

Revitalizing the Suburbs Orientation

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The focus of this conference is in revitalizing our suburbs. And I think it's very important to revitalize every piece of America, because all of America is growing and changing, becoming bigger, smarter, and better. We will have 100,000,000 more people here, according to the next census. That is going to make this country the most dynamic country in the world. No other country will have such a large population. Almost every other advanced country is losing population. Shedding population all over Europe. Italy will be half its size by 2050. Russia, one-third less in population. So most of the rest of the world, the developed world, is sagging. So we have a real opportunity and a real burden to make this country the beacon for the world. And as we have done, much of the past.

So the focus here is on growth and change. Changing old places, making them new. They are called suburbs or edge cities. And making some places very new, like Dos Lagos, the project with Ali and I participating in with all of you to make this a better place on the edge of the world. But we cannot do that unless we are all smarter about how to make and create better cities. I think we can do that with your help, but we are going to have to make some sacrifices. We cannot do this trampling over nature. We have to work with nature. We cannot do this trampling over people. We will have to have people-centered development. I think we can do that. It will be to our advantage. We will do more, do better, and be a richer place for the entire world.

I just want to do one thing before I step off; okay? I just want to do this so everyone knows what we are trying to do in New Orleans. And I am going to go through this very quickly.

There are five things to focus on the strategy of recovery for New Orleans. The first is continue the healing. Riverside is now a bigger city than New Orleans. We have 250,000 people, a city that should have 500,000 people and more in the metropolitan area of well over 1,000,000 people. But we have to heal those people before we can bring them

home. They have been traumatized. The city is traumatized in dramatic ways. So we are going to continue that healing process.

And my colleague, Sheila, is here, who's part of that process, who's been deep in the trenches of helping the city and enabling the city and its neighborhoods to recover. So that process is going to continue.

The second thing we are going to do is ensure the basic physical security of people in New Orleans. We don't have schools in New Orleans. We don't have hospitals in New Orleans. We cannot feel physically secure unless you have schools and hospitals. And we are just now bringing up our criminal justice system.

In the first eight days of January, we had eight murders in New Orleans. Until we solve that problem, nobody is coming home.

The third thing we have to do is to make sure we have an infrastructure not just for the past but for the future. New Orleans has played on its past for far too long. We have to have infrastructure that builds for the future. That means high-tech in every respect. So the mayor and I last week went to New York City and got more than a half a billion dollars so we can build New Orleans' future infrastructure. The first room we walked in and I asked for \$250,000,000, the guy says, "It's too low. We can't make that transaction. Why don't you take 500."

So we are on a roll in New Orleans. We have a balanced budget. We have a new organization, a new team. We reorganized the entire city government in the last ten days, because I came in, so we had to make some room. And the mayor and I are a very close team. So we are on the move. And we want you to help us.

The next thing we have to do is diversify our economy. We have got to stop selling T-shirts. We have to have an economy for tomorrow, and that economy will include a lot of trade with South America and the development of industry that relate back to our culture. And we are going to make medicine and hospitalization a major export with new technologies in that development.

And finally we are going to have a new settlement pattern, a new settlement pattern that won't be a shrunken footprint, but a broadened,

deepened, and more lively footprint. Much like the Dutch, we are going to have a stronger and better city across the city and every neighborhood will be coming back. So that's New Orleans. But New Orleans is no different than any other city except we have 300,000 more residents outside the city. We are going to bring them all back. We are going to make sure it's the greenest, safest, and best city in America so the soul will live.

Thank you.

(Applause.)