, is February 18. So if you’re registered, fine, please go out and vote. If you’re not registered, please do that.

So last year was pretty amazing. Would you agree? You know it was amazing is the streets were being torn up and listening to people and watching social media people complaining that their car was staying dirty too long. And I thought boy, if that’s your complaint that your car was getting dirty while we were repaving your streets, go to Glendora. Because I have friends that live in Glendora and have asked us to go out and talk to their Council and tell them how we managed to pull this off. It really wasn’t that difficult, I think it was a matter of priorities. Would you all agree that taking care of our infrastructure is a pretty important thing?
So we’re going to hit a few bumps this year, I’ll guarantee that. There will be a lot of changes on the federal level. There will be changes on the state level. There could be some changes on the local level. But we’re going to hit some bumps regardless. Yes, who was that? Donna? Thankfully there was only one. There’s always one. But we will hit a few bumps along the way, but all we ask for is your patience because I will ensure you that the five of us have what’s best for Monrovia in our hearts. That doesn’t mean that we’re always going to be right, we will frequently make mistakes, but one thing I can promise you is that when we do – we will be honest about them and we’ll fix them. And when the day’s done, I think that’s all that you can expect. So, thank you.

Andy did you need more popcorn?

[AUDIENCE] I’m full.


So the best way to thank the Studio Movie Grill for them allowing us to be here tonight, is to come back and watch a movie, so Tuesdays I’m told – I’ve never been able to do it but Tuesday I’m told is $5 movie day, and I guess you can just about have any movie for 5 bucks. But come back, it’s kind of cool you hit the little red button and they’ll come out and take your order and I guess they’ll bring you just about anything that you want. So thank you all for coming – we do have to kind of empty the room fairly quick because they do have to clean up for the next movie and it won’t be us. But we thank you for your support last year, we thank you for the support coming up in 2020 and we thank you for your attendance this evening. Thank you.