



Mayor Yxstian Gutierrez
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Thank you for coming together to celebrate the state of our City.

I am truly humbled to be here today as your first-ever directly elected Mayor. I am proud of what the City is achieving – and how we will continue to serve you. I’m delighted to report that the State of our City is strong – in fact it’s stronger than it’s ever been.

Our City is a City of action. We have never been the type of people to sit back and wait for what may come. We envision and attain our own destiny.

In the words of former President Barack Obama, “At the end of the day, the circumstances of your life-- what you look like, where you come from, how much money you have, what you've got going on at home--none of that is an excuse... where you are right now doesn't have to determine where you'll end up. No one’s written your destiny for you, because here in America, you write you own destiny. You make your own future.”

You are the reason why we work so hard for our City. We strive to make each day better than the last. One more pothole filled. Another business license issued. Questions answered with a smile – and a solution.

Fiscally, Moreno Valley has achieved remarkable stability following a nationwide economic downturn. While other cities and counties have struggled to recover from the Great Recession, Moreno Valley is thriving. This year, Moreno Valley was ranked the third most financially stable City in the nation by the Fiscal Times.

Sound fiscal practices make a difference. We preserved the quality services our residents expect and deserve – and expanded services to further enhance our quality of life.

We are adding more police officers and firefighters to serve our neighborhoods. This year, we will open a second library branch to better serve our growing community. We are investing in our young people, in our infrastructure and in our roads. We are bolstering our award-winning Economic Development program to attract more international and national companies and jobs to our community.



In just its first 33 years, Moreno Valley has transformed a collection of neighborhoods into the Inland Empire's economic hub. International, national, and local companies are making Moreno Valley their choice.

As you'll hear in today's presentation, the City's hard work to attract and retain businesses is paying off. City revenues are growing, key services are being enhanced, and our Budget is balanced for the sixth straight year. At the same time, we have restored a healthy General Fund Reserve of more than \$37 million and will continue to set resources aside to preserve services through future economic cycles. And, most importantly, this City is helping put our residents back to work...in record numbers.

We have a plan...and it is working. Just a year ago, the City Council adopted the City's first Strategic Plan to chart the course for Moreno Valley's future. This Plan - - known as *Momentum MoVal* - - aligns the City's resources and our creative energy to meet six key objectives identified by community stakeholders. This is a dynamic and forward leaning endeavor, and a living document with a focus on achieving the aspirations of our diverse community.

Today, we're going to look at our City's progress through the lens of *Momentum MoVal's* six priorities:

- Economic Development
- Infrastructure
- Public Safety
- Library Services
- Quality of Life
- and Youth Programs

Let's begin with Economic Development.

Over the last four years, we have created 11,000 new jobs in our City, expanding our medical and logistics industries, growing our small businesses and solidifying our reputation as an ideal location for corporate headquarters of all kinds.



The numbers – 11,000 new jobs in just four years - are impressive, yet most important is the difference this makes every day for husbands and wives....mothers and fathers....young adults...whose careers are flourishing right here in our City.

And these are more than just jobs. They can spare 11,000 households from long commutes to work outside our community. Our residents can now invest precious hours into their families instead of logging those hours on the freeway. These 11,000 households can enjoy their loved ones, their neighborhoods, and their City.

That's why we created the Hire MoVal program to encourage businesses to hire Moreno Valley residents. It provides residents with jobs and businesses with a qualified workforce. The results are hard to argue with – employment in our community has surged to more than 94%.

While other cities have been busy adding red tape, we have been cutting through it. Our efforts are widely recognized. The Inland Empire Economic Partnership has repeatedly honored Moreno Valley projects at its "Turning Red Tape Into Red Carpet" awards. We truly are rolling out the red carpet for companies to have their projects shovel ready faster than ever.

