

APPROVED AS AMENDED: April 8, 2024

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
INAUGURATION & REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Township Clerk Huber called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Gawas, Geevers, Mandel, Weiss, Whitfield

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Ms. Huber led the salute to the flag.

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

This is to advise that the notice requirement provided for in the "Open Public Meetings Act" has been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given and transmitted to The Times and Princeton Packet; filed with the Clerk of the Municipality; and posted in the West Windsor Township Municipal Building at North Post and Clarksville Roads on December 29, 2023.

Councilmember Geevers announced the dignitaries in the audience to include: newly elected County Executive Dan Benson, and former West Windsor Councilmember Kristen Appelget.

READING OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS OF November 7, 2023

Ms. Huber advised West Windsor Township held its Municipal Election during the General Election on November 7, 2023. There were three seats available on the Township Council. The following Candidates were voted into office each with a 4-year term:

Ms. Sonia Gawas has been certified by the County Clerk as an elected Councilmember with 2,768 votes

Ms. Andrea Sue Mandel has been certified by the County Clerk as an elected Councilmember with 2,783 votes

Mr. Daniel "Dan" Weiss has been certified by the County Clerk as an elected Councilmember with 2,759 votes

Let's take a moment to congratulate them on their achievements.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Councilmember Gawas, with her children Aadi and Isha and her Aunt Mona, by her side was sworn in by Ms. Huber.

Councilmember Mandel with her husband Richard and daughter Lauren by her side was sworn in by Ms. Huber.

Councilmember Weiss was sworn in by the Mercer County Executive Dan Benson with his daughter Julia by his side.

COMMENTS BY RE-ELECTED AND NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilmember Gawas read her comments into the record (see attached).

Councilmember Mandel read her comments into the record (see attached).

Councilmember Weiss read his comments into the record (see attached).

Councilmember Geevers congratulated Councilmember Gawas for her tremendous service to the community and looks forward to continuing to work with her. She congratulated Councilmember Mandel for her many years of service to the community and looks forward to continuing to work with her in the coming years. Councilmember Geevers welcomed Councilmember Weiss and looks forward to working with him. She thanked Councilmember Whitfield for arranging all the ribbon cuttings for new businesses in the Township and for promoting them as well.

Councilmember Whitfield congratulated Councilmember Gawas, Councilmember Mandel and Councilmember Weiss on being elected to serve the community. He thanked Councilmember Weiss for his comments on diversity and noted he is the first African American to sit on Council. Councilmember Whitfield also noted this is the most diverse Council two of Jewish decent, one of Indian decent, one African American and one Polish American. He thanked everyone who ran in the election and noted it is a lot of hard work to run a campaign. Councilmember Whitfield noted he looks forward to working with everyone in 2024 and thanked all the residents who came out this evening.

Township Clerk Huber requested a short recess so residents could congratulate the elected officials.

REORGANIZATION

NOMINATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ms. Huber called for nominations for Council President.

Councilmember Mandel nominated Councilmember Geevers to serve as Council President.

Councilmember Whitfield seconded the nomination.

Ms. Huber asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to closed nominations: Gawas

Second: Weiss

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Geevers

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Ms. Huber called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Geevers as Council President.

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Geevers

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Councilmember Geevers with her husband Neil by her side, was sworn in by Ms. Huber.

Ms. Huber turned the meeting over to Council President Geevers.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

President Geevers called for nominations for Council Vice President.

Councilmember Gawas nominated Councilmember Mandel as Council Vice President.

Councilmember Whitfield seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to closed nominations: Whitfield

Second: Gawas

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Mandel as Council Vice President.

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geevers

ADMINISTRATION AND OATH OF OFFICE TO COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Councilmember Mandel with her husband Richard and daughter Lauren by her side was sworn in.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBER

President Geevers called for nominations for Affordable Housing Committee Member.

Councilmember Weiss nominated Councilmember Mandel to serve as Affordable Housing Committee Member.

Councilmember Gawas seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to closed nominations: Gawas

Second: Whitfield

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Mandel as Affordable Housing Committee Member:

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Councilmember Mandel with her husband Richard and daughter Lauren by her side was sworn in.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF PLANNING BOARD CLASS III MEMBER

President Geevers called for nominations for Planning Board Class III Member.

Councilmember Gawas nominated Councilmember Whitfield to serve as Planning Board Class III Member.
Councilmember Mandel seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to closed nominations: Mandel

Second: Weiss

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Whitfield as Planning Board Class III Member.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO PLANNING BOARD CLASS III MEMBER

Councilmember Whitfield was sworn in by Ms. Huber

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE

President Geevers called for nominations for Emergency Management Council Representative.

