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MANHATTAN BEACH CITY COUNCIL
ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
REMOTE BROADCAST CAPTIONING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

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CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: All right, folks. We are going to reconvene in open session with an announcement from our City Attorney Quinn Barrow.

CITY ATTORNEY BARROW: Thank you, Mayor. Previously, this afternoon, the city council went into closed session to discuss two items of pending litigation. On a 5-0 vote, the city council gave direction on both items.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Perfect. With that, we are adjourn that meeting, folks; and we'll go to the next meeting. The city council adjourned regular meeting for Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Let's call the meeting to order. With that, we're going to do Pledge to the Flag, led by Juliette Modern. Juliette and your sister, come down here.

JULIETTE ROSS: Raise your right hand over your heard. Ready, begin.

GROUP: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Well done you two. Way to go. Where is the Mayor Pro Tem Franklin? Joe, get used to this part.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: You're going to have to hand them their city pins. We're going to say thank you for doing this, ladies. So, Juliette, tell us, you're the honor roll student at—where are you? What school do you go to?

JULIETTE ROSS: I go to MBMS.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: And who is your favorite teacher?

JULIETTE ROSS: Yeah, they're all amazing.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: She wants this job, doesn't she? So, who is with you here tonight?

JULIETTE ROSS: This is my sister, Sloan, and my mom and stepdad.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Way to go. So, come on over here. All of my colleagues, come and join us. On behalf of the city council, we're all here with you, and everybody in the city, we're going to present you with this. (Inaudible) the Pledge of Allegiance. You two right in the middle for a picture with everybody here. All right.

JULIETTE MODERN: Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Congratulations you two.
I think I'll miss that part the most. All right, council.
Approval of Agenda Item D. I need a motion and a second,
please.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Roll call?

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Roll call.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Sorry. Roll call.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Councilmember Howorth?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Councilmember Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Councilmember Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Mayor Pro Tem Franklin?

MAYOR PRO TEM Franklin: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Mayor Montgomery?

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Here. Now, Item D? I
have a motion by Councilmember Howorth and a second by
Councilmember Lesser. Voting screen, please.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes 5-0.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you. City council
and community organization announcements about upcoming events.
One minute per person. So, those of you who want to clap for
Mayor Pro Tem Franklin, hold on for a little bit longer. Josh?

JOSH MURRAY: Hi. Good evening members of the council, Mayor, and future Mayor, and everyone else. My name is Josh Murray. I'm here on behalf of Manhattan Beach Library. I would like to let the community know that children ages 5-12 are invited to attend Wild World Dancing Jellyfish and The Art of Conservation on Wednesday, January 17th at 3:00 p.m. at the library. Learn about conservationist, Jacques Cousteau and marine life artist Wyland while creating colorful mixed media hanging jellyfish art. Registration is available on our website, lacountylibrary.org. And I would also like to remind the community that we will be closed on Monday, January 15th for the Martin Luther King Junior holiday. Thank you for your time, and congratulations.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: And Josh has done a great job for us, keeping us all posted. Thank for what you do and the library. Well appreciate that.

JOSH MURRAY: Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Who else? Community announcement for one minute in length. Anybody else? Anything exciting going on in the city? Amanda, come on up.

AMANDA MACLENNAN: Good evening, Honorable Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, soon switching, and councilmembers, community members, and colleagues. My name is Amanda MacLennan, and I am the Emergency Preparedness Administrator for Manhattan Beach, working in the fire department. And a great night.

There are just a couple of quick things on safety and mitigation that we really need your partnership on. So, the first is the local hazard mitigation plan. The community has been doing a great job. The committee has been doing a great job for the last few months. But we really need some help with some survey responses. So, if you guys can pop on to our website and go under the fire department and the local hazard mitigation plan, and you'll see these surveys. If you can just take them, 20 minutes, and we really, really need the feedback from all of you and your history and knowledge of the city. The other item is I think everybody probably heard their alerts this morning through their cell phone. So, that's Alert South Bay that does that. And if we can't reach you, we can warn you and alert you; so, this is just another reminder to please sign up for Alert South Bay. Easily text ALERTSB to 888777. You can also go on our website and do it there, or go to alertsouthbay.com. So, those are the safety and mitigation; and back to the exciting evening. Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Amanda.

Anybody else? How about on Zoom, Martha?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no request via Zoom.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: All right. We're going to move to the reorg. This is the most fun part of the evening

folks; recognition of myself by everyone else here, and then a new, soon to be mayor, Joe Franklin.

CITY ATTORNEY BARROW: Mayor, public comments first.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: We were going to skip right to it, Quinn. So, anyone else with public comments? You get to talk about anything you want to, three minutes long, which delays Joe taking over. But other than that, take your time. Anyone want to talk? Three minutes long. Now is your time.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: You're pretty eager.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: (Inaudible) you want to swear your own dad to getting sworn in?