More than 4,500 businesses, including Fortune 500 and international companies, have chosen Moreno Valley. The March Joint Powers Authority has been a strong ally in our economic development efforts, with a Foreign Trade Zone that provides millions of dollars in tax savings to Moreno Valley businesses that export and import goods. This has proven to be a powerful recruiting tool to attract businesses to Moreno Valley.

And our City is especially proud to welcome the World Logistics Center, a world class business park that will bring global companies, advanced technologies, innovative architecture...and 20,000 jobs to the region.

Luxury electric car manufacturer Karma Automotive, Amazon, Proctor & Gamble, and Aldi have moved their operations here. A record breaking 8.4 million square feet of industrial space has been leased across our City in just the last two years.

Karma Automotive brought auto manufacturing back to California – and to Moreno Valley. Let's hear from Karma about why Moreno Valley was the obvious choice – and how they're helping put our residents to work.



We have a great story to tell, and we're applying energy and creativity to connect businesses with opportunities for growth in Moreno Valley. In November, we unveiled a state-of-the-art website to help site selectors and companies realize how their business can thrive in our community.

It's simple – really.

Moreno Valley is the right place, at the right time. Our City provides concierge level service to help business leaders invest in their futures and in our community.

Our new online portal, SimpliCITY, works at the speed of business to make trips to City Hall a thing of the past. Companies can now check the status of permits and other planning documents...right from their cell phones in the field. And residents can monitor the status of the many exciting new development projects along with the status of code compliance cases and residential permits as well. Our innovations save time and money for customers.

Efficiency – it's one of the many reasons why businesses are laying their foundations here in Moreno Valley. As businesses grow, quality of life is enhanced for every resident.

Our future is not just one story. It is tens of thousands of success stories that intersect.

It's the story of a small business owner who weathered the Great Recession to continue to serve loyal customers in Moreno Valley.

It's the unemployed Dad who now has a job, thanks to the City's Hire MoVal program.

It's the high school student who, with the help of our Summer at City Hall internship program, is well on her way to earning her degree from UC Berkeley.

And it's the 11-year-old boy born with autism and cerebral palsy who was reunited with his therapy dog, Princess, thanks to good old fashioned detective work by the Moreno Valley Police Department.

Working together, we are laying the foundation for our future.

We are building that foundation with solid infrastructure, which is the next topic we'll discuss today.



What do we mean by “infrastructure?” It’s the roads we drive when taking our children to school and going to work.

It’s our Moreno Valley Utility which powers our new homes and businesses – and they do it better and more efficiently than other utilities. Communities served by the top 25% of utilities in the U.S. experience average power outages of 53 minutes. When MVU customers experience a rare service interruption, it lasts an average of just 2 minutes – an achievement which earned our City a Certificate of Excellence in Reliability from the American Public Power Association. It’s no wonder that businesses have identified our electric service as an important factor in their decision to come to Moreno Valley.

Infrastructure is also about installing new sidewalks and curbs on Farragut Avenue to enhance neighborhood pride. It’s our storm drains, our bus stops and our bike lanes.

And it’s a special kind of infrastructure for our youngest residents - providing a safe place for all of our children to play at the City’s first inclusive playground at Shadow Mountain Park. Now children of all abilities have a beautiful new area to play together...to climb, swing, and even ride a zip line.

Infrastructure is about buying 9,400 street lights from Southern California Edison to help control street lighting costs and position the City for smart technology growth.

It’s building a new electrical substation to meet increased demands from new industrial customers. Kitching Substation – our third electrical substation - will be energized in October.

It’s transforming Reche Vista from a former County roadway with tight curves into a modern, safe route for the 15,500 motorists who use it every day. It’s about peace of mind.

It’s identifying and prioritizing \$575 million in infrastructure needs, and laying out a plan to address each and every one.

It’s maintaining miles of our City’s roads, saving our residents hundreds of dollars a year each in unnecessary car repairs and wear and tear.

Over the next two years, Moreno Valley is scheduled to receive \$4.6 million from the state for additional road repair. And we’re already moving swiftly to begin vital projects.