Councilmember Mandel nominated Councilmember Gawas to serve as Emergency Management Council Representative.
Councilmember Whitfield seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations: Weiss

Second: Mandel

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Gawas as Emergency Management Council Representative.

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geevers

ADMINISTRATION AND OATH OF OFFICE TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE

Councilmember Gawas, with her children Aadi and Isha and her Aunt Mona, was sworn in by Ms. Huber.

LIAISONS FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

NOMINATION OF BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

President Geevers called for nominations for Board of Recreation Commissioners Liaison.

Councilmember Whitfield nominated Councilmember Gawas to serve as Board of Recreation Commissioners Liaison.
Councilmember Mandel seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations: Mandel

Second: Weiss

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Gawas as Board of Recreation Commissioners Liaison.

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

NOMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION LIAISON

President Geevers called for nominations for Environmental Commission Liaison.

Councilmember Gawas nominated Councilmember Mandel to serve as Environmental Commission Liaison.
Councilmember Whitfield seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations: Weiss

Second: Gawas

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Mandel as Environmental Commission Liaison.

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

NOMINATION OF HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL LIAISON

President Geevers called for nominations for Human Relations Council Liaison.

Councilmember Mandel nominated Councilmember Weiss to serve as Human Relations Council Liaison.
Councilmember Gawas seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing, none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations: Mandel

Second: Gawas

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Weiss as Human Relations Council Liaison.

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

NOMINATION OF PARKING AUTHORITY LIAISON

President Geevers called for nominations for Parking Authority Liaison.

Councilmember Whitfield nominated Councilmember Weiss to serve as Parking Authority Liaison.
Councilmember Mandel seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations: Gawas

Second: Mande

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Weiss as Parking Authority Liaison.

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

NOMINATION OF SHADE TREE COMMISSION LIAISON

President Geevers called for nominations for Shade Tree Commission Liaison.

Councilmember Whitfield nominated President Geevers to serve as Shade Tree Commission Liaison.
Councilmember Gawas seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to closed nominations: Weiss

Second: Gawas

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of President Geevers as Shade Tree Commission Liaison.

RCV: Aye Gawas
Aye Mandel
Aye Weiss
Aye Whitfield
Aye Geevers

NOMINATION OF SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON

President Geevers called for nominations for School Board Liaison.

Councilmember Weiss nominated Councilmember Gawas to serve as School Board Liaison.
Councilmember Mandel seconded the nomination.

President Geevers asked for any further nominations. Seeing none, she asked for a motion to close nominations.

Motion to close nominations: Mandel

Second: Whitfield

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geevers

President Geevers called for a vote to confirm the election of Councilmember Gawas as School Board Liaison.

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geevers

RESOLUTIONS

2024-R001 Regular Meetings for Calendar Year 2024

2024-R002 Legal Newspapers for Calendar Year 2024

2024-R004 Municipal Holidays for Calendar Year 2024

2024-R005 Cash Management Plan Authorization for West Windsor Township

2023-R006 Establishing the Rate of Interest Charged on Delinquent Taxes and 6% Year End Penalty

2024-R007 Authorizing the Cancellation of any Property Tax Refund or Delinquency less than \$10.00

2024-R008 Authorizing Temporary Municipal Budget Appropriations for 2024

2024-R009 Appointing Janis DiNatale as Affirmative Action Public Agency Compliance Officer through December 2024

- 2024-R010 Authorizing Lorraine Jones, Tax Assessor the Authority (in conjunction with Special Tax Counsel/Township Attorney) to Set, Adjust, Defend and Prosecute Matters on Behalf of the Township Involving Tax Assessment, Property Tax Exemptions as Per Chapter 4; Section 31 E of the Code of the Township of West Windsor
- 2024-R011 Authorizing the Reappointment of Thomas Calabria as a Member of the Affordable Housing Committee with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2027
- 2024-R012 Authorizing the Reappointment of Alison Miller as Alternate 1 Member of the Affordable Housing Committee with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2027
- 2024-R013 Authorizing the Appointment of Walter Sorley as a Member of the Affordable Housing Committee with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2027
- 2024-R014 Authorizing the Appointment of Eileen Murphy as a Member of the Affordable Housing Committee with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2027
- 2024-R015 Authorizing the Appointment of Rashmi Mangal as an Alternate II Member of the Affordable Housing Committee with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2026
- 2024-R016 Authorizing the Reappointment of Steve Jany as a Member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2027
- 2024-R017 Authorizing the Reappointment of Ephraim Buhks as a Member of the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2026
- 2024-R018 Authorizing the Reappointment of Jyotima Prasad as a Member of the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2026
- 2024-R019 Authorizing the Reappointment of Melissa Hager as a Member of the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2026
- 2024-R020 Authorizing the Reappointment of Melinda Rubenstein as a Member of the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire on January 14, 2026

