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MS. WELDON: All right. Thank you. Thank you, and welcome. I'm Heather Weldon, the program manager for the City of Seattle's Supported Employment Program.

Thank you. We are here today to celebrate,

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commemorate and recognize every one of you. Each of you have played a unique part in helping us reach this momentous milestone of employing over 100 employees with developmental disabilities working in 17 City departments.

And because of this, now for the fourth time we've won the Governor's Award for Employer of the Year for our Supported Employment Program. This is a first. Not only has no employer ever won the Governor's Award four times, but no single employer employs this many people with developmental disabilities. So this is a first, a first in our nation and a first in the world.

So we thought we would take just a moment or an hour to simply pause, to just pause and say thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

We wanted to just take a little bit of time in the middle of an otherwise ordinary day to tell you some extraordinary stories and to say thanks, and rest in the presence of history together. We are here because of you. You did this. We did this.

MS. LEIMBACHER: Hi. I'm Krista Leimbacher. I work in the mayor's office. I'm proud to be one of the first 100 to work in this supported position in this program. I just had my 20th anniversary working in the

City of Seattle. I'm proud of that. The City of

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Seattle has taken a chance on me and letting me shine.

Take it away, Angel Girl.

MS. WELDON: All right. We're going to share a mic because the first one didn't work so well.

Krista and I are trying something very new today for the both of us, aren't we, Krista?

MS. LEIMBACHER: Yes, we are, Ms. Heather. Yes, we are, Ms. Heather.

MS. WELDON: We're co-emceeing this event together. It's a bit of an experiment and a unique challenge for the both of us. Neither one of us has done this before, have we?

MS. LEIMBACHER: No, we have not. Sharing the power and sharing the role of emcee is very exciting for me. I thought I would be nervous. I'm scared because I'm the host. I'm more nervous for Heather, ha-ha! I'm actually feeling confident about this. I can do anything if you put your mind to it -- you can -- I can do anything I choose to do. And one of my favorite books is called The Little Engine That Could. That's my story, and my motto is, I think I can, I think I can.

Take it away, Heather.

MS. WELDON: Thank you, Krista.

MS. LEIMBACHER: You're welcome.

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MS. WELDON: Okay. This whole process of working together as co-emcees, and Krista's motto of "I think I can, I think I can," reminds me of supported employment. When I learned that Krista's favorite book was the Little Engine That Could, it fit perfectly. It is our theme. It's like supported employment, in that much of the time when a workplace hires a supported employee, there can be a period of adjustment or even doubt. Wondering how or if this will work. It can be a little different from what we're used to, and we might have to take a little extra time to learn about each other's strengths and how to support each other; right?

MS. LEIMBACHER: You got it.

MS. WELDON: And sometimes it takes a very creative approach, and even a completely different approach, but that's how we succeed together. And we always find a way, we always figure it out. If we think we can, then we can.

MS. LEIMBACHER: We can. Whew!

When I retire one day I want to make sure the City of Seattle continues to have these programs for people with developmental -- how do you say it, Heather? -- disabilities. I've had a lot of challenges in my life. I was bullied because of my -- because I was

different from other people, and very mean people. I

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couldn't do things that other teenagers got to do, like go to prom, or be popular like my brother Glen at my table here. It was hard to go to school every day knowing I would have to face these bullies every day. There were times I wanted to stay home. Boo-hoo!

Until -- and oh, I never thought I would be loved, except my family, teachers and one favorite principal, however, I can't remember her name. I never thought I would be loved by anyone until I came to the City of Seattle. Here I'm popular, I'm not a loser. So too bad, bullies. I'm a winner now.

If I didn't have this program or this job I would probably be at home watching soap operas or eating chocolate bars like my beautiful mom, Sharon. That would be boring, and I want to be working with other people. I never felt more loved than I do here at City of Seattle. They have given me more unconditional love, the respect I needed, and I've made a lot more friends than I ever thought possible. I just want everyone to know I've enjoyed working here. I love it.

Take it away, Heather.

MS. WELDON: All right, Krista. I think it's time for us to introduce a very special guest who is going to kick things off for us here officially. Would

you like to do the honors?

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MS. LEIMBACHER: Yes. Heather and I would like to introduce Deputy David Moseley. Come on up.

DEPUTY MAYOR MOSELEY: So you see, in the mayor's office we have a perfect example of the work that all of our Supported Employees do. We have Krista, and we see what all of you in this room do for your departments because we know how valuable she is to us.

