

Prem Goyal Common Hall Speech – 24/06/26

My Lady Mayor.

Fellow Liverymen.

Standing before you today, I feel both humbled and honoured. Humbled, because I am surrounded by people who have given so much to the City, and honoured, because you have placed your trust in me, to serve as one of your Sheriffs for the coming year.

When I reflect on my journey, three things keep coming to mind: hard work, adaptability and gratitude.

My story began in India, where I grew up as the youngest of ten siblings, in a home with scarce resources but endless energy. My parents taught me that through honesty, perseverance and kindness, you can change your life and the lives of others. They never went to school themselves, but paved the way for me to study at university.

After graduating, I boarded a plane for the first time, with just twenty dollars in my pocket, to pursue a Master's degree in Engineering in New York. I then worked as an engineer for four years, and volunteered as a firefighter in my spare time. I later moved to California to complete an MBA, before joining Goldman Sachs on Wall Street. My career then took me to Tokyo and Zurich, where I consulted for global banks. And it was in Tokyo that I discovered the joy of karaoke. By way of example, my favourite song was Dancing Queen.

But it was here, in the heart of London, that I truly found my home, and I set up my own successful consulting company. I am deeply grateful to the business leaders who became mentors, offering opportunities that enabled me to develop and contribute. Having benefited so greatly from the City, I am committed to ensuring the same opportunities are available for the next generation.

The chapter I am most proud of began when I was elected Alderman in 2017 in Portsoken, the best ward in the City. Supporting the Lord Mayors and now the Lady Mayor and her successors across 2026 and 27 has deepened my understanding of what the City represents: tradition, integrity and service.

I was also privileged to serve as Chair of the City of London Chamber, promoting our City as a centre for innovation and growth.

None of this would have been possible without the support of my friends in the Livery and my colleagues in Common Council. In particular, I am deeply grateful to my aldermanic colleagues for their trust and guidance.

Looking to the future, I will support the modern mayoralty championed by the Lady Mayor and her successors across 2026 and 27. Let us continue to work together as one team to ensure that the opportunities of the Square Mile are available to everyone.

I am grateful to have the steadfast support of Alex Hayward, who will be my consort. And I am delighted to serve alongside my fellow Sheriff-elect Tim Levene and his consort Katie.

Together, we will work closely with the Recorder and the judges at the Old Bailey to promote the rule of law and support the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund.

To conclude, I am honoured to accept the office of Sheriff with a deep sense of duty and service. I promise to serve with humility, dedication and integrity.

Liverymen, for your confidence, your trust, and above all your fellowship, I say, loud and clear, thank you.

My Lady Mayor.