

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST**

**ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2025**

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, have been satisfied by the publication of the date, time and place of this annual Reorganization meeting in in the Record and Star Ledger on December 16, 2024, notice posted at Borough Hall, on the Borough website was filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Mayor Bernstein invited newly reelected Councilmembers Fox and Slowikowski to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCILMAN ANDREA SLOWIKOWSKI SWORN IN

Mayor Bernstein advised that according to the official results of the 2024 election as published by the County Board of Elections that **Councilwoman Andrea Slowikowski** has been duly elected, said term expiring 12/31/2027. He then invited the Honorable John Cosgrove to administer the Oath of Office and Councilmember Slowikowski.

Mayor Cosgrove then administered the Oath of Office and Councilmember Slowikowski took her seat at the dais.

COUNCILMAN DARYL FOX SWORN IN

Mayor Bernstein advised that according to the official results of the 2024 election as published by the County Board of Elections that **Councilwoman Daryl Fox** has been duly elected, said term expiring 12/31/2027

Mayor Brian Bernstein then invited Councilmember Fox to be sworn in. Mayor Bernstein administered the Oath of Office and Councilwoman Fox took her seat on the dais.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Bernstein, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox,
Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss,
Councilmember Slowikowski

Absent: None

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney
Peter Suh, CFO

Frank Visaggio, Acting Police Chief and members of the Police Department
John McLoughlin, Fire Chief

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor Bernstein noted that Councilmember Slowikowski had served admirably for the past two years as Council President and recommended that the Council once again elect her to the position.

Councilmember Fox made a motion to elect Councilmember Slowikowski Council President for 2025. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jiang.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

By unanimous vote Andrea Slowikowski was declared Council President for 2025.

SEATING ON DAIS: 2025 (from Mayor's left to right)

Mayor Bernstein noted the below seating on the dais to be the same as 2024. Marks, Fox, Collins, MAYOR, Slowikowski, Jiang, Reiss

SWEARING IN POLICE SERGEANTS

Mayor Bernstein administered the Oath of Office to Brian Hampton who, was joined by his wife and daughter, as Police Sergeant effective January 1, 2025

Mayor Bernstein administered the Oath of Office to Michael Krynicki, who was joined by his wife, as Police Sergeant effective January 1, 2025

SWEARING IN 2025 FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Mayor Bernstein noted that the 2025 Fire Department Officers will be sworn in at their installation dinner on Friday 1/10/25.

Chief John McLoughlin
Assistant Chief Carl Pavlik
Captain John Young
Lieutenant Matthew Carey
Lieutenant Matthew Mayer

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

MAYOR’S ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS WITH THE ADVICE & CONSENT OF COUNCIL

Municipal Housing Liaison	Julie Falkenstern	expires 12/31/2025
Shade Tree Advisory Member	Owen Fox	expires 12/31/2025
JIF Safety Committee Coordinator	Julie Falkenstern	expires 12/31/2025
ADA Coordinator	Daniel Marks	expires 12/31/2025
Zoning Officer	Michael Greco	expires 12/31/2025
Police Surgeons	Gregory Sathananthan, Zahid Farooki, Jay Kashkin, Stephen Silver, Aaron Brisman, Gil Altman, Christopher Shaari	expires 12/31/2025
Special Police Officers	Louis Buonomo, Kyoung Lee, Matthew Mayer	expires 12/31/2025
Deputy OEM Coordinator	Michael Krynicky	expires 12/31/2025

Councilmember Marks made a motion to elect approve the 2025 Municipal Officials listed above. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Collins

Roll Call:

- Ayes:** Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Fox

MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS WITH THE ADVICE & CONSENT OF COUNCIL

ZONING BOARD ADJUSTMENT

Michael Feinstein 12/31/2028

Councilmember Collins made a motion to accept said Appointee to the Zoning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks.

Roll Call:

- Ayes:** Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Fox

BOARD OF HEALTH

Dr. Helen Richards
Ilana Mitiliski

12/31/2027
12/31/2027

Councilmember Fox made a motion to accept said Appointees to the Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reiss.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

GOLDEN SENIORS' ASSOCIATION BOARD

Ariela Keysar
Hildegard Cho

Trustee
Trustee

12/31/2027
12/31/2026

Councilmember Reiss made a motion to accept said Appointees to the Golden Seniors Association Board. The motion was seconded by Council President Slowikowski.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None
Abstain: Councilmember Jiang

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS (No Council Confirmation needed)

Mayor Bernstein noted the below appointments to various boards that do not require Council confirmation. He asked the respective Council liaisons to reach out to the appointees to inform them of their appointments.

