

Council Member James Rogers, District 1 | 2018

Oath of Office Speech

It is such a tremendous honor to be here with all of you today. I can't believe it has already been four years since I first experienced an inauguration. That was such a memorable time for me and my family. You can't help but feel the significance of office when you are surrounded by so many people who invest so much into our community.

I feel one of the most important aspects of any inauguration is the oath of office. It represents an opportunity for an elected official to demonstrate their commitment to all the people who have supported them. For the last four years, I have been entrusted by my friends and neighbors from Salt Lake City's District 1 to safeguard their interests and represent them in way that benefits and improves our community. I have strived to do that in the best way I know how, by listening to them. Whether it was chatting with parents at a Rose Park little league baseball game or discussing interventions strategies and next steps with community members at night out against crime, I have tried to really get to know the collective mind of residents in District 1.

Paul Ryan has said that "Every successful individual knows that his or her achievements depends upon a community of persons working together." I know that the key to the successes we have realized over the past four years is a direct result of the community engagement we enjoy in Salt Lake. The lifeblood of any community is powered by the energy, virtue, and intelligence of its citizens. For the last four years representing Salt Lake City's District 1, I have had the opportunity of working with citizens who demonstrate an abundance of each.

The author George Eliot once stated "What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" I love this quote because I think it really captures the spirit of civic engagement. I have the unique pleasure of working directly with four of the most amazing areas in Salt Lake City. My monthly meetings with the communities of Rose Park, Fairpark, Jordan Meadows, and Westpoint are some of the most enjoyable aspects of city council service. These community councils embody what George Eliot suggests in working tirelessly to identify ways to make life less difficult and more gratifying for residents in their communities. Their input and collaboration on issues facing District 1 have been invaluable. They play a key role in how I address the needs and develop strategic planning for our community.

Over the last four years there have been a number of important developments that have impacted residents of District 1. The Northwest quadrant of the district has become an important economic hub and has the potential to become one of the most significant economic forces in the state. Two of the largest projects in the state are currently taking place in the Northwest quadrant of our district. The investment in the new airport should generate further growth and industry for residents of the area. District 1's fingerprints are all over the development of these Northwest quadrant projects. Engagement from residents and local government have ensured that these will be successful projects for years to come and provide a tremendous benefit to the residents of the area.

While the airport will be an amazing edifice, our community which has served as the true gateway for the city, will continue to play an integral role in shaping the perception of our state. Through good policy and local oversight, we will ensure the community continues to successfully fulfill this important role and function. With all of these large scale developments occurring it is easy to forget that it is really the small and simple things that create the fabric of a community. Though they may be much less

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recognized and celebrated, the construction of the fitness track at Rose Park Elementary and the improvement of Redwood Meadows Park creates safe and engaging areas for residents to interact, develop and support healthy living, and generate thriving and more livable locations for residents to get together and enjoy one another's company. I am proud to have played a part in the addition of social working resources and many new police officer positions which will do so much to improve our community.

Since historic West High School was first built there has never been a dedicated bridge for students to cross the railroad tracks. I am so excited about the new elevated pedestrian bridge that will ensure the safety of our students and residents. The North Temple Jordan River Trail Bridge is another exciting development because it not only improves transit in an ecofriendly manner but because it encourages recreation in our district. This accomplishment has been nearly 50 years in the making and will provide a tangible benefit to our community.

I am so optimistic about the future outlook of our city and am truly excited to work with many of the newly elected representatives on the council. However, I would feel remiss if I didn't take a moment to identify the tremendous efforts of former Mayor Ralph Becker, community council members Stan Penfold, Lisa Adams, Kyle Lamalfa, and Luke Garret. None of the aforementioned projects and successes would have been as effective without the commitment and support from these great leaders. Having personally served as chair and vice chair while on the council and knowing the commitment that such service requires, I want to commend them for the countless hours they have spent in the service of Salt Lake and its residents.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Salt Lake District 1 for another four years...