

Mayor Mario M. Kranjac

New Year Address 2023

Happy New Year, good afternoon and welcome to the Englewood Cliffs Annual Reorganization Meeting.

Congratulations to our new Council Members and their families, and thank you to those who served and have now left the Council. This marks my eighth year as Mayor and I look forward to working with everyone to complete what I started.

I am grateful and blessed to have the honor of governing one of the most innovative towns in the best country in the world. Englewood Cliffs has now become the center of New Jersey's innovation. We're home to some of the most powerful and innovative companies in the world, and our multi-ethnic and proud constituents make our community the greatest place in New Jersey to live, work, and raise a family.

I'm deeply honored to have helped our community bounce back from the pandemic and chart a new and prosperous course in 2022 and 2023 that will be even better. Our community represents the Spirit of America. We're diverse and innovative, and even in the threat of great adversity, we are able to come out even stronger. The same cannot be said for many communities in New Jersey or the Tri State area, which is why I am incredibly proud to serve you all as Mayor.

2023 will be a defining year for Englewood Cliffs. We have the opportunity to chart a course for our community that continues to set us apart from other New Jersey communities who are currently struggling mostly due to the failed policies of our State and Federal Government. They face the high costs of inflation and energy. They see businesses tightening their belts as a recession looms and they watch as many of their community members have lost the buying power of their wages and lose their jobs as economic strife affects our State.

In Englewood Cliffs, I have always charted a different path. A path that puts our community first. I have continued as a pro-business borough, which is why we've been blessed by so many great global companies still calling our borough home, and in 2023, we can capitalize on the strengths of our community to empower our local families.

There's so much to be worried about in a world and country that is quickly becoming a country run and governed by a select and powerful few people, propped up by the corrupt will and laziness of the news media. And while this can often seem discouraging and frustrating, we can fix this on the local level: by focusing on what is directly happening in our community and on what affects our families every single day: good government, good schools, good parks, good roads, and good jobs.

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New Jersey has quickly become a state that has turned the hardworking taxpayer into a marginalized group of second class citizens who have been silenced by their government officials and news outlets. The last two years have shown us that President Biden, Governor Murphy, Senators Menendez and Booker, Congressmen Pascrell and Gottheimer State Senator Johnson, and Assembly woman Ellen Park have prioritized not your needs but the needs of others – of non-working, non-tax paying, non-citizen individuals who profit off the backs of hardworking New Jersey families. In Englewood Cliffs, we chart our own path treating each individual community member equally and judging our residents by their merits – and not by the color of their skin or class like many of our federal and state politicians prefer to do. They get away with it in partnership with the national news media, the Bergen Record and the Star Ledger.

In Englewood Cliffs, we will continue to always be a welcoming community which puts the needs of our residents first – rather than pitting them against each other. That’s what I was elected to do.

And I will continue this mission in our schools where the divisive and racist critical race theory embraced by Governor Murphy and his accolades has been rejected. This dangerous doctrine not only pits our children against each other, it discourages meritocracy and seeks to wrap children into a lifelong status of victimhood. In Englewood Cliffs, we soundly reject that ideology, and we believe that all children, regardless of their skin color or upbringing, have the ability to achieve greatness — especially in our community, in our country, and in neighboring New York City which has provided opportunity to so many across the world.

We owe it to our children and grandchildren to stop this destructive cultural propaganda that is eating away at the American spirit. If we destroy the spirit and the promise of America, we destroy America, and all that goes with it. We can’t fix America without fixing our towns first. Now that the un-American agenda has been exposed, I hope other Mayors and towns stand up with me to preserve America for our children and grandchildren.

We’ve stopped critical race theory here in Englewood Cliffs and it's imperative that we stop these teachings in New Jersey and in other states despite Governor Murphy’s and our legislators’ pandering to the extreme left wing elements of our society. We need to share the message that children have a better chance of learning to succeed in America, when they first believe in America. We cannot expect children to succeed when they are first taught they cannot. When I said something similar last year, the only people objecting were those who had no children attending our schools since theirs were either in private schools or older.

We will continue to give parents a seat at the table so they are active participants in the education of their children rather than anxious and silenced bystanders – after-all it is their table and their

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children. And we will ensure that our teachers work directly with our parents rather than concealing information from them.

Without strong schools and a strong upbringing for our kids, our community has no future. Investing in this is of utmost importance and we will work tirelessly to ensure that our children are receiving a top class education without being indoctrinated by outside groups and forces who don't have our children's best interests at heart. We will always prioritize excellence and achievement and ensure that we are building today's brightest leaders who will work together to support our community and the future of Englewood Cliffs.

We'll continue to focus on creating strong families in Englewood Cliffs that support each other and stand strong together. So much of our media and entertainment nowadays tears at the fabric of the family unit. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, but the family is the building block of a strong society. Rather than tearing families apart like many political and cultural movements seek to do, we will work to unite the family in Englewood Cliffs and build strong foundational blocks for families to grow within our community.

In 2023, in Englewood Cliffs, I'll continue to support the American dream and all that comes with it. I will continue to put America and our community first rather than the perverse agendas of those who seek to undermine our country and our community. We'll reject the blatant undermining of modern civil society, whether that's our State's promotion of non-cash bail for violent and serious offenders or the State's endorsement of further normalizing deviant and unlawful behavior. I will continue to not allow the rejection of our deep-rooted American values to have a home in our community.

Englewood Cliffs has overcome great challenges and we have an incredible opportunity to continue to chart our own path. We did it during COVID when we prioritized allowing our community members and businesses to make their own decisions, and we will continue to support the individual rights of our families and our businesses.

I've prioritized making Englewood Cliffs one of the safest places to raise a family in the New York City metro area, and we will continue that commitment. I support our police, our firefighters, and those who work to keep our community safe, and I reject the dangerous ideology that demonizes their hard work and commitment to our borough. I will try to get our Council to agree with me. Under the new leadership of Chief Henkelman, our police department has returned to its former highly professional status without the interference of politics or corruption. It wasn't easy or pleasant to overcome the suspect past ECPD leadership, and I thank Chief Henkelman and all officer of the Englewood Cliffs Police Department for working with me.

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I will continue trying to get our Council to stop supporting policies that are destructive to America.

The past several years have been incredibly challenging for our nation and our world, but the strength of our families and businesses allows us to overcome.

As we move forward into a new and exciting year, it's important that we focus on what unites us: our families, our innovative town, and our beautiful community, in order to restore our State of New Jersey, and our exceptional nation.

This challenge of our traditions, our values, our belief that all members of the Englewood Cliffs community can achieve their dreams, is just another challenge we must face together. Englewood Cliffs will overcome this challenge because we believe in the American dream. I look forward to continuing our standards of excellence in 2023. Englewood Cliffs will remain the best place in America to live, to work and to grow.

I wish you and your families a happy 2023 and I look forward to working with you all for a successful and prosperous New Year.