

**City-County Council President Bob Cockrum**  
**Acceptance Statement: January 7, 2008**

First, I'd like to congratulate all of you on your elections and your dedication to serve on the City-County Council. I am deeply honored that you have chosen and entrusted me with the responsibility of serving as your Council President. I know the gravity of the work this responsibility entails.

As I stated at the Mayor's Inauguration, we 29 come from varied professions and backgrounds. We may have come here on different roads, but I believe we all share some things in common:

- A desire to serve our community,
- A desire to make Indianapolis a better place to live and a better place to raise a family, and
- A desire to make it the place our children will continue to call home when they have grown.

Tonight, we begin our work as a Council anew. While we may have different views regarding the issues before us, and different experiences, we are all equally City-County Councillors. We equally share the responsibility of making decisions for Indianapolis and Marion County. We equally are charged to listen to our constituents.

My only request of each of you is to pledge with me - no matter which area of the County we may represent - no matter which caucus we may belong to, that we will all work together to help solve the issues facing our community. We will treat each other with the respect due a fellow Councillor, and we will conduct our business with civility and always make every effort to hear the will of the people when deliberating our decisions.

As Winston Churchill said, "It is no use to say 'we are doing our best.' We have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."

Thank you again, and let us begin the work of the people.