As your Mayor, I proposed an initiative to fix our roads. Just last night the City Council approved a \$1.2 million initiative to begin an ambitious program to slurry sealing streets throughout Moreno Valley.

We're paving a path to our future one block at a time.

Our future isn't just smoother roads and more bike lanes. It's also ensuring our residents, business owners, and visitors continue to enjoy our City by carefully crafting ways to boost Public Safety.

In Moreno Valley, we don't just preserve public safety...we create it from the ground up.

We are helping developers design buildings and open spaces with techniques to prevent crime and enhance quality of life.

Take a walk through our business district and you'll see Officer Friendly making his rounds -- on foot. He's getting out into the community...getting to know the business owners....getting to know the issues they face. He's also working with our homeless population to get them the services they need to get back on their feet.

Last year, our police officers responded to more than 154,000 calls for service. Our firefighters answered an additional 19,000 calls.

We are adding more police officers and firefighters to our streets – and deploying them in a way that makes sense. In this year's budget, the City Council added more Patrol deputies and funded the City's first full-time Medical Aid Squad by adding six firefighter positions.

When responding to an emergency, every second counts.

Ally Hatch knows just how precious those seconds are. The 11-year-old was unconscious and not breathing when she was rescued from her grandmother's pool in April. She's alive today because of CPR and the quick work of Moreno Valley firefighters.

Our police officers removed 500 drunk drivers from our roads – making the community safer for all of us. Undercover operations removed illegal and potentially deadly fireworks from our neighborhoods.



And our officers are engaging with our community more than ever before.

Regular “Coffee with a Cop” meetings, “National Night Out,” and the “Cops and Clergy Program” enable residents to talk with police officers in a relaxed environment.

More than 4,000 people set a new attendance record at the 4th Annual Public Safety Expo to see how our police officers and firefighters keep Moreno Valley safe every day. Hundreds of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors donated by Amazon were given out to Moreno Valley residents who attended the Expo – making hundreds of Moreno Valley homes more prepared in case of a fire.

Police Department volunteers increased the number of hours they spent giving back to our neighborhoods by 30 percent over last year.

Our Emergency Operation Center is helping prepare residents for earthquakes, wildfires, winter storms, and other natural disasters. We are training residents through our CERT program to be prepared – and help their neighbors during an emergency.

The most important key to fire safety is to prevent deadly fires from occurring. Fire inspectors conducted more than 1,150 new construction inspections, and 12,800 fire and life safety business inspections last year.

We’re working hard to keep our residents safe – and enrich their minds. And that’s why Library Services are a major component of the *Momentum MoVal* strategic plan. In fact, increasing library services was one of the highest ranked priorities when we surveyed our residents in the course of developing the strategic plan.

The Moreno Valley Public Library supported more than 136,000 patron visits last year. They issued more than 2,000 new library cards and added more than 3,300 new books, magazines, videos, and other materials available to residents.

Our public library is a cornerstone of our community. It is a source of information, a place to embark upon new adventures, and a place to gather. It keeps our residents cool in the summer and warm in the winter.



We are so proud of our library – and the services it provides. It extends far beyond a place where you can check out books and magazines. It encourages our youngest residents to read. Our Adult Literacy Program teaches our residents how to read.

And through a partnership with the California Department of Veterans Affairs, the library proudly provides our veterans with one-on-one counseling to connect with a variety of services. Our library – with its valuable volunteers – is helping put our veterans back in school and back to work. It is helping them find a place to live and access to quality health care.

These men and women served our country. So, we are doing our part to serve them.

Laura Bush said, “the wonderful thing is that once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open.” So we are literally opening more doors to our library services and programs by opening the first branch library in the Moreno Valley Mall in December. Soon, residents won’t have to drive across town to take their children to story time or check out the latest bestseller.

And our current library is undergoing a facelift with a modern, welcoming design. Make sure you stop by to see all of our progress – and check out a book or movie while you’re there.

