

Thank you Liz for your excellent recap.

And thank you to my colleagues for your confidence in me—I'm super excited to be Council President!

I'd like to recognize family members here: My mother, Darlyne Crum, my sister Julie Crum from Virginia, my daughter Susan Crumiller, Esq and my husband Jon Crumiller – thank you for supporting me!

I thank everyone for being here today and for those watching on TV. We have active, involved residents who raise the bar for governance and make Princeton the special town it is.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize my colleagues, starting off with Patrick Simon, who left us. Patrick gave the town and the people of Princeton a gift of his time and talents and he was instrumental in getting our new government off to a good start. He is a person of honor and integrity. We will miss him.

I thank Liz Lempert for her hard work and leadership. She's been a great mayor and she represents us well. She's navigated us through consolidation with flying colors and I'm glad we have her for another term.

I thank Bernie Miller, for being our elder statesman while also being an early adapter and an advocate for innovation. For example, Bernie is leading the effort to convert Princeton's old dump to a solar field. Bernie wakes up every day and asks his digital personal assistant what his schedule for the day is. Ask him about it!

I thank Lance Liverman, for being Mr. Congeniality of Princeton. Everyone loves Lance. He's generous and helpful to both residents and colleagues. He has deep roots in our community, having grown up here. We have only 2 degrees of separation from everyone in town, and we're a better-connected council because of it.

I thank Jo Butler for her work ethic and her high standards. It should be noted that we as a council agree on most things and that's great. But we don't want it too much! I give Jo the "most likely to disagree" award and I'm grateful for her respectful and intelligent questioning that makes us a strong team.

I thank Heather Howard for being so keen, manifest in her ability to talk a mile a minute. As liaison to Human Services, she's been able to navigate some tough waters when anti-immigration people from all over the country attacked her. We're lucky to have her.

And last but not least, our newest council person.// Tim, in theory we've only just begun, but you have been the most diligent candidate and council-person-elect

I've ever seen. You have come to every single meeting and now you are starting out on top. I thank you for that and I look forward to working with you.

(In the interest of brevity, I'm stopping here and posting the rest of my remarks on my blog, jennycrumiller.com. Thank you!)

Turning to council business for the coming year, I'll touch on three issues: Protecting neighborhoods, speeding and Public Works facilities.

Public Works is the simplest to talk about: frankly, we need an upgrade. I don't know anyone who has actually seen our facilities who disagrees with this statement, and in the coming year I'm thinking perhaps a press tour is in order. Please know that we will plan carefully and frugally.

And speeding. We don't think of Princeton as being a high crime area, and thankfully, it's a very safe town. But I believe we have an epidemic of low level crime, speeding, that we tend to overlook but that degrades our quality of life. We might not think of it as a crime. I admit I do it myself. But we should change that I want to make Princeton a town where people like me with a tendency to speed are not tempted. A town where speeding is the exception. We're undertaking a traffic calming project, with the help of our head engineer, Deanna Stockton, that is looking at ways to make our roads physically less hospitable to speeding. We will continue to work with our police department on creative ways besides just giving out more tickets to reduce speeding – for instance, regular announcements about where speed traps are located not only reduces speeding in said area, but raises consciousness about speeding. We are also using our electronic “your speed is” signs, which are known to reduce speeding – we now have seven of them. If you want one on your street, contact our traffic officer, Sergeant Tom Murray, to get on the waiting list.

As for our neighborhoods, the scale and character of our old-fashioned neighborhoods are central to our town's identity and we should protect that. The Planning Board's neighborhood character initiative is ongoing.

I also hope to address an issue that threatens an essential quality of neighborhoods, which is keeping houses residential for real neighbors to live in - rather than allowing them to turn into offices. This means repealing the rule that makes it easier to get approvals for non-residential uses in residential zones.

Again, I want to thank you all for being here and for listening! It's going to be a great year locally if not nationally, and I'm grateful for the opportunity we have here in Princeton.