



A Chat with Aaron Hirsch

Republican Candidate in the June 6th Primary

Tell us a bit about yourself. Where did you grow up?

I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. At the age of six, I started visiting my married sister in Lakewood. I have very fond memories of Lakewood from when I was a child. I especially loved seeing the farmland and the pastures for horses on Squankum Rd. and the beautiful lake. It was a feast for the eyes—especially for a kid used to seeing the concrete of Boro Park. In 2013, I moved to Lakewood with my family. We liked the idea of open space, green grass, safe streets, and good schools.

I founded my own business 11 years ago, which gave me an understanding of budgeting and fiscal management. I currently work with many government agencies.

Why did you decide to get involved in Lakewood politics?

I have always had a passion for politics. My family has always discussed politics in great detail. As soon as I was old enough to vote, I made sure to register. I have only missed one primary election in my adult life.

This year is an especially important voting year. The Township Committee will be voting on the new Master Plan for Lakewood. The current Master Plan (which is a ten-year projection of where the Township hopes to grow/change) is not sustainable. Currently, the Township is at around 120,000 people. But the current Master Plan is projecting an increase of people to 230,000 in the next 13 years. The current plan doesn't have enough consideration for the basics such as roads, schools and safety. If you think the situation in Lakewood is tough now, imagine this: the population doubled with the same infrastructure and maybe a few more traffic lights.

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What are your concerns and goals?

I have several ideas that I'd like to implement.

I would like to see more communication between the different township committees and departments.

Infrastructure troubles must be addressed. In other townships in NJ, the local government requires that the builders and developers do traffic studies and submit fiscal impact statements, amongst other requirements. In other towns, the traffic study is performed by the Township and paid for by the applicant, which makes perfect sense. In Lakewood, it's not. We allow an applicant to hire his own traffic study firm and then we wonder why our roads look the way they do.

More houses don't necessarily mean more revenue for the township in the form of property taxes. More overcrowding means more people, more cars, an impact on current businesses, and a potential for new ones. It means a need for new roads, more wear and tear on current roads, and a need for schools and transportation, trash pickup, and other taxpayer-funded services. Which is all great, but who is paying for this?

Our property taxes will continue to go up to pay for what these private developments should have paid for in the first place. The taxpayers are forced to foot the bill to open that road, or put in that stop light, or make a turning lane. It's not fair to them.

I have decided to step up and try to put some common sense into how things are being run.

So, please, if you have ideas or concerns that you want addressed, please contact me. Either in person, or through my website. And I cannot stress enough how vital it is for everyone to make sure to come out to vote in the Primary June 6, 2017 and vote Aaron Hirsch!

For more information about me and my plans, visit my website: aaronhirsch.org.