So Mayor Durkan is unfortunately away today and unfortunately unable to be here, but she wanted me to read this letter to all of you in recognition of this milestone.

"Dear Supported Employees and City Departments, congratulations. I'm so proud to honor and recognize all of our City's Supported Employees. There are over 100 of you in 17 different departments around our city, and I know that each of you work hard every day to make our city a more inclusive, welcoming, and vibrant place for people of -- for the next generation.

I also want to extend my great gratitude to the people across our city who make the workforce equity Supported Employees program possible. You all have created customized employment opportunities for our valued colleagues with incredible care and diligence.

Our Workforce Equity Supported Employees

program is now a national, and as we heard earlier,

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international model for the best practices to provide opportunity to people who traditionally have been excluded from the workplace.

Our city has received many awards and honors for our Supported Employees program, but as they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Several employers here in our region and across the country have duplicated our City's approach. Not only are you making a real difference in the lives of the people in Seattle, but you're also raising the bar and expanding the possibilities for people with developmental disabilities throughout our nation. You should be incredibly proud of your accomplishments.

Our Supported Employees and the team that runs our Supported Employees program represents the best our city has to offer: Hard working public servants who have dedicated themselves to meaningful contributions to our communities. Thank you so much for all you do for our city and for the City of Seattle.

And a handwritten little postscript says,
"Thank you for all your work. Sincerely, Jenny A.
Durkan."

MS. WELDON: Wow, what an honor. Thank you so much, Deputy Mayor Moseley.

And we have extra copies of the mayor's

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letter that will be available on the awards table that we have by the door here, so we'll make sure that that stack gets over there. So please take a copy with you of the mayor's letter, and look at some of the awards that you all have brought in.

So this morning I was looking at the long list of names of people who were coming here today, the people who said yes, the people who said yes to being here, which means each one of you. Each of you have said yes to supported employment. Perhaps you are here because you said yes to hiring a supported employee, or maybe you're here because you are an employee with a disability who works here at the City, providing your skills and talents every day. Or perhaps you're a supervisor or a coworker to someone with a disability. Maybe you're here because you are one of our trusted community partner agencies who provides us and other employers with the valuable service of job coaching or as an employment specialist.

Maybe you're here as a family member who has spent every day advocating, loving, and caring for a loved one with a disability.

Or maybe you're here in a role that I haven't named, but you are a supporter.

Well, we want to thank all of you.

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Krista, do you want to say a little bit about your journey?

MS. LEIMBACHER: Why not, Heather? Might as well get it over with.

You know, I waited a long time to find the right job where I wouldn't feel like an outcast because I was an outcast because of my disability. No one should be mistreated. We all need to come together. Doesn't matter on the race or gender, sex, nothing. Let's come together like the song, We Belong Together. Ha-ha!

I don't like being called retarded or handicapped because it hurts my feelings, and it might make me cry. If you're mad at someone go hit a pillow, read a book, relax, or sing a song like Let It Go from frozen, says my best friend, Jen. Love you. Don't say mean things, okay?

Now, this last part I want to dedicate to a guardian angel who I wish could have been here today to know that all my dreams have come true. When I was 19 years old I lost my best friend and favorite uncle, George, passed away before I graduated from high school. I didn't know this at the time. Later on my Aunt Jane, who couldn't be here today, let me know that he said,

"You know, we don't have to worry about her. Krista is

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going to do great and be fine."

Guess what, Uncle George? I'm great, I am fine. I miss you. I love you. This is for you.

MS. WELDON: We have an incredible group of speakers lined up for you today. One of the speakers has worked here at the City of Seattle for 20 years, all the way to a speaker who literally just started working here this week.

So I am so happy to introduce the first speaker, but I think I'll let you do the honors, Krista.

MS. LEIMBACHER: Well, thank you, Heather.

Oh, all right. It's time to introduce our first speaker. It is my honor to introduce you to Todd Newcombe. Todd, please come up.

MR. NEWCOMBE: Hello. Hello. Hello.

THE AUDIENCE: Hello.

MR. NEWCOMBE: Hello. My name is Todd Newcombe. I work for Seattle City Light. I've worked here for 17 years, and I absolutely love my job, and most of all the people and friends that I work with. It's amazing.

I am very thankful for the work I did in school to help prepare me for this job. My parents, teachers, and I learned that certain jobs probably

wouldn't work for me because of my physical limitations

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due to my cerebral palsy. So we worked on office skills like typing, computers, deliveries and other tasks related to an office environment. I was also able to do work experiences off campus when I was in the Employment Transition program. They helped me get to where I am today.

