

A Commitment to Leadership and Service
Remarks by Mayor James Brainard
Carmel Municipal Inauguration
December 20, 2007

Mr. Chief Justice, distinguished legislators, fellow office holders,
ladies and gentlemen,
Good evening.

It is an honor to greet you today as mayor of Carmel, Indiana.

It will be my privilege to serve with this City Council, our City Judge and our Clerk Treasurer. All of these individuals have made a commitment to serve our city and its neighborhoods, its local businesses and its citizens for the next four years, to work together to make our city one of America's very best places to live, work, and raise a family.

I can't think of a more exciting time to be in Carmel. While the next four years will provide many opportunities and challenges, it will also see the completion of many projects, some of which we initiated more than a decade ago.

There is much discussion in our state about reorganizing Government. Our distinguished Chief Justice has recently demonstrated leadership as the co-chair of the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform. This group issued a report earlier this month entitled "Streamlining Local Government--We've got to stop Governing Like This."

I am in agreement with much of what this commission found as it looked across our state. The Commission's sweeping reform recommendations are dramatic and deal with accountability,

effectiveness in management and modernizing the processes of a government that was designed in the early 1800's. The report adds important elements to the marketplace of ideas and, whether one likes the proposals, they are things that need to be discussed and debated.

The endorsement of our leadership, however, by the voters in this past election recognizes that we have worked for the past twelve years to make much of the Commission's recommendations a reality here in Carmel. We have been blessed with a knowledgeable workforce, a committed team of public employees and a growing tax base that has allowed us to respond to the taxpayers with better services and systems while keeping taxes low.

For example,

- We will be the first community in the state to use roundabouts to control ingress and egress to a high volume roadway with our design for Keystone. We have found that the approximately 40 roundabouts we have added to our streets reduce personal injury accidents by over 80% percent when compared to traffic lights and are less costly to build as well as being better for the environment;
- We are partnering with the private sector to build a new downtown for Carmel with our City Center project. Included will be the first purpose built concert hall in Indiana, adding to the amenities that make for our great quality of life in central Indiana;
- Many of our public-private partnerships have been structured to provide ownership opportunities for small businesses;

- We have focused on redevelopment in the heart of Carmel to make better use of existing infrastructure, redevelop older areas and have a walkable and pedestrian friendly downtown anchored by beautiful public buildings
- We have provided many recreational and cultural opportunities for all ages through the addition of more than 700 acres of parks, trails and greenspace;
- We have focused on easy ways for residents and business owners to interact with and stay informed about their government through the Carmel Neighborhood Association and Small Business Networks ;
- We have incorporated innovative technology into our wastewater treatment plant to make operations there more efficient, more economical and better for our environment;

We must continue to focus on making our roads, parkways and public areas beautiful as well as functional to increase property values and add to our quality of life.

The City of Carmel is unique in many of its approaches to municipal services. We were the first municipal utility to offer its own permanent Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program in Indiana and we continue to look for approaches and community partners to help us accomplish our goals.

It is important as we embark on a new four year term in City Hall that we respond to the citizens of our city who support our approach to governing with a focus on progressive and innovative solutions to our challenges and the intensive and modern management that has kept our taxes stable and our tax rate remarkably low.

What then, is our charge? To work together with citizens and businesses to find creative and sound ways to make our city a place of quality – a place where we take pride in our neighborhoods and our community. To recognize that in today's economy we must compete for investment and businesses on a world stage; to make certain that all citizens are heard; and finally, to pursue excellence in all that we do.

It has been an honor to serve as your mayor and I look forward with excitement and optimism to the progress which we can make together over the next four years.