

Deputy Mayor Tony Fiore's Incoming Speech

Sunday, January 6, 2019

First, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Township Committee for once again, for I believe the fifth time, entrusting me to serve in this leadership position as Deputy Mayor again. (Gerry Scharfenberger- I'm going to try and break the Deputy Mayor record, I know you hold the Mayor record right now!)

It is really humbling for me to be able to serve on this Committee, to serve the people of Middletown, which is such an extraordinary town, as our Mayor and outgoing Mayor have said.

I'd like to take a few moments to welcome, what I would say are our new colleagues, though they served on the Committee for most of last year. 2018 was certainly, in my ten years of service here in Middletown Township, a year of tremendous change on this Township Committee. Some of our former colleagues moved to higher offices which are so well deserved, and some colleagues going to very important boards and commissions that serve the constituents of Monmouth County at a very high level. For Pat, Rick, and Tony to step into this Committee with Kevin and myself and to really lead with such a tremendous example of passion and great leadership, I thank you for stepping into what was a very challenging time of change.

I'd like to also thank outgoing Mayor and my longstanding colleague Kevin Settembrino for his service in 2018. Kevin stepped into a transition that on the surface looked very smooth and it really was thanks to his leadership and the work of all the administration to bring it all together to ensure that all of the agenda items that we sent to accomplish in 2018 were met. Many of these

items happened in his 6-month period as Mayor so thank you Kevin for all that you did in leading this community in 2018.

A few more comments from me. There are a lot of elected officials in here, mentors of mine, including Senator Kyrillos, Gerry Scharfenberger, Pete Carton, Congressmen Chris Smith, who is someone I look up to very much, Sheriff Golden and the Freeholders led by Freeholder Arnone. Thank you for all that you do for Monmouth County, for the United States-in Congressman Smith's role- and the State of New Jersey. Assemblywoman DiMaso and Senator O'Scanlon- everything you do for the State and Federal government has an impact on Middletown Township. Thank you for being here today and thank you for everything you do. It is greatly appreciated. We couldn't do what we do without you.

Finally, a quick thank you and a brief comment to my family, my wife Courtney and my two girls, Julianna and Allessandra who are in attendance today. Those of you who have been coming to reorganizations for a long time may realize that they have been coming here since the oldest one was about a year old and the youngest one wasn't even here! They really make the extreme sacrifice of my time to serve the community. It is my two daughters who really fuel my passion to do everything I can to make Middletown the greatest place to live, work, and someday for them to raise their families in this community. I am really proud of the accomplishments we have made in the past and I know that there are significant challenges to us in the future. Thank you Courtney, Allessandra and Julianna for all that you do in allowing me to serve.

And finally thank you to our Fire Department, Police Department and all of our volunteers. You guys are tremendous and an amazing asset to this community. Many of you will be sworn in today to volunteer positions. You truly are the fabric of Middletown Township, and without you

we would not be the top place to live, work, and raise a family. Thank you very much and I look forward to a great 2019.