

2016 Montgomery Township Committee Reorganization Remarks – 1/07/16

**Committeeman Mark Conforti**

First, I would also like to thank the County and local officials. I appreciate that you continue to support us in all of our projects. Thank you Christine for a great year of service as Mayor and serving on the Planning Board this past year. To Ed, Pat and Rich, it's nice to be back.

I have had the privilege of serving on many boards and committees in Montgomery. In every case, I believe the goal of each organization was to provide the necessary infrastructure to allow residents to go about their lives striving to achieve their life goals. If we do our job well, nobody notices. As such, my three basic goals are no different today than they were several years ago when I last sat in this seat:

1. To continue to provide a strong health and safety network that protects our residents and allows them to focus on their individual goals and needs. If we create the proper infrastructure and we have the right police force in place the residents can go about their lives and not think about everything. This includes not only a strong police force, of which we have one of the best, but for us ensure that there is a good network of roads and that they are maintained. I feel that Captain Palmer has an excellent Police force. I know that without having to look at statistics because nobody thinks about it. They go about their job very professionally, no public scrutiny necessary, nothing in the media because they do their job with excellence and with professionalism.
2. To continue to maintain and expand, what I previously titled, our Open Space portfolio. To me, the goal is always to grow and maintain our Open Space program.

There are still residents who don't understand how this initiative has enhanced their lives as well as their property values. Just drive around central New Jersey and you realize the unique environment that we enjoy in Montgomery. The key now is to not only focus on new opportunities but ensure that we adequately maintain our existing portfolio of properties so residents can enjoy them for years to come.

3. Finally, we need to ensure that all of our actions meet stringent financial standards. Again, there are ample examples of communities that overextended themselves and are now dealing with the consequences. Too many communities chose the allure of short term desires in place of managing for long term strategic goals. Montgomery has built a reputation of strong financial management that makes it easier and less expensive when we do need to enter the financial markets. Those actions also help us keep property taxes at a reasonable level. Fiscal responsibility provides financial flexibility so that we meet our strategic initiatives in the future.

Thank you.