TIFFANY BARBARA: Good evening. My name is Tiffany Barbara, and I'm a 20+ year resident here in Manhattan Beach and an MBUSD parent; and I want to thank you all for your service to our community. I also wanted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Joe Franklin, on his appointment to Mayor of Manhattan Beach tonight. At the same time, I wanted to a bid a warm thank you to Richard Montgomery for his dedicated service as our mayor for the last 9 months. I had the pleasure of first meeting Joe in May of 2020, a time when our community faced significant challenges, as you all know. And it was during those uncertain days that Joe and his wife, Nancy, invited us

into their home as they were distributing yard signs in support of our police department. This simple act of hospitality blossomed into a lasting friendship. We shared our concerns about the impact of the pandemic on our public schools, particularly the challenges faced by vulnerable students, forced to stay home. It was during those early days that the seeds of Kids Need Classrooms were sewn, and Joe was elected to city council. Joe recognized the risks and potential damage to our local students and teachers. Without hesitation, he helped us raise awareness through our nearly formed parent advocacy group, Kids Need Classrooms. His commitment to our community also became evident during the citizen led Measure A, where he bravely spoke out against an expensive and financially unsupported parcel tax in 2022. Manhattan Beach, with Joe's insight, voted down the measure by an overwhelming majority. But Joe's dedication did not stop there. He further demonstrated his commitment to MBUSD by joining the superintendent's parcel tax committee with me last year. And now, as a co-signer on the upcoming March 5th ballot initiative in support of the renewal of the parcel tax, Joe has taken a crucial step towards securing much needed support for our schools. This parcel tax, if renewed on March 5th of this year, will not increase existing taxes and will provide the school district with approximately \$2.5 million annually, a lifeline equivalent to the cost of 20-25 teachers. Our school district

is facing significant financial challenges with a \$5 million deficit this year and a (inaudible) deficit next year. Under Joe's leadership and the support of all of our city council members, I'm confident that our beachside community will rally together to save our teachers by renewing Measure MB on March 5th. As a symbol of our collective support, please consider taking a yard sign during the meeting break and visit Yes4MeasureMB.com to donate and get involved. Together, let us continue to build a thriving and united Manhattan Beach. Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Tiffany.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: (Inaudible) big clap fan; but tonight we're exempt from clapping. All right. Who else has got something they want to talk about? Public comment is three minutes. Hello, Fred.

FRED TAYLOR: My name is Fred Taylor. I'm a 48-year resident of Manhattan Beach. I would like to say I moved here when I was 5, but I can't. First of all, thank you outgoing Mayor Montgomery and Councilpersons Howorth, Lesser, and Napolitano for your willingness to invest countless hours between these meetings and serve voluntarily; and it's commendable, we thank you. It's with special pleasure that I arise to support Mayor Pro Tem Joe Franklin as our next mayor. Since COVID, the wings of adversity have hit our city hard. In my opinion, many policies out of the mainstream have been pushed

and pressed. Activists from out of town have even moved here temporarily to change the character of our fair city. But through it all, Joe Franklin has been a quintessential example of a non-partisan leader. He isn't positioning himself for the next rung on the political ladder; he simply loves our city, and he's invested in making our city the best. Through many of our local storms of recent date, he's held fast to the timeless principles of sound reason, common sense, and traditional American values. When you talk to Joe, he's the kind of guy that looks you in the eye and gives you his full attention. I hardily embrace the tone of leadership he will bring to the council. All the best to each one of you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Fred. Anyone else between me and Joe changing hands? All right. Tim?

TIM JONES: Good evening, everyone. First and foremost, Mayor Montgomery, thank you very much for your spectacular time served.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Tim.

TIM JONES: I appreciate everything that you've done. Honorable Mayor Franklin, I celebrate—Honorable Pro Tem—I thought I was going to do this after you got sworn in. I celebrate your new position. I appreciate the discussions we've shared and offer the example that we're always civil and respectful to one another, no matter the level of our disagreement. We are the generation that punishing a child

meant that you couldn't go outside; whereas today, punishing the child means you have to go outside. As mayor, I look forward to the discussions that we will have in which we are in agreement. I was especially moved by your comments during the December 5th city council meeting when you described your encounter with the Bruce Family, so much so, I have it here. Your words, "I hosted Anna Gonzales, the matriarch of the family of Major George and Ethel Prelow at Bruce's Beach in mid-October, and learned from her the great significance of paying tribute to the memory and accomplishments of beloved ancestors. I spoke with many family members who gathered from across the country, and watched and listened as they were visibly and emotionally moved by being at the very spot, which represented the triumphs and tribulations that they had faced over the years. And Anna, a woman who signed her emails with the phrase quote, "God answers email," unquote, was gracious, appreciative, and stoic as I handed her an official copy of the city's apology for what happened at Bruce's Beach in the 1920s. Bruce's Beach Park, being a significant local and national touchstone should be included in the (inaudible) celebration of June 19th." Mr. Pro Tem Mayor, your words touched me deeply. I am so pleased and encouraged to hear that the new, soon to be mayor, of Manhattan Beach has the humility and humanity to host and learn from the family who are the subjects of the resolution that was approved by every city councilmember, except for Joe Franklin. Thank you for being a

living example of how we all make mistakes, and showing the courage and character it takes to correct them. I look forward to your term as mayor. Thank you.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Thank you, Tim.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Tim. All right, folks. Who else has an announcement? Taylor?

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Can you pass the tissues?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Do it, make him cry.

