

INAUGURATION, 2014

MAYOR DANA S. HILLIARD  
SOMERSWORTH CITY COUNCIL  
SOMERSWORTH SCHOOL BOARD

JANUARY 7, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – CITY HALL  
ONE GOVERNMENT WAY, SOMERSWORTH, NH

*“EVERY DAY YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND EXPERIENCE SOMETHING AND SOMEONE NEW. SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY. LEARN AND EXPERIENCE EVERYTHING YOU CAN, AND USE IT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”*

Rodney Williams (Born 1959)

PROCESSIONAL – Captain Don McCullough, Rochester Fire Department  
Mayor, City Council and School Board Members

MASTER OF CEREMONIES – Maureen Jackman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – SMS Students

STAR SPANGLED BANNER – SMS Select Choir (Arrangement Russell Robinson)

INVOCATION – Pastor Mark Rideout, First Parish United Church of Christ (Congregational)

POEM – SMS Student

OATH OF OFFICE SCHOOL BOARD – Diane DuBois, City Clerk

Ward 1 – Jessica Paradis	<u>At Large School Board</u>
Ward 2 – Dana L. Rivers	Donald Austin
Ward 3 – George Wentworth	Kelly Brennan
Ward 4 – Robert Gibson	Joanne Pepin
Ward 5 – Kenneth Bolduc	Rene J. Philpott

MUSICAL SELECTION – God Bless the USA – SHS Select Choir (Lee Greenwood)  
Matt Legarde, Director

OATH OF OFFICE CITY COUNCIL – Diane DuBois, City Clerk

Ward 1 – Martin Pepin	<u>At Large City Council</u>
Ward 2 – Jennifer Soldati	Brian Tapscott
Ward 3 – Marcel Hebert	David Witham
Ward 4 – Jonathan McCallion	Dale Sprague
Ward 5 – Denis Messier	

*“CREATE AND STIR OTHER PEOPLE TO CREATE.”*

Robert Frost

MUSICAL SELECTION - Andante and Contredanse – SHS Woodwind Quintet (W.A. Mozart)

OATH OF OFFICE MAYOR DANA S. HILLIARD – Diane DuBois, City Clerk

GUESTS – Sean Peschel, Gordon and Joanne Hilliard

INAUGURAL ADDRESS – Honorable Dana S. Hilliard, Mayor, City of Somersworth

In 1729 a new timeline in history would begin, when villagers along the Salmon Falls River found travel during winter to attend church services in Dover too difficult.

Those villages would begin the motions of a 284 year history which continues to move forward this evening. The small parish named Somersworth would gain a town charter in 1754 adding a new chapter in its own personal history. During this time our small village parish would begin its journey of transforming itself into a “mill town.”

A mill town which would soon gain recognition for being among the many other great communities of the Industrial Revolution; Manchester, Lowell, Nashua and Dover. Our Yankee work ethic would continue to be developed and etched into stone as the early morning bells of the mill signaled the beginning and ending of the day. Our deep ethnic cultural heritages would develop, as the families of our early English settlers began sharing streets and neighborhoods with the newly arriving immigrants from Ireland, Greece and Quebec, all drawn to our community with the promise of hope, opportunity, and a new beginning.

These new arrivals would not only continue to build the foundation for the identity of our community today, but would discover what the Parish, Town and soon to be City of Somersworth’s greatest asset is: **its citizens.**

In 1893 our community had redefined itself, Somersworth was growing. The mills had attracted the immigrants whose skills and cultures had transformed our community. Our town would now become a City, known not only for the industrial powerhouse it had become, but for its rich cultural attractions, parks, restaurants and theaters.

From the time we had organized as a town to gaining our City charter Somersworth would lead the way in public education, opening the first public High School in the state, located at our community’s highest point to forever be the beacon of its commitment to greatness.

Many of us here this evening’s own family history, within our community, began during this time, as our own relatives arrived seeking to be part of the American dream. Our commitment to our work ethic, neighbors and community would continue to become as strong as the Salmon Falls River. We would grow, prosper, celebrate and plan for our future.

Yet, history has a way of testing ones values. It is through the sandglass of time that communities separate themselves from those who know who they are, where they came from and where they are going, to those who continue to wander, those trapped in their pasts of greatness, or those who are lost in the present without a plan, destination or identity.

History has tested our community. For the same mills that gave birth to our great city would soon begin the chapters of our wandering. With the closing of the textile mills, to the shoe shops in the 70's and 80's, to the downsizing of General Electric, we would also fall victim to loss of self. Our community would begin to become unrecognizable to many of its own residents, with the deterioration and closing of a great part of our downtown business district, and the farmland and fields of our uptown area falling away to modern shopping plazas. Yet, through these great transformations, the key to our future success, our identity was right before us. We no longer need to wander, we are no longer lost.

Yes, we are not Dover. Yes, we are not Rochester. Yes, we are not Portsmouth.

We are the great Hilltoppers of the historical Mill city. The mill city that had and has a current diverse population committed to celebrating diversity along its rainbow of ethnicities.

The mill city, which has housed a history of leaders, who have mirrored its value of tolerance; French Canadians, Greeks, Irish, Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Women, Gays and Lesbians.

The Mill city that despite its struggles has never given up on its hope of brighter days, its commitment to self, and its unquestionable commitment to neighbors.

The Mill city that despite its limited resources has always been creative at finding a way.

The Mill city that once again will re-discover its identity and celebrate its new chapter of greatness in its own personal history.

Our downtown will be the hub of successful business leaders.

Hilltop will re-open its doors again, with the beacon of its new light shining as inspiration.

Our educational system will continue to become the model for the state.

Our commitment to sustainability and open space will be re-defined.

We will ensure our police and fire have 21<sup>st</sup> century equipment and competitive salaries. And once again our commitment to ourselves, community and neighbors will be unquestionable.

How will we achieve these goals? By following the lead of the banner, held strong by Somersworth High School students through the dark streets, and winter cold of the 2013 Christmas parade.

“We Believe in Somersworth.”

“We Believe in Somersworth.”

“We Believe in Somersworth.” Do you?

I ask each of you this evening: Are you ready to re-gain your identity? Are you ready to be a Hilltopper, fearless of seeking success and excellence? Do you, like the new members of the City Council, School Board, and current City Manager, Department heads, Chiefs, and employees “Believe in Somersworth?”

Do you, like Sen. Watters, Executive Councilor Van Ostern, and the New Mayor of Portsmouth Bob Lister, “Believe in Somersworth?”

Then let us not be afraid to embrace our historical identity, let us not be afraid to roll up our sleeves, let us not be afraid to ask for help from our neighbors, both within and outside of our great city.

Let us shine with our proud past, and plan for our bright future.

Let us all tonight united say “We Believe in Somersworth.”

“We Believe in Somersworth.”

“We Believe in Somersworth.”

Let us now together as a community begin the next chapter in our great history.

MUSICAL SELECTION – Lean on Me – SHS & SMS Selection Choir (Mark Hayes)

BENEDICTION – Pastor Mark Rideout

RECESSIONAL – Captain Don McCullough

*“PUT YOUR HEART, MIND, INTELLECT AND SOUL EVEN TO YOUR SMALLEST ACTS. THIS IS THE SECRET OF SUCCESS.”*

Swami Sivananda (1887-1963)

Spiritual Leader, Author, Physician

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk