

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 Good evening, fellow residents and honored guests.

3 I'm Cynthia Sternquist, the mayor of Temple City, and on behalf of our City
4 Council, I'm proud to welcome you to the 2018 State of the City address. I hope you
5 enjoyed our video introduction, even though it ended on a bit of a cliffhanger. Here in
6 Temple City, our story is a multilayered one, and it often requires different types of
7 media to tell it. Throughout the evening, I'll incorporate two more videos into my
8 presentation as another form of storytelling — one I hope will inspire and entertain. I can
9 also promise you'll see a resolution to our main character's dilemma, but it might not
10 involve time travel just yet.

11 To start us off, I'd like to introduce my fellow Council colleagues: Mayor Pro Tem
12 William Man, Councilmember Tom Chavez, Councilmember Nanette Fish, and
13 Councilmember Vincent Yu. In addition, I'd like to recognize our City Manager Bryan
14 Cook and all the staffers and volunteers who have contributed their time and energy to
15 the benefit of Temple City and its people. Also, I'd like to thank my family, city and local
16 officials, and community partners for joining us tonight.

17 The past several years have seen our city work toward building a new legacy.
18 From the opening of Camellia Square, to the launch of a new Veterans Memorial, to the
19 growth of our City's presence on social media, it's been a renaissance of sorts for this
20 very special community.

21 I'm always impressed by our residents' willingness to come together as architects
22 of our community's destiny, and 2017 was no exception. Over the past year alone, we
23 completed our Mid-Century General Plan, developed a framework to ensure the health

24 and happiness of our senior population, and saw more and more of our residents
25 become active volunteers. And that's not even the half of it.

26 In my experience as a representative of Temple City, I've learned that who we
27 are and where we go aren't predetermined. Our future is entirely dynamic, meaning we
28 share the opportunity to define it together. It's my hope that by the end of this address,
29 each person who turned an ear to listen will leave with an understanding of the profound
30 power we hold as authors of Temple City's collective story.

31

32 **TEMPLE CITY LIBRARY**

33 As we work to shape our story, we take inspiration from the stories of those who
34 have come before us. With that in mind, we're proud to move forward with a full-scale
35 revamp of our Temple City Library. Construction is set to begin in 2019, and when it
36 does, it'll represent the culmination of years of compromise and hard work.

37 Since 1963, our library has stood next to City Hall, near the intersection of
38 Golden West and Woodruff avenues. And while it might've been perfect for the
39 community it served when it opened its doors 55 years ago, it's now far too small for the
40 number of people who use it.

41 You might be thinking, "Surely, there could be worse problems for a city to have."
42 But spearheading a major renovation of the library has been one of my top priorities
43 ever since I joined the City Council back in 2009.

44 My experience on the LA County Library Commission was something of a crash
45 course in securing funding and other much-needed resources for our community. But in
46 the long run, it only strengthened my belief in the transformative powers of literacy.

47 Reading and learning — much like traveling, but without the expense — are
48 perspective-changing portals to bold new worlds. It's my long-held belief that every
49 community deserves the key to unlocking those portals.

50 When considering how our freshened-up library should look, we turned to you for
51 feedback. You weren't shy about letting us know your concerns: that the existing library
52 is old, overused, and, quite frankly, not up to our city's usual standards of
53 attractiveness. You asked for more seats, more technology stations, and updated book
54 collections.

55 But the most vocal way in which you communicated with us didn't even involve
56 words: You simply continued to show up to the library and participate in its programs,
57 silently proving how vital a resource it remains to our community.

58 Because our library is owned and operated by the County, we're fortunate to
59 have devised an arrangement that'll allow us to share the \$3.9 million cost of the
60 revamp. The funding will help us add 1,400 square feet to our library's current footprint,
61 most of which we'll dedicate to creating a new area for children and families.

62 We've also managed to fundraise over \$100,000 for a one-of-a-kind interior
63 gateway leading into the children's area. The gateway will feature public art and
64 interactive elements; it's our hope that it grows into a kind of community touchstone for
65 Temple Citians of all ages.

