



**Shrieval Plan
2023-2024**

**Alderswoman Dame Susan Langley DBE
&
Alderman Bronek Masojada**

July 2023

Preface

During what have been, and remain, turbulent times, one thing that has certainly emerged is a renewed appreciation for the importance of stability. It is true to say that the economic backdrop that the country faces remains challenging. The impacts of Brexit, Covid and the war in Ukraine continue to be felt in many ways, and the UK will head into a general election next year where divisions and fault-lines are likely to be exposed once more.

Throughout this period, the enduring importance of the City of London – its institutions, its values, its communities – holds true. The role and status of the City, both within the UK and internationally, is under increasing scrutiny. Competitiveness on a global stage is key to the wider prosperity and economic health of the nation. Recognising that, and balancing stability with innovation and creativity, is fundamental to the role of the City of London Corporation – promoting and protecting the City as a global financial centre, a workplace, a visitor destination and a home.

The impacts of what the City and the Corporation does are felt far beyond our geographical boundaries. The connectivity and influence embodied within the Square Mile are at the forefront of the Mayoralty Priorities for 2023-24. Through this year's Shrieval Plan, the Sheriffs will complement and amplify the Mayoral and Corporation strategic objectives, ensuring that the roles and institutions of the Corporation continue to deliver a strong and sustainable future for the City and beyond.

Summary

The 2023-24 Shrieval Plan outlines the priorities to be championed by the Sheriffs – Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley DBE and Alderman Bronek Masojada – during their year in post.

As is fundamental to a role dating back to the 7th century, the integral aspects of the Shrievalty will continue:

- Promoting and supporting the rule of law and the links between the Corporation and the judiciary at the Old Bailey;
- Supporting the activity and objectives of the Lord Mayor and wider Corporation; and
- Advancing the City's engagement with the wider civic, philanthropic, legal and business communities through events and lunches hosted at the Old Bailey.

Alongside, and in tandem with, this, the Sheriffs will focus their activity around the three pillars of Connectivity, Community and Resilience.

Main Report

Role of Sheriff

1. Elected by the Livery, and subsequently approved by The King as his Judicial Representatives, the Sheriffs uphold the rule of law as custodians of the Old Bailey, liaise with and support HM Judges, support and represent the Lord Mayor as part of the Civic Party and, through the hosting, facilitating and the promotion of lunches and events at the Old Bailey, advance the City's engagement and influence.
2. The Sheriffs will support the Lord Mayor in their role as an ambassador for the UK financial and professional services (FPS) sector, as well as in their civic, diplomatic and ceremonial activities. They will also, as key senior City of London Corporation representatives, play an important role in advancing key areas of the Corporation's strategic plan and the City of London's Competitiveness Strategy.
3. In support of the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs will advance the 2023-24 Mayoral Priorities – "*Connect to Prosper*" – with its focus on the City's strengths in solving global challenges and its leadership role in terms of connectivity and creativity. This will build on the current Mayoral Priorities – as set out through "*Financing our Future*" – of promoting a resilient, resourceful and responsible City, to drive economic growth and investment.

Shrieval Priorities

4. As part of their work to support the Lord Mayor, the judges at the Old Bailey and the wider Corporation, the Sheriffs will take forward their own programme of priorities for 2023-24. This activity will be brought together through three interlinked areas of focus, building on the convening and 'soft' power of the roles of Sheriff along with their individual experience, professional expertise and areas of particular interest:

A. Connectivity

The Sheriffs will look to showcase, utilise and enhance the City's connectivity and ability to reach far beyond its borders. In concert with the 2023-24 Mayoral theme of "Connect to Prosper", the Sheriffs will ensure a broad range of diverse groups, perspectives and individuals are brought together, both to access the opportunities that the City can offer, but also to benefit eco-systems within the City and Corporation. Attracting new talent to the City, as well as access to jobs, capital and wider opportunities will be at the forefront of their activities.

B. Community:

The Sheriffs will use their year to continue work to encourage greater community cohesion, mutual understanding and co-operation. They will use their roles to support work to maintain and improve links between the Old Bailey, the Corporation and local communities, especially those that have less of a voice, charitable and education establishments and businesses. They will also look to use their own experience and charitable and local connections to engage with those communities who may not automatically come into contact with the City, through mentoring and virtual internship schemes as well as

ensuring broad representation at events, lunches and engagements through their year.

