

## 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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