66 Temple City, as many of you are aware, is well known for its high educational
67 standards, and those begin with our youngest residents. In many families, literacy
68 begins even before children are born, with mothers and fathers reading out loud during
69 pregnancy.

70 But the effort shouldn't stop there. In fact, early literacy and language skills are
71 key indicators of future academic and life success. Giving our growing kids a place to let
72 their imaginations run wild is part of the process of establishing a lifelong love of
73 reading.

74 That doesn't mean this expansion is just for the little ones. It'll be critical to build
75 environments for visitors of all ages, including teenagers, adults, and seniors. To that
76 end, we intend to debut designated spaces for patrons who want to study, participate in
77 the library's programming, or kick back with a good book. We're even looking into
78 installing a collection of what are known as "bubbles," or freestanding private rooms that
79 can be reserved for meetings or study sessions.

80 Despite our progress, it's an unfortunate reality that economic difficulty and
81 unemployment aren't entirely in our city's rearview mirror just yet. To address these
82 issues, our library is set to become a breeding ground for innovation — think of it as a
83 hub of adult and continuing education classes, English language workshops, and even
84 tech trainings designed to help our residents work better and more efficiently.

85 Likewise, we plan to incorporate more personal development courses, like the
86 library's hit series geared toward the empowerment of young women, into an expanded
87 slate of programming. It's our way of acknowledging that opportunities for learning and
88 the wonderment it inspires go far beyond books.

89

90 **CAMELLIA FESTIVAL**

91 Many of us are eager to move into the new era the library revamp represents.
92 But as we plot our next steps, it's important that we take stock of some of our oldest

93 traditions and what they mean to us. Annual events like the Camellia Festival, for
94 example, remind us of what and who we used to be.

95 They encourage us to show pride in our hometown and help us stay connected
96 as a community knit together by shared experiences and recollections.

97 And in the case of the Camellia Festival, they generate more than \$15,000 per
98 year in net revenue, all of which goes back into the community via investments in youth
99 organizations, schools, and scholarship funds.

100 In 2019, the Camellia Festival will celebrate its 75th anniversary. It was founded
101 at the twilight of World War II, back when Temple City's topography still reflected its
102 farm-town roots. Let it sink in for a moment just how far this humble festival — and we
103 as a community — have come since then.

104 It's no secret the Camellia Festival has struggled with dwindling numbers of
105 attendees and volunteers over the years. However, I am optimistic that with your help
106 we can think of creative ways to energize the festival in coming years.

107 Looking forward, the question becomes a personal one: How can we better tailor
108 our traditions to reflect the city we want to be?

109 We can start with a healthy dose of nostalgia. Instead of recruiting a celebrity
110 who lacks any real ties to our community to serve as the parade's grand marshal,
111 we made waves this year by inviting Joel Christopher Payne, a licensed Disney artist
112 and Temple City High School alum, to lead the procession. With the festival's 75th
113 anniversary on the horizon, its organizing committee has plans to pay tribute to the past
114 by inviting former court members and parade marchers back home to take part in the
115 celebration. Also in the works is the proposed revival of a classic Camellia Festival

116 tradition that saw storefronts on Las Tunas Drive get in on the fun by decorating their
117 windows and opening their doors to mingle with event-goers.

118 Of course, it's not our goal to become so mired in nostalgia that we lose sight of
119 the road ahead. Instead, the committee has championed new techniques to make this
120 event significantly more inclusive, and I'm happy to describe it today as both a
121 multigenerational and multicultural draw.

122 While the festival's focus is still on the kids — our esteemed Royal Court is made
123 up of first graders, after all — efforts have been made to appeal to older guests as well.
124 The committee recently installed a beer and wine garden, for instance, and it's quickly
125 become a popular home base for unofficial Temple City High reunions.

