

DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT

Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk read the following letter dated September 26, 2006 from Deputy Mayor Ashley-Williams:

"Dear Ann Marie:

As I announced at the last Town Council Meeting held September 12, 2006, in June 2006 I accepted a 90-day Taper Appointment with the District of Columbia Department of Correction (DOC) as the Special Assistant to the Director. Last week at the end of that appointment I was offered a full appointment with the DOC. I have decided to accept that offer.

As a Taper appointee it was easy for me to continue to perform my duties as Deputy Mayor for the Township of Franklin as well as perform my responsibilities as the Special Assistant to the Director of the DOC in Washington, D.C. However, now that I have accepted a full appointment with the District of Columbia I do not want to continue that scenario, and here is why: (1) I never intended to work both in Washington, D.C. and in Somerset, New Jersey beyond the summer months (90 days). I take my position on the Franklin Township Council very serious and don't want to share my time and devotion with another municipal. Conversely, I take my new appointment to the DOC very serious. This new position will require me to devote more of my time to learning the cultural and politics of the District; and (2) I don't want to hold dual government positions.

Therefore, I will be resigning my position as Councilwoman-At-Large effective October 15, 2006. I will use the next two weeks to finalize any and all outstanding business in the township.

My decision to accept this position in the District of Columbia was not an easy decision because I knew to accept this position meant I would have to leave New Jersey. No only am I leaving Franklin Township (my home for 29 years) but I also am leaving my family and friends. Nevertheless, I believe my decision (regarding my personal life) is a good decision for my future.

Please read this letter of my intent to resign during the Deputy Mayor's comment portion of the agenda tonight. I regret I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight to personally submit my resignation but due to my acceptance of this position, I have responsibilities in the District today and will not be able to travel to New Jersey in time for the meeting this evening.

Please know that I am thankful for the time I served on the township council. I know I made a difference and truly wanted to do even more as "Mayor". I thank the citizens of Franklin Township for giving me the opportunity to serve out town. Having said that, I believe we all have a purpose in life - being in Washington, D.C. and working for the Department of Corrections at this time in my life is where I am meant to be.

I remain available to assist in any way possible.

Take care and God bless you all.

Thank you,