Our library isn’t the only service we’re expanding. We are engaging our community more than ever before with new programs, new initiatives and new ideas. *Momentum MoVal* features more than 160 initiatives or action items which the staff considers their work program. Over 30 of these separate initiatives promote an active and engaged community where we work together to beautify our shared environment, care for each other, and enjoy access to cultural and recreational amenities.

My first Telephone Town Hall brought City Hall into the living rooms of our residents this spring. Instead of attending a meeting after a long day at work, participation was as easy as answering our phone call. More than 30,000 people joined in over the course of the event.

Most of these residents had never been to City Hall. Some just wanted to learn more about how the City can assist them.

They asked questions – and received answers. And we followed up with residents who didn’t have a chance to ask their question during the live broadcast.



Our residents spoke – and we listened.

Traffic officers were deployed to specific neighborhoods, roads were repaired, and code complaints were filed – in direct response to residents’ questions and concerns.

Our next Telephone Town Hall will be on September 6, and I hope you’ll join me. By helping connect residents with their City leadership, these highly interactive sessions are just another example of the unmatched Quality of Life that sets Moreno Valley apart.

We are working hard to enhance the quality of life for all of our residents. These programs range from enhancing care for our community’s pets to beautifying residential areas to promoting health and recreation...and more.

Our Animal Shelter is coming up with innovative ways to find forever homes for dogs and cats. Their creativity has paid off.

In just five years, the shelter has completely reversed historical trends to achieve overwhelmingly positive outcomes. We recently added a new canine exercise area which makes the stay as comfortable as possible for lost and stray animals – an addition made possible by a \$20,000 grant from our corporate partner, PetCo. More dogs and cats than ever before are joining new families and lost pets are being reunited with their families. I adopted my own dogs, Lassie and Kayla, from our shelter and I couldn’t imagine life without them.

We’re also educating our residents on how well-maintained landscaping enhances property values and economic development. Upgrading a home’s landscape can increase home values by 10 to 12%. That makes a huge difference – considering home values in Moreno Valley are already up by 10%.

And our Code Enforcement division is working hard to help residents and businesses keep our community safe and looking its best, having initiated more than 5,300 code compliance cases in just the last year. At a time when other jurisdictions are cutting corners by slashing their code enforcement departments, we increased the number of full-time code compliance officers by 33 percent. We aren’t stopping there. Part-time code officers and a dedicated group of volunteers work to ensure we have code compliance coverage seven days a week. We are putting our best foot forward – one closed case at a time.



And those homes – and residents – who need a helping hand have found more than a few in Moreno Valley through our Community Clean-ups.

These clean-ups have identified a select few residents whose homes have fallen into disrepair, but due to age, financial resources or other unique circumstances have simply run out of options.

We know another code violation isn't going to fix these issues.

But volunteers can.

Members of the noon Rotary, Key Club, City employees, and so many others come together to donate their time to clean yards, fix fences, and lend a hand to these residents in need.

What was once a neighborhood eyesore is now a source of pride – thanks to our volunteers.

Our City is a City of action and generosity. We have so many people who want to roll up their sleeves and give back to the community. The City is taking strong steps to put helpers in touch with those who need assistance.

More than 150 volunteers of all ages turned out for our first Community Day of Service. In just a few hours they cleared the trails at Hidden Springs Park and gave a new coat of paint to the Community Center at March Field Park.

To help channel that philanthropic spirit, we created MyMoVal.org - a new resource to help connect volunteers with service opportunities within our community. Residents who want to help others can select ways to become involved – and MyMoVal.org will connect them with the opportunities.

Our new Adopt a Neighborhood program is designed to help neighborhoods get the tender loving care they need. Neighborhoods can reach out for assistance. Community groups can offer a wide range of services. Now let's watch a video from Pastor Mark of Victory Outreach.

Working together, we can lift up all of our neighborhoods.



We are a young City full of dreams. We are helping make those dreams a reality by investing in our future – and investing in a long list of projects laid out in the Youth Programs segment of *Momentum MoVal*.

