

Glen Cove Mayor Reginald Spinello

January 1, 2016 Inauguration Speech

Good afternoon and Happy New Year. I want to thank all of you for joining us today as we enter into a new year filled with optimism for our City's future.

On this day two years ago, I promised our residents that we would see positive change in our city. Two years later, I'm pleased to announce that we've delivered on that promise.

- We've brought new businesses to Glen Cove.
- We've improved our quality of life with an aggressive campaign against illegal housing that has produced tangible results.
- Our downtown is improving and we're looking forward to many positive additions in the coming year.
- We've put a lid on wasteful spending.
- We're growing the City's revenue and stabilizing our taxes.
- And we're about to finally realize a two decade old project which will transform our waterfront from a toxic, uninhabitable, federally designated Superfund site into a vibrant recreational, commercial, cultural and residential success story. It's been a long time in coming and now it's finally going to happen.

As I begin my second term as your Mayor, I want to thank all of our residents for giving me this extraordinary opportunity to play a role in finally turning our city around. I am indebted to the support of my family and friends – my wife Coleen, my daughter Serena, my mother and mother-in-law, my sister Diana and her husband Dom, my cousins along with our City Council members, elected officials, Deputy Mayor Barbara Peebles, the Inauguration committee and each of you for putting your faith in my leadership. I also want to thank our local dignitaries and all of the employees of Glen Cove who have played an instrumental role in helping bring about the transformation that’s occurring in our city.

My promise this year is that my administration will concentrate on smart growth in our community – from our waterfront redevelopment to the revitalization of our downtown, I expect 2016 to be a watershed moment in turning Glen Cove into the vibrant municipality that it should be.

Our vision is simple – make Glen Cove a “go to” destination for commerce, recreation, entertainment, culture and waterfront living. We’re intent on infusing our local economy with new jobs, expanded tax revenues from sources other than homeowners and residents, and bringing in young professionals, empty nesters

and new families who will appreciate the benefits of an affordable suburban City with beautiful surroundings and easily-accessible beaches.

I believe my first term in office allowed me to lead an administration of accomplishments. We've made substantial progress in reversing long standing problems that have in the past slowed the growth of our City. I'm energized about continuing our plan which is focused on economic growth, continuing to improve Glen Cove's quality of life, and bringing more new business and new residents to our growing community.

Turning a small city like ours around is no easy task. Years of stagnation in growth – both commercial and residential - coupled with what had become an ever increasing tax burden on our residents, requires hard work, fresh new ideas, and a business-like approach to running our local government. Like a large ship seeking to turn in the other direction, it can't be done on a dime. It takes time, but once the turnaround begins, the ship speeds up. And that's where our city is now. We've started to make that turn and you'll be seeing significant changes in the next two years.

Of course this doesn't happen with the efforts of one person alone. It takes a team. And that's why I look forward to charting our agenda for action with our

City Council. So let's take a moment to congratulate our Council members – Joseph Capobianco, Nick DiLeo Jr., Pamela Panzenbeck, Timothy Tenke, Roderick Watson and Efraim Spagnoletti. If we are to succeed, we'll need their input and advice.

Now here's some more good news. We are starting the New Year off on a strong note with no residential tax increase for 2016. I recognize how hard our residents work to make ends meet, and the more we can do to find new revenue sources through new growth opportunities like real estate developments, new businesses, more jobs and initiating cost saving programs, the better our residents are served. I'm also pleased to note that as our 2015 fiscal year comes to a close, year-end projections are showing a surplus of approximately \$400,000 for the first budget prepared and implemented by my administration.

Looking at the year ahead, our 2016 agenda for action will be concentrated in six areas of growth:

1. First, we're going to close on the sale of the waterfront property to the redeveloper, with shovels going into the ground by the spring.

