

**Paula Devine**

THANK YOU SENATOR PORTANTINO FOR PERFORMING THIS INSTALLATION.

TO MAYOR NAJARIAN AND COUNCILMAN AGAJANIAN, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU FOR ANOTHER FOUR YEARS.

TO MY NEW COLLEAGUES, COUNCIL MEMBERS KASSAKHIAN AND BROTMAN, CONGRATULATIONS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND SHARING NEW IDEAS, WHICH WILL ENSURE THAT OUR CITY CONTINUES TO RUN EFFICIENTLY AND REMAINS SUSTAINABLE, SO THAT OUR RESIDENTS WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE AND RECEIVE THE SERVICES THEY DESERVE.

I WANT TO THANK THE RESIDENTS OF GLENDALE FOR THEIR OVERWHELMING SHOW OF SUPPORT, CONFIDENCE AND TRUST, BY REELECTING ME.---- I AM SINCERELY HONORED.

THERE ARE MANY INDIVIDUALS, TOO MANY TO NAME, WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY BEING HERE AND WHO I OWE A HEARTFELT THANK YOU. THESE PEOPLE INCLUDE: MY CAMPAIGN CONSULTANT AND HER STAFF, WHO PROVIDED THE WINNING STRATEGY. THOSE WHO ENDORSED ME AND/OR GAVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT --- AND-- THE DEDICATED AND HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS WHO ORGANIZED AND HELD MEET AND GREETINGS, WALKED THE NEIGHBORHOODS AND MADE PHONE CALLS. THE VOLUNTEERS WERE THE HEART OF MY GRASS ROOTS CAMPAIGN ...AND THEY WERE THE BEST.

ALSO, I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DIDN'T INCLUDE AND THANK MY DEAR HUSBAND FOR HIS ENDURING SUPPORT.

I AM VERY AWARE THAT THIS SEAT ON CITY COUNCIL COMES WITH A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. IMPORTANT DECISIONS ARE MADE FROM THIS DIAS AND I TAKE THAT VERY SERIOUSLY. I HAVE SAID THROUGHOUT MY CAMPAIGN, AND EVERY YEAR OF SERVICE, THAT THE INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS IS A PART OF EVERY DECISION I MAKE. THAT WILL NOT CHANGE. I WILL CONTINUE TO LISTEN TO YOU AND BE YOUR VOICE.

MY VISION FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS IS SIMPLE;.... TO MAKE YOUR LIVES BETTER., -- THAT, TO ME, IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT.

I WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, INCLUDING CHALLENGING ADVERSE LAWS COMING FROM SACRAMENTO. I WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON STANDARDS AND CODES IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR HISTORICAL RESOURCES, -- WHICH ARE THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY.

IN REGARD TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

I WILL MONITOR THE PROGRESS OF OUR GRAYSON RE-POWERING PROJECT TO MAKE SURE THE CONDITIONS COUNCIL PLACED ON THE APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT ARE FOLLOWED IN ORDER TO REACH 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY.

I WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE BANNING OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC UTENSILS AND STYROFOAM IN OUR CITY - -- AND

I WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FOOD RECOVERY PROGRAM, SO ORGANICS DO NOT GO TO THE LANDFILL, BUT REACH THOSE WHO ARE THE MOST IN NEED FOOD.

MY GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE WE ARE A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, SO THAT OUR RESIDENTS CAN LIVE IN AND ENJOY A CLEAN – GREEN CITY.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND SAFETY MUST BE ADDRESSED AND I WILL SUPPORT OUR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO ENSURE THAT WE REMAIN A SAFE CITY. I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PENDING CITY-WIDE TRAFFIC STUDY TO PROVIDE IDEAS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE MITIGATION OUR TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

THERE ARE OTHER MAJOR GOALS I LOOK FORWARD TO ACCOMPLISHING IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, WHICH INCLUDE:

PROVIDING MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE ARMENIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

