



WCo Chartered Surveyors

Cutlers' Hall

Tuesday 21st January 2020

Sheriff Chris Hayward

Allocution,

It is my pleasure to respond to the Civic Toast and to join you all here this evening – and may I thank you for the generous hospitality and warm welcome that you have shown to my wife Alex and me.

When I spoke to your Clerk Amanda, she suggested that in my speech I might say a few words about how the City works in regard to the selection of Aldermen and Common Councilmen.

Suddenly, instead of telling a few gags as I'd planned, I was faced with the challenge of condensing 800-years of political and civic history into an after-dinner speech!

[Joke]

And on top of that, I was rather surprised to be asked to talk politics amongst friends. Normally, I'm warned not to talk politics!

After all, aren't politicians these days some of the most divisive professionals out there?

A friend told me the other day about a driver stuck in a traffic jam on the M25.

Nothing was moving, so he was just sitting there in his car, when there's a knock on the window.

The driver rolls down the window and asks the stranger, "What's going on?"

"Well," the stranger replies, "Terrorists have kidnapped all of our MPs during a sitting of the House of Commons, and they're asking for a £100 million pounds in ransom. Otherwise, the terrorists are going to douse the MPs in petrol and set them on fire. We're going from car to car to collect donations."

The driver was alarmed, and asked, "Oh ok. How much is everyone giving on average?"

The response: "Roughly a gallon!"

[City history]

Well, thankfully we're a little more civil than that, here in the City of London.

In fact, it would appear that we're addicted to elections, councils, committees, and high offices.

So... **[look at watch]** ... in the following five-or-so minutes, I'm going to run you through 800-years of democracy in the City of London.

Here goes!

The story goes back to the Norman Conquest of 1066, before which the citizens of the City of London had enjoyed many rights and privileges, which they were keen to maintain.

London essentially developed as two cities:

- Westminster, its royal, administrative, and religious centre;
- and the City, its trading and residential centre.

Livery Companies, like this one, would eventually develop in order to maintain the high standards in trade that would retain the City's status.

Throughout the medieval, Tudor, and Stuart times, successive monarchs would come to the City – now a thriving trading hub – for loans, to fund policies and wars, at home and abroad.

Famously, for example, Henry the Fifth came begging to Dick Whittington ahead of Agincourt!

In return for providing such funding, the City made various requests to protect its rights and privileges.

This is why, in 1215, King John included in the Magna Carta the right for residents of the City to elect their own Mayor.

He wanted to win them onside, so he granted them that concession over the City's governance.

[Aldermen and Common Councilmen]

From this long and complicated history, we have inherited a democratic structure based around two Courts: the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council.

In fact, this structure predates Parliament, which inherited the bipartite division of the Aldermen and the Commons as the Houses of Lords and Commons.

In the City, the Court of Aldermen is the elder of the two, with the first mention of an Alderman of London dating back to the year 1111.

Today, there are twenty-five Aldermen, one for each Ward in the City. They are elected by registered voters within each Ward, for a 6-year term.

The Court of Aldermen has roughly four areas of oversight: elections, freedoms, Livery Companies, and ceremonial.

The Court of Common Council, meanwhile, is the more recent of the two, and serves as the main governing body of the City – its work supervised by a wide range of committees.

The 100 Common Councilmen are elected every 4 years, with each Ward electing between 2 and 10 councillors, depending on its size.

[Lord Mayor and Sheriffs]

Meanwhile, once a year, the City's liverymen elect two Sheriffs.

The office of Sheriff actually predates that of Lord Mayor – it is, in fact, the oldest Civic office in the City.

Normally, of the two Sheriffs, one will be an Alderman, and one not – the latter known, very sensibly, as the non-Aldermanic Sheriff.

The expectation of the Aldermanic Sheriff is that he or she will progress towards the office of Lord Mayor.

The non-Aldermanic Sheriff – and, this year, that's me – faces no such expectations.

So why pursue the office of non-Aldermanic Sheriff?

The simple answer, for me, is that after 40-years as a local government politician – and without a financial or professional

services background – I felt that my talents could be better used in aspiring towards the role of the Policy Chairman.

Where the Lord Mayor might be thought of the City's own Sovereign, the Policy Chair would be its Prime Minister.

The Lord Mayor does the diplomatic work; the Policy Chair does the politics.

[Shrieval programme]

Both Sheriffs – Aldermanic and non-Aldermanic – have a wide range of ceremonial, charitable, and supportive duties, and we spend the year living in the Old Bailey.

In bedrooms, I should add, not cells!

My brother Sheriff, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, and I are using our Shrieval year to promote a theme around the primacy of the rule of law.

Through a series of seminars and receptions, we are drawing together experts and decision-makers, to explore how the City retains its status

as a world-leading centre for arbitration, and how it extends its work to counteract money laundering.

This theme contributes to the Lord Mayor's work to promote the City of London as a global centre of excellence for financial and professional services.

And as the UK reconsiders its role on the global stage, it is more crucial than ever that we sing, loud and proud, about these time-honoured strengths.

[Closing]

For now, may I wish you all a healthy and happy 2020, and invite you all to stand to join me in a toast:

“The Worshipful Company of Chartered Surveyors, root and branch, coupled with the name of the Master, John Woodman”