

Dear Fellow City Residents:

Last night, I announced at our City Council meeting that I will not be seeking a third term as Mayor of our great City of Port Washington. After much reflection the past few weeks, my wife Kathy, our three girls and I came to agree that very difficult decision was best for our family. In moving on now, we are so very proud of the ways our family has been able to serve the community we love the past six years.

There will be time over the next four months for the many necessary personal messages of thanks I need to convey, but I wanted to begin today with a message of thanks to you, my fellow citizens of Port Washington. After all, that is where it all began for me, back in April 2012, with many of you entrusting me with the incredible honor of serving as your Mayor. I am forever grateful, as these past six years have been among the most rewarding and fulfilling and meaningful of my life. I have been so proud to serve our City and work tirelessly on its behalf, each and every day since. I am not certain there is a greater honor in life than believing you have an opportunity, through the work you do, to make a real difference on behalf of the place you love – and in the lives of the people who call it home. Thank you for blessing me with that opportunity!

And to our City staff members, my fellow elected officials, and the literally hundreds of City volunteers who graciously and enthusiastically accepted my invitation to serve our community through their gifts of time and talent, I extend, to every one of you – on behalf of our entire City of Port Washington – my heartfelt gratitude. What an impact you have had the past six years (and in some cases for some of you, much longer than that!), and how much better have you made this special place we call home! Serving along with and alongside you all has made me better, too. Thank you for all you have done, continue to do, and will do in the years to come. The work continues, and with you all doing it, I am supremely confident it will be done extraordinarily well!

One of the most fun things I had the chance to do during my six years as Mayor was to film a very short segment with John McGivern for the MPTV “Around the Corner” show celebrating “Our Home Port.” As I am certain you can all guess, capturing what truly makes Port Washington special in 30 seconds is a challenge for anyone (let alone me!). I focused on our lakefront, marina, and beaches. I mentioned our great park system and school system and public safety efforts. I highlighted our growing downtown, thriving Main Street business district, and successful manufacturing partners. And then I said this: “But what takes it beyond a City and really makes it a community is our people – warm and welcoming people who are so proud of our City’s history, and so passionate and excited about our City’s future.”

I felt that way then, and I feel that way all the more today.

Those of you whom I have had the privilege of coming to know a bit more personally know I am an avid reader of American History. Most of us have a personal “favorite President,” and mine happens to be Teddy Roosevelt. President Roosevelt once said, “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” I would only add that what most makes work worth doing is getting to do it with people who inspire you, who walk with you every step of the way and who truly make you and others around you better.

How blessed I have been to spend six years of my life working hard at work worth doing – on behalf of a truly extraordinary place, with so many extraordinary people – who have done just that. And I thank you!

Kathy, our girls, and I wish you all the very best, this holiday season, New Year, and always.



Mayor Tom Mlada