



**Remarks by  
Mayor Greg Fischer  
Tribute to Mayors Reception**

**June 10, 2018  
Boston Marriott Copley Place  
Boston, MA**

Greg Fischer: Thanks, Mickey. Well, thank you, everybody. Thank you to Mickey Ibarra. It has been phenomenal, as many people said, to see this Latino Leadership Award grow every year. And Mickey, you are the force that keeps us moving. The respect in this room and this country for you is beyond measure. You're a good man. Mickey Ibarra.

*Mi hermano*, Antonio Villaraigosa, we spent a lot of time in the trenches together. So receiving this award with your name on it, it fills my heart. You're a good man and I really appreciate our friendship.

So just a few things to say, many of us, as we journey through life, I think we reflect then when we started, right? I hit the lottery with my parents. They taught me two values growing up. That's why I'm standing here today as a mayor. My mom's value was if you can help somebody, help them. Don't ask what's in it for you. ***Si usted puede ayudar (if you can help)***, do it. My dad's value, treat everybody the same. Whether it's Sam the shoeshine man or the president of the biggest country, biggest company in the country, treat everybody with the same dignity and the same respect. And I wanted to translate those values to action when I became mayor in 2011.

So I said that compassion, *compasión*, would be our guiding city value. People looked at me really funny I got to tell you that. I felt a little uneasy doing it because people scoffed. They said that's too soft and I should be focused on serious things. ***Bueno yo sé que los asuntos de corazón son cosas serias y estamos viviendo en un tiempo en que se necesita mas corazón.***

**(Well, I know that compassion is a serious issue and we are living in a time where we need more compassion).** So I know that heart and grit built our country. When you come to los *Estados Unidos*, our history and our value say that our arms, our hearts are open for you. This is who we are.

My in-laws, the parents of my wife, Alexandra Gerassimides, fled the Civil War in Greece after World War II. They had a third and sixth grade education. They never owned a car so they could put all of their money into their kids' education. In one generation, from third and sixth grade education to a PhD, a professor, and my wife, a doctor, that's the United States of America. That's who we are.

I see this play out over and over in our city. We see it in our country. When I go to the graduations and see the mothers and fathers from Cuba and Mexico watching their kids who are scrubbed fresh and looking good while mom and dad wear old clothes but clean clothes and smile so wide that you think their faces are going to crack wide open with pride for their kids. My ask to these families is simple: bring your sisters, bring your brothers, bring your nephews and nieces to our city. The future of our city and our nation will only be as great as the love and compassion that we show to our newest citizens.

***Pero ahora estamos viviendo un momento de verdad para nuestro país,*** We're living in a moment of truth for our country. During the Civil War in America, our country said we would no longer allow the buying and selling of human beings. During the Woman Suffrage Movement, we said women must have the right to vote. And during the Civil Rights Movement, we said that all citizens must possess equal rights. ***La pregunta ahora es si vamos a normalizar el odio y la separación que ha salido de la Casa Blanca (the question now is whether we are going to normalize the hate and separation that is coming out of the White House)*** or do we turn the love, compassion in a country with liberty and justice for all? I'm so proud of my city, the great city of Louisville, the home of Mohammed Ali that has embraced a diverse and global future. A city that is fighting against voices of intolerances, a city that very proudly lives the value of compassion. ***Una ciudad compasiva (A compassionate city).***

The voices of intolerance will lose. Demographics is destiny and anger only leads to more anger. Compassion, inclusion, and interdependence is our destiny. It's easy to see. I see it in the eyes of our Dreamers as they walk across our graduation

stages. I see it every night when I look into the eyes of my wife and kiss her good night. ***Y lo veo en el espirito de (and I see it in the spirit of)*** Mickey Ibarra.

And I see it in the fierce love of Antonio Villaraigosa. ***Bueno ténemos una lucha que luchar en nuestro país (Well, we have a fight to fight in our country)***, so we've got to fight the fight in this country. And the smart money, it's on us, here in this room. So thank you so much for this honor. Let's get to work.