

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



Mayor Shaunna O'Connell Inaugural Speech
January 6, 2020

Today I am deeply honored to take the oath to faithfully serve as your Mayor. I first want to thank my loving, patient, and understanding family. Ted, Ashton, Riley, and my whole family always stand by my side and are always there to support me. Their love lifts me up, and I am truly blessed.

Thank you to the wonderful people of Taunton. Today we commence on a new beginning for our beloved city. We are taking this journey together because we see possibilities, not obstacles.

I know that change can be challenging. But without change we remain stagnant, and we have the mandate from the people to move forward. We all know that Taunton is too great for small dreams.

So I stand before you today as your Mayor, ready to roll up my sleeves and go to work for you to bring in this new era for our city where the possibilities are endless.

As a mother, I know how important it is that we invest our time in Taunton's tomorrow so that our children have better opportunities. We want to keep our families together and see the next generation of Tauntonians prosper.

We create this future while honoring those who have helped build our city. They deserve to enjoy their golden years here. I will be the helping hand they need at City Hall.

We know that our city is facing many longstanding challenges. Dealing with pressing issues, such as waste disposal and water, will require a thoughtful and decisive approach that serves the people in the best manner possible.

We will not put off issues and let them simmer on the back burner, costing taxpayers additional dollars. Like true Tauntonians, we will tackle them together, head-on.

For Taunton to be a leading city in Commonwealth, we must work together on a strategic plan that unites us as one and ensures City Hall is a consumer-friendly resource that will allow the revitalization of our neighborhoods and make downtown a destination. We will be a partner and not a barrier.

I'm committed to growing, while preserving the character and traditions we all love and hold dear.

One vital component for building a beacon city is public safety. It is not only our basic job, but most important one. Reinvigorating our neighborhoods cannot happen if our streets are not safe. I will faithfully support our police and first responders who care deeply about our community and put their lives on the line to serve and protect us.

This will not be an easy journey, but it is one we must take together.

The voters have clearly spoken that they want a new, positive vision and they want our elected officials to put people ahead of politics, working in cooperation for the greater good and best interest of our city.

I will be reaching out to our citizens, our dedicated city employees, and our elected officials to seek their input and to build a united consensus for achieving results. Ideas all the across the board will be welcome, and my door will always be open.

I know that by working in cooperation, we can achieve our shared goal of building a strong and better Taunton, a community of opportunity for all.

We have the positive vision. Now let's go implement it together.

Thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve you.

God bless, and I wish you all the best for the New Year.