

STATE OF THE TOWN ADDRESS
TOWN OF DOVER, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
MAYOR CAROLYN BLACKMAN
JANUARY 4, 2020

2020 Mayor's Town Address

Thank you, Dover!

Those are the 3 words I wanted say before anything else. Because of you, needed change has come to our town. Can I say it too many times?

Thank you, Dover! Muchas Gracias, Dover!

The Alderwomen and Aldermen are wearing orange and black, Dover colors. This is to symbolize to our community that the election is over. While we are proud Democrats, we want everyone to know that we represent everyone who lives in Dover. We are Dover United.

We are honored to represent you whether you voted or not ...

We are honored represent you whether you voted for us or our opponents...

We are honored represent you irrespective of your race, color, ethnicity, creed, gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, gender identity, or immigration status...

We represent EVERY resident of this town and we are so proud to do so!

Here is the state of the Town:

The cornerstones of this board and my mayorship are dignity and respect.

The pillars of this board and my mayorship are honesty, integrity, openness, and transparency.

The foundation of this board and my administration is strong. The Board is committed to these values and so are our volunteers, employees, and our professionals.

A structure so built, shall continue to grow and withstand the challenges brought upon it

As a community, we shall continue to construct this government of the people, by the people, and for the people of Dover

To start, I will address my incoming administration. We welcome our new Deputy Administrator Carlos Sanchez to our community. Carlos is a seasoned professional who will bring enthusiasm and professionalism to his office. His high moral character and his knowledge will greatly benefit our town.

Our part-time Acting Municipal Clerk, John Schmidt, is a recognized expert in the Open Public Meetings Act and the Open Public Records Act. He is known for keeping towns throughout the state accountable to the principles of open and fair government. He also brings more than a decade of experience serving in municipal and state government. He is extremely well-suited to fill this important position.

Our line-up of professional service providers is highly skilled and the most diverse group ever appointed in Dover. Later in this program, I am going to introduce them to you. While the public may never see them again, they are part of the team that works behind the scenes to keep government running.

There are key employee positions open in public safety. Before we jump in and just start hiring people, we are going to seek the guidance of experts in the field to assist us with assessing our needs as a community. I anticipate that process starting before the end of the month. My administration will keep you posted on our progress. I assure you that our police and fire departments are keeping our community safe. The Board of Aldermen and I greatly appreciate their service to our Town!

We are still looking into other departments to determine staffing needs and will make our decisions about positions with the best interests of our community in mind.

I want to thank all of the employees of the town for so graciously welcoming and assisting me with getting to work right away.

The Board of Aldermen needs to be recognized for starting to fulfill campaign promises on January 1st. We presented and passed 39 resolutions that will keep our town running in a fiscally responsible way.

I am very proud to say this Board of Aldermen voted to decrease our salaries! The Mayor's salary went from \$60,000 to \$30,000 and the Aldermen and Alderwomen's salaries went from \$25,000 to \$12,000! This resolution satisfied 2 promises, first, to reduce our salaries and have fiscally responsible policies. Second, to restore trust in government by providing the funding to eliminate vindictiveness, retaliation, and violation of rights. To this end, we introduced and passed for first reading an ordinance establishing a position dedicated to justice. This new office will be in charge of investigating allegations of misconduct to insure the integrity of this administration.

We also introduced and passed for first reading, 2 ordinances that demonstrate our commitment to Dover's working families and comprehensive plan responsible progress for all:

1. A Project Labor Agreement Act requiring contractors to demonstrate a good faith effort to draw 25% of their workforce from Dover residents on public projects in Dover
2. A Wage Theft Act that holds accountable unscrupulous business owners who do not pay their employees

I am proud to say that on agendas in the very near future, we will enact a Responsible Bidder Resolution that calls for the highest quality workmanship on public projects.

Our plan for responsible redevelopment addresses the needs of our current residents and looks towards the future while preserving the historic nature of our Town. This includes entering into partnerships to make affordable home ownership a reality while developing sustainable properties

This is only the beginning. I look forward to representing you to the best of my ability and having an administration that will make us all proud.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your Mayor. I thank you for your attendance at today's gathering, and I thank you for your patience as we get this government rolling...

I had a dream. You had a dream. Together we made it happen.