TAYLOR FRANKLIN: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, and especially the incredible residents of Manhattan Beach, today is a day filled with pride, joy, and a touch of nostalgia as we gather to witness a significant moment in the life of not only my father, but also the life of our beloved city. Dad, as I look out into the sea of faces, I can't help but be overwhelmed by the love and support that surrounds us. It is a testament to the genuine connection you have with the people of Manhattan Beach. From the moment I could understand the concept of leadership, you were my first example of what it meant to be compassionate, dedicated, and unwavering in your commitment to others. Growing up, our home was not just a place where family gathered. It was a hub of community spirit. Dad, with his tireless enthusiasm turned every event into an opportunity to bring people together.

Whether it was organizing neighborhood block parties, coaching little league teams, or simply being there for a neighbor in need; you embodied the true spirit of service. This is hard. And now, as you embark on this new chapter as the new Mayor of Manhattan Beach, I have no doubt that you will bring the same warmth, dedication, and integrity to the heart of our local government. Your love for this community has always been palpable; but now it will be channeled into the policies and the decisions that will shape the future of Manhattan Beach. As your daughter, I want to express not only my pride, but also my gratitude. Thank you for being a living example of kindness, humility, and the power of genuine connection. I know that you will serve with the same grace and love that you have poured into our family and this community for all of these years. So, here's to you, dad, as you step into your new role. May your journey be filled with success, may your decisions be guided by wisdom, and may your heart continue to be in harmony with the pulse of Manhattan Beach. Congratulations.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: All right. Who wants to follow that? Seeing none, let me ask Martha. Anybody on Zoom?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Yes, we have Jim Burton.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: All right. Sorry, Joe. They're slowing you down.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: I know. That's fine.

JIM BURTON: Mr. Mayor, members of council. Richard, it's tough to see you leave. I really appreciate your leadership over the last several years, your decision-making ability, your friendship to myself and my family. Your commitment to public service has just been fantastic. And we've had a lot of trying times here in the City of Manhattan Beach; and for whatever reason, you seemed to be sitting at the helm during most of them. But, I just want to express my gratitude. Unfortunately, my business travels have taken me out of Manhattan Beach on Tuesday nights for the last couple months; and I'm saying hello from the great State of Texas, which I know you can appreciate. But, I know we're in good hands. And Councilmember Franklin-Mayor Pro Tem, I'm looking forward to your leadership also. I've enjoyed the partnership that you and I have had regarding my comments and safety of E-bikes. Looking forward to that. But, I did just want to call in and, Mr. Mayor, just again express my appreciation for you, your leadership, and all of those in council. But right now, tonight is your night, Richard; and we really appreciate you. Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Jim. Appreciate that. Anyone else, Martha?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: Heather Kim.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Okay.

HEATHER KIM: Congratulations, Joe. You are finally going to be our mayor. I'm so excited, as are most people in this town, that you are finally mayor; and we can look forward to a year of being led by a really true patriot who loves Manhattan Beach, who loves our country, who loves all the residents here, whether they agree with you or not. You are somebody who truly unites people together; and I'm just so excited for the next 9 months with you at the reigns here. I don't know, I'm just babbling on. I can't wait to see you soon, and thank you for all you have done and all that you will continue to do. We love you, Joe.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Thank you, Heather.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Anyone else?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no additional requests via Zoom.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: All right. Well, anyone else here want to talk? Close public comment. I'm going to go out of order here for a second. I want to recognize some people that are here. It's very rare you see this man outside the church, Monsignor Barry. It's always a pleasure to see him outside in city council. Once every 10 years, we get to see him here. Outside that, I know Councilmember Seaman, Mayor Massey, and Councilmember Jackson are here from Hermosa Beach somewhere.

There they are behind me. Anybody else here from the other cities? I see former mayors. I see Holmes, Mayor Lesser, Mayor Hadley, Mayor Powell. Did I miss anybody? Mayor Lilligan. (Inaudible). There you go. Thank you. I didn't see you back there hiding in the dark. We're glad you're here, everybody. It's a big deal. It's a big deal to have a change of rotation. As Steve would always say, a peaceful transition. More importantly, you want to share it with your friends, (inaudible) your neighbors. This is the best crowd to have it in. So, with that, Mayor Pro Tem, you take over. You're running it. From this point forward, it's your show.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Wow.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: You've got that blue sheet to follow. Just follow whatever Liza said.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Actually, Liza is running the show.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: You know who is really in control here.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Trust me, we know Liza and Martha run the show. Okay. So, we have the recognition of outgoing Mayor Montgomery; and we're going to present some tokens and gifts of our appreciation. So, the first one is me giving you something.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: I thought you were the gift tonight.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: So, on behalf of this city council—Mayor Montgomery, on behalf of the residents of Manhattan Beach and certainly this city council, we want to present to you this wonderful gavel, so that you can go ahead and pound it on the desk anywhere you are; and it's for exemplary service. Mayor Richard Montgomery, thank you so much.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, buddy.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: I just have a quick personal story as well. So, this man became a fixture on our block because he lived on the other block. He lived on Elm, and he joined in all the fun and—

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Tell the lie about Nancy's margaritas.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Well, yes, it is Nancy's margaritas and potato salad and everything else. But then he asked me to be his campaign manager for, what, campaign number 1, 2?

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Three.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: So campaign number 3. So, he's a good teacher too, because I successfully ran as well; but I learned it at the feet of Richard Montgomery.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: I learned it from that guy right there.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: So Steve is the one we can blame, right.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, Joe. I appreciate that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I get a classic little handshake of the incoming and outgoing? Thank you very much.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you, buddy. Can I get back over here now?

