

2018 Montgomery Township Committee Reorganization Remarks

COMMITTEE MEMBER SADAF JAFFER

Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Community Members,

It is an honor to be sworn in as a Montgomery Township Committee member. Montgomery is a wonderful place, and I have the utmost respect for the professionals who work to make our lives better every day. I look forward to cooperating with my fellow Township Committee members as we continue to improve our community.

As a Township committee member, I will aim to serve all community members with honesty and openness. I will strive to champion diverse perspectives, civic engagement, and environmental stewardship. In a time of many challenges, it is imperative that we protect and safeguard our community.

When I was first considering running for elected office, some were surprised I wanted to get involved and expressed a wariness about politics. It is important that we stop discussing politics as a shadowy arena and understand that our elected officials are neighbors who are representing us at various levels of government—whether here in Montgomery, Trenton, or Washington DC—and we should hold them to that standard. I have had the privilege to meet many inspiring elected officials and I am grateful for their mentorship. I hope that constituents will feel comfortable coming to me with their questions and concerns. I also hope that those who haven't yet will consider getting more involved in the Montgomery community including by volunteering, serving on

boards and commissions, or running for office themselves. A robust democracy depends on educated, engaged, and informed citizens.

In the current political climate, it is easy to become discouraged or complacent. I find great wisdom in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. who said “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable [...] Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

I look forward to working with the dedicated people of Montgomery Township and know we will do great things together for the benefit of our community.