

Good Evening Mayor
& Commissioners

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I'm Dennis Ulmer a resident "neighbor" of the City of Fort Lauderdale, I asked to speak tonight to thank and recognize our City employees for their service to our city. About a year ago I spoke and mentioned and thanked our city employees, and I heard from some of them for many months how much that my remarks meant to them. So I would like to remind my fellow neighbors once again of the city employees role in making us the city that we all desire.

Over the years our city has had mission statements. The process really started in the 1980's as a volunteer partnership between the residents, city employees, and business partners to do various projects which we called "Make it shine", and then the General Obligation Bond Campaign called "Shine On, and from that a mission statement developed for us to become the Best City of our Size by 1994, and of course now our Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Statement.

Too often the role played by our city employees goes unrecognized. We live in a city with a population of approximately 170,000, and as Mayor Seiler points out, that figure swells by the hundreds of thousands each day as people come into the city to work, and visitors come here to enjoy our weather and world class beaches. Because of this, city employees play a special role. It's an important role for as a tourist destination, your role is also one that affects us economically. For so many of you provide the services that make us a first class city. One that people enjoy coming to and returning to, the City that you never want to leave.

Just a few weeks ago the Sun Sentinel touted our success on the list of Fort Lauderdale among the Best cities to retire. All of our accomplishments depend on what kind of a city that we have. What do we offer? Many things that you as employees provide day in and day out that often goes unnoticed and unrecognized, litter and beach sea weed cleanup, police, fire, parks and recreation, sustainable development. Public Works City Commission and City Managers offices, and all of you in the other departments. In 2011 we had the emergency on Christmas Eve of the Water Main ^{Break} rupture, then ^{last} year we had the great tidal rise at the beach on Thanksgiving Day and the City employees met the challenge. For it is the unexpected things that you are trained and ready to do that matter most. If a hurricane or tropical storm strikes, or any other unforeseen

act of nature, we as citizens can have the confidence that our city employees can meet the challenge.

Too often I'm sure that you are taken for granted. A neighbor wants something fixed, something done, but gives little thought to the role that each city employee plays in getting it done.

Our Mayor and Commission provide the needed leadership of our city and the manager directs the various departments accordingly. I can tell you that the Mayor and Commission support you, because at every city event that I attend, the Mayor and Commission publicly thank all of you, and I'm glad as a neighbor that they always take the time to do that.

Bricks and mortar do not make a great city. People do. We can strive to fast forward to 2035, but it won't be successful without the role that each city employee will play. For in the end, it will be you that can make the difference. The next time you are working long hours, and think that no one cares, remember the part that YOU play. How important that you really are to us.

This isn't a long speech, but it's a heartfelt message of thanks for all that our city employees do on our behalf. I hope that I did you justice.

It is my wish that neighbors will take more notice, and thank you and appreciate the most important role that all City Employees play in keeping us safe, keeping our streets clean, and providing the services that we need, and the services that make us a viable and great place for our visitors too.

I wish you all a happy holiday season. *AND THANK YOU -*

~~In closing I ask that all the neighbors and non-city employees in the audience, rise and join me in giving you a standing ovation and thank you.~~