

As I embark on my second year on Council, I'm more aware than ever what an honor and a great responsibility it is to represent Princeton on Council. I thank my departing colleagues, Bernie Miller and Jo Butler, for sharing their wisdom with me as I learned the ropes on Council. I deliberately chose the nautical term "learn the ropes" to describe my first year because, back in the days when ships were powered by wind, it was very important for new sailors to learn a variety of knots and how to work the sail lines to keep the ship moving. I'd like to think I learned enough in my first year to contribute to keeping the ship of the municipality moving forward, contributing to the achievements outlined by the mayor in her remarks.

I still have much to learn and I look forward to working with our leadership team, Mayor Liz Lempert and Council President Jenny Crumiller, and my veteran council colleagues, Lance Liverman and Heather Howard. All are devoted public servants and true leaders in every sense of the word. They are doing this for all the right reasons. I've had the pleasure of working with both of our new colleagues — David and I have served on the Planning Board for three years and Leticia was chair of Civil Rights Commission when I was Council liaison — and I'm sure they will be quick to learn the ropes and help us serve Princeton.

On Council, we don't always agree, but how we express our disagreements is important. During a time when our constituents are looking to us not only for local solutions to problems resulting from national actions (or inaction), they also seek relief from a fractured and rancorous national political scene. So how we disagree will matter.

I'm excited with my Council assignments and look forward to continuing work with Planning, Civil Rights, the Environmental Commission, CFAC, Bike Advisory, the Neighborhood Character Initiative and the website working group, among others. I'm also excited to have been appointed liaison to the Board of Education. During this time when our town is growing, it is incumbent upon everyone to collaborate in the best interests of the people of Princeton. So I look forward to working with the Board of Education and school leadership to identify ways we can collaborate, manage growth and share services.

I have no illusions that 2018 will be challenging, but I have confidence that, with our Mayor and Council, our professionals and staff, and our colleagues at the county and state levels, we can deal with these challenges.

I'd like to thank Brett Bonfield and my colleagues at our fine public library for giving me the scheduling flexibility in my first job to be able to do this job. Finally, I want to thank my wife, Mary, and my son, George, whose support is central to all I do. Thank you.