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Heather Shimokawa

12/31/2029

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Maureen Neville

12/31/2029

RECREATION COMMISSION

Allie Deutsch

12/31/2029

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

James Chang

12/31/2027

Angela Rodin

12/31/2027

David Lerner

Alternate #2

12/31/2026

PLANNING BOARD

Mayor Bernstein advised that there is a **Class III** member of the **Planning Board** (a member of the Governing Body) to be chosen by the Governing Body. He further stated that Councilmember Fox had filled that roll in the past and he recommended that the Council elect her to do so again in 2025.

Council President Slowikowski nominated Councilmember Fox as the Class III member of the Planning Board for 2025.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Nays: None

By unanimous vote Daryl Fox was declared Class III member of the Planning Board for 2025.

2025 STANDING COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Mayor Bernstein announced the Standing Committees and Liaisons for 2025:

STANDING COMMITTEES – 2025

Police and OEM

Chair Councilmember Reiss

Members Councilmembers Slowikowski and Marks

Fire and EMS

Chair Councilmember Collins

Members Councilmembers Fox and Marks

DPW and Recreation

Chair Councilmember Marks

Members Councilmembers Reiss and Collins

Finance and Personnel

Chair Councilmember Slowikowski
Members Councilmembers Fox and Collins

Economic Development

Chair Councilmember Jiang
Members Councilmembers Slowikowski and Marks

Ordinances

Chair Councilmember Fox
Members Councilmembers Reiss and Jiang

Councilmember Jiang noted that he believes he should be listed as a member of the Fire and EMS Committee rather than Councilmember Marks. The Mayor noted the correction, and the Acting Borough Clerk will make the correction on the official listing of Standing Committees

Mayor Bernstein listed the following Council liaison appointments for 2025.

2025 LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Board of Education	David Jiang
Board of Health	Jonathan Reiss
Environmental Commission	Andrea Slowikowski
Nature Center	David Jiang
Shade Tree Commission	Adam Collins
Land Use Liaison	Daryl Fox
Library Board	Dan Marks
Demarest Athletic Association (DAA)	Dan Marks
Construction / Code Enforcement	Andrea Slowikowski

CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilmember Fox made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Council President Slowikowski

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Fox, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 001-25	Appointing Acting Borough Clerk
Resolution No. 002-25	Annual Schedule of Meetings
Resolution No. 003-25	Designation of Official Newspapers
Resolution No. 004-25	Designation of Legal Depositories
Resolution No. 005-25	Establishment of Interest Rates on Delinquent Taxes & Assessments
Resolution No. 006-25	2025 Cash Management Plan for the Borough
Resolution No. 007-25	Petty Cash Policy
Resolution No. 008-25	Designating Official Tax Search Officer
Resolution No. 009-25	Appointing Fund Commissioners
Resolution No. 010-25	Appointing Assessment Search Officer
Resolution No. 011-25	Appointing Public Agency Compliance Officer
Resolution No. 012-25	Authorizing LESO 1033 Program
Resolution No. 013-25	Authorizing Valley Health CDL Drug and Alcohol Testing Program
Resolution No. 014-25	Temporary Budget Appropriations
Resolution No. 015-25	Approving Tax Receiving Agency
Resolution No. 016-25	Appointing Borough Engineer
Resolution No. 017-25	Appointing Borough Attorney
Resolution No. 018-25	Appointing Special Projects Engineer
Resolution No. 019-25	Appointing Risk Manager
Resolution No. 020-25	Appointing Auditor
Resolution No. 021-25	Appointing Financial Advisor -Phoenix
Resolution No. 022-25	Appointing Bond Counsel
Resolution No. 023-25	Appointing Tax Appeal Attorney
Resolution No. 024-25	Appointing Grant Consultant
Resolution No. 025-25	Appointing Tax Collector
Resolution No. 026-25	Appointing Financial Advisor - Acacia
Resolution No. 027-25	Appointing Borough Planner
Resolution No. 028-25	Appointing Affordable Housing Planner
Resolution No. 029-25	Appointing Affordable Housing Counsel
Resolution No. 030-25	Shared Service with BC for EAP
Resolution No. 031-25	2025 Borough Holiday Schedule
Resolution No. 032-25	Golden Seniors' Trustees
Resolution No. 033-25	Authorizing Execution of SSA with NBCUA – Inspections
Resolution No. 034-25	Authorizing Execution of SSA with NBCUA – Sewer Cleaning

Open to the Public

Councilmember Collins made a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reiss and approved by all.

Speaker(s):

Mike Clarke

Mr. Clarke asked why the meeting was scheduled for 3:00 pm. Mayor Bernstein explained that the meeting was scheduled to accommodate the governing body and all necessary attendees' schedules.

Mayor's Address

Mayor Bernstein wished those assembled a happy new year and expressed that he looked forward to working together with the Council, Borough professionals, staff, members of the boards and commissions and all Borough volunteers. He then detailed accomplishments of the administration to date and highlighted goals for 2025.

There being no further business, Councilmember Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jiang and approved by all.

The meeting was therefore adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern
Acting Borough Clerk