Through successful public-private partnerships and the support of the County and State agencies, we expect to break ground on a \$1 billion redevelopment that will

put 56 acres of waterfront property back on the tax rolls by converting it into a thriving waterfront destination with restaurants, parks and recreational amenities. At the same time we will continue to revitalize our downtown with a mixed-used development featuring rental units, retail and restaurants to help bring more vibrancy to downtown Glen Cove. As everyone knows, if you want to bring a downtown back to life, you need to bring more people to the downtown so it serves a purpose. We'll be doing that by introducing new cultural events to the City and maintaining our commitment to the ever successful Downtown Sounds summer concert series.

As the transformation of our City moves forward we'll look to revitalize the Sea Cliff Avenue and Glen Cove Avenue corridors. All of these underperforming properties have been a work in progress for decades and have placed a tremendous burden on our tax base. It's time to turn that around. Of course, there will always be folks, whose agenda is preventing smart development at any cost, claiming the existence of overdevelopment. But the truth is that there's only been one major development project in the last 10 years. That's not overdevelopment; it's under achievement when you don't find new ways to build the City's revenues and then place that burden on tax payers.

2. Second, we will focus on building Glen Cove's credentials as a center of commerce by continuing our efforts to attract new businesses, new jobs and new retail offerings. I've been saying it for two years, and let me say it again - Glen Cove **is** open for business. In the past two years, more than 40 businesses have opened in our city and over 300 new jobs were created. Our business base is growing and now we are attracting successful franchises like Panera Bread, Massage Envy and YouOffice. We intend to induce more businesses like them to come to our town. And I would be remiss if I didn't mention that after two and a half years, Sweet Mandarin is finally open.

3. Third, we will continue our commitment to aggressively pursue illegal housing violators and place new emphasis on exterior code violations for both residential and commercial properties that negatively affect the visual appearance of our community.

4. Fourth, we're instituting our "Residents First" program at Glen Cove's Long Island Railroad stations by designating the north side parking areas of the Glen Cove and Glen Street stations for Glen Cove residents only. Our taxpayers foot the bill for maintaining those parking areas and with a shortage of available spaces, the time has come for our folks to have exclusive use of the parking spaces we pay for.

5. Fifth, my administration will be tasked with providing our Downtown Business Improvement District and Chamber of Commerce with all of the assistance necessary to continue to help transform Glen Cove into a real destination of choice for suburban living, culture, shopping, entertainment and great food.

6. And finally, we will continue to deliver and improve our outstanding safety and other public services provided to our Glen Cove community. Our police department is second to none on Long Island. And our Departments of Public Works, Sanitation, Parks & Recreation, Building, Water and Finance, as well as our Senior Center, Youth Bureau, Auxiliary Police, Volunteer Fire Department, EMS, Harbor Patrol and my office, are committed to performing at the highest level in providing exceptional services to our residents. We should be very proud of their work, and I personally want to thank each and every employee of this City for a job well done.

Our city is at the beginning of a transformation from a bedroom community to a destination location. What we need is for everyone to be on the team, and by that I mean that I invite every one of you to join us in this mission to **grow the New Glen Cove by** supporting our local businesses, sharing new ideas, and getting involved with our local schools, not-for-profit organizations and your local

government. Good things happen when good people pull together in a common effort to improve their environment. And we have all the good people any community could possibly need to do just that. Remember, we all succeed when Glen Cove succeeds, and it will absolutely succeed when we all pull together to make our City a better place. I am, as is every member of my team, totally committed to making our beautiful city a community in which we can all take pride. Please join me in becoming part of a team that nurtures our land for safe, sensible and smart development, that plants seeds of innovation with new and creative programs like Single Stream Recycling which will save money and benefit our planet, that aggressively tackles suburban weeds like illegal housing and that sees the potential of achieving Glen Cove's promise – making our City a center of commerce and culture and a place you can be proud to call your home.

Thank you all for your support in the past and for your continued confidence in my leadership. I love this job because of the people who live here and the spirit they demonstrate as the best neighbors in any community. God Bless you all and God Bless our city.

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