COMPLETING THE REDESIGN OF ARTSAKH STREET

CREATING A BIGGER, MORE BEAUTIFUL, ACTIVE CENTRAL PARK

IMPLEMENTING OUR URBAN ARTS PLAN, WHICH WILL BRING INNOVATIVE AND INTERESTING ART TO OUR CITY

IN ADDITION TO ACCOMPLISHING THESE GOALS, WE MUST CONTINUE THE SUPPORT OF:

OUR ICONIC ALEX THEATER

OUR FLOURISHING TECHNOLOGY SECTOR – AND

ALL OF OUR LARGE AND SMALL BUSINESSES – WHICH ARE THE LIFEBLOOD OF GLENDALE

FINALLY, IN THIS MOMENT IN TIME, WHEN WE ARE ALL DEALING WITH COVID 19, I MUST SAY THAT I AM SO PROUD OF OUR CITY STAFF, FROM THE CITY MANAGER ON DOWN, WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING 24/7 TO KEEP OUR CITY RUNNING SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY. ALSO, I AM PROUD OF COUNCIL FOR PASSING RESOLUTIONS TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND ECONOMIC WELFARE OF OUR RESIDENTS.

THIS IS A CRISIS LIKE WE HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, YET, SO MANY HAVE PUT SERVICE OVER SELF----- THIS INCLUDES OUR POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL WORKERS , AND ALL OF OUR CITY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE THE “BOOTS ON THE GROUND” I COULD GO ON...-----.HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE WILL AGREE THAT, WHILE THE THANKS WE OFFER ALL OF THESE PEOPLE IS IMPORTANT, IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND THAT THAT THEY ARE PUTTING THEIR WELLBEING AND PERHAPS THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE IN ORDER TO SERVE AND KEEP US SAFE.

BASED ON ALL WE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD, AT THIS TIME, IT IS ESSENTIAL, IN ORDER TO CONTROL AND EVENTUALLY DEFEAT THIS ENEMY, THAT WE ALL FOLLOW THE DIRECTIVES SET BY THE FEDERAL, STATE AND

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, WHICH REQUIRE MANDATORY PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND STAYING HOME. FAILURE TO DO THIS WILL PROLONG THE EPIDEMIC AND COULD HAVE DIRE RESULTS.

RIGHT NOW, WE MUST ALL FOCUS ON MAKING SURE WE REMAIN HEALTHY, SO OUR HOPES, DREAMS AND GOALS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. NOT JUST FOR OUR CITY, BUT FOR OUR FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. WE HAVE SO MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO.

I WILL CLOSE BY, AGAIN, THANKING THE RESIDENTS OF GLENDALE FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE THEM AND BE THEIR VOICE ON COUNCIL AND SAYING THAT, AS THIS CRISIS PASSES, WHICH IT WILL, OUR GREAT CITY AND RESIDENTS WILL EMERGE STRONGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE. ----- THANK YOU

## **Ardashes “Ardy” Kassakhian**

I want to thank everyone who is watching this unique swearing-in meeting. It is certainly a first for our city. I hope that everyone watching - as well as your loved ones - are at home safe and healthy.

The will of our citizens is exercised every two years as we march to the polls or vote from home for individuals we believe will represent us well on this City Council. As voters make their choices known, we, as council members must place ourselves before you, our fellow citizens, to have our service judged.

Rightly or wrongly, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, your vote allows us to spend the next four years governing with the full consent of the governed. Today, that responsibility and the torch that lights our way forward is being passed to a new council. That is why we are here – even if virtually.

I want to thank outgoing Councilmembers Quintero and Gharpetian for their service to Glendale. I am convinced that each of their votes reflected their values and beliefs and was intended for the betterment of our great city. We are what we are today because of the councils that came before us. Their work is what we must build upon to raise our communities to new heights and help move our city forward.

I want to congratulate board members Nayiri Nahabetian and Jennifer Freemon on their re-election to our School Board and look forward to working with them on building a strong and closer relationship with one of our most treasured assets - our public schools. I stand ready to support our students, teachers and administrators both personally and as your council member to ensure that our public educational system has the resources it needs to succeed.

I want to also congratulate College Trustees Desiree Portillo-Rabinov and Sevan Benlian on their elections and look forward to working with our college as we make our way through these challenging times. Our college - along with our public schools - is one of the reasons our Jewel City sparkles so brightly and I look forward to working with our trustees and their staff to make sure that they are also successful.