126 Teenagers too have been given new roles as festival volunteers; more and more
127 high schoolers and club members have signed on to assist with running the show, and
128 their contributions have helped keep the event afloat. In coming years, we hope to
129 further incorporate our young people's expertise by inviting a local school robotics team
130 to redesign our parade floats.

131 Much like our city itself, the Camellia Festival has benefited from a welcome
132 infusion of diversity through partnerships with groups like the Temple City Chinese
133 American Association. The demographics of our Royal Court have become more
134 diverse than ever, giving us the opportunity to teach more of our youngest residents the
135 importance of becoming civically active.

136 Yet the work to preserve a tradition like this can't be done in a vacuum. With
137 2019 inching ever closer, the committee is looking for community members just like you
138 to weigh in on what you'd like to see at next year's Camellia Festival and beyond,

139 whether it's a specific carnival game, more food vendors, or a showing of memorabilia
140 from past festivals — all ideas the committee has considered so far. Additionally, we
141 hope you'll consider volunteering to make the 75th edition of our beloved festival
142 unforgettable. On that note, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the
143 volunteers who participated in this year's Camellia Festival. Please join me in giving
144 them a round of applause.

145

146 **LAS TUNAS**

147 One of the most important components of a story is its setting. Here in Temple
148 City, we've leaned into the concept of a community made up of residential, commercial,
149 and mixed-use developments. But the beating heart of a city's geography is still its
150 downtown core — the proverbial "Main Street, U.S.A." — and ours could use some
151 resuscitation.

152 Strengthening our downtown core comes with its own set of challenges. As many
153 will remember, the City had developed plans and gauged the community's enthusiasm
154 for an ambitious project that would've transformed the physical configuration of Las
155 Tunas. The changes were conceived with the intention of inviting more pedestrian and
156 bike traffic, which we hoped would result in a more intimate downtown feel. But after
157 reviewing residents' comments, including your concerns regarding the potential impacts
158 of the plan, the Council chose to no longer move forward with it.

159 This created a unique opportunity to entirely rethink our vision of what we
160 consider our downtown core: Las Tunas between Golden West and Cloverly avenues,
161 and Temple City Boulevard between Workman and Woodruff avenues.

162 Yet again, shaping this vision will require us to look closely at ourselves to
163 determine who we are and what we want to project to the outside world. In other words,
164 we'll need to make difficult, defining decisions about our city's identity — something our
165 community all too often avoided in the past.

166 One aspect of Temple City's identity that's undeniable is the value we all place
167 on family. As I mentioned earlier, our families are multigenerational and multicultural.
168 They form the backbone of our increasingly diverse community. Our downtown core
169 should reflect this by providing more open spaces and other tools for spending time
170 together, face to face.

171 We've come up with a series of proposed beautification measures designed to
172 make downtown Temple City a much more vibrant place to be. These improvements
173 would heighten the appeal of our downtown streetscape and also increase its
174 functionality. Many of the items on the table seem obvious: new benches and trash bins,
175 repainted lampposts, and seasonal fabric or metal banners to welcome visitors to our
176 city.

177 Other additions would serve to green-ify downtown — think bigger planters, more
178 flowering trees, and “parklets” that'd turn underused sidewalks into shaded hangout
179 spaces complete with seating and lights.

180 We'll also be considering ways to incentivize business and property owners to
181 help us on our journey to building a better downtown. Plans are in the works for the City
182 to potentially fund pilot programs that would allow downtown businesses to install new
183 signage, colorful awnings, and outdoor dining areas. Bringing diners outside, the

184 thinking goes, provides a visual sense of camaraderie and energizes the downtown
185 area.

186 In spring, our City Council will evaluate a selection of these proposed concepts,
187 which are grouped together into price brackets ranging from \$300,000 to \$2.5 million.
188 The Council will heavily weigh the input of the Chamber of Commerce and other
189 business owners who'd be particularly impacted by any changes made to the
190 streetscape. Depending on their feedback and the Council's final decision, the project
191 could take between five and 10 years to complete. It may seem costly and time-
192 consuming, but I'm confident it'll pay dividends to the community for years to come.

