

Chair Closing Comments

Legislation Committee December 12, 2018

As another years draws to an end, it would be remiss of me not to share a few closing thoughts.

First of all, I would like to extend a large THANK YOU to the Residents of Columbia for their faith and trust in me, and this Committee, to represent you and work on your behalf and your interests in 2018.

Secondly, I would like thank all the members of this Legislation Committee, Borough Officials, Staff and Borough Solicitors, who have work hard, long and cooperatively to ensure the successes of this Committees effort during 2018. It happened because of all these efforts have culminated in moving on many issues from other Council and Borough Committees/Boards, Borough Officials/Staff, Borough Organizations and Citizen alike. Each focus of this Committee has moved forward in a through and thoughtful motions with professionalism and integrity. THANK YOU!

Last, but by no means least, a special THANK YOU to the many Citizens and Guests of Columbia that have participated in this Committee's process. Your participation, either through your attendance at this Committee's Meetings, even though admittedly sometimes 'boring', or through your "out of Committee" conversations, have greatly attributed to the success of this Committee. THANK YOU!

The end of 2018 brings to a close, not only the end of another year, but a close to the way the Borough has chosen to conduct the Council Committee Meeting process. A process that I have had the privilege and honor to serve as Chair of the Safety Committee (2016-2017) and Current Chair of Legislation during 2018, and as a member of Council since 2016. I, speaking from my vantage point, with hope that I, and this Committee, has afforded you the courtesy and opportunity to participate in the important process of discussing and creating legislation that is right and fair to all of Columbia. I encourage everyone to continue to share, participate and voice your thoughts in 2019. Do this through the Borough professional staff at Borough Office. Do this through continued conversations

with your Borough Officials. Do this through constant communications with your Borough Council Members. Do this through your participation at meetings of Council, Boards, and Borough Committees. Your participation is invaluable to the success of your Borough!

Although no system of Government seems perfect in every way, it is the challenges that make us all work harder for you and to create new, innovative, and improved way to serve our community, provide services to that community and move Columbia forward at a pace these 21st Century times demand. I, as your representative in Borough Government, have accepted the responsibility to represent you and the Best Interests of The Borough we share. We may not always agree on every issue, but my challenge is to look at every issue and make decisions based on the best overall benefit for our Borough, our residents and visitors alike. You too have a responsibility and challenge. That is to participate in Your Local, Commonwealth and National Government and holding your elected officials to accountability with integrity and openness. Working together, for the betterment of Columbia, can and will make that happen. A great many people have said ... "United We Stand ... Divided We Fall." I encourage all of us to work together toward a common goal, and that is the goal of continuing to improve our Borough and moving it forward for an even better tomorrow.

Please be aware that this new Borough Council Government Meeting "process" will begin at the convening of Borough Council on January 8, 2019. Details, as approved by Council on December 10th, will be advertised and posted soon.

In closing I, and on behalf of this Legislation Committee, would like to extend our Holiday Greeting, Merry Christmas, Happy Quansah, Happy Hanukah, Greetings of the Season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to all!

Respectfully submitted,

John Novak

Legislation Committee Chair