



Governor Christopher T. Sununu Inaugural Ceremony Thursday, January 7, 2021

Governor Sununu:

Great, all right. I think we're going to get started. Well, good afternoon and welcome, everyone. It's nice to see everyone today. Obviously, we're here today under some very unique circumstances. As a lot of folks know, the COVID crisis of 2020 originally forced us to bring the inaugural ceremonies outside, to have social distancing. But then, unfortunately, public safety concerns over the past month, and then unfortunately really accumulating with the tragedy that we saw yesterday down in Washington, D.C. have brought yet another change to our current location here in the Executive Council Chambers within the State House.

So, at our small gathering today, we're joined by Leaders of the House and Senate. Senate President Chuck Morse, Senate Minority Leader Donna Soucy, now-Speaker -- congratulations, Mr. Speaker -- Sherm Packard, and Minority Leader Renny Cushing from the House could not be with us this morning. And of course, the -- our illustrious Members of the Executive Council which we will be swearing in, as well, and obviously the Senior Associate Justice Gary Hicks joining us today.

So, all socially distanced, and some family members and friends, as well; so it's nice that we were able to keep the ceremony as it not necessarily is traditionally done, but unfortunately as it has to be today. So, not joining us in-person but on phone is Executive Councilor Ted Gatsas. Councilor Gatsas, are you with us today?

Councilor Gatsas:

Good morning, Governor. I'm here with you. And congratulations to the Councilmen who are there.

Governor Sununu:

Thank you so much. As a formality, Councilor Gatsas, can you please state your name as well as where you're located, as part of today's event?

Councilor Gatsas:

Ted Gatsas in my office in Manchester.

Governor Sununu:

Wonderful; so to kick things off, it will be a fairly brief ceremony. But, given a lot of turmoil that we've seen, especially yesterday, I thought it would be appropriate to kick off these proceedings with an invocation by my friend, Pastor Michael Worsley. Michael?

Pastor Worsley:

Good afternoon, everyone. Just want to take a few moments; I'm very honored to be here to do this for my friend, Governor, and for this great State. I just want to share briefly. My heart is burdened, I think, as all of us are, anyone in their right mind from the events from yesterday.

And I grew up in this country understanding that we have the right to protest. I understand the protesting of the '50s and prior to that, and even this summer. But, what is discouraging is this. I think the protesting we have done, I've often wondered why do we have to do it at the expense of someone else? Why do, when we protest, it has to exclude someone else?

As I go into prayer, I want to just share this Scripture and give us this mindset, moving forward. And it's coming from Philippians Chapter 2. Paul wrote to Philippians. He said, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there's any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love and unity, and Spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit. But, with humility of mind, regard one another as more important than yourselves. Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

And it is from that I want to pray. And I ask if you would bow your head with me. Father, in the mighty name of Jesus, Lord, we first come before You thrown of mercy this morning. We ask Your Father to remember the families of those who lost life yesterday.

Father, I pray for Your peace that would rest upon this family. Father, I pray that Your peace, Lord, would have an impact, Lord, all across this nation, Lord, as we saw things unfold, Father, in this nation yesterday that no one would have ever expected.

But, Lord, I believe, with the Leaders we have in office, as we're praying for our Governor and those that are being sworn in this morning, Father, I believe, in the might name of Jesus, that, God, You would move upon them that, Lord, You would, Lord, impart Your wisdom on them, as they lead us in this great State of New Hampshire.

Father, I pray, Lord, moving forward that, even if we protest, even when we protest, that, Father, we do it, Lord, not excluding someone else, that we do it, oh, Father, not at the expense of anyone else, but as Americans, oh, Father, that we would have this one mind, that we would think on others more than we do on ourselves, according to Your word. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Governor Sununu:

Thank you very much, Michael. Excuse me. And now, I would ask Speaker Sherm Packard to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, Speaker.

Group:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Justice Hicks:

My turn?

Governor Sununu:

Your turn, sir.

