



Welcome,

Stockton is a city on the rise, with a challenging past and a promising future. We are the 13<sup>th</sup> largest city in California, with a population of more than 300,000. We are a microcosm of America – a city that is diverse in peoples and in cultures. Together, we are building an economy for the jobs of the future, opening the doors of higher education for everyone, and working to make Stockton one of the safest big cities in the country.

Working to deliver opportunity and equity is the challenge we face in Stockton and throughout our country. Generations of immigrants - locked out of the traditional workforce - arrived in Stockton with hopes of finding jobs in the fields and orchards surrounding our city. Today, we are a city where 30 percent of our residents are foreign-born. We value our many languages and cultures and build upon this experience to strengthen our community.

In 2018, Stockton sits in a position of strength, derived from a difficult past. Once, Stockton was home to bankruptcy and record housing foreclosures; now, we are the second fiscally healthiest city in the state. As the city's youngest and first African American Mayor, I am proud to represent my hometown. In many ways, my story parallels that of Stockton's. Statistically speaking, as a young black male born and raised in South Stockton, I was much more likely to get involved in life on the streets than to become Mayor. I was lucky enough to have a supportive network of individuals who nurtured my personal, intellectual, and professional growth from cradle to career. Unfairly, this sort of support – the driver for my success – is not available for many Stocktonians.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's that talent and intellect are equally dispersed, but opportunity is not. In Stockton, we are working harder than ever to provide greater opportunity and equity so that all of Stockton's residents have a better chance to achieve their goals.

Welcome to Stockton!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Tubbs'.

Mayor Michael Tubbs

