

May 2016:

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One of the most rewarding aspects of being President of the NACC is the wonderful relationships you make with those in your community, those whose interests lie first in the overall well-being and improving the quality of life in and around Northampton.

With that in mind, of the many people I've had the privilege to work alongside of in building a better business community here in Northampton, none ranks higher than the great relationship I have with our Northampton Borough Manager, Mr. Gene Zarayko.

At the end of May though, we will be saying a profound "Thank You" to this true community-minded, well respected and all-around good guy ... as our "**Newly -Retired**" Borough Manager, Gene Zarayko.

Yes, after a very distinguished 32 year career with the Borough, Gene is heading off to what we can only hope and wish are many very happy and fulfilling retirement years. Gene started with the Borough in 1984 as a Borough Councilman, moving into the job as Borough Manager in 1986. Since that time, the Borough has grown and evolved in many ways, but the high level of services provided by the Boroughs Street Crews and employees under Gene's watch has always been first class.

Though the years when planning our Northampton Historic Street Fair, Gene was always gracious in assisting us by providing Street Crew help and setting up the park benches and Band Shell. He was that way with all the organizations in town. "Community First" was a true part of his character.

I will certainly miss dropping by Borough Hall to Chat with Gene, catching up on all the events and progress going on in and around town... alerting me to any new business prospects looking at setting up shop here ... or just having some great conversations about our shared Ukrainian heritage. Good times.

So Mr. Zarayko, on behalf of our NACC Board and all of our members ... we wholeheartedly wish you a very "Happy and Healthy Retirement" and congratulate you on a "job well done. You will certainly be missed, Gene !!