

remarks for January 5, 2015 Princeton Council meeting
Patrick Simon

Happy New Year!

I have worked with so many people this past year, who work on municipal issues large and small, mostly with little fanfare, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank as many of you as I can.

I would like to start by thanking the members of CFAC, the Citizens Finance Advisory Committee, who help make the all too often murky world of municipal budgets and finance more clear, both for the public and for this governing body. I especially want to thank Scott Sillars, who as the chairman, puts in a great deal of time on CFAC, and ably represents the committee in public meetings. I also want to thank Brian McDonald, Will Dove, and Adrienne Kreipke, all of whom are continuing this year, and also Gary Patteson, who has served on CFAC for the past two years, and Maureen Kearney, who joins the committee this year. I would also like to thank my colleagues Mayor Liz Lempert and Councilwoman Jo Butler, who serve as liaisons from the governing body, and from the professional municipal staff, our Director of Finance Kathy Monzo, and CFO Sandy Webb.

From the Alexander Street University Place Traffic and Transit Task Force, working on long term traffic and transit focused along Alexander Street and University Place, I would like to thank Chairman Kevin Wilkes, citizen volunteer and transit development and planning expert Nat Bottigheimer, and Kristin Appelget and Kim Jackson of Princeton University. I also wish to thank Councilman Lance Liverman, who serves with me, and from the professional municipal staff, Planning Director Lee Solow, as well as Municipal Engineer Bob Kiser and Municipal Land Use Engineer Jack West, and Kerry Philip. I also would like to acknowledge the many citizens who have contributed to the discussions of this task force, including Ralph Widner, Anton Lahnston, Sheldon Sturges, Rodney Fisk, Chip Crider, Heather Kisilywicz, Kip Cherry, and former Borough Mayor Marvin Reed.

From the Transit Trust Fund, I would like to thank citizen volunteers Scott Sillars, Anton Lahnston, Princeton University representatives Kristin Appelget, Kim Jackson, and Karen Jeziorny, and Municipal Engineer Jack West, along with my colleagues Mayor Liz Lempert and Council President Bernie Miller.

From the LEPC, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, I would like to thank all of the volunteers, partners, staff, and colleagues who help plan for disasters of all kinds, including Director of Emergency Management Bob Gregory, Council President Bernie Miller, Councilwoman Heather Howard, Administrator Marc Dashield, Chief of Police Nick Sutter, Director of Finance Kathy Monzo, Director of Infrastructure and Operations Bob Hough, Municipal Engineer Bob Kiser, our very able citizen volunteers Mark Scheibner and Grace Sinden, and Dan Dingle from Princeton Hospital, Gary Weisman from the Princeton Public Schools, and Paul Ominsky, Princeton University's Director of Public Safety.

From the Advisory Planning Districts Task Force, who are working on improving the neighborhood planning and zoning processes, I would like to thank citizen volunteers Wanda Gunning, Valerie Haynes, Bill Harla, and Ryan Lilienthal, our municipal Director of Planning Lee Solow, and task force chair and colleague Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller.

From the Public Works Committee, which is an internal council and staff committee, I would like to thank the professional municipal staff, lead be Director of Infrastructure and Operations Bob Hough, and

Municipal Engineer Bob Kiser, Assistant Engineer Deanna Stockton, Dan Vanmater, Janet Pellichero, and Janice Most. I would also like to thank my colleagues Mayor Liz Lempert, who has served on the committee for the past two years, Jenny Crumiller, who will continue to serve on the public works committee, and Council President Bernie Miller, who joins the committee effective today.

And before I forget, to Matt Wasserman and the members of the Environmental Commission, Donna Liu and the members of the Cable TV Committee, and Dianne Ciccone and the members of the Princeton Community TV Board, I want to say thank you all for your service to Princeton, and I look forward to working with you in 2015.

I also wanted to say a special thank you to a man who has only recently begun working for the municipality, and yet who seems to be everywhere he needs to be and then some. Administrator Marc Dashield, welcome, one more time, to Princeton; and thank you for putting in such an effort to make a fast start.

Turning to my colleagues, I would like to start by congratulating Councilwoman Butler and Council President Miller on their reelection this year, and Council President Miller on his election to President of this body for a third year.

I would like to thank all of my colleagues on this governing body. At this juncture, I have served with all of you for two years, and I know that each of you invests so much of your own time and effort on behalf of our community. Take pride in you individual contributions, and in what we have accomplished, and will accomplish, together. I have and will do the same, and I consider it an honor to serve beside each of you in this government.

I wish to acknowledge, especially, two of my colleagues, with whom I have had the opportunity to work closely, this past year. Councilwoman Jenny Crumiller, on some of the most challenging issues we face, I know I can turn to you for your insights and perspective. You bring an uncompromising commitment to fairness, and a deep sense of empathy and concern for individuals, to everything you do, to everything we do as a council.

And Councilwoman Jo Butler, this council does not give an award for its hardest working member, but if we did, you would be the finalist each and every year. Since long before I took office, you have been, simply put, indefatigable, working tirelessly on behalf of the Princeton community, resolute, whatever the challenges and whatever the obstacles. Thank you.

On a more personal note, I want to say thank you to my spouse, Marc Weiner, for the sacrifices you make so I can do this work, and I would also like to wish Happy Birthday to my mother, Margaret Simon, who this year is warm at home in West Bloomfield Michigan.

I would like to close by expressing my appreciation to all of you here today, to the people who may view these proceedings in the future, and to all of the people of Princeton. A little over two years ago, and again last year, you gave me the title Councilman, and put the word Honorable in front of my name. From the first day I took office, and still very much so today, I am deeply humbled by the faith and trust you have placed in me. I thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve as your representative on this council.

Thank you everyone, Happy New Year, and good night.