When our public education institutions succeed – we all succeed.

I want to thank the staff of the City Clerk’s office for their dedication and hard work over the last decade and a half of my service as Glendale’s City Clerk. I have had the privilege of working with some of the best professionals in the field and despite the slings and arrows, they stood strong and under tremendous pressure, they have continuously delivered to the citizens of Glendale exceptional service with integrity every time and without exception. Glendale should be proud of the people we have in that office and their commitment to preserving the democracy of our city.

There are many more people to thank - from those who worked on this campaign, the tireless volunteers, the folks who opened their homes to me. But I've promised myself to keep these remarks brief given our circumstances.

But I will take this moment to thank my parents and my family without whom I would not be who I am today. My spouse and best friend - Courtney, who happens to be in the room next to me right now with our son...and of course my five year old son who makes me realize each day that despite my degrees and years of professional experience, that I still have a lot to learn. My family is the most important part of my life and they are a constant reminder of how blessed I am and why I made this commitment to our city.

As far as my agenda and what I hope to accomplish - that has NOT changed no matter what we face or how great the obstacles before us. In fact, it is at times like this that we must recommit ourselves to absolute transparency, greater accountability, fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability and ensuring the safety and security of our city. It is precisely when we are feeling lost that celebrating our diverse culture, supporting the arts, and working together to help our local businesses will help guide us through the dark times. We must redouble our efforts to make sure that the people understand and believe that we hear their concerns and respect their opinions – even if we at times will disagree. In addition to holding regular office hours at City Hall, I will also meet regularly with our homeowners and renters and business owners on a regular basis. I will continue to be as accessible with our community as social distancing will allow AND I will ALWAYS listen carefully to your concerns before I make a decision.

I thank the people of this great Jewel City for their votes and their trust, but I do so with the full acknowledgment that I am taking my seat in difficult times. There is not a single person that can ignore the fact that this swearing in is taking place in the middle of a time of great tumult. Never in our recent memory has a City Council taken the oath of office amidst such a global crisis. Let's face it – None of us get to choose when or where such times find us. I can only do what I can to guide the City in the best way possible, with the help of my fellow Councilmembers and of course with the guidance of the citizens of Glendale.

These are hard times and in such times, it's human nature to seek wisdom and in that wisdom, try to find comfort. So when I was thinking about what lies ahead, I found inspiration from President John F. Kennedy. But it wasn't from his writings or speeches. It is from a prayer he kept with him. During his short time as President, he kept a small plaque on his desk inscribed with the words facing him when he made some of his most important decisions as our nation's leader. These words were the Breton Fisherman's Prayer, and it read simply: "Oh God thy sea is so great, and my boat is so small."

Now, what we face in this Pandemic is in its own way, a great and mighty sea, sent by God almighty. It is of nature and it is undeniably powerful, and like the sea, it's vastness is unknowable. It's hard not to be concerned and worried at this moment. Not just as a parent, and a citizen, but as someone having to sit on Council for the first time.

But then, I think about this boat.

Yes - our boat is small. It rocks and shivers against cruel winds and a bottomless sea. Our Boat is Glendale, a tiny part of California and an even smaller part of our nation.

But before lifting my hand to take this oath, before putting my thoughts down to share with you this evening, I realized that as we face the unknown, we're all in the boat together, and there's no place I'd rather be right now than here with all of you.

There is nothing like the embrace of a friend, a loved one, a brother, a sister or a spouse when you are in the middle of a crisis. Who else would YOU want to lean on? There is no one I want to fight harder for than my neighbor or my family - because right now, in this crisis, they are one and the same.

My staying home, not only keeps my wife and child healthy, but it is keeping you healthy as well. Your staying home is doing the same for me. As hard as these orders are to stay at home and shutter, or how hard it has been on our businesses, every time you did that, you helped beat back the Virus so it wouldn't hurt one of your friends, your loved ones, or a total stranger.

Yes, Oh God, thy sea is so great, and our boat is so small, but I thank you, for the people you've put in the boat with me. They are not only worth fighting for, I know they will also fight for me.