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: You can make a speech.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: No, I'm good.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Next up is Amy.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Thank you, Mr. Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem. We have a certificate of appreciation for you. My instructions were no words of appreciation for the certificate of appreciation; but I'm not going to follow the rules. I mean, this is nice. During—I mean, this is nice, right. We do a good job here. During his tenure as mayor, Richard has exercised leadership in establishing professional precepts of the position of mayor. He has possessed the outstanding qualities of integrity, unselfishness, concern, and devotion; and has truly been an asset to his colleagues, and has benefited the citizens of Manhattan Beach immensely. And it is the desire of this city council that Richard be commended for his loyal dedication and achievements as mayor. So, first I

present this to you. You got a city pin already, and to add my absolute deepest words of appreciation. I know people think being mayor—I mean, it is, it's a big deal, Joe. It's going to be awesome. And it is amazing to see all of these people here for you. You are loved, and that's wonderful. But really, the most wonderful thing that you did besides represent us everywhere around the world is run these really great meetings, and it's not easy. And I love the way you would cut off our discussions sometimes; like, okay, we've had enough. Sometimes you would push back on people who would attack—not attack—maybe the facts were wrong; and I just really think you are a model mayor. And I also really appreciate our friendship over the years. I've served 6 years on council with you. This is maybe our third time together as mayor. You've always kept your word to me; and that is something not to be diminished at all. And so, I kept my word to you, I got you a little something—

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: What color is that?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: That's pink, sir.

You should open it.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: What color do you wear, Amy?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: I always wear pink. But open it. Because we know he has a lot of experience. He's done this before. And I said I would get you one too; and so therefore—what does it say, Richard?

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: This ain't my first rodeo.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: All right. And then, I believe I give this to David, yes? For words of appreciation, no gift. All right. There you go.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: So far, this has been a peaceful transition of power, right? I aim to keep it that way and really show my appreciation to you, Richard, by doing what you appreciate most, be brief. This is, as my colleague must mentioned, our sixth year serving together. I've known you for 20 years; and I've really come to appreciate, particularly this term, where you've encouraged people to participate, but encouraged us to be efficient, do the people's business, and move on. And I must say, it really has been a pleasure to be back on council, serve with you again; and congratulations for a well-run term. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Thank you, David, for stealing my line about peaceful transition of power. But, no, they didn't give me anything to give you. I don't have any gag gifts for you or anything like that. I came out from the back there where we were having our closed session and saw all of these people. I thought High Rose was back on the agenda. But seeing that it's not though—you know, I'm just looking for something I can give you; so I'm just going to pick this up randomly, and I know that you'll appreciate this one

from our district attorney on congratulations on your mayorship. That's an inside joke. Just want to say thank you. You are our no-nonsense mayor who tells it like it is, even to those who say they like it told to them like it is, until you tell them something they don't like. It's appreciated. You represent not just us, you've represented us tremendously well here in the city; but beyond, Richard is everywhere for us. He is a regional mayor who has attended many, many things on behalf of the entire community and the council. So we appreciate that, because that keeps us in there for all of those people who say, "Push back against Sacramento." Richard does that. He travels up there constantly. He talks to people. He networks. He makes things happen. And that's what this council has done too. It's great you guys have served 6 years together, finally getting it right. That's good. It's just a joke. Just want to say thank you, and congratulations, of course, to Joe coming in. And for everyone who is here tonight to show Joe love; keep showing that love as the decisions get made along the line, because that's what really matters. Tonight is great; but it's having love and understanding along the way too, because everyone up here needs that at some point. So, I appreciate everyone being here. But, my friend, congratulations. You've done a great job, as you always have. He's our catastrophe mayor. Whenever there is a catastrophe, Richard is mayor. So, thank you so much for all you have done.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we do the entire city council in the proclamation?

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Sure. You've got to hold that. (Inaudible) they gave me a cue.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right, here we go. We'll do one regular. Now you want to do a crazy shot? Only Joe went for it. Only the new mayor went for it.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: It's the kid in me.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Joe, it's still your show.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Okay. All right. So, I would like to ask if there are any dignitaries from other agencies that may have a commendation or a gift for outgoing Mayor Montgomery. If you are here, please step forward.

MR. MASSEY: Hello, everybody. I am Mayor Justin Massey of the City of Hermosa Beach. Just a quick question, are we doing the outgoing mayor only now? Because I have something for the incoming mayor as well.

MAYOR FRANKLIN: Outgoing mayor first.

MR. MASSEY: Okay. That's what I figured. It won't take long, because I know Richard is a fan of brevity. This has a bunch of really elegant language, which talks about how our cities work together. You've served with integrity and honor. I've seen it. I've been part of it. So, we celebrate

that. And I'll keep it quick. I'm pretty sure that if you and Steve keep this up, we're going to be here in 2063 celebrating your 14th term as mayor. So, with that, your honor, thank you for another great term. Thank you for leading the city and helping our region through a real challenge we had during the time that you were mayor. You did a great job, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on the council. I'll just stay here. And very briefly, I have Councilmember Jackson, Mayor Pro Tem Franklin, Councilmember Seamen from the City of Hermosa Beach here. Do any of you want to add to anything that I've said? Okay. Should we celebrate your term, Mayor Franklin?