A very important thing this job has given me is that I know myself better now. I am independent. I find that as I become more independent, it makes my job easier to come to each and every day. Because of this job, I have been able to overcome any obstacles and barriers that I might face. I have a positive attitude to want to work. I want to be there every day. It excites me. It's important to me, and I want to show I'm a valuable employee and a support to my coworkers. There are many tasks I can do when I'm seen as a valuable member of the company.

A person with a disability does have obstacles and barriers to overcome, but it's possible. My wheelchair could be seen as part of my independence. So is my computer and communication skills. I've had my job coach, supervisors and coworkers as my support team.

It proves although all people have strengths and weaknesses, we can find ways to overcome. To strive

and have a job is exceedingly important as this one is

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achievable. I take the bus to and from Federal Way to Seattle. When I look at the bright side of my life, I don't look at my disability. I look at what I've accomplished, what I'm able to do day after day, and will continue to do to push forward. I want other individuals with disabilities to know they can achieve their dream too. As years go by I want to tell others and show them what my long journey was like working at Seattle City Light. I will do what it takes to get the job done for my company and coworkers, and achieve my goal and -- to work until I retire from Seattle City Light.

Another thing I want to do is continue my work supporting others with disabilities in the workplace, that more opportunities are given to others like it was for me. For businesses to know that people like myself can contribute also. We work hard. We're dependable and we're devoted to our jobs.

I will close by saying once again that this job has been a dream come true. I've been encouraged by all people I meet and talk to every day. This dream is achievable for others. It builds confidence and independence. We don't want to just sit at home. We want to feel we're contributing to the world, and that's

what I think I'm doing today. And I know other people

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with a disability feel that way too.

I want to thank Seattle City Light for taking this important step and providing employment for people with all abilities. I'm thankful to my Lord, supervisors, coworkers, family and friends for take -- for supporting me. My hope is I'm making a contribution to the company that will impact all who are involved.

Thank you.

MS. LEIMBACHER: Hello. It is now my pleasure to introduce Jenny Therrien. Jenny works for the human services department. Jenny, please come on up.

MS. THERRIEN: Everybody can hear me? Okay. Here goes.

Hi. I'm Jenny. I've been working here with the City of Seattle for more than 20 years, something very important that I am extremely proud of is that I've become a very fast typist. I'm also proud to be a part of a city-wide supported employment work group. This interdepartmental team has Supported Employees, supervisors, ADA coordinators and others on it. I love being a part of this team. I have gained confidence in my ability to speak in front of others. I'm learning about leadership skills too. I plan on becoming a

cochair of this team, and I can hardly wait, my first

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time. That's one of my goals, to be a cochair for this important interdepartmental team. And I also want to thank Heather for this too.

I take pride in being a professional working woman. Because of this job I get to be like everyone else. I am independent, and I ride the bus to work. I am a very hard worker. I am always on time, along very well with other people. I really appreciate Sebastian. He is my boss. He's the bestest supervisor I've ever had in my life. Sebastian is a very special, I've learned a lot from Sebastian, as he helped me gain computer skills and learn new tasks. Thanks, Sebastian, even though you're not here, I know you're here in spirit.

I also want to thank Dottie and Lauren and Selena and Sherrie for being so important and helping me with my mail delivery at 1:00.

I just wanted to say I am so excited. I will be cochair of the supported employment work group at some point. I'm really proud of myself for working on my speaking skills.

I'm also very thankful that I have this job of working for the City of Seattle in the Human Services Department. My job coach with Puget Sound Personnel has

helped me solve my problems and learning new skills, and

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they have supported me since I started this over 22 years ago, and I have enjoyed my job for a long time. I love my job, and I love the City of Seattle, and I'm very, very proud to have Sebastian as a supervisor because it feels like I have an aging and disability services family who I'm really proud of for helping me throughout my job. I'm really appreciate, and it's an absolutely wonderful, wonderful job. Thank you.

MS. LEIMBACHER: I'd like to introduce our next speaker, Isiah Williams. Isiah works for Seattle City Light.

MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Isiah, and I've been a supported employee at Seattle City Light for five years. When I started in 2013, I was really nervous about fitting in and not sure how it was going to go. This was my first job, and everything was new to me. I had to learn how to read and sort the mail, and to deliver it to 12 different floors. It was overwhelming in the beginning, but luckily for me I had a good -- I had good people that supported me and helped me during this transition.