Last month we rolled out the third phase of our successful Hire MoVal program; we call it Hire a MoVal Grad. Local businesses are now rewarded for hiring local Moreno Valley graduates. And recent Moreno Valley graduates are finding jobs. It's a win-win for our businesses, our graduates, and our community.

These graduates have demonstrated their commitment to education. Now we're demonstrating our commitment to them. The City Council has dedicated \$100,000 over the next two years to give recent graduates a much needed edge through the Hire A MoVal Grad program.

Our young people have so much to offer. We want to keep them here – where they can continue to enrich our community, just as their own dreams soar.

Our school districts, Moreno Valley Unified and Val Verde Unified, continue to invest in our children with much needed infrastructure improvements and quality programs. Their commitment to our children is invaluable to our community's vibrant future.

We are working closely with our school district partners to guide young people toward successful careers. When we believe in them, they believe in themselves. Our Summer at City Hall internship program provides high school students from Val Verde Unified with yet another reason to believe in themselves. Working at City Hall alongside our staff, these students gain valuable work experience and catch a glimpse of what they can achieve. Let's hear from the Summer at City Hall interns about their experiences.

Education is the key that opens so many doors in life. Our partnership with Moreno Valley Unified School District opened the door for 20 ASTERISK interns this year. With real responsibilities and a paycheck, these paid internships give high school students a taste of the working world. In fact, the City remains the District's "top employer" for ASTERISK interns.

Working alongside our school districts, we are making sure our youngest residents are getting the academic support they need through the Think Together afterschool program. Think



Together keeps our children – nearly 4,000 of them - safe and provides them with homework support and dynamic learning time while helping out working families.

Education shouldn't stop when schools close for the summer. Research shows that summer learning loss disproportionately affects lower income youth. To address this important need, we partnered with Moreno Valley Unified to secure additional funding for a Think Together summer program to serve 118 students at Edgemont Elementary.

Effective summer programs set the stage for more productive school years. And successful school years pave the way to brighter futures.

Continuing education is becoming a reality for more and more of our community's high school graduates.

Moreno Valley College's Promise Initiative provides students their first year of college for free – making higher education a possibility for thousands of Moreno Valley residents. Just last night the City Council approved a \$50,000 initiative to sponsor Moreno Valley residents who participate in the Promise Initiative. That doesn't include just enrollment fees. It also helps cover textbooks, parking and other fees that can pose an obstacle for many students. Thank you to Dr. Robin Steinback for making this program – and a college education - a reality for our young people.

The opportunities for higher education in Moreno Valley are greater than ever.

Our efforts to bring a university to our City have paid off - Cal Baptist University recently opened its first satellite campus in the Moreno Valley Employment Resource Center. Students will be able to meet with professors, take hybrid classes, access university resources – or just study.

As home to a thriving global logistics industry, Moreno Valley also inspired one of Cal Baptist's newest programs – a logistics curriculum within its Business Administration degree. Residents will now be able to take logistics and medical-related classes at Cal Baptist's satellite campus.

We are training the future leaders of our City in the industries of our future. And we're training them right here in Moreno Valley.



There's so much happening in Moreno Valley, and I hope that this brief presentation has been helpful in sharing some of the highlights. Together...as a community...we have accomplished so much in the last 12 months. And we are excited about the challenges that lie ahead.

We are focusing on economic development. We're modernizing infrastructure. We're enhancing public safety. We're expanding library services. We are engaging residents and businesses to enhance quality of life. And we are investing in the key to our bright future – our young people.

As we soar to new heights – we will marvel at vistas even more magnificent than we could ever have imagined. Because we are working together, our dreams are becoming our reality.

The state of our proud City is strong – and getting stronger every day.

The words of former President Obama ring true. "Our destiny is not written for us, it's written by us. And we're going to write the next chapter together."

May God continue to bless you and our great City of Moreno Valley.