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Well, wait a minute, it is a bigger than Richard's?

MR. MASSEY: It has more words in it, so it's perfect. So, this is your first rodeo, apparently, as far as I can tell. And you're going to do great. I have had a few opportunities to come in contact with you. I've, obviously, paid attention to what's going on in Manhattan Beach. You guys share the challenges and opportunities we share. I really look forward to working with you. Hopefully, you'll be at the conference and mayor's meeting next week, and we'll get to spend some extended time together talking. But, beyond that, congratulations. Well deserved.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Thank you so much.

MR. MASSEY: Any of my councilmembers want to add anything? All right. We accomplished it all.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Thank you all for coming here tonight as well.

MR. MASSEY: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MS. WALDREN: Hello. Sorry, just give me one second. I think I have a certificate from the county here. There we go. All right. Good evening, everybody. I'm Jessalin Waldren. I work for L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell. I represent her in the coastal areas (inaudible) of L.A. County; and she sent me to congratulate you and thank you for your dedication to Manhattan Beach and the Second District of L.A. County. One quick personal story. In our work with Mayor Montgomery, just this month, we got to do Manhattan Beach Mayor for a Day; and I have to tell you all it was an honor to get to see your mentorship and leadership. How he worked with a Manhattan Beach middle schooler, a sixth grader, who got to follow him around for the afternoon, and mentor her on what it's like to be mayor; and she was just smitten and hung on every single word you said, absorbed everything. It was a really special experience. Great job and congratulations on a successful term.

MS. DEAL: Well, my Manhattan Beach pin that I received the last time I was here; I'm wearing it proudly tonight. I'm Jane Deal from Beach Cities Health District; and

we're giving a certificate of appreciation for Richard Montgomery. I'm going to read mine, because I want to remind everybody about the Health District. Whereas the Beach City's Health District enhances individuals and community health through a broad range of innovative health programs and services and collaborative partnerships with local organization, municipalities, and elected officials, including Richard Montgomery. And whereas Richard Montgomery has dedicated his time, energy, and civic service to partnering with Beach City's Health District on several initiatives to make healthy choices available and accessible to all. Whereas Richard Montgomery dedication to preventing health success in mayors is appreciated by citizens, officials, students, families, and employees throughout the beach cities. Now, therefore, be it proclaimed, the Beach City's Health District Board of Directors, on behalf of the entire organization, hereby issues the proclamation to Richard Montgomery in recognition of his unwavering commitment as a partner in health to create a healthy beach community for all ages. And we also can't wait to partner with you, Joe, as the new mayor; and so we'll have many interactions to come. Congratulations.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Great. Thank you so much. So, Richard, there's one more I forgot to give you. Richard, very generously, you heard about Mayor for a Day; but he would also offer that up to our local charitable

organizations to bid on, so that you could become a mayor for a day. So, I just wanted to show that I actually purchased one probably about 4 years ago, before I was on council. So what I did is I endorsed it over to you, so in case you ever want to become mayor for a day during my term, you can have it. So, I considered it redeemed.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Thank you very much. I appreciate that. I'm saving that one.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: So, Richard, it's time for you to make comments.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Everybody sit down, please. Mayor Massey is correct; brevity is my favorite word; and tonight is actually Joe's night. It's not my night. Pause for effect. So, I'll start off with things that most of you don't know about the job as mayor. If you think an election is tough, try to be a mayor in the City of Manhattan Beach. Your time, your email goes from this level to this level; and that's daily, not just when we have a great recession or when we have COVID. Just a regular day, week. Undergrounding, street dining, police, fire, whatever it is, you'll get a ton of emails. Some of them are happy with your work; the vast majority are not happy with your work. But that's the way it works here. We knew what we were getting into, not a shock. But the volume of time that it takes; and no one can prepare you for it unless you've done it before. So Joe came in at a good

time. The city is very financially strong; and the good thing is you have great police, great fire, great department heads. The city is on the right course going forward. I think we have a great team that works together well. But I would start off, your family is the first and foremost thing that makes your life bearable. You come and grate your teeth at night after a meeting, you can't sleep, you walk the dog 5 times, because your brain has to settle down after a meeting. The longer the meeting, the more you cannot sleep. You just play it over and over in your head. So my wife, Diane, my colleges, staff (inaudible). People think that the mayor and the council run the city. The council and the mayor direct how to run the city. City Manager Bruce Moe runs the city and his department heads or the police chief, Rachel Johnson and Mike Lang in the fire department, Lisa Jenkins, HR. Why is HR important? They hire good people. We're hiring some more police officers. We've got three more firemen. Because you have good people that screen and make sure you get the best candidates going forward. Public Works, Erick Lee, to my left. Mark Leyman, Parks and Rec. Did I forget anybody else out there? Anybody I forgot there? The finance guy, the guy that signs the checks, Steve Charelian. Miguel in IT. Amanda, you met the Emergency Preparedness Administration, EPA for short, not the best initials; but EPA, that's good. We have a great team. And all that (inaudible) and happened because you had one guy leading the ship. Yes,