I'd like to take some time to acknowledge these people and thank them for supporting me. Bob Devine was my first supervisor. He helped me learn how

to sort the mail and encouraged me to continue even when

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I made mistakes. Derek Turner was my first coworker who took me under his wing from the beginning. He took the time to assist me by making a list for me. And after a few weeks of me with that list, I didn't need it no more.

To name a few others, thank you Kelly Enright, Kelly Nguyen, Benny, Yogi, and of course Heather. I would like to thank the people that got me here working for Seattle City Light from the beginning. The tech program, DDA, the school-to-work program, Vadis, and of course my family. With this encouragement and help I have exceeded in my position.

Currently my favorite task is the mailroom. I get to interact with coworkers and hear about their days as I complete the task. I also get to share my days, and this gives me purpose throughout my job. I can't imagine having another job than the one I have today. You may want to ask me how this experience has affected my impression on supported employment. First, I believe it is important to include people with all disabilities. I have experienced what encouragement can do for a person. How my position has been enhanced with when I was included. My dream would be that all people with disabilities have the same opportunities that I

had. I want to see more Supported Employees working at

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Seattle City Light and all the Seattle departments.

Let's not only celebrate the first 100, but also the next 100 to come.

MS. WELDON: It's my honor to introduce our next speaker, Kamarigiah Aumach.

MS. AUMACH: Can anyone hear me?

AUDIENCE: Yes.

MS. AUMACH: Hi, everyone. My name is Kamarigiah, and I want to tell you why my job is important. This is my first time doing public speaking.

First let me tell you it was a long journey for me to get to this job. My parents were born in Vietnam. My mom knew that I would be a special child when she was pregnant with me. In our religion the mom and the dad come up with the baby's name by putting their hands into a special bowl of dried rice, so my mom and dad moved their hands around through the rice until -- so let me rephrase that again.

So my mom and dad moved their hands around through the rice until their hands came together. They squeezed the rice between their hands as they held each other's hands. And kept squeezing the rice until my name came into my mom's head. Kamarigiah means full moon.

When I was in high school I did not have any

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friends. I was very shy and took some normal classes.

I got one-on-one support from my teacher. I had an IEP, which is an individual educational plan. That's what kids who have disabilities have when they're in school.

Some things that have helped me be successful in my job here are support from my job coach checking on me to see how I'm doing. My supervisor is Yogi, and he is very patient with me. That really helps me. Eileen is my coworker, and she helps me if I'm confused about where a particular piece of City mail goes. Isiah is another coworker who has been very supportive when I struggle with something that I don't understand.

Because of my job here at the City of Seattle I've learned how to connect with people in the way I never did before. Usually I'm really shy because of my disability. My disability makes me anxious, worried, and nervous about things, especially when I'm interacting with people. People step away from me because they think I cannot handle talking. But I'm just nervous. I have a disability and want to be treated like a normal person, and that's what I want.

Some things I do for fun after work are I participate in Seattle Parks and Recreation specialized programs. This is a program that helps people with

disabilities do yoga, cooking and track. I've learned

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how to make friends, prepare dinner for myself, and I learn how to safely use knives and other sharp utensils. Yoga helps me relax when I'm stressed out and anxious. I also love outdoor for all. I think there's a lot of people who know more than I do, but I have become more self confident because of my job here. I have a sense of independence now that I've been working for the City. When I started my job I did not have that. I'm more mindful about problem solving now. I also know how to ask for help, which is a really important thing to do.

What I hope for the future, future Supported Employees, is that they have the learning experience I have had. They learn the importance of asking for help and to communicate. That when they have problems, they need to talk to their supervisor or someone else they trust at their job.

I'm proud of myself for typing, writing and data entry. Also I deliver City of Seattle documents to other City buildings. I want to thank my mom for loving, supporting and caring for me when I struggle with communication. She helps me talk. I want to thank all of you at the City of Seattle who have made it possible for me to have this amazing job. I thank you.

MS. LEIMBACHER: It is my honor to introduce

Mike Allen. Mike works for the Seattle Fire Department.

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Mike, please come on up.

MR. ALLEN: Hello, citizens of Seattle. My name is Mike Allen. I am the only employee in the City of Seattle who is deaf and has cerebral palsy. I've worked at the Seattle Fire Department over four years, and I'm very proud to represent the department. They're so inspiring. I feel that I'm treated equally there. My experience has been without barriers. I'd like to thank my supervisor, Dory Tadler, and all of the employees within the fire department.

