

Remarks of San Diego City Council President Todd Gloria

Dedication of Thomas Jefferson School of Law February 7, 2013

Thank you Dean and Stephanie very good work on that was excellent. A dual threat there - a singer and a lawyer to be.

It is wonderful to be here. I'm really here for two reasons. One on behalf of a neighborhood that I have the honor of representing and secondly on behalf of the city that I know that we all love. In fact, as the guy who's just so fortunate to represent downtown San Diego on the City Council, I cannot tell you what it has meant to have this law school come to East Village. It has been a catalytic change – a real game-changer in a neighborhood that was looking for change. To have a thousand or more students sort of plow into East Village has turned that community around overnight. And I want to give a lot of credit to my predecessor, Councilman Kevin Faulconer, who I know worked well with the school to transfer you from your Old Town location to your East Village location. Kevin deserves a lot of credit and I see some members of his team that are here. Please give our thanks to Kevin for his leadership in getting Thomas Jefferson to East Village.

And what you need to know is that downtown is a neighborhood. It's a neighborhood of 30-thousand people who are looking to move this into being one of our world-class, vibrant urban centers. And to have a law school of this caliber in our East Village is a signal to the world really that East Village is on the rise and that San Diego's downtown is second to none.

So thank you for that investment and as a non-lawyer that's how I have to talk because I don't know anything about what you really do, except for what Jan Goldsmith tells me,. But I am grateful for the investment in this neighborhood. And let me take that a step further. Because when I was looking at the list of alumni I see that we have so many here. One of my absolute favorite is our District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis who is with us. Bonnie, it's always good to see you.

And on the other side, the public defender Henry Coker – just to make sure we're balanced. But this school has helped turn – yeah a round of applause for some defenders! And some wonderful judges, Garry Haehnle and others who I adore, who are wonderful citizens – all of who are contributing themselves to doing what we're all in the work of doing – which is making this America's Finest City. So for your investment in East Village and for your creation of wonderful citizens who are helping to move this city forward, you have the thanks of our mayor Bob Filner, every member of the City Council and I'm just glad to claim you as my own right here in the heart of District Three. Thank you all so very much, and congratulations on a wonderful, iconic addition to our city skyline.