

Leon McCowan: Good evening. (Audience: Good evening.) Good evening! (Audience, louder: Good evening!) and it is great. To our assistant secretary, to our associate commissioner, to our dynamic keynote speaker, to the parents. (applause, cheers) The reason I stop there on parents is because, I tell my office all the time. Parents are the key to the development of children. And that I often kid them by saying, "Without parents, no children. And without children, no Head Start." Is that heavy?

It is my pleasure to bring greetings and welcome you to Region VI, not only as the host Regional Administrator but as the host chair here in Dallas. It has been a labor of love. We've worked hard but we've been waiting with anticipation because this is the first national conference. And Dallas is noted for its firsts, because here we believe that father involvement is key, is key to the success of children and families and communities. I want you to make yourself at home, I think we have prepared well. I want you to work hard, because there's work to be done.

And then, when you go back home, I want you to implement, imbed, work at it because we're talking about success of our children and our families. Now I have a very important assignment - we're in the city, the city of Dallas and they've been very very cooperative in this conference endeavor, and we have with us today the deputy mayor pro tem, Mr. Don Hill. He is the city councilman from District 5, he has been -- he is a licensed attorney, he serves on the city's finance and audit committee so he knows about budgets, and different types of funding that local municipalities, but Dallas is a mega city.

He's on the public safety committee, but then when I looked down and I saw, I said, Mr. Hill, he is married. As you know in the Administration for Children and Families, a healthy marriage is one of our major priorities, because children do better in a healthy marriage situation. He's a father of two daughters and you know in fatherhood how important a father is to daughters in their development. And he's like me, he has 2 grandchildren, I have 3, but so I say, he's an all-around good guy, but I've been watching him on TV alot too so I know the tight work he's been doing in the community.

So help me welcome the deputy mayor pro tem, Mr. Don Hill. Thank you.

Don Hill: Thank you very much, that was a very nice introduction. Well, good evening, it is a great pleasure for me to be here on behalf of the city that I love, Dallas, Texas, and when he said a moment ago that this was a first, I don't know, I think my chest stuck out a few extra inches because for us to be a first in this effort in this initiative in support of fatherhood, that's something that we at the city are very very very proud of so we welcome you here and we are very appreciative of you here and the effort that you will make during the course of this conference.

As I pointed out a moment ago, and I'm glad he didn't embarrass me about other things that I do that really don't go to the heart of a whole lot of stuff, I am on the audit and finance committee and I do things on a daily basis that deal with money and for those of you that live here in Dallas, with stadiums, and for those of you that may just know a little bit about cities, buildings and land and all the things that really don't matter very much if you don't have a healthy family.

And so it is a great pleasure for me to be here and be a part of something that addresses the real foundation of successful families, successful communities, a successful country, and that is fatherhood and all aspects of healthy families. But I've been fortunate enough to be asked to come here today on behalf of my city to do something that even more special, and this is to in the way that we as a city can, express our appreciation and to honor Dr. Horn.

The normal practice is that they give you a little information about who it is you may be meeting or talking about, so they gave me some information on Dr. Horn and then when I found out, when we were introducing everyone that I was sitting right next to him and I looked over at him, a very unassuming guy, seemed like a very calm man, and then we say we both got two daughters, then I know there's brotherhood there, so...

And so it's a special honor, Dr. Horn, for us at the city of Dallas to recognize in the way that we can all your accomplishments and all the work you've done for families and children, the things that are near and dear to all of our

hearts here. And so on behalf of our city, what I'd like to do is ask you to come up, if you would be kind enough, and you can be modest but you've worked hard for this, so we want you to accept this gift from our city as a token of our appreciation for you and for the work you've done, for being in our city, for being a part of this, for giving leadership in our nation on this effort on children and families.

There's nothing more important, and it's a great great pleasure for me to shake your hand and extend this gift to you as an appreciation of what you really mean to this country and to all these people out here and the families and citizens that they represent. So thank you very much, Dr. Horn. We really do appreciate you very much. Please, have a great conference. We don't say this very often, because we know you will, we're afraid that you take us up on what we say, but if there's anything that we can do with the city to make your visit and your stay a memorable one, let us know.

God Bless you and thank you for inviting me.

-- End of Video --