Also to Heather Weldon. She works with the HR department and supported employee group. Also my current job coach, whose name is Neah Castello and her supervisor, Lauren Otoy. Now, when I started my job I was very nervous, and I realized I was in for a big challenge, the biggest I'd ever had, but I really wanted to be successful, and I wanted to do my job as well as anyone without disabilities so I adopted a motto from the fire department. Their motto is three words: Integrity, bravery and honor. And just like the firefighters who put out fires and they save and comfort victims, my bosses at the fire department, like Helen Fitzgerald and Julie de la Sandro, the deputy and the very head chief, they've treated me with respect all

along. I feel like I'm an equal member of the fire

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department.

I was able to meet Mayor Durkan back in December, and we exchanged greetings. She was an awesome lady.

I would also like to thank my family members who have been supportive, some of who are no longer with us. So now I'm fortunate to be a member of the fire department family. Thank you all for being here, and have a wonderful day.

MS. WELDON: Ah, thank you. It's hard to follow those stories. That was amazing.

What we'd like to do now is recognize and introduce everyone to another first of its kind group. So I'd like to invite those of you who have been serving on the interdepartmental team that Jenny, one of our speakers mentioned that she will be cochairperson of very soon. This is a -- we're calling it the supported employment advisory and ADA work group and team. So I'd like to invite anyone who's a member of that team to please stand and come forward, and we just want everyone to see who you are. That's -- this group is a very diverse group. It is not only people with developmental disabilities, but their supervisors. So if you're a supervisor who's been on that team, please come up; ADA

coordinators who have been on that team, please come on

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up. Just to show you who some of the faces are. I know we don't have the whole team here, but this has really been a first of its kind. This group advises on accessibility issues for people with developmental disabilities. It truly is the first of its kind. They advise on issues both internal and external, community issues. So they are called upon to our dream team when it comes to making life a little more accessible for either people out in the community who are using our programs through parks or services at the City in any way, or internally, as an employee who may have a developmental or intellectual disability, this is the team we are calling on.

The other unique thing about this team is that it is run and led by people with developmental disabilities. So the agendas are formed by Supported Employees. The meetings are run and led by Supported Employees. And we have developed a creative mentoring system to mentor each cochair through their roles in leadership. So what we didn't realize until this group was formed was this group is actually ending up providing excellent leadership development opportunities for people who have never, never had leadership development opportunities before.

So just take a quick look. This is probably

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only half of our group, but I'm going to ask Todd to read the purpose statement for this team that the team came up with, but before I turn it over to you, Todd, Sandy, one of our members, approached me, so we're going to go off script here for a second, Krista.

MS. LEIMBACHER: Okay, Angel. Whatever you say.

MS. WELDON: Sandy approached me just before our event kicked off and said something so profound to me that I said, would you mind sharing that briefly with the group? And you agreed to. So do you mind coming here and saying what you said?

So this job and supported employment program has made me the person I am today, and I feel it throughout my entire body.

Thank you, Sandy. I'm going to bring the mic over here to Todd, who is going to read this group purpose statement. It's there, and I'll come around the side here.

MR. NEWCOMBE: To advance understanding and promote inclusion and accessibility for people with developmental disabilities within the city of Seattle.

MS. WELDON: Thank you, Todd, and thank you,

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team. I'll let you find your way back to your tables now while we move on to our final segment.

All right. Your favorite part of our program, Krista.

MS. LEIMBACHER: Okay, Heather. We have some gifts for you now, the flower bouquet and the little candle. Do not take home the centerpiece. It belongs to Jan.

MS. WELDON: Okay. I've been instructed to show you an example of what not to take. Don't take this. But these are two gifts that the team who created this program for you today really wanted you to have some gifts, so they created a fun game for you to see who at your table wins this bouquet and who wins the little candle and the balloons attached.

So are you ready, Krista?

MS. LEIMBACHER: I am.

MS. WELDON: All right. So --

MS. LEIMBACHER: Yes, Heather.

MS. WELDON: I'm right here. We are going to ask one person from every table to look at your centerpiece. There is a gold circular plate, and you will see underneath the candle that is holding the balloons down, you will see something that looks like a

square. Pick it up and unwrap it. There are eight

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cards with eight numbers in here. And pass it around so everyone at your table has a card.

MS. LEIMBACHER: It should be fun. I love this.

