

Remarks for Re-org. 1.4.16-Councilman Lance Liverman

I would first like to thank each of you for having the vision to re-elect Councilwoman Howard and myself for 3 more years. It is truly a gift and honor to serve the wonderful residents of Princeton. I do not take my position as an elected official lightly. Many of you remember that I started off my remarks last year by repeating the advertisement that said “ Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don’t. Almond Joy has nuts Mounds don’t.” The experiences of 2015 have prepared me to do what Yogi Berra said, “ When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” This is the direction I see this 2016 Council moving in. Moving forward with strength and determination. Moving forward without getting caught up in the weeds. Moving forward with respecting all of our wonderful municipal employees and the residents of this great town. Moving forward by listening and understanding that we have many different economic classes of residents that must be served. If you don’t remember anything else from my remarks, please make a note that Councilman Liverman said this is the year to “ Move Forward.”

I have observed while serving as liaison on the Public Safety Committee, Princeton Affordable Housing Board, Corner House Board, Princeton Housing Auth. and as Fire Commissioner that Moving Forward is the new theme.

Public Safety Committee: Continues to work towards strengthening and developing a Professional organization of law personnel. We are extremely grateful to have Chief Sutter in the driver seat. His leadership and communication skills has propelled the Police dept. light years from where we started in 2013. The recent discussions of community policing and the use of body camera’s for officers have been discussed and are being carefully developed and implemented for future use. The incredible submission of over 600 resumes that where

received for 6 police positions is clear evidence of how our Police dept. is viewed by so many potential law men and woman. This is a direct result in having the correct leadership people in the right positions. It is also that our Police Dept. understands that they have council support to continue to move forward with excellent positive changes.

Corner House: there are very few towns in the state of New Jersey that have made a conscientious and financial obligation to invest the resources to pick up our youth when they fall short. Sometimes our children, children friends, nieces and nephews, neighbors or ourselves need direction. We need to know the negative effect that abusing the body with drugs and alcohol can cause. It is at this pivotal place in our lives that Corner House has changed the direction of thousands of youth. The many leadership programs creates youth ambassadors that lead by example. The success rate of these programs are nothing but a miracle. I must acknowledge, Mr. Gary DeBlasio the Director of Health, Youth and Community Services for leading Corner House and for saving our children. Many people have rejected the saying “ It takes a village to raise our children.” But, I can tell you if we don’t continue to provide this kind of preventive service for our children, the Princeton community will see a major change in the positive direction of our children. This year Corner House was licensed to provide Intensive Outpatient Services (IOP) the ability to provide 9 hours per week of services for clients. This is a program that was implemented through the Drug Court program. This is a new direction for the court system in New Jersey. Putting people in jail for small drug offenses was not accomplishing anything and ruining young men and woman’s lives. While brainstorming in how to reach the parents of many of these children it was decided that small coffees at various parents house might work. Jacqui Schreiber, Corner House Director of Prevention Programs began a campaign entitled “ Coffee and Conversations.” This program lets parents gather for coffee and discuss the

issues related to their children. In small settings it is amazing of the impact of this positive educational program. Corner House will in 2016 look into 1) Expanding the funding base in both the private and public sectors, 2) Increase referral base through marketing to additional local colleges and universities and the private schools 3) Host Heroin Awareness and Educational programs for the students, parents and community members and 4) increase collaborations with other municipal departments and local nonprofits. This is just a sample of the programming at Corner House that is consistent with the Moving Forward agenda.

Affordable Housing: This is the year COAH (Council on Affordable Housing) will give Princeton a number of Affordable Units needed to be built or created in the next 10 years. It is so nice to say that Princeton began Affordable housing before any court mandated the need for every town to build affordable housing. This was a great year for Princeton Affordable Housing Dept. which is headed by Ms. Christy Peacock. They approved funds to purchase a much needed group home in Princeton. The old Home Rehabilitation Program was recreated and provided 2 rehab grants and 1 rehab loan. There was a major partnership with Princeton Senior Resource Center and Princeton Affordable Housing with assistance from Comfort Partners to install a high efficiency heating and hot water system to an elderly couples dwelling. Through the Affordable Housing home purchasing program there were 4 down payment assistance loans. This enabled families and individuals to live the American dream and have home ownership. In 2016 Affordable Housing will 1) develop criteria for the selection of an in house Affordable Housing Coordinator, 2) Continue to provide housing for those in our area who need assistance, 3) ensure the homeownership aspect of the program remains sustainable and viable. 4) revamp affordable housing program public relations in coordination with Council and administration guidelines and 5) create new mission statement. These are few

area's that will continue to Move Princeton forward.

Princeton Housing Authority : Was established in 1938 and provides housing to low low Income residents. This segment of our population is growing. The Housing Authority is a separate entity (not municipal owned) it is under the Direction of Chairman of the Board, Mr. Leighton Newlin and Executive Director Scott Parsons. Many renovations and landscaping projects have been completed this year. The Housing Authority deserves our thanks for donating land to the municipality that can be used in the future creation of the Mary Moss Park. The Housing Auth. operates over 236 units and by the waiting list it is evident that more units are needed for our Princeton residents.

Princeton Fire Dept.: We cannot say Thank you enough for the brave woman and men that volunteer their time and energy protecting our lives every minute of the day. We are lucky to live in a town where this type of dedication still exist. We have launched and received back a comprehensive “ Fire Department Spatial Needs and Apparatus Assessment.” This was completed by Municipal Resources. It is a very detailed report and Council and Mayor will review during 2016 and make suggestions. The fire dept is lucky to have Chief Tomalin and Deputy Chiefs Kyle Rendall and Sal Baldino leading this fine organization.

In closing the Council's job would be impossible if it was not for the support staff that takes the bulk of the work and creates masterpieces. I want to thank our Municipal Administrator Mr. Marc Dashield , Asst. Administrator Ms. Kathy Monzo, Deputy Clerk Linda McDermott and the entire clerks office for providing the support that is needed. Also thank our Municipal Attorney Trishka Cecil and the law firm of Mason Griffin & Pierson. We need to also thank our Management team for always being there whenever the call goes out for help. Thank (my family)

Lets continue the theme of Moving Forward in 2016.