



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayors Newsletter May 2019

Signing Off

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

In the spring of 2012, I wore out my walking shoes knocking on doors asking people to take a chance on a young guy with a lofty vision for his home town. Today I am writing my last newsletter having served this City as Councilman and Mayor for the last seven years. What an exciting and rewarding experience it has been. As my tenure on City Council comes to a close, our family looks forward to new opportunities to work alongside neighbors and friends for our Jersey Village community.

Reflecting back on the last seven years, I am heartened by the number of successes we accomplished on City Council. We maintained a strong financial position with responsible budgeting while maintaining a high level of City services, specifically public safety. We embarked on significant public works projects including large scale street repairs, a massive water line replacement project and initiated a federal grant funded flood mitigation program. We produced a forward thinking, ambitious Comprehensive Plan that led to improved parks, a new splash pad and the soon to be new entrance markers to the City. I am particularly proud that we harnessed the upward trajectory of Jersey Village and aggressively pursued economic development projects. We attracted several large businesses through economic incentive packages, are in the process of rebuilding the Jersey Meadow clubhouse and most spectacularly secured the creation of the \$145 million, 43 acre Village Center mixed use development.

During the last seven years we also endured challenges and hardships. Jersey Village neighbors came together during an emotionally fraught time of flood devastation. We took the lead and created a wide ranging plan to protect homes from the scourge of flooding. We were also presented with the challenge of hiring a new City Manager who would be tasked with implementing the numerous and varied municipal projects. During much of this time, our community endured a difficult and frustrating Highway 290 expansion project. Yet, in light of the numerous challenges we faced, we persevered and emerged as a resilient and stronger community.

When it comes to thank-you's, where do I start? I had the good fortune of working alongside two great City Managers who each brought a different and unique perspective. I am extremely appreciative of their leadership and support for our vision. We are blessed with an amazing Staff in Jersey Village and I can't thank them enough for the great work they consistently do for the City. To my colleagues past and present on City Council, thank-you for your service and friendship. I made lifelong friends on Council and I will be forever grateful for getting to serve alongside you. A special thanks to my wife Allison and our kids for their support and understanding of my many late night meetings and missed family events. Ultimately I want to thank the citizens of Jersey Village for the trust you bestowed upon me these last great seven years.

As Mayor, I often spoke to Boy and Girl Scout troops on local government and civics. On one occasion, a scout asked me a simple, yet thought provoking question. "Do you like being Mayor?" I paused for a moment and reflected back on the years in elected office, the gratifying successes and difficult challenges I was faced with. "Yes" I replied. I explained that as a member of the Jersey Village City Council, I was given an opportunity to serve our community and continue to make this a special place for ours and our neighbors' families. To our Neighbors, Residents and Friends: It has been an honor and blessing to serve you and our special Jersey Village community.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor

Jersey Village, Texas