



SINCE 1844

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP

65 MOUNT HOPE ROAD, ROCKAWAY, NEW JERSEY 07866

Open Letter from Mayor Puzio

At the Township Council meeting of November 30, 2021, Councilman Kelley proceeded to slander our Administrator, Pat Seger, our Township Attorney, John Iacofano, and myself with baseless and frivolous accusations which, as is usual for Mr. Kelley, were not fact based and motivated by what can only be regarded as his desire to cause as much chaos and attention getting as possible.

Councilman Kelley's actions interrupted and impeded the meeting at every turn and, ultimately, required the early adjournment of the meeting.

Unfortunately, Mr. Kelley's conduct; repeated accusations and false narratives and lack of any normal respect for his fellow Council members, members of the Administration and professional staff, as well as the citizens of Rockaway Township have become commonplace, but remain as hurtful and irresponsible as always.

As Mayor I feel a responsibility to apologize to the citizens of Rockaway Township who witnessed Mr. Kelley's behavior at the November 30th Council meeting. By any standard his conduct was reprehensible, insulting, and disrespectful to the rest of the Council; Administration, our professionals and staff. Perhaps, Mr. Kelley's allegations and outbursts were caused by his personal frustration with the fact that he will, very shortly, no longer occupy a seat on the Rockaway Township Council. Whatever the case, Mr. Kelley departs the Council as the last remnant of a group of individuals who did no good for our Township and who sought only to cause chaos and hostility without achieving anything of value for our residents.

Ordinarily, a serving member of the Council would be entitled to some expression of good will upon leaving office. I am unable to do that in Mr. Kelley's case.