MS. WELDON: All right. Does everyone have a card?

MS. LEIMBACHER: Is everyone ready for the game?

Not yet. Not yet. Wait, wait, wait.

MS. WELDON: All right. Does everyone have a card? Okay. This is a little different, but our group, we're a little different, so -- okay. So everyone look at your card. I'm going to mix these up, and I'm going to have Krista draw a card to see who's the first winner, and you will tell them who the first -- what the first winner receives.

MS. LEIMBACHER: Got it.

MS. WELDON: So without looking, pick from here.

MS. LEIMBACHER: I choose. Okay. Whoever has No. 4 gets to take home the small bouquet.

The crowd goes wild.

Whoever had No. 9 gets to take home the small candle wrapped with gold ribbon.

Ladies and gentlemen, quiet down!

We hope these little gifts remind you how much you are appreciated. It was important to us to show our appreciation in some small way. And I want to give special thanks to Jan Morrison for the decorations, and -- (applause) -- for your extra support, and Autumn and Stephanie for the catering.

MS. WELDON: All right. It's my honor to introduce our final speaker, Alex Hubbard. Alex works for Seattle Public Utilities.

MR. HUBBARD: Is it on? Okay.

Hello, everybody. Thank you very much. Thank you. My name is Alexander Hubbard. I'm very happy and honored to accept this job offer for the office maintenance aide position at SPU as the 111th supported employee. What I'll be doing there is doing some filing, stocking aisles, helping customers, data entry, and mopping on the floors. I want to thank Heather, Diane, Walter, Willie, Pat and the City of Seattle for giving me this excellent opportunity for this great job.

I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. At age three I went to Thurgood Marshall Elementary

School, and my favorite teachers were Heidi, Sally Combs and Kathy Newell.

I have autism, and I'm a musician that writes songs about my life I've been through and what I'm good at.

My stage name I use for my music is Fantasy A. I came up with this stage name when it reminds me of magic, and A stands for my name, which is Alex. What I want to do for the City of Seattle is show how successful I am and give it more positive vibes, as I will change everything. I feel a bit nervous sometimes because of my autism, but I'll be so brave to overcome it, as I'm not afraid to put myself out there in public.

If it wasn't for me, Seattle wouldn't be a better place with all the negativity and won't change everything. That's why City of Seattle needs me to support them and give it more positive vibes. All the videos I upload are very interesting. Thank you all. All of you need to check it out. My URL for my YouTube channel is AGwizard7, which is number 7 at the end. AGwizard7. Also, I wrote two books, which are called live in the eyes of an autistic person, which is about my life and my childhood to young adulthood, and live in the world of save the world and social scholar, which is

about two of my friends in Seattle that saved -- that destroyed the entire male population, except for female. Those are the books I've written back in 2012 and 2013. They're available on Amazon.com.

My mom, my brother, my sister, the rest of my family, my bosses, my fans and people I know will be so proud of me for my new job the City gave me. And the job with SPU is very important. That's the reason why it's important, that will keep it professional, support the warehouse workers, and give them more support, and I'll show them how successful I will be. What I most enjoy in life is taking long walks, making new friends, perform shows, go to concerts, listening to music, writing and reading and work a lot. My positive message to give you is to be yourself, be inspired, and be respectful. Again, thank you very much for giving me this excellent opportunity, and I'm looking forward to continuing to grow and support with the City of Seattle community. I'm now your future. Thank you.

MS. WELDON: Thank you, Alex Hubbard, AKA Fantasy A.

All right. In our one minute left together, Krista would like to read the conclusion of her favorite book, *The Little Engine That Could*. Krista, take it away.

MS. LEIMBACHER: Thank you, Angel.

Puff puff, chug chug, went the little blue engine. I think I can, I think I can, I think I can, I think I can. Up, up, up, faster and faster and faster the little engine climbed. Until at least they reached the top of the mountain. Down in the valley lay the city. Hurray, hurray, cried the funny little clown and all the dolls and toys. The good little boys and girls in the city will be happy because you helped us, kind little blue engine. And the little blue engine smiled and seemed to say, as she puffed steadily down the mountain, "I thought I could, I thought I could, I thought I could, I thought I could, and we did."

MS. WELDON: Thank you, everyone. Please enjoy what's left of the food, and know that we have given you the biggest thank-you, and we will continue to thank you. Have a wonderful day.

Reminder, there is a professional photographer taking photos of anyone who wants a photograph.