



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Interfaith Service

Yerba Buena Gardens
Monday, January 16, 2017

Remarks by Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director

Good afternoon, I'm Michael Pappas, Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council. I join our Chair G.L. Hodge and Founder and Past Chair Rita Semel in welcoming you to this auspicious celebration, the Birthday of Civil Rights Leader the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This event would not have been possible without the generous support of The MJM Management Group and its affiliate the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, along with the Tabernacle Community Development Corporation. Let's give them all a warm round of applause.

Today, dear friends, more than ever, we need to come together for prayer and action. As a nation, for of over a year and a half, we have endured a time of

unprecedented painful and divisive rhetoric that has brought us to this moment of great uncertainty when basic human and civil rights have never been more threatened and at risk. If we, the leaders of San Francisco's communities of faith, are to be truly faithful to Dr. King's legacy, we must pledge, with equal vigor, to exert our moral authority, reclaim our prophetic voice and fearlessly stand at the forefront of the movement to protect, advocate for and advance human rights, social justice and equality for all! We owe it to those who have entrusted us with this sacred call, but most especially to the young people we honor today, who deserve a brighter future!

But we cannot fight this fight alone. We are strengthened and comforted in the knowledge that prophetic voices come, not only from religious leaders, but from those who have answered the call to public service. With us today are dedicated and hard working public servants, elected to represent us and advocate on our behalf...

Joining us this afternoon are:

- State Senator Scott Wiener
- Assemblyman David Chiu

- President of the Board of Supervisors London Breed
- and Supervisor Malia Cohen

Please join me in giving them a warm welcome (Applause)

At this time, it is my distinct privilege and heartfelt pleasure to welcome colleague and dear friend Christine Pelosi, who is here today to represent her mother, Nancy Pelosi, our member of Congress and Democratic Leader of the US House of Representatives.