- 2024-R021 Authorizing the Reappointment of Richard Carlson as a Member of the Human Relations Council with a Term to Expire January 14, 2026
- 2024-R022 Authorizing the Reappointment of Kevin Appelget as an Advisor to the Shade Tree Commission for a Term to Expire on January 14, 2025
- 2024-R023 Authorizing the Appointment of Mike Schuit as an Advisor to the Shade Tree Commission for a Term to Expire on January 14, 2025
- 2024-R024 Authorizing the Appointment of Paul Pitluk as an Advisor to the Shade Tree Commission for a Term to Expire on January 14, 2025
- 2024-R025 Authorizing the Reappointment of Michael Twamley as a Member of the Parking Authority for a Term to Expire on January 14, 2029
- 2024-R026 Authorizing the Reappointment of Curtis Hoberman as a Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a Term to Expire on January 14, 2028
- 2024-R027 Authorizing the Reappointment of Henry Jacobsohn as a Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a Term to Expire on January 14, 2028
- 2024-R028 Authorizing the Reappointment of Michael Garzio as Alternate 1 Member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a Term to Expire on January 14, 2026

Councilmember Weiss asked for resolution 2024-R003 to be pulled for discussion.

Motion to approve resolutions 2024-R001 through 2024-R002 and resolutions 2024-R004 through 2024-R028: Mandel

Second: Gawas

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Aye Weiss

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geever

2024-R003 Establishing Procedural Guidelines for the Council of West Windsor Township

Councilmember Weiss advised Zoom is being eliminated for public comment at Council meetings. He would like to further discuss

this matter and has spoken with the Clerk's Office regarding the many challenges. Councilmember Weiss noted in his opinion this should be reinstated for inclusiveness for residents to attend meetings when they cannot attend in person. He suggested Council review what is needed to accomplish this task.

President Geever noted the technology hasn't always been 100% over the past three years. She suggested taking a pause now and possibly discuss more during the budget sessions.

Councilmember Weiss agreed with President Geever and that further discussion on what can help the Clerk's Office to be successful in having meetings continue with the Zoom option for public participation.

Councilmember Gawas advised she has had to use Zoom and there are times when its been hard to hear. She agreed that further discussion is warranted. Councilmember Gawas reminded residents Council meetings are still broadcast live on YouTube.

Councilmember Whitfield advised it is important to have community engagement and noted meetings are still going out live on YouTube.

Councilmember Mandel noted it does make it difficult at times and residents are confused if Zoom doesn't work the meeting doesn't count. She advised the Clerk's Office did a review of surrounding towns and most were not doing hybrid meetings.

Councilmember Weiss thanked everyone and is encouraged by the conversation this evening regarding zoom.

President Geever requested a motion to approve resolution 2024-R003 knowing that further discussion will occur during budget session regarding this matter and whether additional resources are needed.

Motion to approve resolution 2024-R003: Mandel

Second: Gawas

RCV: Aye Gawas

Aye Mandel

Weiss (abstain)

Aye Whitfield

Aye Geever

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Khurram Waheed, 286 Clarksville Road, congratulated the new Council members. He spoke about the genocide going on overseas.

Mr. Amir Rehman, 23 Priory Road, thanked the Council for the Proclamation for Muslim Heritage Month that will be done later in the meeting. He noted he is excited about being part of such a diverse community.

Ms. Aishe Anwas, 28 Berkshire Drive, noted her pleasure in being a resident in West Windsor for the past three years and thanked the Council and Mayor for recognizing Muslim Heritage Month.

Ms. Tirza Wahrman, 5 Stonelea Drive, congratulated all the re-elected and newly elected members of Council. She encouraged the Council to reconsider the Zoom option for residents to attend and make public comment in the future.

Mr. Andy Bromberg, 24 Providence Drive, noted we live in a wonderful community and he noted he attended the Human Relations Council's event yesterday and it was great.

Mr. Benjamin Finkelstein, 43 Arnold Drive, expressed his views on the past election and comments made during it about candidates and their community service.

Mr. John Hinsdale, 38 Quaker Road, expressed his opinion on the Quick Check application before the Planning Board. He noted the Township needs new leadership.

