

As we look to 2017, at the risk of stating the obvious, we are entering a period of great uncertainty on the national level. The early indications are that much of what President Elect Trump intends to do will be at odds with the wishes of an overwhelming majority of Princetonians, and I expect that we as a governing body will be called upon to address issues that aren't being addressed at the state or national level or that are being addressed in a way that is at odds with our sensibilities. For example, we believe in climate change, and while our local efforts are important, they are no substitute for the Paris Agreement. At this local level, everything we do comes at a cost to our residents and businesses. Princeton often tries to punch above its weight when it comes to big issues, which is admirable. However, as the demands increase, I believe our challenge will be to think in new ways about how we can be effective, perhaps partnering with other communities, and being honest about where we can have an impact, the most impact, at a cost that makes sense for our residents while addressing the myriad local issues outlined so capably by the previous speakers.

With that, I would like to acknowledge some of the ways in which we had a positive impact in 2016, and to do so I am going to borrow a top-ten format from another former Hoosier, Dave Letterman.

#10. I would like to welcome Tim Quinn to the dais. Tim and I worked together, along with Councilman Miller, back in 2004 when we moved into the then-new library and envisioned transforming our cozy benefit into a grand community event for the benefit of the library. Here I am hoping that all our collaborations are as visionary and successful.

#9. I'd like to recognize and thank the volunteers at Princeton Special Sports. The work they do to support an underserved population in our community is a labor of love, and our community is better because of it. Thank you

#8. I want to give a shout out to DPW and call your attention to the leaf and brush schedule that arrived in your mail last week. Please dig it out of the holiday cards and review it. Your cooperation can save everyone money, improve the environment, and make our streets safe. In the past, we have been reluctant to enforce our ordinances because there has been the sense that perhaps we haven't communicated clearly. Those days are over. This is incredibly clear, and we need your cooperation.

#7. This summer we made excellent progress in eradicating invasive species in our open space. As a result, Council passed a “Do Not Plant” resolution that is now on our website. We will be distributing it to nurseries and landscapers, and I encourage you to review the list before you start your spring planting. Again, you can make a difference.

#6. I want to acknowledge the often unsung work of engineering that impacts our life every day. We improved Mt. Lucas, Edgehill and Valley Road and numerous sidewalks and intersections. We saw the passing of the engineering baton to the very capable hands of Deanna Stockton, and we look forward to continued progress on our streets, sewers and sidewalks.

#5. I would like to thank Princeton University for their partnership, and particularly for their cooperation on the Butler tract zoning. We had a positive, productive meeting with neighbors late in the year, and it is my fervent hope that we can complete the zoning soon. I also want to compliment the University on the new lighting on the path along Alexander. The lights look great and will make the path safer.

#4. I'd like to welcome our newest residents at Avalonbay. It has been a long, not always smooth process, but as the final touches are being put on the project, I look forward to getting to know our new residents.

#3. As always, I want to give a shout out to our Recreation Department. Under Ben Stentz's capable guidance, over 115,000 people used the pool this summer. Over 8,000 people registered for programs or events. In collaboration with other community groups, we offered financial assistance to 109 Princeton families. Recreation employs about 175 people annually, most of whom are Princeton residents.

#2. I want to give a shout out to our police force. They started the year with a very public, ripped-from-the-headlines incident, and proved themselves up to the challenge. I want to commend Chief Sutter and the entire force for their willingness to embrace change and for their commitment to the welfare and safety of all of our residents.

#1 I bid a very sad farewell to our colleague Patrick Simon. We will miss his hard work, his attention to detail, his institutional memory, and his high standards. We

are all better because of Patrick, and quite frankly, we all will need to step up our game to fill the void left by his absence. It has been a pleasure to get to know Patrick, and I hope he won't be a stranger.

Finally, I wish everyone a happy, healthy new year.