

Mayor's Message

10.9.25

“When everyone is buying into a system, and puts their ego to the side, that’s when greatness happens.”

- *Karl Anthony Towns*

I would like to take a moment to recognize the excellent work and commitment of our Darien City Council members. We are truly fortunate to have seven elected officials who, while representing a specific ward in the city, consistently focus on what is best for our entire community.

A recent example of this dedication took place during our City Council meeting this past Monday evening. The Council voted on three ordinances necessary for establishing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District at the Chestnut Court Shopping Center. After years of working toward a solution to the growing vacancies in the center, we are now approaching a possible solution that will see the center return to the vibrancy once seen back in the 1990’s. The establishment of a TIF District is but one step in the process. While a final development agreement with the property owner is still to come, Monday’s vote represented a critical step forward in the process.

I commend the Council for their diligence and thoughtful consideration throughout the past five to six months as they worked to fully understand the TIF process and its potential implications for the city and the surrounding taxing bodies. Their willingness to ask questions, do their homework on the issue, and work collaboratively reflects the high level of responsibility they bring to every issue, whether it’s a development decision, a budget item, or the purchase of a piece of city equipment. Our residents should be proud of the service and integrity demonstrated by their elected officials. Their commitment to doing what is right for Darien is clear and consistent.

Of course, none of their would be possible without the support of our outstanding administrative staff, who consistently demonstrate responsiveness to both our public as well as our elected officials. Their responsiveness, professionalism, and willingness to serve are a vital part of what keeps Darien running smoothly.

The work being done to establish the Chestnut Court TIF District is just one example of how we are planning for a stronger future – all while staying true to our city’s proud motto: **“Darien – A Nice Place to Live.”**