MAYOR'S MESSAGE *February 10, 2022*

I begin this message with words of thanks to the people of Sea Isle City for their patience and cooperation during the winter storm that slammed our region late last month. I also want to thank our Department of Public Works for diligently removing the large amount of snow that fell during that storm – which took quite a bit of effort. As we all know, when more than a foot of snow blankets any town, it takes time and hard work to clear the streets, sidewalks and intersections so that the community can function normally once again – and that is why I am also very grateful to everyone for moving their vehicles off of the streets when possible and for refraining from driving during and after the storm so our City employees could complete the work that needed to be accomplished.

This year, Valentine's Day (February 14) falls on a Monday, which hopefully means you and your loved ones can enjoy a long weekend filled with happiness and joy. As is the case every year, Sea Isle City is a great place to celebrate Valentine's Day – thanks to our local eateries, where you can celebrate the "Holiday of Love" over a wonderful meal, and our many retailers, who can help you find a thoughtful gift for "that special someone" in your life.

In addition to Valentine's Day, President's Day Weekend is always a popular time to be in Sea Isle City. As I recently stated, even though there is no polar bear plunge taking place, there are still many good reasons to be in town during the approaching Presidents Day Weekend, February 18-21. If you plan to be in Sea Isle City, I suggest you make dinner reservations right away because we expect many people to be in town. Also, while you are here, don't miss the bargains and special deals being offered at our local retail establishments or the other attractions some of our local businesses have planned. For more information about what's happening during Presidents Weekend, see the special section of this newsletter – and get ready to enjoy another winter weekend right here in Sea Isle City!

During the February 8 City Council Meeting, I delivered my annual State of the City Address, during which I was very happy to say that our municipality is in very good shape! I also mentioned that we are enthusiastically proceeding with our plans to construct a new Community Center, our municipal improvement projects are on track (including infrastructure work and flood mitigation), and we will continue to run our town with a keen appreciation for the importance of fiscal responsibility – as we always have.

I hope you will take a moment to read my entire State of the City message, which can be found on our municipal website, www.seaislecitynj.us.

As you probably are aware, in recent years we have faced some challenges when overly-enthusiastic groups of young people have gathered on Sea Isle City's Promenade and elsewhere around town during the summer season. Occasionally, these large groups of juveniles have become quite rowdy or have acted in ways that do not reflect the family values Sea Isle City was built upon.

To discuss the difficulties numerous towns are experiencing when crowds of youths gather in public places – difficulties that some people feel are exacerbated by legislation that was enacted in Trenton in recent years – I will be meeting tomorrow, February 11, with New Jersey's 1st District Legislators to discuss this topic in earnest. The meeting will take place at City Hall, where Senator Michael Testa, Assemblyman Antwan McClellan and Assemblyman Erik Simonsen will share ideas and discuss ways to resolve this situation. Following that meeting, I will let everyone know how we plan to address this issue.

In closing, I am happy to report that Sea Isle City is in the running for the 2022 "Best of the Jersey Shore" Contest. To vote, go to **BestofJerseyShore.com** – and let everyone know how much you love Sea Isle City!

Smile…You're in Sea Isle,

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio