

Village of Larchmont Republican Caucus

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Good Evening. Thank you for being here, and I especially want to thank Town of Mamaroneck Republican Party Chair Don Derrico for serving – once again – as our Caucus Chair.

As I've said many times, I believe in term limits, and the office of Mayor should be no exception. Good government and spirited public debate thrive on new blood, new ideas, and a fresh approach to old and new challenges.

I have served on the Village Board for eight years – four as Mayor – and it is time for me to make room for other, committed volunteers who are willing to step up and contribute their time and talents to the Village.

There will be time between now and the end of my term on March 31st to look back on what we have done, to prepare the budget for next year, and to identify some of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the next board and its Mayor.

I will say tonight, however, that the affairs of the Village of Larchmont are in very good order.

Over the last four years, we have restored over half-a-million dollars to the Village surplus (it stands at about \$2.3 million now) which has allowed us to maintain our AA1 Moody's Investor credit rating while governments all over New York State and around the country are losing their good standing. We continue to provide outstanding local services – while actually reducing our budget last year – and we remain focused on improving our operations and sharing services with our municipal neighbors with an understanding that our taxpayers want greater efficiency from their governments.

We have worked hard to nurture community participation in Village affairs – the Committee on the Environment is a good example – and our enhancements of Flint Park represent the great benefits of a public/private partnership model, something I campaigned on four years ago and that I believe serves as an effective blueprint for future Village projects.

I will not seek re-election for Mayor in March, but will offer my full support – in any way I can – to the Mayor –elect, no matter what political party he/she represent – so the residents of the Village can continue to enjoy the best government we can provide.

In the months and years ahead, I will actively participate in the public arena as an advocate for fiscal responsibly, good government and always - always – putting people before politics.