we're the board of directors; but, he's the one that runs it every day. And City Attorney Quinn Barrow is the one that keeps us out of trouble. If we don't make the right moves or do it the right way, Quinn is there to make sure we do it the right way. So, I want to make sure everybody understands that. And the residents that gave me the position, the option to be here a fourth term, and join that short list of mayors that have been mayor for four terms. Steve has is on the 6. He's way ahead of me. But, everybody else, that's why we're here. Oh, yes, here's the most fun part. So, most of you know I live on the east side. Everybody here is on the west side. But, the east side saw a lot of love this last year. What happened on the east side? Let's see, the new Polliwog Park playground facility. Most of you have seen that, right? The (inaudible) water reservoir with the water treatment plant next to it. Thank you, Public Works, on that one. How about the new Fire Station 2 on the east side? Have you guys seen that yet, the east station? All of the streets have been repaved. Not all, the ones that needed it worst have been repaved with crosswalks by our schools. We have more to go by Joslyn Center. I already mentioned 7 new police officers, 3 more fire fighters on the way here. The exercise center, you saw that on Strand. Thank you Russ and Charlotte Lesser for making that happen on that side. There's so much more that people don't see, that goes on during that time span. I just want to make you're aware of it. We may

be deciding how you want to focus it; this is the team that makes it all happen. And who runs my life? Mary Kirchwhem runs my life. She reports to Bruce Moe, The Executive Assistant is the one that busts into your iPhone and changes your schedules and says, "Don't forget you have to meet this person, this person, this person." She does that, and she runs our meetings. (Inaudible) leaves tomorrow as city clerk, and Martha Alvarez is your city clerk, and then Patty up there somewhere. They're the ones that control our day-to-day actions. You never see until you get a (inaudible). They're the ones that take care of all of that, unseen; but it goes behind there. I think more importantly here, I want to say in closing is that we get things done because—this is what happens, that people don't care who gets the credit. You don't have to agree on everything. We don't agree on everything. I've lost many of 1-4 votes, folks. It's not personal. But, we move past it and get the right thing done. So, I want to make sure everybody hears that. And someone asked—the paper called me today and asked—I won't mention which one. It starts with a letter D. But they called and asked me if Joe and I are good friends. I said, "No." And you could hear the breath, and there it just stopped, probably going what the—so I waited 10 seconds, the Russ Lesser rule. Wait 10 seconds. And I said, "Just kidding. Joe and I are great friends." Not only that, Joe and I talked about the past. I signed Joe's nomination papers. You can blame me for that

one; but, we're great friends. And we know a lot of things go on; but when we step (inaudible), folks, it's not personal. You lose, you win. It's not personal. We go out afterwards. That's the way it goes. But, it's been an honor and privilege to serve you. And you know what, I'll be around—I go to right field, where Steve is now, the next rotation. But thank you for your time. It's been a privilege; and with that, we're good to go. Thank you. All right, Joe, back to you.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Thank you, Mayor Montgomery. I'm going to be saying that for quite a while, so you're going to have to—

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: You have to make a motion to—wait, you're not mayor yet.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Be patient with me.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: You need to make a motion. Somebody—you have to say (inaudible)—

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: I'll make it go faster, folks. (Inaudible) the mayor. So, I'm going to make a motion that we nominate Mayor Pro Tem Joe Franklin for mayor. Do I have a second?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Second. Steve and I raced.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: So a first by myself and a second by Councilmember Howorth to nominate Joe Franklin as mayor. Any discussion? Any comments? Voting screen, please.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Call for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: You've got to wait.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes 5-0.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Congratulations, Joe.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Well, thank you. Thank you so much. I think I've got my composure back; but forgive me if I lose it again, as I speak. And I'm going to follow the Richard Montgomery record, I think; but I may not beat it tonight. So thank you, colleagues, on your vote for my rotation as mayor. I appreciate that all of you, and former Mayor Suzanne Hadley and Hildy Stern generously took the time to help me on my first term on council, because it is my first rodeo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) because you were mayor for a day.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: I stand corrected. So, my wife, Nancy, and daughter, Taylor, are here tonight. I deeply appreciate all of your help and sacrifice while I serve on council. You generously gave you love, encouragement, and time. I could not have done it without you. And our son, Jimmy, I think is on Zoom from North Carolina. His 3 children

are supposed to be asleep. If not, go to bed, kids, right now. I love you all. I'm extremely honored that Monsignor Barry has come here today. So, thank you, Monsignor, again. We are grateful and mindful of your and all of the other religious institutions efforts to help others. I will assure you that we will continue to be a dedicated partner in those efforts. Thank you. Thank you to those who took the time this evening to be here in person. I have to say I'm overwhelmed. And tuning in on Zoom and also on TV. And thank you to those who made such touching public comments. I'm grateful Nancy was present to hear them. Perhaps she'll be more understanding when I don't put the dirty dishes in the dishwasher. To know Nancy, is to know that they have to go in the dishwasher. So, I want to acknowledge and sincerely thank the many dedicated individuals who make Manhattan Beach exceptional, our city employees. Richard went through the list of them; but I would like to say that we can sit on this dais and create policies and procedures. But, it lies in your talented hands for those to be successfully implemented; so thank you very much. Several former Manhattan Beach mayors have joined us this evening. I saw Russ. I saw Bob. I saw Wayne. I saw Tim. Is there anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Suzanne.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Oh, I'm sorry, I thought I said Suzanne. Apologies. And so I always keep in my mind and heart that the Manhattan Beach I fell in love with,

