

May 16, 2011

For the past 17 months I've been honored to work for the people of Nyack as its Mayor and to lead our village during these very challenging times. Thanks to the hard work of our employees, appointees, and Village Board, many of the promises I made when I ran for Mayor have become a reality and Nyack is in much better shape than it was two years ago:

- Fiscal responsibility – This year's tax increase of .96% was the village's lowest in 11 years.
- Infrastructure improvement – We've reinstated the village's 50/50 sidewalk repair program and repaved streets and sidewalks throughout the village. This summer we'll replace the basketball courts and add a new rowing dock at Memorial Park, continue to upgrade our streets and sidewalks, and start construction on the long-awaited downtown revitalization project, Streetscape.
- Social services – Organizations such as the Nyack Center and YMCA help keep the unity in our community. Our new budget funds them at 100% of last year's levels – no cuts to the needy.
- We're carefully examining all of the feasible scenarios for the "Superblock" and its potential impacts on Nyack's arts scene, economy, environment, parking, and character as a village.
- Intergovernmental relations – We've improved our relations with every level of government and are receiving more federal aid than ever. We're working closely with the Orangetown Police Department to continue to improve the safety of our entire village.
- Village operations – Our Village Hall staff, Water Department, and Department of Public Works are second to none (some have suggested that New York City can learn from us on snow removal!). We've professionalized the day-to-day running of Village Hall to make it more efficient and responsive than ever.
- Open, transparent, and accountable government – We've improved our website, brought Village Board meetings out into the community, and are resolving the day-to-day concerns of residents, visitors, and merchants more responsively than ever before.

All of this has been accomplished because there's no limit to what you can achieve when you're part of a winning team that doesn't care who gets the credit.

But lasting change and progress take time and there's still plenty more for us to do: we need to complete Streetscape; add more affordable housing; implement the visionary plan for Memorial Park; come to a decision on the "Superblock;" repair our marina – and much more. Nyack's Mayor needs to be equal parts listener, team-builder, executive, and problem-solver. I believe that I've demonstrated these qualities during my 20-plus year career as a business leader, my 9 years as a Village Trustee, and during these last 17 months as Nyack's Mayor.

Helping others is the meaning of my life. Today I'm asking the voters of Nyack to hire me for a second and final term as Mayor of Nyack. If re-elected, I promise to continue to work to ensure that Nyack remains the best place on earth to live, work, visit, and raise a family. If you have an idea (or a complaint), please feel free to contact me in person, by phone, or by email. Let's renew Nyack together.

Sincerely,

Richard