

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JANUARY 6, 2020**

**CHESTER CITY COUNCIL
SWEARING IN CEREMONY**

A Swearing- In Ceremony was held for new and re- elected city officials on the above date at 10:10am in City Council Chambers, 1 Fourth Street, Chester, PA.

Ms. Livia Smith, Chairwoman of Chester City Democratic Committee says good morning everyone and welcome to the Swearing – In Ceremony for the City of Chester. It's been a very good four years and they must be doing the right thing because no one ran against them. We see things growing within the City and it might not be at the same rate and I know there are some folks here that are saying I wish it was the way it used to be. We're not going back. We're not turning back. We are moving forward. Growing with the economy and growing this City so that everyone can prosper as we go into 2020. I want to introduce the ones that are being sworn in, our Controller, Edith Blackwell, Councilman William Morgan, Councilwoman Elizabeth Williams and Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland.

Invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Horace Strand, Faith Temple Holy Church and Iman Shakur Abdul-Ali, Islamic Center of Chester.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said followed by Tyra Starr who sang God Bless America and the Ceremony commenced.

Swearing-In of Controller, Edith Blackwell; Councilors William Morgan and Elizabeth Williams; and Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland, by Honorable Judge Dawn Vann, Magisterial District 32-1-21.

Controller Edith Blackwell says I would like to give Honor to God who is first in my life. I'd like to thank each and every one of you for being here today. I thank each and every one of you for supporting me and I pray that our Office will be blessed this year and for the next four years. Thank you and God Bless each and every one of you.

Councilman William Morgan says good morning and Happy New Year. I'd like to give thanks and praise to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I'd like to give thanks and love to my Mother and my sister. I would also like to give thanks to everyone here, my constituents, the residents of the City of Chester. It is an honor to serve as a Public Official for the City of Chester. Currently I've been elected to my first full four year term. I believe it is one that I will do a great deal of great service for the City of Chester. When I was appointed in this position in 2016 and elected in 2017, unfortunately I kept going into my office thinking that I could come up with a magical book to see how I should do and keep this role and duties as a Councilperson within the City of Chester. I surely found out that there was no book that was going to magically appear on my desk and myself was the magical book in itself. I believe I'm going to do everything with the right passion, right dignity, and integrity to make sure that we continue to move the City of Chester in the right direction. With that it's going to take myself, the remaining elected officials, Mayor and Council, and of course the citizens of the City of Chester to make sure that we keep sailing the boat in the right direction. Thank you and again we appreciate everyone that is here that supported myself and this administration. I'm so grateful for this opportunity.

Councilwoman Elizabeth Williams says good morning and give honor to God. It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood. I love working for my City and I take ownership. This is my City. It's been great holding this position and I worked for it. I've been living here all my life. I had to work for what I wanted in life. I say that so the young people will know you have to work for what you want. In the end dreams do come true. For my fellow members and Mayor, everything I do is to make our City look good. I appreciate you and we are going to be more than a Third Class City. I'm tired of people calling us Third Class. We're going to go up! Thank You.

Mayor Kirkland says first I give an Honor to God who allowed us to be in his presence. To my beautiful wife, my lovely daughters, my family members and Church family and to the friends and even to the foes who kind of tolerate me and make me do what I

do. I had to think back a little bit from the Bennett Homes Project, to 7th & Pusey, to Lincoln Elementary School, to Showalter Junior High School, to Chester High School, to Cheyney University back to Chester, Pennsylvania, look where he brought us from. I am as humbled and honored to serve in a position as Mayor of this City. God has blessed me with the very best team of Elected Officials that anyone could hope for. Do we agree on everything in life? No we do not. We work together with the betterment of this Community. Yes we have and yes we will continue to do so, on behalf of each and every citizen of the City of Chester. As I stated before, I love this City. You can say and talk about what you want about my City and I will defend my Community. I love this City and on behalf of myself and the team, just to let you know that Team Work Makes the Dream Work. We are committed to making this City the best #1 City not just in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania but throughout the United States. You have our commitment...Our commitment to transparency...Our commitment to working together and our commitment on working on your behalf.

Ms. Livia Smith, Chairwoman of Chester City Democratic Committee says can all other Elected Officials please stand so that people can see who the other Elected Officials are not just from Chester...Chester Township...School Board and State Rep's Office.

Benediction was given by Lisa Dennis, Chester Police Chaplain.

Mayor Kirkland says a special thank you to Judge Vann, Reverend Dr. Horace Strand, Chaplain Shakur and Chaplain Lisa Dennis for your support.

The Swearing-In Ceremony concluded at 10:33a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JANUARY 6, 2020

Candice Thompson, City Clerk