Ms. Stacey Fox, 29 Berrien Avenue, noted her concerns with the Quick Check application being open 24/7. She also encouraged Council to find a way to reinstate the Zoom for residents to provide public comment at Council meetings.

Mr. Mark Pepper, 43 Providence Court, noted he would rather see a WaWa instead of the Quick Check. He thanked the Council and Mayor for serving the community. Mr. Pepper advised he would like to see the Township support a cease fire in Gaza.

Ms. Julia Simko, 101 Biscayne Court, noted it would be cool if the Township provided an inclusive playground for residents with autism.

Ms. Linda Levy, 6 Lancashire Drive, provided her solutions to keeping Zoom for residents to attend and provide public comment.

Ms. Amy Hoffman, 7 Fairway Drive, expressed her opinion that Council should not be involved in foreign affairs.

Mr. Ajay Kaisth, 20 Haskel Drive, congratulations to Council and noted he would like to see Zoom continue for public comment at Council meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn: Mandel

Second: Gawas

VV: All approved

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Gay M. Huber
Gay M. Huber
Township Clerk
West Windsor Township

Linda Geever
Linda Geever
Council President
West Windsor Township

Sonia's Speech –

Thank you, to everyone who came in tonight in spite of the weather and everyone watching live, West Windsor, for the trust you have shown in me throughout my past service and the confirmation of extending that trust further by electing me to serve you for the 2nd term. I will strive to represent and serve each and every resident.

Congratulations Andrea Sue Mandel, my fellow Council Colleague and my running-mate for your 2nd term.

Congratulations and Welcome to the Council Mr. Daniel Weiss.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Stacey Fox and Mr. Benjamin Finkelstein for a well-run race. I hope we can work together for our community and work on the issues which are key to our residents.

I would also like to thank everyone who volunteers their time. Volunteering is not just about giving, rather it is the way of life that some choose to live by!

Thanks to my wonderful husband Ram Sarma, a volunteer firefighter for our township, for his continued support, he is not here because he is working tonight. To my kids Aadi and Isha for accepting the life of service that we have chosen for our family. My God Parents Mona and Jagdish Vasudev for always showing me the right path. And my Parents Shobhana and Pandurang Gawas, for raising me with the ideology of volunteering, I am who I am today because of them.

I look forward to working in collaboration with all the Council members, Mayor, Township staff and our wonderful community for the betterment of our township to the best of my abilities.

Lastly, I want to thank this community for the overwhelming support that I have received on the personal front in these past few months as I go through my fight against cancer. The 100s and 100s of messages and wishes, I may not have responded to all but know that I have received and read them all. I am truly touched. I have one last chemo treatment to go and as I promised you I am not going anywhere, I am here and I will soon be on the other side of it all. I have no words but to say Thank You!

2024 Inauguration Andrea Mandel

Today marks the beginning of my second term on the West Windsor Township Council. I'd like to thank my fellow Council members, the Mayor, the staff, the volunteers and the people of West Windsor who worked together with me the last four years to get us through unprecedented times. I'd like to thank my husband Richard, who has put up with a lot, including many missing meals, and my daughter Leora who came from New York just to celebrate this occasion. I'd like to thank the many people who believed in me and appreciated my efforts enough to support me in so many ways during the past election. I am humbly grateful and will do everything in my power to not let you down.

I want to remind everyone in West Windsor that I represent them, no matter who they voted for, where they live, what they look like, or even if they can vote. It has always been that way and always will be.

I'm looking forward to working with our current Council members Linda Geevers, Martin Whitfield, and also of course Sonia Gawas my teammate and running mate, and with Daniel Weiss with whom I have already had some good conversations and I expect will be a good addition to our team.

The next four years will have their own challenges, and I am confident we will meet them. One of these is improving traffic safety for pedestrians and all types of vehicles. We have already begun our crosswalk programs, improving and expanding sidewalks and walking and biking trails, the WW Council #WalkWestWindsor initiative and more. Tonight we have a West Windsor Township resolution asking Mercer County to do a Freight traffic study similar to one that has been done in Middlesex County. I'd like to thank the County and our new County Executive Dan Benson for his valuable suggestions. I look forward to additional opportunities for collaboration.

I am always on the lookout for environmental opportunities, whether solar, electric vehicles, native plants and pollinator gardens, better stormwater handling or open space acquisition. Hand in hand with this are both passive and active recreational needs of our beautiful town.

We value our businesses not just as tax ratables but for providing goods, services and jobs to our residents. I'd like to go beyond our council #shopwestwindsor program and directory to offering more for our smaller businesses and to take a more proactive approach involving larger business properties.

