

**Remarks of Mayor Noam Bramson**  
**New Rochelle Inauguration**  
**January 1, 2008**

My fellow citizens:

For the privilege of service and for the honor of your trust, I thank you.

It is a long-overdue pleasure to observe this ceremony undivided, as one community.

All of us bring to this occasion so many different histories and hopes, distinct and sometimes at cross-purpose.

Yet today, here, now, they are revealed as parts of a single and greater whole.

We need each other.

Consider the weight of this moment. Our city at a threshold of transformation, beyond which stands a new downtown, a new shoreline, a place of heightened ambitions and possibilities. Change of a scale and scope rarely before seen.

It is natural that some of us view this threshold with excitement. And others with doubt. All deserve respect. But none have the choice to turn back.

It must then be our common purpose to make the crossing together. . . in determination that our neighbors today, and in some future day, shall live in a place shaped more fully and more wisely by its diversity, and in which every aspect – city, suburb, classroom, and pew – is valued and seen rightly as contributing to the character of every other.

This is not the work of one party or one leader.

It is the work of every party and every leader.

We need each other.

So I extend to each of my colleagues a hand of partnership, earnestly and joyfully given.

Let us together – and let us all – cast aside the small passions of politics and instead, with a largeness of spirit, and only conscience and the common good as our guides, affirm our shared devotion to the city we love.

Thank you. And may it be for our community and world a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year.