193 The project's initial goal, beautification, will go a long way toward aiding us in our
194 goal of establishing a cohesive identity that attracts investors and visitors to Temple
195 City. Refreshed interest in our downtown core will spur economic development, bringing
196 new businesses and younger generations of patrons. Both of these things will be
197 integral to our city's longevity as we enter a future in which success and financial
198 security aren't always guaranteed.

199 Our neighbor Pasadena has its historic Old Town. Down south, Orange County's
200 revitalized Santa Ana Arts District has become a cultural destination and major hot spot
201 for foodies. For the time being, Temple City's core is a blank canvas. But it's time for us
202 to conceive of our own downtown environment, one that's authentically in tune with our
203 community's history, character, and ambitions.

204

205

206 **PARKING**

207 Improving our downtown core is going to be a twofold challenge. We can spend
208 years developing plans to improve the area’s aesthetics. But at the end of the day,
209 those plans will be fruitless if we don’t also take measures to make downtown more
210 accessible.

211 That’s where our Parking Master Plan comes into play.

212 We last updated this plan back in 2012. In the years that followed, the City
213 honored a number of recommendations to increase the availability of downtown parking.
214 Those recommendations included restriping our existing lots to create more parking
215 spaces, revising the time limits on certain spaces to boost turnover, and purchasing an
216 additional two properties to be used as public lots in the future.

217 But since then, we saw a shift take place downtown. More and more of the area’s
218 retail storefronts became restaurants, bringing larger numbers of patrons and
219 employees downtown on a regular basis. And while it might not be pleasant to fight for
220 parking spots on our evenings out, the demand for more spaces should actually be
221 considered a success. Why? Because it means more of us are actively exploring our
222 city and connecting with each other. It’s also proof that our downtown businesses are
223 thriving, which means our economy is too.

224 We want to extend the momentum. One way to do this is by reassessing our
225 current parking plan, a task the City formally embarked upon last June. In January, the
226 City selected a firm called Transpo Group to help us manage the development and
227 implementation of a new parking plan. Our partnership with Transpo will be paid for with

228 \$52,000 from our General Fund reserve. Any unused money will go back into the
229 reserve once the project is finished.

230 The main objective is to analyze how we can best manage our parking supply —
231 which at the moment consists of on-street stalls and private or City-owned surface lots
232 — over the next three to five years. Transpo will conduct a review of how these options
233 are currently used and how we can better maximize them as demand shifts. Together,
234 we'll also look at strategies to accommodate employee parking, including through the
235 operation of a 27-stall lot opened in October at 5800 Temple City Blvd., and manage
236 our two future lots on Primrose Avenue.

237 The Primrose properties could host more surface stalls or even multi-level
238 structures, and we look forward to hearing Transpo's recommendations for their use. In
239 fact, we're open to a variety of creative suggestions, ranging from reworked time limits
240 on individual stalls to designated pick-up and drop-off zones for ride-sharing services
241 like Uber and Lyft. If it can help our residents better enjoy and contribute to our growing
242 downtown core, we're happy to consider it.

243

244 **GENERAL PLAN**

245 Our Parking Plan isn't the only set of guidelines we're revisiting with new eyes.
246 Last year, Mayor Yu stood at this same podium and touched on the progress of our
247 General Plan Advisory Committee. At that point in time, the committee was nearing the
248 completion of our \$1 million Mid-Century General Plan — the first major update to our
249 city's General Plan since 1987.

250 The update will shepherd the city’s physical growth through the year 2050. But
251 before I go further into explaining how it works, I’d like to take a brief moment to
252 recognize the work of the advisory committee. Members spent nearly four years and
253 attended more than 40 public meetings on the road to refining the plan. They answered
254 the call to become literal authors of our city’s story. And their contributions will be
255 appreciated for years to come. Please join me in giving them a big hand.