This journey we now take together for the next four years, the coming months, and the next few weeks is going to be rocky. But I promise you, not only my best efforts, but I promise you the truth. I wish I could promise you all my decisions will be perfect - I'll certainly do my best. I will always tell you what I think. I will ALWAYS listen to what you have to say, and I promise to earn the trust you've placed in me.

Thank you, Glendale. Stay safe. Stay strong and may God bless us all.

## **Daniel Brotman**

Good evening, and thank you Mr. Mayor!

Let me start by congratulating Paula and Ardy. You two ran great campaigns. I learned a lot from both of you and am thrilled that I'll get to serve alongside you.

I'm also looking forward to working with the continuing Council members, starting with my friend Vrej Agajanian, who was actually one of the first people to encourage me to run, and with you, Mr. Mayor. No need to sugar coat it. We butted heads a few times. But that was then and this is now, and we're going to do a lot of good things together.

I'm equally looking forward to working with City staff. Yes, I butted heads with a few of you too! But we have a tremendous organization in this city. You are good people, you work hard, and whatever you do, you do because you believe it's best for Glendale. We may not always agree, but I'm confident we'll be able to work together effectively and with mutual trust.

Finally, I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the public who care so much about Glendale. I met a lot of you while campaigning and hope to get to know many more of you over the coming years.

I want to talk about two things tonight. First, my observations about Glendale. And second, what I hope I can do—with all your help—to bring our city to the next level.

Glendale has a lot going for it. It's important to emphasize this because it gets lost in all the complaints and criticism, of which I'm as guilty of as the next person. I walked nearly every neighborhood in this city during the campaign and talked to thousands of people. One thing that struck me is just how many highly talented and smart people we have here—people who care deeply about the city—people who genuinely want to contribute.

Another thing worth mentioning is that we enjoy a level of abundance most cities of our size could only dream of. Setting aside the current crisis, which I will get to later, the fact is that we live in a prosperous, well functioning city, just minutes from the center of one of the most dynamic metropolitan areas in the world. And yet, we've been able to maintain a certain small town feel—friendliness, accessibility, and a high degree of personal safety.

And then there's our natural abundance—our parks and open space, mountain vistas, and the many beautiful neighborhoods with all their history and character.

Last, but certainly not least, is our rich diversity of cultures and languages. Anyone who studies history knows that it's when you mix cultures that you get creativity, innovation and, yes, greatness. We need to constantly celebrate the diversity in our midst because it's really at the core of our strength as a city.

We have a lot going for us, but I believe we can do a lot more with it if we dream big and don't get caught up with business-as-usual thinking.



So let's talk about some of that "more" – starting with sustainability, the issue that above others propelled me to run in the first place.

We've made good progress in the last few years, especially with renewable energy. But I believe these are still baby steps. We need to get to 100% clean energy as quickly as possible. It's good for our health, good for the economy and jobs, and its part of being responsible world citizens.

I know that Paula asked staff to look at the feasibility of getting to 100% clean energy by 2030. I support that wholeheartedly and hope we can put it at the top of our priority list.

Energy is the cornerstone of climate action. It's the easiest piece of the puzzle, which is why we need to attack it hard. But if we really want to meet the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets, we will need to deal with the two other biggies: buildings and transportation.

We need to move as soon as possible to electrify our buildings. I support developing an ordinance to ensure that all new construction is 100% electric. Then, let's look at how we create incentives to encourage people to retrofit existing buildings to make them efficient and non-polluting.

We also need to figure out a way to get people out of their cars.

Look, cars are not going away any time soon. But if we start making alternative modes of transportation safer and more convenient, we can gradually reduce car miles travelled. And here's the good thing: it solves a number of other problems that people care deeply about, such as pedestrian safety, air pollution, and traffic congestion.

So let's get moving to approve and implement the Citywide Pedestrian Plan that was completed in 2017. Let's re-double efforts to upgrade our transit network and get more people riding transit. And lets put heads together to develop a "Vision Zero" to eliminate avoidable pedestrian and bike injuries.

Energy, buildings and cars—the three pillars of climate mitigation.

We also need to talk about waste—especially our addiction to single use plastics.