where I decided to put down roots, where Nancy and I raised a family, was so incredibly special due to the leadership of those who served in the years before us. Let's give them a well-deserved round of applause. I learned from you that on council one must follow one's heart and add equal measures of life's experiences, core principles, diligent research, common sense, and most important, listening to our residents. Perhaps there is no more important spot in this council chamber than the one right in front of us, that podium. That podium serves as the window into what concerns our residents the most, and provides the opportunity to learn from their experience possible solutions to the issues that face us. I promise that I will always listen. About 25 years ago, I came to a council meeting. I was going to say much like this, but it didn't have that many people in it; and demanded the city add stop signs to our street to slow down traffic endangering our kids. And Mayor Joyce (inaudible) was on the dais and she looked over her glasses like this, and she said, "MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN, what do you intend to do about it?" So, I was taken aback. But in subsequent meetings with her and city staff, I learned that what works best for our city is the partnership between our residents and the council. Solutions are best made collaboratively, and are the most effective when multiple sides of an issue are considered; and people build bridges to create solutions. That's how we can all share in successful outcomes. My goal on council is simple.

I want to help current and future residents have the benefits our family enjoyed while living in Manhattan Beach for 35 years. I will continue to work hard to make public safety a priority, to have a fully staffed police and fire department, and continue the work to get misdemeanors properly prosecuted. And oh, by the way, happy National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day to our fine police department. We need to do even more with educating our children who ride E-bikes and encourage parents to get more deeply involved. A campaign created by concerned parents, Monica Chun and Lisa Newman, with their sons, Alex and Justin, please raise your hands. Monica is out of town on business. But they teamed with our schools and police department, school resource officers to educate more than 6,000 children last year on the rules of the road and E-bike safety. We all thank you very much. There have been reports of progress being made with compliance; but we will continue and expand our enforcement and education efforts. I want to continue the fight against onerous zoning laws pushed down from Sacramento and a one-size fits all package, making neither common sense, nor fulfilling their expected outcomes. Let's look for practical, reasonable, and effective ways to provide more and affordable housing, and ask the state legislature for a seat at the table, for setting realistic and achievable planning goals and procedures. I'm happy to report that our efforts to address the homeless crisis are finding success, thanks to years of hard, compassionate

field work by specially trained police officer, city staff, George Gabriel, funding from and collaboration with the county, our dedicated homeless navigator, and our non-profit MB Safe. MB Safe was created by your fellow residents, Rita Crabtree-Kampe, Lee Phillips, Lucia Aimes, and Debbie Vaness. MB Safe volunteers do tireless outreach and fill the gap in services to ensure we get homeless individuals off the street, into temporary shelters, and start their path to sustainable housing. They are the angels among us. We are truly blessed with a multitude of non-profit service organizations and charities, which exemplify the care and generosity of our city, and I sincerely thank you all. One in particular is the Single Mom Project, which was conceived by a Manhattan Beach resident who vowed to pay forward a gift from a dear friend who helped her when she needed help. The Single Mom Project now provides \$1,000 grants to low-income, hardworking mothers in the Los Angeles area to help them get on a steadier financial footing. The grant money has been used to repair a car, fix a refrigerator, to buy shoes and clothes for school, even buying a bed so the mom no longer had to sleep on the floor. And our amazing Leadership Manhattan Beach Program, built a food pantry for the Single Mom Project, which now serves 250 people a week. This is one of the first times the Leadership Manhattan Beach Program went beyond our city to help others. I could not be more proud of these collaborative examples of the heart and soul

of Manhattan Beach residents who care for and help others around us. Thank you, Janet Jones, the founder of Single Mom Project. Thank you to the Leadership Manhattan Beach Program, Class of 2023, and all of the prior classes as well. It's this deep sense of love of community and compassion for others, which we on council strive to forever value, forever preserve, and forever share. I sincerely thank all of you for allowing me to be a part of it. So, I would like to make a motion for the selection of Mayor Pro Tem, Amy Howorth. The city council needs to make a motion and a vote.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I will second that.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Thank you, gentlemen.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: So, we have a first and we have a second, and we have the voting screen.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Do I have to abstain?

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes 5-0.

MS. FRANKLIN: All green. That's terrific.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Thank you. So, it says here on my sheet that I get 10 minutes for comments. Steve, how does that sound?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: That's a typo. I think it's one minute.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: I'll do like two. Most of my comments are about our new mayor. So, thank you, my colleagues. And I'm so grateful that both our outgoing mayor and incoming mayor thanked our staff for doing all of the hard work, because not only do they do hard work, they're really good at it. I have done a lot of work with councils across the state, and we have the—or staff, and we have the best. So, you guys are top notch. You know, the Mayor Pro Tem or MPT, as I think we like to say, which sounds so athletic, and I'm not. So it's like so cool, MPT, right. My job is to support the mayor, give him a nudge if maybe he forgot to do public comments. And I'm really good at telling the men in my life what to do; but I do it in terms of support and helping the city run and helping you. Because it's really hard. I have no doubt that Mayor Franklin is quite able to do all of the job; but he will absolutely be dedicated. He will absolutely answer all of those emails. He will show up at everything. He already does. In fact, he's here because, as he was mentioning, he helped Councilmember Fayee with the stop sign project, and I believe a stranger danger project. And like Taylor mentioned, you know, all of the organizing and all of the parties at the house; I mean, Joe shows up, that we know. So, I have no doubt that you can do all of that. But sometimes it's really hard to run a meeting; so I pledge to you that I will be there and to support you. I really love all of the joy I see in this room tonight;