256 The committee kicked off its work by gauging residents’ concerns about the
257 future. One thing that stuck out was a worry about housing. Will there be enough of it?
258 What if we’re priced out of it? And more importantly, will our kids be able to afford
259 starting their own families in Temple City?

260 Keeping those concerns at the top of the heap, the committee expertly
261 engineered a plan that ensures a range of housing options, and a housing supply that’ll
262 grow alongside Temple City’s population.

263 By 2050, our population is expected to climb to 46,000 people. That’s over
264 10,000 more than we have now. The updated plan accommodates the increase in a
265 variety of ways. Downtown, we’ll see new mixed-use developments — places that blend
266 high-density housing, retail, dining, and public areas.

267 Picture yourself waking up in a high-rise condo, grabbing coffee at the café
268 downstairs, and spending your morning reading the newspaper and chatting with
269 neighbors. That’s the kind of lifestyle a mixed-use development affords: It breaks down
270 the walls between us so that we can share more of our stories with each other.

271 A mixed-use village, complete with newly approved multistory buildings, is
272 already in the works near the intersection of Rosemead Boulevard and Las Tunas. But

273 that doesn't mean we'll be abandoning our more traditional neighborhoods — quite the
274 opposite, actually.

275 Our committee worked steadfastly to create policies on things like historic
276 preservation and natural resource conservation. These policies will allow our residential
277 areas to continue to thrive, keeping our neighborhoods livable, pedestrian-friendly, and
278 architecturally appealing.

279 Other areas addressed by the plan range from sustainability to health to
280 recreation. To get more of our residents outside, for instance, we're exploring options
281 for new bike paths and reimagined green spaces like Eaton Wash.

282 You can access the full plan on our City website in the form of a digitized "story"
283 illustrated with photos and other graphics. As you read through it, we hope you reflect
284 on how your individual story fits into the larger scheme of Temple City's future.

285 We also hope you'll consider joining an advisory group that's set to begin working
286 on rewriting our zoning code later this spring. Our current zoning code dates back to the
287 1960s. Only after it's been updated will we be able to implement our new Mid-Century
288 General Plan — so if you're looking to make an impact locally, think of this as your
289 chance.

290

291 **STRATEGIC PLAN**

292 The Mid-Century General Plan will guide our city into the future. But for it to do
293 that, we'll have to create a companion plan that's a little more grounded in the here and
294 now. This is what we call our Strategic Plan. To differentiate between the two, think of

295 them this way: The General Plan is like a map charting our city's long-term physical
296 growth, while the Strategic Plan is the detailed instructions for how to navigate it.

297 We're lucky to be at a crossroads when it comes to making these kinds of
298 decisions. As a city, we've been given a remarkable opportunity to collectively redirect
299 our narrative. The Strategic Plan will focus on the next three years of that narrative,
300 looking at core issues like Temple City's economic development and the upkeep and
301 expansion of our infrastructure.

302 Set to be completed later this spring, the plan will take into account the real-life
303 constraints on our City — things like budgetary limits and zoning regulations. It'll help
304 our City Council government craft new policy, and, perhaps most importantly, keep us in
305 control of our narrative by holding us accountable.

306 So far, we've begun work on a new mission statement and a set of guiding
307 principles designed to help steer our future actions. These things might seem
308 insignificant at first glance, but in fact they're the cornerstones of our story.

309 For starters, they'll influence our strategy for economic development. How can
310 we enrich our residents' lives by getting the most out of our existing resources and
311 investing in new ones? Earlier I touched on the General Plan's recommendations for
312 mixed-use developments, but there are plenty of other ideas in the works. Reimagining
313 the former Kmart plaza after the store closes is just one example of the kind of project
314 the Strategic Plan will help us coordinate and carry out.

315 On a more personal level, the plan will ensure our residents continue to have
316 access to well-maintained parks and recreation areas, community services, and a year-
317 round slate of activities and events.