C. Resilience:

As befits a 14-century old institution, key to the way in which the Sheriffs will discharge their activities and duties across the course of the year is to build on the work of those who have served before, both in Mayoral and Shrieval themes, whilst ensuring that the Shrievalty remains relevant and evolves to fit modern times. The Sheriffs will do all that they can to uphold the dignity and importance of their posts. They will support the Recorder through his outreach work, recognising organisations and volunteers working across the justice system and connecting new community groups to these efforts. They will promote and help to raise funds for the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund and the Lord Mayor's Appeal, and will support the Sheriffs' Challenge and the Sheriffs' Award for Bravery.

5. Through the support that the Sheriffs provide to the Recorder of London, the Old Bailey judges and the City Law Officers to promote the rule of law, their support to the priorities of the Mayoralty and wider Corporation, and the furtherance of their own priorities, the Sheriffs will help to ensure that the Old Bailey – which is at the heart of the UK's criminal justice system – remains connected to and reflective of the communities that it serves, and that the Shrievalty continues to support the Corporation's overarching objectives of contributing to a flourishing society, supporting a thriving economy and shaping outstanding environments.

Delivery

6. The Sheriffs will host lunches for the Old Bailey judges on four days out of five, at which they will invite between four and eight guests of their own from across a range of fields, including charities, business, diplomatic, civic, livery, government, public service and personal. This is the most frequent channel for enhancing awareness of the Old Bailey and the City Corporation, and maintaining and establishing links with the City and wider communities.
7. The Sheriffs will host 12 Themed Lunches per year (six each), where up to 12 guests are invited in accordance with a central theme to the event. The Sheriff will host a pre-meeting and discussion with those guests prior to lunch, encouraging them to visit court afterwards to further their understanding of the role of the judiciary and the workings of the Old Bailey. See Proposed Themed Lunches and Events at Appendix 1.
8. The Sheriffs will additionally hold six events (three each) over the course of their year, specifically to further their Shrieval priorities, with further opportunities to host events in collaboration with charities or not-for-profit organisations, where Shrieval and philanthropic priorities can be advanced.
9. The Sheriffs will focus on increasing diversity and inclusion of guests received at the Old Bailey, looking to bring in those organisations and individuals who may not naturally come into contact with either the City of London Corporation or the Old Bailey itself, including students and those from communities that have less of a voice.
10. The Sheriffs will also continue to promote the Old Bailey as a commercial venue and support the Old Bailey's commercial income strategy.

Conclusion

11. The Shrieval Plan 2023 – 2024 will support, promote and amplify Mayoral and Corporation priorities, promote the rule of law, advance the City's scope of engagement and influence and contribute to the growth of the global competitiveness of the UK.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Theme Lunches and Events

Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley DBE & Alderman Bronek Masojada

Sheriffs 2023 - 2024

Appendix 1 – Proposed Theme Lunches and Events

Potential Topics

- National / Regional Days
- Faith Events
- Hidden Societies
- Access to careers in Law
- Supporting City Students
- Financial Services
- Rule of Law
- Connecting employability charities to employers
- Investment and Venture Capital
- Destination City

Potential Events

- Mansion House Scholarship Reception
- Magistrates' Reception
- High Sheriffs' Reception
- East End Charities
- SSAFA (the Armed Forces Charity) and the Criminal Justice system
- Sheriffs' Ball

Key Anniversaries

Equality & Inclusion

- 30th – first women priests ordained in the Church of England (March 2024)
- 10th – first same sex marriages took place in England and Wales (Mar 2024)
- 45th – Viv Anderson becomes the first black male footballer to represent England (Nov 2023)
- 45th – Margaret Thatcher becomes the first female British Prime Minister (May 2024)

Other

- 750th – appointment of first Town Clerk of the City of London
- 250th – establishment of the Royal Humane Society
- 200th – opening of the National Gallery in London (May 2024)
- 175th – abolition of the Corn Laws
- 150th – opening of Liverpool Street Station
- 200th – Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) founded (Mar 2024)
- 25th – Welsh Assembly opened in Cardiff (May 2024)
- 25th – Scottish Parliament opened in Edinburgh (Jul 2024)
- 25th – first minimum wage introduced in Britain (Apr 2024)
- 30th – Nelson Mandela elected President of South Africa (Apr 2024; inaugurated in May 2024)
- 40th – Thames Flood Barrier opened (May 2024)
- 60th – last judicial hangings in Britain (Aug 2024)