I'd like to encourage everyone to get involved in our town. There are many non-profit organizations and youth groups like Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and sport teams that are volunteer run. You can volunteer for one of our two fire departments, or help out groups like Friends of West Windsor Open Space, Friends of West Windsor Senior Citizens, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Alliance, Send Hunger Packing and many groups that help others.

Lastly, please stay informed about what is going on in our government. Check the website, sign up for e-bulletin and Nixle. We are always looking for new ways to make it easier for residents to get information, but in the end they have to want to. I always say people know where to find me, and that is true for all of Council.

Thank you all again for this opportunity to serve you for another four years. I can't predict the future, but I know if we work together, all the diverse and wonderful people of West Windsor that I have come to know so well, we can do anything.

Thank you....

I am deeply honored and humbled to be here before you as a member of the West Windsor Town Council.

Throughout my campaign, I discussed crucial issues that resonate with the core values of our community. Today, I want to reiterate my commitment to those values.

I'd like to start by talking about diversity, which is not solely about our visible differences, but about the way we think, which is shaped by our unique journeys. The essence of diversity lies in the rich tapestry of ideas and perspectives from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences.

A diverse representation ensures a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and needs within our community. This leads to innovative solutions, effective policies, and inclusive governance.

Inclusion ensures that all voices are heard, fostering a sense of belonging and trust, ultimately contributing to a government that is responsive, adaptive, and representative of the interests of its people.

In essence, the commitment to diversity is not just a social principle; it's a blueprint for a government that truly serves and represents all its constituents. Recognizing and valuing this diversity is not just a matter of representation; it's about tapping into a wealth of insights that can address the complexities of our society.

My perspective is shaped by my experiences, from the corridors of professional challenges to the intimate spaces of personal heartaches and triumphs. Each chapter of my journey has created the person I am today, offering lessons, insights, and a deeper understanding of the world we inhabit.

So for those who don't know me, here's a few things about me.

I have lived in West Windsor for 32 years, which is now more than half my life.

My professional background is in technology strategy and innovation, transformation programs, and leading high performance teams.

I am a first-generation child of a holocaust survivor. My father arrived in the US in 1939, following my grandfather's release from the Dachau concentration camp. During my time here in West Windsor, I bore witness to my parents' joy as grandparents, and grieved for their passing.

I've watched my children grow into amazing adults, all graduating from the WWP School District, each of whom carved out their own path of success, navigating through their own challenges.

And speaking of challenges. This year will mark my 5-year anniversary of being cancer free after being diagnosed with colorectal cancer. Recovering from cancer has been an incredibly profound journey that extends far beyond mere survival; it's about embracing the scars, both visible and invisible, and using them as a source of empowerment to live a fuller, more meaningful life, and finding purpose beyond the shadows of illness.

And finally, to the best of my knowledge, and with tremendous pride, I am the first member of the LGBT community to serve on the West Windsor Council.

Each facet of my identity contributes a different hue to the palette of ideas, and I am eager to work alongside the exceptional members of our municipal government.

I am dedicated to preserving the investments that our residents have made in this great township. West Windsor's value and charm lies in its unique blend of residential neighborhoods, exceptional education, and natural beauty. I will work to safeguard our town from large-scale industrialization, not only to protect our investments but also to enhance the safety and well-being of our residents.

Community safety is critical. I will advocate for an increase in scrutiny of our infrastructure, sidewalks, crosswalks, and roadways, to make our community safer for everyone.

I believe that promoting sustainable practices is not just a responsibility but a necessity for the well-being of future generations. Green infrastructure, composting, recycling, open space, and conservation are key components to a healthier environment for us all.

Small business is integral to the fabric of our town. These businesses contribute to the vibrancy of our community. I will work to ensure an environment that fosters their success.

And finally, engaging residents is at the heart of effective governance. I am committed to providing a platform for open dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Communicating with transparency is critical towards fostering trust and accountability in our government. I will encourage civil community discourse to ensure that our decisions reflect the collective voice of West Windsor.

I am not an expert on every subject. I don't consider myself a know-it-all, but rather, I strive to be a learn-it-all. We live in an era dominated by information. By harnessing data, we gain valuable insights into the needs, preferences, and challenges faced by our community. Whether it's allocating resources, implementing programs, or shaping legislation, a data-informed approach ensures that our decisions are grounded in evidence that addresses the issues at hand.

I am excited about the journey ahead, working with each of you to make West Windsor an even better place to live, work, and thrive. Together, let's build a future that is diverse, inclusive, sustainable, and safe – a future that we can all be proud of.

Thank you, West Windsor, for the trust you have placed in me.