318 Completing these strategic guidelines will carry us even closer to the future laid
319 out in the General Plan. To help us stay on track, the City will release to the public two
320 annual progress reports showing exactly what we've done to make our short-term goals
321 a reality. The reports will also detail our efforts to put into place elements of the General
322 Plan and recommendations from other more specialized plans.

323 I'm certainly under no delusions that we'll be able to write or predict the future.
324 But in taking the time to draft a clear picture of what we want for our community and the
325 steps we can take to get there, we're more likely to be putting ourselves on the path to
326 success.

327

328 **VOLUNTEERISM**

329 All this talk about our citizen planning committees brings to mind a topic that's
330 very dear to my heart: volunteering.

331 As a former educator and literacy coach, I've witnessed firsthand the many
332 benefits of volunteering. Along with contributing to the greater good of the community,
333 volunteering has profound effects on volunteers themselves.

334 Luckily, Temple City offers plenty of opportunities to get involved.

335 Let's learn more about some of those opportunities from Samir Meleika, who
336 volunteers almost daily with our senior lunch program:

337 **[PLAY VIDEO]**

338

339

340 **SENIOR MASTER PLAN**

341 Along with our General and Strategic plans, we've recently taken steps to put into
342 place yet another framework for better serving one of our city's key populations: seniors.

343 Temple City is rapidly graying. By 2027, it's estimated nearly 40 percent of our
344 population will be over 55 years old — a reality our city isn't alone in dealing with. In
345 fact, senior populations in cities throughout California are expected to rise over the next
346 10 to 20 years. But as our Baby Boomers age, it doesn't mean their stories need to
347 come to an end. It also doesn't mean they should stop contributing to the larger story
348 shared by all of Temple City.

349 Designed to serve residents over 50, Temple City's first-ever Senior Master Plan
350 will be presented to our City Council in April. The plan features 24 expert-approved
351 recommendations for "action steps" to be taken over the next one to 10 years. These
352 steps will vastly improve the quality of life for our seniors, whose needs, we found, are
353 pretty similar across the board, regardless of ethnicity or other demographic factors.

354 Some of the first steps we need to take revolve around mobility and socialization.
355 Simply figuring out a way for our seniors to get outside their homes and around their
356 neighborhoods, including during emergencies, is a major priority. As we explore
357 partnerships with ride-sharing services like Uber and Lyft, for example, we'll also devise
358 ways to teach our seniors how to use them.

359 None of our residents should have to feel lonely or isolated. With that in mind,
360 we'll work at developing more activities, outings, and even volunteer opportunities
361 geared toward seniors.

362 Likewise, expanding our case management system will help us better keep tabs
363 on our seniors, all in an effort to ensure they're receiving the standard of care they
364 deserve.

365 And continuing to promote our senior lunch program, the launch of which I'm
366 proud to have spearheaded back in 2011, will allow us to provide new audiences of as
367 many as 80 seniors each day with hot lunches, free of charge.

368 Our longer-term goals include creating a dedicated community space for our
369 seniors, creating more lifelong learning and fitness programs, and collaborating with
370 developers to guarantee plenty of housing options for older adults. Because these tend
371 to be costlier goals, we're now in the process of researching funding sources that would
372 give us the means to achieve them.

373 Again, I'd like to pause to show my appreciation for members of the volunteer
374 committee who spent eight months compiling these action steps. Our committee
375 members were police officers, health care workers, and other everyday people who saw
376 a need and came together to make sure it was addressed. Let's hear it for our Senior
377 Master Plan Committee.

378 Over the next year, I'll be calling on each and every one of you to join a new
379 senior advisory committee. Under the direction of the parks and recreation commission,
380 this committee will advise residents on senior-related issues, and most importantly work
381 to oversee the Senior Master Plan's adoption.

382 Committee members will also be instrumental in helping us forge relationships
383 with public and private service providers who can give our seniors access to outside
384 resources and other opportunities. Age shouldn't discourage anyone from supporting

385 this valuable cause. Millennials, your knowledge and input will be essential as we
386 explore proposals like an intergenerational tech lab and a social program that would see
387 younger and older residents paired up for regular meet-ups.

