



BOROUGH OF DUNELLEN

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Message from the Mayor Jason F. Cilento December 2022

On behalf of the Borough Council, employees of the Borough of Dunellen and myself, we wish all the residents and businesses of Dunellen a happy and pleasant holiday season. As we move into 2023, I am optimistic about what we will accomplish together as a community. I look forward to highlighting what the Borough accomplished during 2022 and introducing our 2023 agenda during my annual Mayors Address at our January 1, 2023, Re-Organization meeting at noon in the Council Chambers. At this meeting, Council Members Trina G. Rios, Daniel Cole Sigmon and Hal VanDermark will be sworn-in by Deputy Minority Leader Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz of New Jersey's Legislative District 21. In addition, appointments of committees, commissions and boards will be made, Dunellen's Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to former Mayor Robert J. Seader, Dunellen's Citizen of the Year Award will be presented to William Wagner, and the general re-organization of the municipal government will be conducted. We are looking forward to this day as this will be our first full in-person re-organization meeting since 2020. The meeting can still be viewed live online and interaction with the public via telecommunication is available. You may join us virtually by calling-in and/or viewing on our YouTube channel. Information on how to join the meeting can be found on our website at www.dunellen-nj.gov.

As a reminder, don't forget about Santa around Town on Christmas Eve as he is escorted by the Dunellen Fire Department. Be sure to follow him on the tracker that can be found on the Dunellen Fire Department's Facebook page. This is a great Dunellen tradition we all look forward to each year!

I am pleased to provide good news before the end of the year: the Borough of Dunellen has successfully applied for and was granted a total of \$845,460.00 through two grants from the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

- The first grant was awarded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation FY 2023 Transit Village Grant program for \$226,000.00 for Wayfinding signage along North Avenue. This will assist with accomplishing one of the goals of our redevelopment plan through streetscape improvements and pedestrian linkage throughout the downtown. Wayfinding signage design combines signage and map design symbols and other visuals to help pedestrians and motorists navigate through environments and cues them to their destination. For example, it might have signage that better communicates where public parking, the public library

and the municipal complex are located. This will be a welcoming aesthetic improvement to our downtown.

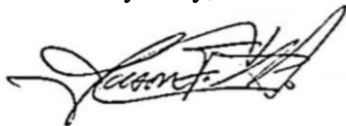
- The second grant was awarded by the New Jersey Department of Transportation Municipal Aide FY 2023 grant program for \$619,460.00 for Second Street Improvements (between the Middlesex Borough border to Madison Avenue). This is great news for Dunellen as we continue to make historic improvements to our roadways. Since 2020, we have paved close to 6 miles out of 16 miles of municipals roads, and grants such as this one will help Dunellen continue to make improvements to our roadways at significantly less cost to the Borough.

Since taking office in 2020, the Borough of Dunellen has been awarded a total of \$2,161,540.00 in grants from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for various projects that we have applied for and have already seen implemented or will begin to see implemented over the next two years.

As I conclude this Message from the Mayor, I want to thank the residents of Dunellen for giving me the opportunity to serve as your mayor. I am thankful to Dunellen's community, and I am always in awe of our people's generosity toward one another. We are truly the Miracle Mile, and for that, I am grateful.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you and your families. Be well and stay safe.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason F. Cilento". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jason F. Cilento, Mayor
Borough of Dunellen