Let the Rose Rise
Written by:
Sir Dominique Jordan

Call: Let the Rose Rise
Response: And Rise we will TOGETHER

As the saying goes,
we will never know where we are headed
until we know where we have been…
Quite a unique duality
between the sacrificial truth, and a barbaric reality…
In the past, vicious decisions were made
that brought us to where we are today…
This land,
once an honored home to many indigenous tribes,
was stolen, causing generational pain and strife,
the ills of history are quite a conundrum
and the only way to cease and then,
prevent us from continuously following it,
is by enlightening the ignorant,
respecting the ignored
with pure intentions and acknowledgment…

Liberation is the only solution
to slay each of the monsters of poverty,
that over time have silently and patiently
ate away at the fabric of what
Democracy
was supposed to stand for in the first place.
DISCRIMINATION,
EXPLOITATION,

GENTRIFICATION too
Made this city so oppressive and harsh
for far too many to pursue…
But best believe we’ve had trailblazers,
changing the narrative on purpose,
Heroes so bold
Aimlessly making Lancaster City,
A place to be proud of.
Who fought for justice and broke the disastrous mold
Examples like Thaddeus Stevens and Lydia Hamilton Smith,
the inception of the basis of public education
became in our backyard
and saving lives
across a proverbial train track underground
have solidified their names in our used to be
town forever more!
Or the story of Barney Ewell,
shaking off the ancestral shackles
They said would prevent him from striving,
to make it all the way to gold,
or the work our tabernacles,
religious institutions, community centers and schools
have done to help sow seeds of our youth,
who knew they’d grow to reshape a small seed
of a red rose into a garden of a city!
Their stories we tell
Their legacy we must uphold and cherish
To make this garden,
this City
thrive and flourish
But let’s be clear here, previous strategic planning inherently harmed our most vulnerable neighborhoods, many of those impacts are still visible. Homes and community lost, if we’re talking unfair, this is the epitome, but no going backwards, now we're shifting gears, utilizing a new approach to planning, the input of the people, a more equitable than equal understanding To achieve benefits for everyone

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Our Future Lancaster, An affirmation in a name
An evolving and involving vision
Full of vibrance for our city to reclaim
With over 5,000 voices engaged and heard
The Street Piano Capitol of the World
Culture on every Corner, especially in the South East,
Changes can be made with every word we speak
As long as we step in unison,
Our city's assets, plentiful, unique and
Diverse, artistic, walkable
So We stay ahead of the curve with
environmentally just trees,
head downtown to peep the world-renowned architecture,
Yet Our city is more than just a structure, it’s probably better to say
we are a Red Tornado, but let me slow up,
close your eyes for a second for me,

just imagine and try to perceive,
these changes we want to see
Affordable living for all the people,
a thriving business community
for our mom and pop shops especially,
Better storm drain quality and cleaner water,
non profits carrying the torch for our sons and daughters,
to take us to a new regime,
and one of the most important, safety in our streets,
so our seeds can sprout farther than we could ever believe,

With gratitude to everyone's contribution
We offer this plan, the community's solution
Our Future Lancaster, our shared vision
It's up to us now, to shape our city's fate
To guide our city's metaphysical growth and mission
Now that community objectives are clearly being heard
To make Lancaster the best version we can create
So let's continue to participate and lend our voice
So In the end, A healthy and vibrant city, our ultimate reward
For a city we can all be proud to embrace
A place for everyone, with love and grace.
To make sure Our Future Lancaster is OUR comprehensive choice to…

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