

Good evening. I want to preface my remarks by thanking Patrick Simon for his service to Princeton, which went far beyond his time on Council. In his farewell remarks on Dec. 19, Mr. Simon spoke of how he was aware every day of the great responsibility and trust placed in him by the people of Princeton. It is a feeling I am beginning to fully understand — and it is one I find energizing. So it is with a great deal of humility that I begin working with this Council and our Mayor, knowing it is privilege be able to advance the greater good for all in our town.

I feel very fortunate to be serving in a town where an overwhelming majority of people believe that government has a vital role in improving the lives of our residents. Of course, many who will soon have complete control of the federal government feel otherwise; for me, that makes acting at the local level, and strengthening our connections to county and state governing bodies, all the more important.

I look forward to working with Princeton's professionals and our volunteer boards and commissions to protect the character of our neighborhoods; to advance cycling as a healthful, environmentally friendly alternative to motor vehicle usage; to promote sustainability as a cost-saving greater good; to ensure that our tax dollars continue to be wisely spent; to look for new ways to collaborate in order to realize savings and improve services; and to have a municipal website that is easily usable by all our stakeholders.

I'm honored to continue my work on the Princeton Planning Board as the Mayor's Designee and I'm excited to be Council's liaison to the new Civil Rights Commission, a veritable all-star team reflecting the great diversity of background, experience and level of expertise of our community. (Charles Stile, my longtime friend and Princeton resident whom some of you know as the state's senior political columnist, sent me a text today noting that that the only person missing from our commission is Congressman John Lewis.)

Throughout the past year, while I was seeking my party's endorsement and running in the primary and general elections, I was attending Council meetings, sitting in the back row, staying all the way through the consent agenda, listening and learning. Many people exiting the meeting — people who were not staying through the consent agenda — would whisper the same question in my ear: "Are you SURE you're ready for this?" My answer was the same as it is tonight, "Yes. I'm ready." And with the full support of my wife, Mary Chemris, and our son, George Quinn, I'm eager to start. Thank you.