388 Writing the plan was just the tip of the iceberg. Now, it's up to all of us to make
389 sure our senior safety net remains strong going forward.

390

391 **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

392 Our community's safety net is only as strong as our local law enforcement. We've
393 had a few challenges over the past year, but I can confidently say our city weathered
394 them in stride, thanks to some remarkable displays of unconventional thinking.

395 Let's start with an accomplishment worth celebrating: Overall, major crime in
396 Temple City dropped nearly 4 percent between 2016 and 2017.

397 But as recently released crime data demonstrates, one looming area of concern
398 is residential burglary. We saw a nearly 9-percent increase in residential burglaries, or
399 burglaries that occur in people's homes, over the past year.

400 Because we put a premium on transparency here in Temple City, we don't want
401 to mask or ignore those findings. The truth is there's been an uptick in burglaries
402 throughout the San Gabriel Valley. In many neighborhoods, it's common for families to
403 keep large amounts of cash and jewelry on hand, and thieves have taken note — in
404 some cases, they've even managed to carry entire safes out of homes.

405 To deal with the rash of burglaries, several months ago the City Council arranged
406 for more patrol cars — as many as four per night — to keep watch over our streets. Our
407 local sheriffs' departments have begun meeting more frequently to stay abreast of

408 increases in crime in each other's districts, and to advise each other on the best ways to
409 deal with those jumps.

410 During our research, we discovered most residential burglaries happen when
411 people aren't home. To give families a leg up on combating residential crime even when
412 they're away, Temple City launched a new initiative offering subsidized Ring video
413 doorbells to residents. Outfitted with video cameras, the doorbells allow homeowners to
414 see, hear, and speak to anyone who comes knocking, all from a mobile phone.

415 The program was such a hit that we burned through its initial round of funding,
416 but the City is reviewing ways to reinstate it later this year. Our partnership with Ring is
417 a clear example of the kind of innovative thinking that'll help us outsmart crime — so
418 innovative, in fact, that other cities have asked us for advice on how they too can invest
419 in similar programs.

420 Because of efforts like these, Temple City remains one of the top 50 safest cities
421 in California, according to Safewise; in 2017, our rank actually *rose* from 38 to 36.

422 Yet another achievement? Temple City has the largest number of Asian and
423 Asian language-speaking deputies in the entire sheriffs' force. We've also grown our
424 Neighborhood Watch program to around 20 local leaders who meet monthly with law
425 enforcement officers to bridge the gap between them and residents.

426 But as I've said before, none of these pluses mean the story is finished. Over the
427 next year, in particular, we'll be focusing on streamlining communications between our
428 public safety officials and residents.

429 Many of you have become familiar with a social media platform called Nextdoor,
430 which connects residents of certain neighborhoods. If you witness a crime or other

431 suspicious occurrence, while you may be tempted to post about it on Nextdoor, it's
432 extremely important that you report it to law enforcement first (you can even do this by
433 texting 911). Likewise, if you have a crime-related question, it's always best to call the
434 Temple City Sheriff's Department and ask instead of crowd-sourcing your answer.

435 Our public safety officials continue to seek out even more pathways to
436 communicate with residents, most recently through the adoption of a platform called
437 Nixle. Designed to distribute news and announcements to communities more efficiently,
438 Nixle can be used to remind residents about upcoming Neighborhood Watch meetings
439 and post neighborhood crime blotters. It's also a means for sending out emergency
440 notices and other types of need-to-know information.

441 If you'd like to become more involved in raising awareness and keeping Temple
442 City safe, our Community Academy, Volunteers on Patrol program, and teen Explorers
443 group are all actively recruiting new members. It's up to all of us to be vigilant and look
444 out for each other. In nearly every instance, more eyes and ears equals less crime.

