

10 New Year's Resolutions!

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Here is a toast to your health, wealth, and wisdom in 2005. Last year proved to be a great one for real estate. Many of you made significant gains and added to your net worth.

Some of you still need more motivation and confidence to get started in real estate investment.

Procrastination is a common dilemma most of us face, whether it be the exercise we need, writing that thank you note, or making an informed real estate investment decision.

It's never too late! Think of all the things that you can add to your New Year's resolutions.

With that thought here are some resolutions for 2005:

1. **Prioritize:** When you add to-dos on your list, some tasks may need breaking up into more achievable ones. Making a list is good but tackling it in the right order is more important. Bump up 'call CPA to do taxes' to number one on your 'to do' list and move 'buy donuts' to number ten otherwise the only people happy will be the donut shop and your health club. In other words do the things that make a positive difference in your lives.
2. **Organize:** Uncluttering your work area will not only do wonders for your productivity and decor, it will help you keep important things organized and accessible. You will finally be able to find that important piece of paper "Aunt Martha's will" that had an expiry date on it.
3. **Be Healthy:** The difference between the words "diet and "die" is just a 't'. If that doesn't scare the daylights out of anyone then I don't know what will. From now on, out with the junk food and in with 'the Abs diet' by Rick Zinc Zenko. Vow to lift weights, stretch and run regularly, sleep early and wake up early. In order to do all the good things on your New Year's resolution list, you need to be strong so take care of yourself first.
4. **Learn to Relax:** We have become a "microwave society" and want everything 'now'. If you don't learn to relax and unwind, your life will seem like a runaway train hopelessly charging away on the fast track. Taking the time to unwind and smell the roses will keep us from ending up prematurely under those rose beds. It is important to make time for yourself and your family.
5. **Be More Positive:** People who have a positive outlook on life are more productive and successful, and are healthier and happier. Even words in our vocabulary can be positive or negative. They can either break our spirit or build it. Weed out the negative words like '*don't*', '*can't*', '*but*', '*if*', '*try*' and replace them with positive ones like '*and*' instead of '*but*' and '*challenges*' instead of '*problems*'.

6. **Learn to Focus:** The most important element that will help you succeed in your endeavors is 'focus'. Avoid distractions and focus on the plans that you have made and the steps that you intend to take to achieve your goals.
7. **Live in the 'Now':** It is good to plan for the future because if you are prepared and the opportunity comes along, you will be ready for it. However, it is futile to worry about tomorrow as you can't predict what tomorrow will bring. The only thing you can control is the 'now' so make the best of it and the future will take care of itself.
8. **Change:** If you truly desire to change something in your life you have to start with yourself. Don't let that person in the mirror talk you out of following your diet, saving money, or whatever it is you want to change. Convince yourself to play on your side and not against you.
9. **Build Healthy Relationships:** The typical question asked at job interviews "how do you get along with other people?" is actually a pretty important question. A major part of the success you will ever enjoy will be determined by how you get along with other people. It is as important in your personal life as it is in your work life. Strong relationships that build respect and trust are very rewarding in life.
10. **Be Financially Free:** Here is where all the information on real estate investment comes in handy! It is time to take control of money before money takes control of you and ends up dictating how you end up spending the rest of your life. People make money in good times and in bad! Let us resolve to make enough money so that we do not have to worry about money! We should have enough to take care of ourselves during our lifetime, enough to take care of our loved ones, and enough to be able to help those less fortunate than us!

With these thoughts I leave you and wish you good luck with your New Year's resolutions!

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