

## 2019 Montgomery Township Committee Reorganization Remarks

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER MARVIN SCHULDINER**

I am humbled and honored that the people of Montgomery have chosen me to represent them in our local government and it is wonderful to see so many friends here tonight. My family moved to Montgomery four and a half years ago and we really love living here.

Back in the 1990s, when I worked at Toyota, I held the title of Kaizen Administrator and I was tasked with improving various operations. While most people think of Kaizen as meaning “continuous improvement,” it actually derives from two Japanese words with a far simpler meaning. Kai means change and Zen means good. Or in other words, change for the better. This became my philosophy in life.

Fast forward to 2018. I ran for office because I want to keep Montgomery affordable while maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy here. As I take office here today, this is a goal I repeat to all Montgomery residents. We want a more open, transparent and inclusive government – one that goes beyond the minimal requirements of the law. We intend to closely examine all governmental

processes and remove waste where appropriate while maintaining our quality of life. I also aim to improve the heart of our town at the intersection of Routes 206 and 518.

It takes a village to raise a child and it also takes a village to achieve political office. To that end, I would like to thank a number of people.

- Freeholder and former Franklin Township Mayor Brian Levine for giving me an opportunity to lead the Franklin Township Library.
- Our two assemblymen, Roy Freiman and Andrew Zwicker for their unwavering support.
- My running mate, Catherine Gural and our new mayor Sadaf Jaffer for their support and teamwork.
- The folks behind the scenes of our campaign: Cookie Acot, Brett Borowski, Laura Lee, Abby Grayson and Amy Rosenthal plus all the volunteers too numerous to mention.
- Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Francine, and son, Eli, for their support and their sacrifice. They are truly my guiding light and my north star.

One of the reasons I ran for office is how distasteful I find the incivility in Washington, DC and Trenton regarding our civil discourse. I want Montgomery to be different. We are all neighbors and we have similar goals. To that end, I reach out to our friends across the aisle – or is it down the dais here? – and express my willingness to work with them to make Montgomery an even better place to live. Our model of government -- when it works best -- is based on compromise and getting input from all stakeholders. I hope that Committeemen Trzaska and Quraishi will work with us to continue to improve Montgomery and act as a model for how Washington and Trenton should conduct themselves.

I realize that we did not win the vote unanimously and many residents did not vote for us. I say to those of you who did not vote for me that I represent **all** Montgomery residents and that my door is always open to learn from you and to hear your voice.

In closing, I again want to thank you for putting your confidence in me and my colleagues to lead our town. May Our Creator bless Montgomery Township, the State of New Jersey and the United States of America.