Justice Hicks:

Before I get started, I just want to say to the Governor and to the Executive Council what an honor it is for me to be here today giving the oath. And I want to publicly thank the Governor and the Executive Council, and the Legislature for the support that you have given the Judicial Branch throughout this crisis. And we look forward to working with you again. All right. That's my speech.

Governor Sununu:

Are we on?

Justice Hicks:

We're on. Repeat after me, please.

Governor Sununu:

Yes, sir.

Justice Hicks:

I, Christopher T. Sununu, of Newfields, New Hampshire, do solemnly swear that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the State of New Hampshire, and will support the Constitutions thereof, so help me God.

Governor Sununu:

I, Christopher T. Sununu, of Newfields, New Hampshire, do solemnly swear that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the State of New Hampshire, and will support the Constitutions thereof, so help me God.

Justice Hicks:

I, Christopher T. Sununu, do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm, that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all of duties incumbent upon me, as Governor of the State of New Hampshire, according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the Rules and Regulations of this Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Hampshire, so help me God.

Governor Sununu:

I, Christopher T. Sununu, do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm, that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me, as Governor of the State of New Hampshire, according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the Rules and Regulations of this Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Hampshire, so help me God.

Justice Hicks:

Congratulations, sir.

Governor Sununu:

Thank you very much, appreciate it.

(Applause)

Governor Sununu:

Thank you. Well, thank you very much. You can see how excited I'll be tonight at 7:00, when I do the Inaugural Address. It is very exciting, actually. It's a little weird. You want to reach over and give a handshake, but we're trying to be careful about that, of course. But, as is tradition, as soon as the Governor is sworn in, I would now ask the Executive Councilors to step forward, if you don't mind. Come forward to these little places for you there. Yeah, there you go, Janet. And Councilor Gatsas, are you still with us, sir?

Councilor Gatsas:

I'm still here with you, Governor. Congratulations.

Governor Sununu:

Thank you, sir. Thank you, sir. So I'll ask the five Executive Councilors, and Councilor Gatsas, where you are, sir, as you're standing, to please raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, state your name.

Councilor Kenney:

I, Joseph Kenney...

Councilor Warmington:

I, Cindy Warmington...

Councilor Stevens:

I, Janet Stevens...

Councilor Gatsas:

I, Theodore Gatsas...

Councilor Wheeler:

I, David Wheeler...

Governor Sununu:

Of -- state your town.

Councilor Kenney:

Of the Town of Union...

Councilor Warmington:

Concord.

Councilor Stevens:

Town of Rye.

Councilor Gatsas:

Manchester.

Councilor Wheeler:

Of the Town of Milford...

Governor Sununu:

Do solemnly swear that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the State of New Hampshire, and will support the Constitutions thereof, so help me God.

Councilors:

Do solemnly swear that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the State of New Hampshire, and will support the Constitutions thereof, so help me God.

Governor Sununu:

I, state your name.

Councilor Kenney:

I, Joseph Kenney...

Councilor Warmington:

I, Cindy Warmington...

Councilor Stevens:

I, Janet Stevens...

Councilor Gatsas:

I, Theodore Gatsas...

Councilor Wheeler:

I, David Wheeler...

Governor Sununu:

Do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as Executive Councilor, according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the Rules and Regulations of this Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Hampshire, so help me God.

Councilors:

Do solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as Executive Councilor, according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the Rules and Regulations of this Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Hampshire, so help me God.

Governor Sununu:

Congratulations.

(Applause)

Governor Sununu:

Congratulations, you can take your seats. There will be an Executive -- our first Executive Council meeting will be later today, I believe at 1:30, here, within the Executive Council Chambers. So obviously a big congratulations to the Honorable Executive Council.

I do know, and I feel very secure, that we are definitely up to the task to help securing that 2021 can be something successful for all of our citizens. As we've mentioned before, I will be delivering my Inaugural Address tonight at 7:00 p.m. And this concludes what is going to go down as the shortest inaugural ceremony probably in the State's history. But we thank everyone for joining us. And again, congratulations to the Executive Council. Thank you, guys.