



**Mayor Greg Stanton**  
Second Inaugural Address

January 4, 2016  
*As Prepared for Delivery*

Mayors, council members, elected officials, honored guests and friends of Phoenix – thank you all for joining us today in the historic Orpheum Theatre as we begin a new chapter in our city’s history.

To my spectacular wife Nicole, and our beautiful children, Trevor and Violet – thank you for being the best, most supportive family a husband and dad could ask for.

Dad, thank you for being here today. I’m so grateful that you and mom taught the Stanton kids the value of public service.

To my outstanding campaign manager, Lisa Fernandez, thank you for your leadership in running such an exceptional campaign. You, your team and volunteers did a great job. And to my campaign chair Gail Knight, I’ll always value your friendship and wise counsel.

My re-election is not a victory of one person or one party or one ideology. Rather, it is faith in our shared vision for the future.

For four years now, we have worked together to lift the people of Phoenix from the ashes of an economic tailspin that shook the very foundation of our community.

Our common purpose has been to build a city with opportunity for everyone willing to work for it. A city with real economic possibilities for middle-class families and those working their way into the middle class. A city that meets its duty to foster a high quality of life, with safe neighborhoods and clean air. A city with the basic guarantee that we will welcome and treat every single person with dignity and respect.

Over the last few years, we have understood that although we stand on the shoulders of great leaders who came before us, we are the creators of our own destiny. We are thinking anew about what role a city must play in shaping the best possible future, embracing a new reality that city leaders must take on unprecedented responsibilities to chart the right course for our economy. And we know that the course we are charting is not one for the next four years, but one for the next four decades.

It hasn't always been easy. But we are making great progress because of our bold choices.

We began by leading the way to move beyond the failed economic model of the past that made us more vulnerable than ever to the boom then bust cycle.

We're shaping an economy that works for everyone – one rooted in innovation and focused on growing exports. One that puts us in the best possible position to compete and lead globally.

Together, we made a direct investment to make the St. Joseph's – University of Arizona Cancer Center and the ASU Center for Law and Society a reality. We've made new city investments in our Downtown Biomedical Campus, and we're excited about the future as we plan the 1,000-acre Arizona Biomedical Corridor in north Phoenix.

Together, we've championed entrepreneurs and built an innovative ecosystem that is driving new startup activity. Homegrown companies are following WebPT's lead – expanding and adding new jobs in Phoenix. And our success is drawing the attention of established tech companies. Rising tech stars, including Gainsight and Galvanize, will set up shop in Phoenix too.

And just as important, we're strengthening ties with our friends and neighbors in Mexico. So many of us made a personal commitment to rebuild ties with a critical economic partner we took for granted. After more than a dozen trade missions to Mexico, and our work to lead the way to open an Arizona trade office in Mexico City, the tide is turning.

And we're doing something that no other city in our state has ever done: giving local small businesses the tools they need to export on a global scale. We're sending Phoenix companies to export boot camp where they learn how to expand their business across international borders.

Though we have accomplished so much, it isn't time to rest. This work isn't for our next election, it's for our next generation. And I'm committed to working every day with my colleagues on the Council and our business community to create good jobs and build the most prosperous and most sustainable economy we have ever seen.

As we reshape our economy, we are also preparing our infrastructure for the future. Phoenix residents drafted – and voters overwhelmingly approved – one of the most ambitious and game-changing infrastructure investments in the nation. Voters said: For the future we want, we need better roads, and a more robust public transportation system.

Now, it's up to us to implement that plan: Tripling the light rail system, expanding bus routes and Dial-a-Ride, adding 800 miles of new roadways, and 1,000 miles of new bike lanes.

Soon, we'll begin construction on a new light rail stop near Ability 360, a center that serves the needs of so many individuals with disabilities. And you better believe that before I leave this office we're going to break ground on light rail track to serve the people of south Phoenix.

I'm a believer in public transportation because I know it changes lives. It helped a working father like my dad – who took the city bus every day to his job selling shoes at JC Penney – to send his four kids to college. But it's not just my family, it's tens of thousands of families across our city, helping seniors, students, low-income families, and individuals with disabilities get to work, school, the grocery store or the doctor.

And that's what we need: A city that offers access and opportunity for everyone.

We also need to be a sustainable city.

Just a few years ago, critics called Phoenix one of the least sustainable cities on the planet. Not anymore – we've created one of the best comeback stories in the world.

