

GLASSBORO IN THE NEWS

BOROUGH OF GLASSBORO
1 South Main Street
Glassboro, NJ 08028
www.glassboro.org

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*As Rowan Boulevard and Downtown Redevelopment Project
Continues to Create Jobs and Redefine Borough Landscape:*
TWO LONG-SERVING COUNCILMEN RETURNED TO GLASSBORO
GOVERNING BODY DURING ANNUAL REORGANIZATION

GLASSBORO---Glassboro welcomed back two long-serving Councilmen during the annual Borough reorganization meeting Saturday night, January 7.

New Jersey State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney swore in incumbent Councilmen Joe D'Alessandro and Hector Cabezas before a standing-room-only crowd in the courtroom. Included in the audience were family and friends, Freeholder and Glassboro resident Heather Simmons, Rowan University Interim President Dr. Ali Houshmand, Glassboro Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Silverstein and current and former elected officials from Glassboro and surrounding municipalities.

Congressman Rob Andrews also attended the meeting, and noted that the drive through downtown Glassboro has drastically changed thanks to the ongoing Rowan Boulevard and Downtown Redevelopment project. "More than 10 years ago, Mayor Leo McCabe and members of Council came to my office and talked about their dream of physically linking the campus of Rowan University with downtown Glassboro by creating a new road. Today the economic impact of Rowan Boulevard is just beginning to be realized, and the vision and hard work of this governing body make it possible," Andrews said.

"If you have not been to Glassboro for a while, it is quite something to see. As you drive down Route 322 and turn on to Rowan Boulevard you come upon the Whitney Center, where two retailers are

about to open and Rowan honors students are already in residence. You also see the two-year-old student housing complex with almost 1,000 students and the Barnes & Noble bookstore which has been open for more than a year. And this year will mark the start of the next mixed-use building and garage, plus a hotel and conference center,” said Councilman Joe D’Alessandro.

“As a governing body, we are indebted to our state legislators and Congressman Andrews who have believed in Rowan Boulevard from the start and have stepped up to the plate with funding and other assistance that help to make it possible,” said Councilman Hector Cabezas. “I would also like to credit Rowan University Interim President Dr. Ali Houshmand for his vision and support. This project capitalizes on the presence of Rowan in the community, generates ratables that help stabilize taxes for our residents and is creating jobs.”

Council President Tony Fiola, who was selected by Council to serve another term in that post, added that Glassboro will host public meetings later this month to seek input into the creation of a 1.5-acre Town Square at the top of Rowan Boulevard. “The Town Square will be a gathering space that will host activities and events of all sizes and will help spur economic activity for the Boulevard and downtown businesses,” said Fiola.

“I would like to thank Councilmen D’Alessandro and Cabezas for being a part of a Council that is fighting to enhance the quality of life in Glassboro,” Glassboro Mayor Leo McCabe noted in his annual address. “The Rowan Boulevard project and downtown redevelopment are expected to generate \$2 million in annual property taxes within the next five years, and Joe and Hector are pivotal in this. But redevelopment is not the only thing happening in Glassboro.” McCabe pointed out that the Borough continues to explore shared services agreements, which have saved local taxpayers more than \$2.3 million. This year, the Borough is also implementing alternative energy initiatives such as a solar project and use of compressed natural gas, is less expensive and “greener” fuel.

Beginning his 14th year with the governing body, Councilman Joe D’Alessandro is a lifelong Glassboro resident. He serves as Chair of the Public Safety Committee and member of the Public Works Department. He was Instrumental in transitioning police dispatch to county Communication

Center, a move that saves local taxpayers \$400,000 annually. He played a key role in implementing the school resource officer program in Glassboro Schools, enhancing safety and community education programming for local families.

A retired Franklin Township police officer, D'Alessandro is a past member of the National Association of Traffic Accident Reconstructionist and Investigators and is a retired member of P.B.A. local 122. A Little League coach for 14 years, he is also a member of Saint Anthony's Society and was a Zoning Board member from 1996-98. He and his wife Annamarie have three children and one grandson.

_____ Councilman Hector Cabezas is a 21-year resident of Glassboro serving his eighth year as Councilman. He is Chair of the Health, Welfare & Recreation Committee, member of Highway and Finance Committees and Liaison to the Glassboro Board of Education. Cabezas played a pivotal role in securing shared services agreements with Gloucester County and Borough of Clayton for EMS, stormwater management and trash removal, cutting more than 12 cents off the local purpose tax.

Cabezas was a member of the Glassboro Board of Education from 1998-2004. He coached Glassboro Little League for 10 years and Park & Recreation soccer and basketball for 14 years. He is a member of St. Bridget Church and St. Anthony's Society and formerly worked with Boy Scouts Pack 289. He and wife Alina have three children.



Caption for "D'Alessandro Reorg.jpg":

State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney administers the Oath of Office to Glassboro Councilman Joe D'Alessandro as his wife Annamarie holds the Bible. They are flanked by sons Nick and Dominic and grandson Joe.



Caption for “Cabezas Reorg.jpg”

Glassboro Councilman Hector Cabezas is sworn in to another term by State Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney as wife Alina and son Andrew look on and daughter Brianna holds the Bible.

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