

**EDISON MAYOR THOMAS LANKEY**  
**INAUGURAL ADDRESS — Jan. 1, 2014**

Thank you for taking time from your New Year's celebration to be here today. I especially want to thank my mother, my sons Kyle & Tom, and Deb, for their understanding and support.

I want to also thank my other family members, friends, supporters, campaign workers, township employees, transition team members, and all residents of Edison. You are the reason we have come this far and you will be instrumental in moving Edison forward.

New Year's Day is a day for fresh starts and new beginnings. Today, Edison is making a fresh start.

To quote Bruce Springsteen, "we are here with a mission, we are here with a purpose" our purpose is clear, our mission is challenging.

Today, we embark on making Edison a better place to live and work.

How will we do this? Cooperation and teamwork.

Starting today, decisions will not be made in a vacuum, but with input and collaboration from all.

Make no mistake about it: Anyone who knows me is aware that I will listen to advice and opinions from many sources. I will careful consideration what I hear. But, final decisions will be my decisions, based on what is best for the residents of Edison Township.

Today, politics ends. The business of running our township begins. We will work together with:

- the Township Council
- our Professional Staff
- our Township Employees
- committee members from both parties
- and our residents

We will represent true cooperation and teamwork.

Thomas Edison once said, "The object of all work is production and accomplishment and to either of these ends, there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence, and honest purpose, as well as perspiration. Seeming to do is not doing".

We must move Edison into the 21st Century.

You have heard me talk about the need for zero-based budgeting. Well, we need to now zero-base our township and the operations of Town Hall. To streamline our operations and refocus effort, we must develop:

- Short-term and long-term strategic plans

- Practical goals and objectives
- New policies, procedures and ordinances

We must not let what is, prevent what can be. We cannot allow outdated ways of doing things prevent future success. Thomas Edison said, "Hell, there are no rules here. We are trying to accomplish something."

We will have our share of successes and face our share of challenges. We cannot be deterred by challenges or failures. We must only concentrate on moving forward.

We begin with many challenges: A depleted surplus, massive tax appeals, an outdated infrastructure, and a government philosophy from the 20th Century.

My administration will hit the ground running. We will work tirelessly to build a revenue-base through smart economic development.

Four years ago, I told you about an experience at a Bruce Springsteen concert. Bruce told a story before performing "My Hometown," about Bruce's father riding him on his lap in a car to show him the town where they were living.

Bruce had children of his own now. His town was struggling. He was contemplating moving his wife and kids to another town. Ultimately, he stayed and drove his own son through the same town and tells the child: "This is your hometown."

The story describes people moving out due to political and economic changes that deteriorated Bruce Springsteen's hometown. He describes the efforts, teamwork and dedication necessary to move his hometown forward. He ended this story with the line: "Nobody wins unless everybody wins."

I believe that statement. I believe in Edison. So, let me assure you again: Today, Edison Township makes a fresh start. If we work together, we can make Edison the great town it is destined to be.

I know you all love this town. So do I. Together let's commit to make Edison a place that our children and grandchildren can live, prosper and be proud to call their hometown.

In conclusion, please enjoy the holiday today. Tomorrow our work together begins. Thank you again. Let's walk forward together with high hope!

###