

Good afternoon, I am pleased to be here to participate in this important event—this Oath of Office Ceremony here in the Hall of Heroes.

It is important not only because of the ritual, but what it stands for. With this pinning of the badge, each of you will take your place beside our dedicated and courageous officers at the Gainesville Police Department.

Under the leadership of Chief Scott, I am confident you will protect and serve our community well. As your City Manager, I want to congratulate you on this achievement, thank you for choosing a career in public safety, and welcome you to your new role with the City of Gainesville. We are a proud city, full of challenge and opportunity—full of hope and promise—and on a mission to become an equitable community for all and a sustainable community for the future.

From now on, you are engaged in the service of our neighbors,  
with the training that you have acquired as an officer,  
with the skill developed through experience, with the power of your own spirit and with the strength of your own character.

With your arrival on the scene, and in response to any call,

You will assess the situation, control the danger,  
and help those at risk reach safety.

These are great powers. Always deserve them.