We need a plan to close the Scholl Canyon dump and make sure we deal with methane coming from it in a way that doesn't harm the local community.

And we need to figure out how to reduce and divert more of our waste so that we're less reliant on the landfill to begin with. The Glendale Environmental Coalition is hard at work on this aspect and is willing to lend a hand to help get us to where we need to be.

Unfortunately, no matter how good a job we do, we're inevitably facing a hotter, drier, more fire prone world. So we need to be planning now for how we adapt to this new world, and for how we respond to the disasters that will hit us because of climate change. There's probably a lot we can learn from this pandemic to guide us, so let's get working on it.

I'm encouraged that previous Council voted to set up an Office of Sustainability. I want to be sure this office is not just a feel good operation. It must be led by someone with a real commitment to sustainability, and must be adequately staffed and empowered to drive policy change and hold all of us accountable. Let's get it launched as soon as possible, then immediately develop a serious Climate Action Plan like many other cities have done.

Now let's talk about housing. This is a huge topic and there's too much to cover tonight.

Bottom line is that the state is bearing down on us, and all the cities around us, to increase the supply of housing, especially affordable housing.

We can push back to some extent. We can and must insist that the *people of Glendale* get to decide where and how any new housing is built, *not* the state imposing a one-size-fits-all policy on us. But make no mistake—more density is coming. The question is how to manage it so that we keep the city livable and thriving, and preserve what we love about Glendale.

I talked during the campaign about the idea of a highly walkable and transit-connected downtown filled with great eateries, culture and art—the kind of environment that young people (and in some cases retirees) are attracted to. We need to work on that.

We also need to make sure, whatever happens, we preserve our unique single-family neighborhoods. The neighborhoods offer a style of living that many of us, myself included, originally came to Glendale to enjoy.

I believe Glendale can be an cool combination of these two environments.

But making this work the way we want will take lot of creative thinking, especially around architecture and street design. The whole community needs to be involved. It can't be top down. That's why the talent we have in Glendale, from historical preservationists, transportation experts, artists, architects and landscape designers, is going to be so powerful.

The third area I want to touch on is how government works, or in some cases doesn't work to our satisfaction. Again, a lot of this is for another time. But believe we need to figure out how to make our government more representative and responsive. We need to take hard look at the possibility of City Council districts, at how we handle campaign financing, and at how we staff and empower our Boards and Commissions. Fundamentally, we need an attitude that embraces critical input from the public, not treat it as nuisance, or something to be managed.

Let me close by mentioning the elephant in the room—the coronavirus pandemic. This is no doubt going be a long and painful process.

Right now, we're focused now on immediate health risk, which is appropriate. We all need to take this very seriously and stay home. This will pass. Probably not as quickly as a lot of people think, but it will pass.

But when it does, we'll be facing another, perhaps even more difficult, problem—the economic crisis, which is also a public health crisis because of the impact it will have on people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Job losses will break a lot of people financially—people who were barely getting by before. There are growing calls for a rent strike. People are scared and angry, and for good reason.

We're also at risk of losing lots and lots of our small businesses—businesses that in some cases have been here for decades.

We're going to need to get creative and do things that seemed unimaginable before. We can't let people end up on the streets. We can't lose the small businesses that are the bedrock of our economy and provide the goods and services we rely on.

I don't have the answers, but a simple rent freeze and six month grace period to repay is not going to be enough. We're going to all have to share in the sacrifice, somehow

If you have extra resources, please consider helping out some of the great non-profits and civic organizations in the city. Their sources will also be drying up just when we need them the most.

I don't mean to sound doom and gloom. Actually, I believe there will be a lot of good coming out of this too. This experience is shaking us out of old ways of doing things. It's making us realize that we're more resilient than we thought. It's showing us we can, in fact, adapt to rapid change. We're seeing a greater sense of community develop. A realization that we're in this together.

I believe that when we put the pieces back together, we can build a much better structure than the one we started with. I'm excited to be in a position to contribute to this rebuilding and to making Glendale second to none.

Thank you to everyone who supported me, and to everyone who didn't but still went out to vote. Civic engagement really matters, especially now.