



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayors Newsletter July 2018

The Declaration of Independence's Guide to Good Government

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends,

It's a rainy Fourth of July morning and I, like many residents, am saddened at the cancellation of the City's parade and activities. The parade has been a great patriotic tradition in our community and I had been practicing my Miss America wave and perfecting my candy throwing aim. In addition to the traditions of flag waving, parades, hot dogs and fireworks, the Fourth of July is also a time to reflect upon the founding values of our Country. The still applicable text of the Declaration of Independence sheds light on our core principles, including the creation and role of government.

As many of us remember from history and civics lessons, the Fourth of July holiday celebrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia in 1776. The Declaration announced that the thirteen American colonies then at war with the Kingdom of Great Britain would regard themselves as thirteen independent sovereign states no longer under British rule. The Declaration's famous preamble states "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." As per the Declaration, authority is delegated to a government to provide a distinct set of services for the people.

This governmental doctrine espoused by the Declaration, is a foundational block for my own view of government. I believe that a government must understand the responsibility it has received and exercise its authority effectively and prudently. In other words, government must know what it is supposed to do, do it right and not stray from its fundamental purpose. Governments, both small and large fail when they lose sight of their core functions and fail to faithfully execute those functions. We see the results of cities that forsake that policy. Whether it be the inability of a city to provide safe drinking water, to protect its citizens from crime or the inability to provide safe roads for travel, these are all instances of government not living up to its charge from the people who entrusted it with authority.

In Jersey Village, our government has been entrusted with the core functions of providing public safety, providing a high level of public works and infrastructure and providing a quality of life through a parks system and promotion of economic development. For public safety, we increased the compensation and equipment for our first responders. Flood mitigation is a component of public safety and we continue to allocate millions of dollars to develop a flood protection apparatus. Our commitment to public works is evidenced by authorizing a new public works building so our workers have a safe and clean environment for equipment and materials. The City's dedication to continued quality of life can be seen in improved parks, a new splash pad and clubhouse / meeting center at Jersey Meadow golf course.

These are just some examples of how Jersey Village adheres to principals of good government and to the broader doctrine of a duty to the governed. There are many more exciting initiatives that our City is working on that I look forward to sharing with friends and neighbors in newsletters to come.

All the Best,

Justin Ray
Mayor
Jersey Village, Texas