

TOWN OF DOVER

Office of the Mayor

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James P. Dodd – Mayor

A fresh start defines every New Year; but this year that age-old theme takes on new meaning as I begin another term as your Mayor, and I reaffirm my longstanding commitment to inspire your trust and maintain your confidence.

With that in mind, I ask that you join me in welcoming new faces to the Board of Aldermen and to my administration. And now that change is in place, there is a strong balance between experience and stability with young at heart exuberance. Cooperation, unity, and support will insure a smooth transition and are essential for the best interests of our community.

To that end, I extend my welcome to Alderman Robert Rutan of the 4th Ward and Alderwoman Christina Noriega of the 1st Ward. I likewise acknowledge and congratulate Alderman James Visioli of the 3rd Ward who at the conclusion of this term will be the longest serving Alderman in the history of the Town of Dover. He truly represents the highest standard of service to our community. I am proud to call him my colleague and my friend.

I also welcome to my Administration Tim Downs, who is a veteran attorney with extensive experience litigating civil and criminal matters. Mr. Downs founded and is the sole principal member of his Firm, The Law Offices of Timothy P. Downs, LLC. Mr. Downs's Firm is a full service, bi-lingual English-Spanish general litigation practice with corporate headquarters located in Dover. The Firm has an additional office in North Bergen in Hudson County and has a presence in Monmouth County as well. His Firm employs four attorneys, two paralegals, one office manager, and one legal assistant. I look forward to working with Mr. Downs and his experienced staff in the guidance of legal matters and to provide expert advice to this board.

My inauguration also provides an opportunity to publicly remind everyone of my core beliefs for governance that will continue to be my guideposts. By doing so, I intend to refresh the recollection of the experienced officials, members of my administration, town employees, and residents and to likewise insure that all of the new members of each of those respective groups are on notice about the standards they must meet.

My core beliefs include, but are not limited to: Honesty, transparency, inclusion, fiscal responsibility, equity, hard work, commitment, service, pride, efficiency, and accountability.

As I begin this term as Mayor, my goal for 2012 is to continue to govern and deliver municipal services consistent with my core beliefs and the overarching philosophical objectives of my comprehensive plans for Economic Revitalization, Quality of Life, and Fiscal Responsibility; however, we must govern and provide services with a reinvigorated commitment to the residents of our town.

To accomplish these lofty goals, we shall review our ordinances, policies, practices, procedures, departments, and programs. In this process, we must commit to keeping in place those existing

initiatives that are successful; however, if our success is to be ongoing, we must likewise commit to bold action to meet the changing needs of our community. Consistent with my core beliefs, engagement, inclusion, and transparency are necessary to this process, but alone they are insufficient; bold action, even best practices, require a compelling rationale. Complacency is unacceptable when the future of our town is at stake.

For example: our greatness as a community will ultimately be measured by how well we do by our children and our seniors. While I believe that we offer wonderful recreational opportunities, we need to take a fresh look at our programs to determine if we can improve them. Across the board in all other areas of municipal services, we will continue to look for innovative ways to increase efficiency and productivity.

Together, as we stood on the precipice of economic depression in our Nation, State, and Town, as leaders warned us about worldwide financial calamity, and as we faced an earthquake, hurricane flooding, and a freak October snowstorm, the residents of Dover became united by our common bonds and have demonstrated resiliency, compassion, and hope beyond all measure.

I will never forget how neighbors assisted one another after the storms and how local organizations mobilized assistance. For example, the Turkastanian-American Association donated over 600 hundred free meals to residents on Thanksgiving. Remembering the ties that bind all of us, regardless of creed, color, political party, religious beliefs, racial or ethnic background and any other classification, will be crucial as we enter the long road to economic recovery and as individuals and a Town we continue to stretch the value of every dollar we spend.

As I reflect upon 2012, I leave you with my vision: the winds of change, guided by the wisdom of experience combined with the enthusiasm of our newcomers, shall define our community's shared destiny in my new term as Mayor.

I appreciate your trust and belief in me, and I am humbled and honored to service as your Mayor. Thank you for the opportunity to play a small role in helping make Dover even greater than it is today. Thank you for calling Dover your home. God bless America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James P. Dodd". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing initial "J" and "P".

Mayor James P. Dodd