and obviously, that's for you, Joe. For you and Richard. But it's really great for all of us to see whether—it's been mentioned, we don't all agree on every issue, on every policy. I think the 5 of us do agree on what we want for Manhattan Beach; and that we want it to be safe, we want everyone to thrive. We love the town. I mean, I've lived here over 25 years, the town that my kids grew up in; and we share that passion and dedication. And I'm just really looking forward to the next 10 months, 9 ½? How long are you here for? Nine and a half. So, I really look forward to all of that. And Joe, even though we have made a joke that it is your first rodeo, actually I don't think it is, because I think you grew up riding horses and I know you've taught your kids to ride horses. And I think you've actually been a real cowboy; so, I might have to get you a real statue at the end of it all. So, thank you all. Richard knows how much I love Dunkin Donuts coffee, and it's really because of him that they're here; but, hey everybody, let's start meeting at Dunkin Donuts coffee on Sepulveda. That's a plug. In all seriousness, I'm sort of lighthearted, because I can feel all of your love for Joe and for what we all do; and I look forward to serving all of you, as well as my colleagues. So, thank you very much.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: I also want to make a quick business comment here. The city council assignments will be on the January 16th city council agenda,

because a lot of different committees around town want to know who your council reps are going to be. So, that's going to be at the January 16th meeting. So, we're going to take a quick recess here. I'll adjourn regular city council meeting and convene the Capital Improvements Corporation meeting shortly afterwards.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Yeah, use that.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Really? First time.

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: We are live, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Thank you. So, we have reconvened. And I just want to start off with an announcement about the storm water drain ballot that you all have at your homes. So, I've got mine here. And this is due by January 17th in the City Hall, in the City Call city clerk's office. So, not postdated. Not coming after January 17th, but coming before January 17th and on January 17th by 5:00 p.m. Very important. I know we got a lot of Christmas cards and everything like that, but it looks like this. It says ballot enclosed, so dig beneath those Christmas cards, find it, pull it out, and send in your vote. Very important. Thank you. So, at this point, I'll turn it over-

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: No, you-

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: No. You've got your capital corporation.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLOIN: I'm sorry. So, I'm going to announce a recess to the adjourned regular city council meeting of January 9, 2024, and convene the Capital Improvements Corporation meeting.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: There you go. You have a thing there to follow on, Item 2-Item 5. You should have a sheet to follow there.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: The yellow one. I don't have it.

COUNCILMEMBER MONTGOMERY: All right. President Montgomery, please ask the secretary of the board and the city clerk to do a roll call.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Thank you. President Montgomery?

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Now, please conduct roll call first?

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Yes. President Montgomery?

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Vice President Franklin?

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Board Member

Napolitano?

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Um-hum.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Board Member Lesser?

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: Here.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Board Member Howorth?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Present.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Good to go. So I'll ask public comments for the Capital Improvements Corporation at this time. Does anyone want to make public comments on the capital improvements agenda? Anyone on Zoom?

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK ALVAREZ: There's no requests via Zoom.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Close public comment. Now, I'll introduce Chief Financial Officer Steve Charelian to present the staff report.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CHARELIAN: Thank you. Honorable Mayor Franklin, congratulations.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Thank you.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CHARELIAN: Mayor Pro Tem and councilmembers. The Capital Improvement Corporation was formed to facilitate the issuance of debt. The corporation states that the president and vice president of the corporation must be elected from the members of city council; and typically,

the current mayor serves as the president, and the mayor pro tem serves as the vice president. Thank you.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: At this time, I'll ask city council board of directors to elect a new president. So, we need to make a new president. I see a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Howorth and a second by Councilmember Lesser. And your motion is?

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: I move that we make Mayor Franklin the president of the Capital Improvements Corporation.

COUNCILMEMBER LESSER: I second that motion.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Any comments? Anyone waiting to talk about that? Then roll call vote, please. I see the voting screen is up. There we go.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes 5-0.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Joe, you're President Franklin. Item number 6.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: It's ebbing in. So I want to ask the city council and board of directors to elect a new vice president. So the city council will make a motion to vote to nominate Mayor Pro Tem Howorth as vice president of the Capital Improvements Corporation.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: I'll make a motion to elect Mayor Pro Tem Howorth as vice president.

COUNCILMEMBER NAPOLITANO: Second.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: There we go.

COUNCILMEMBER HOWORTH: Thank you,
gentlemen.

CITY CLERK TAMURA: Motion passes 5-0.

MAYOR PRO TEM FRANKLIN: Terrific. So,
we're going to adjourn the Capital Improvements Corporation
meeting and reconvene the adjourned regular city council meeting
of January 9, 2024. And we're going to adjourn the regular
meeting to a closed session on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:30
p.m. in the city council chambers. Thank you very much.

MAYOR MONTGOMERY: Good job.