Think about what we have accomplished together to protect our environment for the decades to come.

Through smart investments and public-private partnerships, we've become a leading municipality for solar energy, producing 25 megawatts of solar energy through city-sponsored projects. We are home to the largest fleet of municipal alternative fuel vehicles in the country – larger than Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco combined. We're on track to convert all 90,000 city streetlights to LED, which will cut energy costs and pollution by more than half. And this just scratches the surface of the work we're doing to become more sustainable.

I understand, and this Council understands, that when it comes to sustainability, cities across the country and around the globe have to lead. A city's economic future – and even its credit rating – will depend in part by its preparedness for climate change.

But clean air and clean energy are only a part of the equation.

Using water wisely and protecting our future water supply are essential. Water is the lifeblood of our economy, and we've seen what can happen when communities fail to prepare for the effects of a changing climate. We're innovating with new ideas to plan for the future.

We formed an unprecedented partnership with Tucson water providers to make it easier and more affordable for both cities to access water during times of shortage. We created the Colorado River Resiliency Fund and teamed up with Salt River Project to support watershed improvement projects in forestlands hundreds of miles from Phoenix city limits. Leading on water may be an unconventional role for a city, but we embrace it because we know that a healthy Colorado River is vital to our future.

We still have more work to do – and we won't be afraid to invest in the infrastructure we need to responsibly manage our water supply. We're going to work harder than ever to make Phoenix one of the most sustainable and climate resilient cities in the world.

Every Phoenix neighborhood needs clean air, quality parks, and access to public transit. But none of that matters unless those neighborhoods are safe, too.

It's no secret that the Phoenix Police Department has fewer officers than it did at the peak of the economy. Our officers have done more with less, and have gone the extra mile to protect us. And because of smart budget decisions by this Council, we're now in a position to put more officers on the streets and build stronger community trust.

By the end of this year, we will add 280 new police officers – including Community Action Officers – to our department. And as we increase the size of the force, we are also increasing training and resources to give officers the tools they need to respond to any situation they encounter. It must be our highest priority that every officer and the citizens they are sworn to protect get home every night safe and sound.

Four years ago, this city had some serious structural budget issues. It began with the recession. And even with a recovery, an out-of-balance pension system threatened both the budget and a secure retirement for city employees.

We got to work – and over the last three years we have passed three major sets of reforms that will save more than \$830 million over the next 25 years. These reforms will keep the fund steady for those in the system, and head off an even bigger crisis in the future. We made a lot of tough decisions, and we would not have been as successful without the commitment of our employees and their representatives to get it right. We've done our part, and now we need the state legislature to follow our lead and do its part and modernize the public safety retirement system.

There's no doubt we've had to make difficult choices over the last several years – but I love my job, and I love serving as your mayor. Wherever I go, when asked what I like best about our city, the answer is an easy one: the people.

I'm proud of how diverse we are, and how we welcome people with open arms. I'm proud that during a time of heated and divisive political rhetoric on the national stage, Phoenix remains a welcoming home to one of the largest communities of refugees in America. That makes us stronger.

I'm proud of what this city did to become the first in America to end chronic homelessness among our military veterans, and how we're on track to put all veteran homelessness at functional zero.

I'm proud that when the state legislature was considering a bill to legalize discrimination, the Phoenix City Council stood tall and passed a human rights law to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or disability. Because of that action, and many others, Phoenix earned national recognition as a leader on LGBT issues, and became the first Arizona city to earn a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's municipal equality index.

We will continue to lead the way because we believe every person deserves to be treated with respect and kindness; and in our city being pro-people and pro-business are one in the same. In Phoenix, the doors of opportunity are always open.

Everything we have accomplished would not be possible without the City Council, and I am fortunate to have wonderful partners: Thelda Williams, Michael Nowakowski, Bill Gates, Jim Waring, Sal DiCiccio, Daniel Valenzuela, Laura Pastor and Kate Gallego – and our talented city employees. And I want to say to all of you that I'm ready to keep working toward our shared vision.

I'm ready to keep working to shape a future for Phoenix that is brighter for our children and their children. And I'm ready to do it together.

To build a city with real opportunity for everyone. A sustainable city, a safe city, and one that welcomes and lifts up every person who enters it.

Let that be our goal, our guiding light, and let that be our legacy for generations to come.

Thank you.

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