

## 2018 Montgomery Township Committee Reorganization Remarks

### **MAYOR MARK CONFORTI**

I am known as the numbers person in the group and so I go into every year wondering what things could possibly go wrong to make life difficult for little towns in New Jersey. This new year brings changes on the State and Federal level causing some concern in New Jersey municipalities' – we have a new governor with his own ideas on taxes, and the Federal government has implemented Tax Reform, which I think is the ultimate oxymoron. We don't yet know how it will affect and *if* it will affect our property values but for now I will relay that hard work to Michael Pitts, our new CFO. Michael is working with CFOs in other municipalities to create a solution that will provide relief to our residents.

I am optimistic for the year and for the future. Montgomery is and has been a magnet community, which is the reason we and many people moved here. There are three aspects I will highlight, in no particular order – all three are equally important.

1. We have the best municipally-controlled Police Department in the state and one of the best in the country. This is not just by my opinion but has been confirmed by various surveys. Captain Tom Wain leads a great group of officers who do a great job of keeping us all safe without being noticed much. Thank you Tom!
2. Secondly an important number to remember is the number 40, specifically 40%. In the next few years, we will have obtained the goal of

preserving about 40% of the acreage in Montgomery for future generations – that’s something not many towns can lay claim to – that is all thanks to residents who came long before us who put the Open Space Program in place many years ago.

3. Finally we have one of the highest performing school districts in the State, thanks to the hard work of the board of education.

Some towns can claim one or two of those things, but I can’t think of any who can claim all three! So as long as we keep doing our job and administering the town effectively this will continue to be a magnet community for years to come. And we will be able to weather anything the State and Federal friends have to throw at us! I like to keep it brief, so Happy New Year to everybody and I will pass it on to Deputy Mayor Christine Madrid.