

GOOD EVENING DISTRICT FOUR!!

And what a night this is!

TONIGHT -

Because of the doors YOU KNOCKED

The CALLS YOU MADE -

Because of the unbelievable support of THOUSANDS of neighbors across
Council District Four -

TOGETHER - we are moving forward on a reform-minded vision we first started -
5 years ago.

There are so many people to thank tonight -

Most of all - the voters who gave us a resounding victory -

But also my incredible campaign staff -

Our army of volunteers -

And the hundreds of community leaders - who joined this campaign -

AND who put in the work every day - for Council District Four.

I also want to thank my opponents -

For their ideas - and for their passion.

They ran a vigorous campaign -

and that is what democracy is all about.

But most of all -

I want to thank my wife - Regina.

She was crazy enough to marry me during an election season - no less -

But having her by my side - has made me a better person.

Thank you - Regina.

Tonight is not about me. It is about ALL OF US.

It is about a Los Angeles that works for every Angeleno -

It is about building a City government we can trust -

It is about your voices refusing to accept the Los Angeles that IS -

And fighting for the Los Angeles we can be.

When I first ran for this seat - five years ago -

I knew - I wanted to do things differently.

I didn't take any developer contributions -

I didn't spend time in back rooms - trying to win over City Hall insiders -

I spent my time in the neighborhoods - with the community

Listening to your issues - and working together on real solutions.

Nothing in my life was won easily or handed to me without a fight.

I didn't grow up - seeing people like me in leadership roles

I grew up in a 700 square foot apartment just off the 101 Freeway.

We worked multiple jobs - saved up enough to open a small business ++

and worked like hell -

to keep food on the table - and a roof over our heads.

I didn't learn about determination - from a private school education or a trust fund.

I learned it from watching my mother work back to back shifts -

on her feet all day -

and then come home to make sure we finished our homework on time.

I would not be here today if it was not for her sacrifice - and her determination -

엄마 감사합니다. 엄마의 도움이 없었다면 저는 이 자리에 없었습니다.

I didn't get my policy ideas from think tanks or political consultants -
I got them from years working with local non-profits -
And with the people who had been left out of Los Angeles' democracy.

And I didn't learn about persistence from a talking point -
I learned it first-hand - from my community -
that was knocked down - time and time again -
And - despite it all -
got back up - and grew stronger than ever before

Everything I am - and everything I fight for -
is born from these experiences.
The Los Angeles I believe in -
is the Los Angeles where a story like mine is still possible.

I didn't get into this race because it was easy - or expected -
I didn't get into this race to prop up the status quo -
I got into this race - because I saw a Los Angeles worth fighting for -
And if City Hall wasn't going to change on it's own +
Then WE will change it OURSELVES.

Not a lot of folks believed in this movement for reform & trust in government.
The political establishment laughed at our demand for campaign finance reform-
And countless others wrote off the idea of an elected official -
who actually listened to the constituents they served.
They scoffed -
They stonewalled -
They said we were dreaming way too big - and aiming far too high.
They were wrong.

Together - these past five years -
we have delivered on major reforms -
We have focused on real solutions for our neighborhoods -
And we have taken on bullies big and small -
From entrenched City Hall interests - to Donald J. Trump.

Tonight - we have shown - that our voices aren't going anywhere -
And that these past few years - are just the beginning.

Labor leaders - activists - community leaders -
YOUR STORY - is my story.
And YOU - are the Los Angeles - I am fighting for.

A Los Angeles - where every person experiencing homelessness ++
is connected to housing and life-saving care - and +
where we finally treat this crisis - with the urgency - it demands.

A Los Angeles - where working families have a real chance at a better life.

A Los Angeles of affordable housing - and Paid Parental Leave -

A Los Angeles - where neighborhood issues come first -
and moneyed interests come last -

And a Los Angeles - where we finish what we started in my first term and +
get ALL corporate money out of our politics - ONCE and FOR ALL.

This Los Angeles is possible - if we are willing to work for it.
If we stick together -
there is NOTHING stopping us from building the Los Angeles we deserve.

Yes - we face a crisis in our City like never seen before.
The road ahead will be long - and the work won't always be easy.
But Los Angeles wasn't built on "easy" -
or by listening to what we couldn't do.

It was built on grit.
It was built on the courage to imagine a better future
and the determination to get it done.

It was built by people like you -
who got off the sidelines - rolled up their sleeves
And built the City of Dreams.

Tonight - I am feeling hopeful -

Because tonight - you have shown -
that when we stick together - there is nothing we cannot do.

THANK YOU!