



VICTORIA GEARTY
Mayor

VILLAGE OF OSSINING

Municipal Building

16 Croton Avenue
Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 941-3554

www.villageofossining.org

April 30, 2018



An Integrated and Comprehensive Strategy

Last week I participated in a panel of mayors at the Pace Land Use Law Center's Affordable Housing Summit. During his keynote address that morning, County Executive

George Latimer spoke of the County's consideration of a Housing Needs Assessment. I was pleased to be able to share Ossining's experience of our process on a Village level, and how we are now working on implementation.

The Village Housing Needs Assessment was conducted at the urging of affordable housing advocates. The resulting Policy Framework recommendations are designed in an evidence-based, comprehensive and sequential manner. The first recommendation is to establish a clear economic development strategy. The second is to address safety concerns by effective implementation of code enforcement. Folks who participated in last year's Housing Needs Assessment public sessions may recognize Kevin Dwarka in the above photo. He was the panel facilitator for last week's discussion. I noted that one of the challenges we are finding in our implementation of these recommendations is an eagerness to jump ahead on the list. I am increasingly recognizing the wisdom of the methodical comprehensive approach recommended in the study. [Click here to further explore the Housing Needs Assessment Policy Framework.](#)

Politic Strategy #8 is the Emergency Tenants Protection Act (ETPA). This rent stabilization program has generated significant discussion among community members. To assist folks interested in learning more about this particular strategy, [we have posted ETPA FAQs on the Village website.](#) This resource highlights a portion of the Housing Needs Assessment report, as well as an update on related Village Board actions.

Connecting with Village Government

Join me for **Open Office Hours** tomorrow, Tuesday from 10am-12noon in the Board of Trustees office at Village Hall. No appointment is necessary, and all are welcome to discuss any topic, concern or idea of interest to you.

Village Manager Debbie McDonnell and I will be conducting a **Community Forum on Thursday, June 7 at the Star of Bethlehem Church**. This is the first of what we anticipate may become a monthly event. This forum is an opportunity to hear from community members in a more relaxed environment than a formal public meeting. No shot

clocks, no tv camera, no sign-in sheet. Just an opportunity for questions and conversation on issues that matter to Ossining residents. Our intention is to schedule a Community Forum for the first Thursday of each month, and to rotate locations to a variety of venues throughout the Village. Attendance is open to all members of the public.

Have a burning question or idea, at any hour of the day or night?... Email me (mayor@villageofossining.org), the Board of Trustees (bot@villageofossining.org) or Village Manager Debbie McDonnell (dmcdonnell@villageofossining.org).

This Week's Legislative Session

May is Building Safety Month. At this week's meeting the Village Board will be voting on a resolution reaffirming our commitment to safe and sustainable structures. To learn more about the public awareness campaign on building safety currently being promoted by the [International Code Council](#), [click here](#). [Click here to read this week's full Legislative Session agenda](#).

Because this week is a Legislative Session, it includes a number of invitations for community members to publicly comment. If you would like to spread the word about an upcoming event, please take up to two minutes during Organizational Announcements. Folks who would like to comment on the resolutions included on that night's agenda may do so for up to four minutes at the start of the Village Board Resolutions portion of the meeting. The meeting closes with an invitation for community members to comment for up to three minutes during Visitor Recognition about any topic of relevance to the common good of the Village. We invite community members to reach out to us by email (bot@villageofossining.org) anytime.

With Regards,



Victoria Gearity, Ossining Mayor



Saturday Cleanup Events

As we celebrate spring's much anticipated arrival, let's also honor our community with some spring cleaning!

To participate in Ossining's Stash the Trash program, visit the Community Center to pick up gloves and bags, and to register your clean-up location. [Click here for details](#).

This year's Riverkeeper Sweep includes two Ossining programs. One of them is a Storm Drain Stenciling initiative between Riverkeeper & the Village of Ossining's Department of Public Works. [Click here to learn more and register](#).



