

50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

“Recommitting Local Government to Freedom, Justice, and Equality for Humanity”

8/24/13

Good Afternoon,

I am proud to march with each of you today as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington.

We march to honor the past—and to demand a more just future. As Dr. King said, “As we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead.”

When we reflect on the past 50 years, there can be no doubt that we have made steady progress. Just look at who occupies the White House. But we also know that our work is far from finished.

In this great and prosperous nation, And in our own community, too many children go to bed hungry,
too many of our brothers and sisters are homeless, *too many* working families lack quality, affordable health care, *too many* people of color experience disparities in education and employment, *too many*

Americans still face barriers to their dream of equal opportunity.

There *is too* much war and violence, and *not enough* love and understanding. It is at times like this that we must march, march to insist on Freedom and Justice for all.

March to celebrate Dr. King's dream—our dream— of *a nation* where everyone gets a fair shake. A nation committed to economic and social justice. A nation that honors and celebrates diversity. A nation that protects the fundamental right to vote. A nation that invests

in healthy children and families. A nation worthy of Dr. King's legacy and sacrifice.

Today we celebrate a march and those who came before us. Tomorrow, we go back to work. Let us continue to march together, always moving forward, guided by the beautiful and elusive dream of a more perfect union.

Thank you.