

January 16, 2018

Re: New Governor and Lieutenant Governor Take the Reins in Trenton

Dear Mayor:

Governor Phil Murphy was sworn in today to begin his service to the people of New Jersey. According to the official list, he became the 56th person to be so honored, and the 40th to have been given that office by popular election. Shortly before his inauguration, NJ Supreme Court Chief Justice Stu Rabner administered the oath to New Jersey's second Lieutenant Governor, former Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver.

We congratulate Governor Murphy and Lieutenant Governor Oliver. We wish them every success and stand ready to work with them to make our State the best that it can be.

The ceremony, which featured short speeches by the Governor's children and New Jersey's new First Lady, Tammy Murphy was highlighted by the Inaugural Addresses of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor.

Lieutenant Governor Oliver spoke of her passion for public service, and of the lessons learned during her tenure in the Legislature and, citing the importance of bipartisanship for consistent progress. Focusing on her collateral duties as the new Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, she promised cooperation with New Jersey local officials, providing safe and affordable housing for poor and middle-class families, and ensuring a return of the remaining victims of SuperStorm Sandy to permanent residences.

Governor Murphy, who took the oath on the Fitzgerald Family Bible – the same Bible used in 1961 for the Inauguration of President John F. Kennedy - gave thanks to his family for their love, patience and support, and to his predecessors in the Governor's Office for their courtesies and advice. He praised former Governor Christie and Lieutenant Governor Guadagno for their service to the people of the State.

He noted his commitment to assembling a talented and diverse Cabinet, reflecting the talent and diversity of our State.

Governor Murphy went on to outline a progressive agenda including funding for Planned Parenthood, an increased minimum wage, wage equity and marijuana legalization. He went on to promise opposition to federal policies that are detrimental to our State and our citizens, and that would benefit special interests. On that topic, he thanked our Congressional Delegation, as well as former Governor Christie, for their bipartisan opposition to opening our coast to oil and gas drilling.

Hard choices face the new Administration. We welcome the opportunity to form a real partnership to move New Jersey forward.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Darcy, CAE
Executive Director