



Common Hall Election Address

Guildhall

Tuesday 29th September 2026

Alderman Bronek Masojada

My Lady Mayor

Fellow Liverywomen and men. Thank you for your support.

This is not a speech I expected to make today. I want to start by expressing my full support for my friend and colleague Alderman Tim Hailes and his consort Fiona Adler.

Before Common Hall some of us attended a church service. As a semi-practicing catholic I drew succour and strength, as I hope would Tim and Fiona, from the slightly modified processional hymn:

He who would valiant be
Gainst all challenge,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.

I would like to thank my family, and especially my wife Jane. She was driving to Durham, on her way to attend the unveiling of one of her portraits when I called and said “are you sitting down?” After explaining the position, her response was “well clearly we have to step up and play our part”. So please thank her.

Our family are excited and delighted to be part of this journey. In the year ahead I hope you will meet our 5 children, 3 children in law, one fiancé and 4 grandchildren. I can only apologise to those of you who have commissioned Jane to do a portrait

– it may be a little delayed.

In July 2023, Dame Sue Langley, Tim Hailes and I were as a named as a trio of prospective mayoral candidates. We agreed to work together, recognising that the office is more important than the individual, and that a continuing program would be more impactful. By his decision, Tim has shown his commitment to this, and I look forward to supporting him in the future.

It also goes without saying that I am committed to building on the brilliant work of our Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley and her consort, Hon Col Gary Langley.

The themes the three of us agreed to focus on are familiar to all of you. The overarching ambition to be the City's Ambassador for Financial & Professional Services, with the Mansion House as its embassy. The focus on connecting talent and capital to opportunity. And to use the skills of the financial and professional services sector to make this happen, for the benefit of Britain.

The reason I am committed to this is simple – **I see Britain as a land of opportunity.**

- I feel I can say that in front of a Lady Mayor whose first view of the City was from her grandfather's shoulders, who, thanks to her talent and opportunity now leads this global centre.
- I feel I can say this as someone who arrived in this country from South Africa with two suitcases filled with drive and energy and found opportunity in insurance.
- And I certainly can say it in a City that thrives thanks to talent from across the country and across the world who are all here because of the opportunities.

In a world of geo-political challenges, stretched public finances and a fracturing society with expanding needs, to some this belief may sound like a dream. You may have a point, but when I joined the firm I led for 28 years, a colleague said – there are those that dream, and those that do. Happy are those who dream then do.

So for the doing, as Lord Mayor I will:

- showcase the opportunities, because they are many,
- continue the focus begun by predecessors on persuading British capital to invest in these British opportunities
- and champion talent, both local and global.

Talent is a bedrock on which everything sits. If you have the talent, they will spot the opportunities and attract that capital.

And to me this is where the Livery can help.

Liveries already work on talent, its part of your core objectives, and I will be encouraging and supporting you to do more and collaborate more. For when we work together on projects like the Livery Food Initiative, Climate Action Group, Heritage Crafts, the Livery Skills Initiative and more – the Livery has greatest impact.

It would be great to see cross livery Summer Schools, bringing more talent into our City, helping young people get that first foot on the ladder.

I can confidently say that the Lord Mayor's Appeal, with its new focus on Helping People into Work, will be a ready source of financial support for good ideas and initiatives.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal will also have a fund raising program of its own. We hope to have a Classic Car Concourse and Run, Livery Cutters on the River, a cycle event to help manage mayoral waist lines, and a unique event, the Mayoral kite-surfing day. I hope I can find fellow kite-surfers in the livery?

I hope that in this work – the serious and the fun – that I can count on your support. In fact, volunteers for organising committees would be most welcome.

So why does this agenda energise me.

At a personal level, I am clearly part of global talent migration and I know how hard it is to get that first foot on the ladder. I found opportunity – entirely by chance - in the insurance sector – and we raised the capital on the London Stock Exchange, grew our business 10-fold, creating jobs, skills and wealth.

A practical example of connecting talent and capital to opportunity,

and I want to support others who are following this path,

for the benefit of Britain

I accept this office.

My Lady Mayor