MAYOR'S MESSAGE *January 13, 2022*

For many people, just hearing the words "Sea Isle City" brings to mind a variety of images, such as sunbathing on the beach, fishing on the bay, and walking along the Promenade on sunny July mornings. It's not unusual that many of us associate Sea Isle City with summer activities…after all, that is when we see the most people in town. However, the so-called "off season" is also a very busy time, because that's when we perform the majority of work on our infrastructure and public facilities – and this year is no exception.

As I mentioned in my most recent Mayor's Message, we completed numerous municipal projects in 2021, including making improvements to our roadways, updating utilities, and opening two very popular outdoor recreation facilities. However, we are not stopping there, because this year we have additional work to do, including completing our Lagoon Dredging Project, further updating our utilities, and performing some additional roadwork. That being said, I want to thank each of you for your patience just in case you encounter road detours during the months ahead.

This is also the time of year that we fine-tune our municipal budget prior to it being submitted to City Council for review and final approval. As I hope you realize, my Administration and I take Sea Isle City's finances very seriously, because we know that the money we spend to keep our town "running on all cylinders" is the tax payer's money – and we consider fiscal responsibility a top priority.

With regards to our 2022 Municipal Budget, I will deliver my annual State of the City Address and Budget Message to City Council on Tuesday, February 8, at which time I will also present Council with our proposed budget for the year ahead. Following that presentation, we will post my speech on Sea Isle City's Municipal Website and also share it via our E-News mailing system so everyone can learn what our goals are and what we plan to accomplish in 2022.

Even though there won't be a Polar Bear Plunge during President's Weekend, there are still many good reasons to be in Sea Isle City between February 18th and 21st. During that weekend, many local businesses will be open and ready to welcome patrons, including our local retailers, restaurants and other establishments – so get ready to shop-until-you-drop, dine-in-style, and dance-the-night-away here in Sea Isle City during President's Weekend!

With Doctor Martin Luther King's national holiday just days away, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of serving others and giving back to one's community. I hope that the approaching MLK Day of Service will inspire all of us to count our blessings and perform a good deed that will be a blessing to others, be it large or small, because it truly is in giving that we receive. Perhaps that is why Doctor King once said: *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*

Smile…You're in Sea Isle,

Len

Mayor Leonard C. Desiderio

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