445

446 **NEIGHBORHOODS**

447 All that being said, our story truly begins and ends with our neighborhoods. Here
448 in Temple City, where over 80 percent of our land is residential, our neighborhoods are
449 paramount. They're where we raise our families and form lifelong bonds with our fellow
450 residents. They're also where we and our children form the bulk of our impressions
451 about our city as a whole, which is part of the reason why it's so crucial to keep these
452 sacred places safe, healthy, and sustainable going forward.

453 Over the past two years, the City has successfully repaved 17 miles of local
454 roadways. Last year's efforts focused on Temple City Boulevard. This year, we're
455 setting our sights on Rosemead Boulevard, the spine of our community, as well as
456 weighing which other roads are in the most serious need of repair. These will be
457 discussed beginning in April, during the Council's budget deliberations — a tough
458 decision, to be sure, but one that will be made significantly easier due to the passage of
459 SB1. Signed into law last year, this gas tax gives the City \$620,000 in new funding each
460 year for road repairs, and you can rest assured we'll use testimony from expert
461 scientists and engineers to determine how best to allocate it.

462 Speaking of our roads, in 2017 the City contracted with a nonprofit organization
463 called Canning Hunger to paint residential street addresses on curbs all over the city. In
464 addition to literally enhancing the "curb appeal" of our neighborhoods, the painting has
465 helped make addresses more visible to visiting friends and public safety officers alike.

466 This spring, the City will begin replacing about 55 overhead street signs,
467 exchanging our older lit signs for energy-efficient reflective ones. Also with sustainability
468 in mind, we'll be swapping our existing streetlights with LED bulbs. The City will take on
469 the amortized cost of \$466,000, allowing residents to simply enjoy the benefits of
470 greener, more boldly colored lights within the next year and a half.

471 Earlier this year, the City became one of 25 participants in the Los Angeles
472 County Choice Energy Program. The program gives residents choice over their energy
473 provider, allowing them to continue partnering with Southern California Edison or begin
474 purchasing cleaner energy from more environmentally friendly providers.

475 On another note, the City had a banner year in terms of code enforcement. Our
476 code provides standards for Temple City residential areas, which lead to neater and
477 safer neighborhoods and higher property values for owners.

478 The City dealt with double the amount of code violations in 2017 compared to
479 2016. But we're choosing to frame this as a positive because it shows our residents and
480 staffers are being more proactive about reporting code violations. This gives us the
481 chance to address them more quickly and efficiently. Best of all, our residents have
482 remained extremely compliant when it comes to righting their wrongs, and as a result,
483 less than 1 percent of our code cases escalate to the legal level.

484 In 2018, the City hopes to educate residents even more about the code and its
485 property maintenance expectations. Also in the works are bilingual English-Chinese
486 fliers that will be distributed throughout our residential areas.

487 The code is a living, breathing piece of legislature. It'll change as our city's story
488 does too. One recent change involved accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, like detached
489 garages that have been converted into living spaces. To preserve the integrity of our
490 neighborhoods while also recognizing the current housing crisis, we put a limit on the
491 size of each proposed ADU and required that its architectural design remains consistent
492 with the main unit. An ADU now cannot exceed more than 50 percent of the size of the
493 main unit, and it must remain a single-family property.

494 Another issue we plan to address involves the growing prevalence of Airbnbs.
495 The City has received ample complaints about properties being repurposed for
496 overnight guests, which raises concerns about things like noise and parking availability.
497 This year, the Council will consider an ordinance to ban this type of short-term rental.

498 Likewise, in the coming year we'll take a look at multifamily housing units like apartment
499 buildings to guarantee they remain compliant with our code.

500 It's a primary aspect of our Council's mission to ensure our residents' safety,
501 health, and longevity. Our work is predicated on the belief that every boy and girl
502 growing up here deserves the opportunity to add a unique plot twist to Temple City's
503 ever-evolving narrative. That said, our Council is eager to receive feedback, and we
504 look forward to collaborating with you to integrate it into the city's shared story.

505 This is only the first chapter...

506 **[PLAY VIDEO]**

507 Thank you and good night.