

Mayor Ed Gainey

Inaugural Address

January 3, 2022

Remarks as prepared

Good afternoon, Pittsburgh.

Before I begin, I want to take a moment and thank God for this opportunity. For without Him, I would not be here.

I stand here today as the 61st Mayor of the great City of Pittsburgh. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be your Mayor.

I want to thank all of Pittsburgh – and each and every one of you – for putting your faith in my leadership. I love this City. Without this City, I would not be who I am today and I want you to know that I will never take your support or vote for granted. I understand that your trust and your confidence is not permanent but something that must be earned and protected *every single day*.

The experiences I have gained throughout my career in public service has prepared the path that has led me to this day.

For me, today is not just a celebration, but an appreciation of our City and of you. So please allow me to give thanks to those who have made it possible for me to be here today.

I want to thank my wife, Michelle Gainey. They say behind every great man is a great woman, but for me the greatest woman I could ever have stands **beside** me now. Thank you, Michelle for your love.

To my daughter Mariah, my change of life baby, my oldest child - thank you.

To my daughter Alexa and my son Darius - thank you for taking this journey with Dad. I love you and I appreciate the love and patience you have shown throughout our campaign.

To our many volunteers, and my campaign team for always being at my side with an extraordinary amount of energy, inspiration and belief in our shared vision for Pittsburgh.

To our Council Members, thank you for taking me to your districts and showing me why you love your districts, the projects that hold value to you, and how we can work together to bring the best out of our communities.

And to the voters who came out to the polls and supported a bold vision for our City – one grounded in unity: thank you for your vote and for your trust in me. I promise I will make you proud.

I am here today as the physical manifestation of a labor of love. I stand here because of people whose names I don't know, who struggled for me, who fought for me, who sweated for me, and who volunteered for me.

I am here today because of my mother, father, my uncle Ricky, my grandparents, my family and my community who planted seeds in my spirit and nurtured the ground in which I grew.

For that, I thank you.

When I returned to Pittsburgh after graduating Morgan State, I was determined to put in the necessary work to build bridges across neighborhoods throughout our City. And through my work in community development, I came to realize that many of us forget the power we have right now.

We have a choice in every moment if we just look around us. We have a choice to accept things as they are or to take responsibility for changing them.

And as I heard the stories of families all across Pittsburgh I came to understand - and believe - that we cannot forget that our real power is not necessarily to change the world. It's to make a world of change to the people we encounter **every single day**.

It is this belief and principle that I have carried with me every day throughout my career in public service, and now it is a belief that will guide me every day while in office.

My promise to you is that we will work to make Pittsburgh the Pittsburgh you voted for – a city where economic opportunity is abundant for everyone, a city where affordability isn't a luxury, and a city that is prepared to lead into the future.

From today forward, our City's leadership will be a direct reflection of the people we serve.

And while Pittsburgh is a leader in many areas including health care, technology and our University system – under my Administration, we will work to ensure that Pittsburgh is also a leader in community and police relations, economic inclusion, affordability, transportation access, and that we partner with our schools to create a world-class education system that benefits everyone.

We will support and enhance our City's economic development efforts to continue ensuring the growth of strong job creation and creating conditions for small businesses to thrive.

We will ensure that Pittsburgh is a leader in transportation by investing in a comprehensive plan, in conjunction with the Port Authority, our great County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, PennDOT, that includes multi modal transit options, walkability, technology, and connectivity.

And we will build the foundation for the next generation of Pittsburghers by establishing policies that create and sustain investments in literacy, career and workforce development, civic infrastructure, and housing options.

We have work to do, Pittsburgh.

But this is a moment of immense optimism – optimism about what we can do together as a community to meet these challenges, to overcome what divides us and to make this city great. I can't do this alone and I'm asking you to join me on this journey.

Success does, and will continue to live here and thrive here in Pittsburgh, but not at the expense of those who have been left behind for far too long.

Let me be clear: We will be bold. We will aim high. And we will work tirelessly to get there.

My Administration will be progressive, principled, and always on the side of the people.

This will take courage. And I know that's a word that means different things to different people – but to me, courage means doing the right thing by the people, for the people and with the people.

That will be the mission of my Administration. We will be a “Pittsburgh for all.”

We will not be divided, rather we will strive for solidarity, and face our most pressing issues – *together*. I intend to represent every resident of Pittsburgh, not only those who voted for me, but those who didn't vote for me.

We are one City. We are one Pittsburgh.

When I decided to run for Mayor, I didn't run to make history. I ran to create change.

But I would be remiss if I did not reflect on the historical significance of today.

Being the first Black Mayor to hold this seat is not a responsibility I take lightly. I realize that I stand on the shoulders of greats, such as Harvey Adams, Alma Speed Fox, Marcella Lee, Nate Smith, Byrd Brown, Dock Fielder, Bubby Hairston - and my victory represents another step forward in advancing the vision of a country where all people have access to opportunities to succeed.

Our City is at its best when every resident has a seat at a table. We are at our best when we are defined by the strength, compassion and boldness of our collective spirit.

And we are at our best when we *all rise together*.

The work begins now, Pittsburgh. But I believe we can get there together. I love this City. I know the strength of this City. And I **know** that when we come together we can achieve amazing things.

The time is now.

Let's go get it.