

Montclair Elected Officials Petition for Reelection

Photos

Credits: Cindy C. A. Pereira

By CINDY C. A. PEREIRA

January 25, 2016 at 3:50 PM

MONTCLAIR, NJ - Montclair elected officials collected petitions at the Montclair Municipal clerk's office to garner support in Montclair's upcoming municipal election, taking place May 10, 2016.

Linda Wanat, Township Clerk, told the group they would have to sign up with ELEC (Election Law Enforcement Commission). ELEC monitors the campaign financing of all elections in the State. Members were also told that the superintendent's office sells the most up to date disc with registered voter names.

Wanat stressed that voter petitions are due March 7, 2016, no later than 4:00 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Robert Russo told TAP into Montclair that his quote is the same for everyone who asks, "This may be the first council to ever be reelected in its entirety in the history of Montclair." He justified the notion of reelection saying it was "important to have continuity and stability in Montclair government."

During an announcement on Tuesday, Jackson told the community that he had been deciding whether he with run for a second term or not. "I was somewhat wrestling with that. I do plan on ...(deciding) this week or early next."

Jackson continued, "I have really enjoyed working alongside them, my council colleagues... "

Sean Spiller, Third Ward Councilor, said, "I'm excited to be here with so many of my colleagues to be picking up our packets and deciding where we go from here. I think we have made a great team, and I am excited about the possibility of continuing to move forward."

We also spoke to Richard McMahon, Councilor-at-Large (meaning that unlike ward councilors, McMahon was elected by all of Montclair's voters). McMahon said the group has done a lot over the past four years. He particularly would like to raise the profile of the Ambulance Company and work on the Office of Emergency Management. TAP brought up the pedestrian fatality as well the need for more lights in town. McMahon agreed that public safety issues needed to be addressed, as does the Montclair parking situation.



Councilor Renee Baskerville, who was not present at the time, is also seeking reelection. Baskerville said, "I pulled petitions on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. That was in honor of his service to others. My focus is on service to the Montclair community."

She added that she was happy for her council colleagues and looked forward to serving alongside them again. Baskerville said, "I am looking forward to working with them again."

Much like everyone in the room who seemed exuberant facing the task at hand, Robin Schlager, Second Ward Councilor, smiled as she told us, "I am proud and nervous to be here this morning, and to put my hat in the ring for another term. After long consideration and talks with my family I am ready, willing and able to do it again."



More information:

<http://www.montclairnjsa.org/dmdocuments/Election-Packet-01-07-2016.pdf>

<http://www.montclairnjsa.org>

Natalie Heard Hackett contributed to this article.



