



# Mayor's Newsletter

November 2024

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Mayor Bobby Warren - [bwarren@jerseyvillagetx.com](mailto:bwarren@jerseyvillagetx.com)

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

All of the ideas, proposals, and policies our city council develops would amount to nothing without the incredible dedication of Jersey Village's city employees. I was recently informed that two of our longest-serving and most respected members of our city staff will be retiring early next year.

Isabel Kato, our Finance Director, has served Jersey Village with unwavering commitment for over 19 years. Under her leadership, our city has earned the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association every single year since she joined, representing the vast majority of the city's remarkable 24-year streak of earning this recognition. Additionally, during her tenure, the Texas Comptroller's Office has awarded Jersey Village five out of a possible six Transparency Stars for our financial reporting – a distinction shared by only 18 cities in Texas.

Isabel's expertise and professionalism have been particularly indispensable each year as we set the city's budget. Through the years, dozens of council members have benefited from her deep knowledge of municipal finance. Before joining Jersey Village, she served as the Assistant City Controller for the City of Houston and previously worked in the finance department of the City of Miami.

Alongside Isabel, our City Secretary, Lorri Coody, has also announced her retirement after nearly 17 years of dedicated service to Jersey Village. Many may not realize the full scope of responsibilities Lorri manages, from administering elections and maintaining city records to overseeing open records requests and preparing agendas, ordinances, resolutions, and minutes for city council and committee meetings. Every council member who has worked with Lorri can attest to her meticulous attention to detail and her irreplaceable contributions to our city.

One of Lorri's "secret weapons" in her role has been her unique understanding of elected officials—an insight she gained during her own time as an elected official. Lorri served as the District Clerk for Austin County, Texas, from 1978 to 1995 before leaving elected office to serve as the Municipal Court Clerk for the City of Galveston. Prior to being appointed as city secretary for Jersey Village, Lorri served as the city clerk for the City of Baytown.

Fittingly, both Isabel and Lorri will retire on the same day, February 7, 2025. It has been a joy and privilege to work alongside each of them during my seven years on the city council. I wish them both the very best as they prepare to begin a well-deserved retirement.

Your neighbor,

Bobby Warren  
Mayor