

MINUTES

ROTARY CLUB OF HONOLULU HYBRID MEETING

November 1, 2022

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

PRESIDING: President Lyla Berg

12:00 **President Lyla Berg** called the meeting to order. She welcomed members and visiting guests.

12:02 Pledge of Allegiance by **Rick Tabor**, Inspiration by **Phil Wright**, Song by **Kent Reinker**.

12:05 Fellowship Time and conversations at the table and in break-out rooms. The question to be discussed was, "If you had one issue you wanted to discuss with the Mayor of Honolulu, what would it be?"

12:15: President Lyla Berg introduced **Judy Lind** who provided introductory remarks about the speaker, **Mayor Rick Blangiardi**. Mayor Blangiardi moved with his parents to Hawaii in 1965 and worked in media and journalism until his retirement. He took over as Mayor of Honolulu in January 2020 just before the pandemic hit in March of 2020.

12:15-12:55. Mayor Blangiardi delivered remarks about a broad range of subjects including his interest in public service and the challenges he has faced since taking over as the Mayor of Honolulu. He shared information about his background and experiences running a newsroom. He mentioned that the experiences he had in the past were nothing like that which he faced after winning the election in 2020, that is, taking over local government operations in Honolulu in the midst of a global pandemic.

Mayor Blangiardi provided insight into his first days in office. He came into office with a team of 50 people during a time of fear and uncertainty. He had inherited a budget that had not anticipated the dynamic needs of city operations during Covid, e.g. business closures, online schooling, etc. He had to get a cabinet in place quickly so that he could begin working on the next year's budget. He then had to balance the following years budget during a time when the city was losing revenue due to business closures and he only had 60 days to do this. He recalls that these were challenging times, but he was able to accomplish these tasks while learning about all of the other issues that the city was facing.

The mayor continues to work on key issues in the city including affordable housing, recovery of the rail, obtaining federal funds for development, and reviewing staffing issues and succession planning for the city and making sure that all positions are staffed and funded. After his presentation, the mayor answered questions about Bill 10 (Livestock Housing), Planning and Permitting, architectural zoning exemptions, e.g., the building in Moili'ili that will be almost 40 stories high and will obstruct views, and reinvestment of tourism revenues in maintaining Hanauma Bay.

The mayor closed by saying that he intended to run for a second term and was looking forward to seeing further development throughout the city, especially as it relates to Phases II and III of the Rail which will result in public transportation routes from Kapolei to Ala Moana.

1:00 Closing remarks by President Lyla Berg. See the weekly *Tradewind* for birthdays and anniversaries. Next weeks meeting with be online (only) and will feature Dr. Steven Businger, who will present “The Secrets of the Best Rainbows on Earth.”

Closing song “Hawaii Aloha.”

Saima Makhdoom, Scribe