

## **Francine A. Gargano, Esq. Mayoral Candidate**

### **Team North Plainfield**

#### **Platform**

##### **Fiscal Responsibility**

North Plainfield has had the highest tax rate in Somerset County for more than 5 years. Our Team **North Plainfield** will sift through all of the township financial records to make a forensic analysis of taxpayer funds in order to reduce them where possible and make ensure the proper use of these funds for the greatest benefit of our community. As taxpayers, ourselves, we are always concerned about the best means available for reducing taxes in North Plainfield wherever possible.

##### **Law and Order**

Crime in North Plainfield is a cause of distress for all of its residents. Trespassing, drug use, and homes and autos being burglarized or vandalized are some of the top complaints from residents. North Plainfield currently has abandoned the “Broken Window Theory,” which links incivility, visible signs of disorder and anti-social behavior to crimes. For example, abandoned buildings, graffiti, loitering, fist fights, parking on lawns, etc. will lead to bigger problems and criminal behavior. This Theory will become the cornerstone for Law and Order under our Administration. Also, the Bail Reform changes have made it difficult, if not impossible, for the police to get crime under control. This Administration will be a very active voice for you with the County and State representatives in this and other areas.

##### **Property Maintenance and Preservation of our Housing Stock**

We will work to ensure that there will not be a repeat of the fire on Grove Street, causing the death of a resident, which was due to a lack of both monitored illegal housing activity and code enforcement. Our North Plainfield Team knows the value and extreme importance our residents place on their homes. We will strive to improve these values by enforcement of building and property maintenance codes.

##### **Foreclosure Assistance:**

Francine A. Gargano, along with Team North Plainfield, listen to the people of North Plainfield not with their ears but with their hearts. Many of these good people need help as they face foreclosure due to recent financial and economic impacts. In order to address this problem a Volunteer Foreclosure Team will be established to be of assistance.

##### **Recreation for Children and Adults**

North Plainfield is a small community whose residents enjoy many recreational activities. We provide recreation programs for kids and adults such as summer concerts, parades and more. Our Team will work to continue this tradition and create even more programs for the benefit of our residents.

## **Historic Preservation**

North Plainfield was settled before the American Revolution. It has a rich history, beautiful buildings, the Washington Park Historic District, Vermeule Mansion, and a “downtown” area which must be preserved. We have seen the deterioration of our history with buildings being razed, laws changed that no longer protect our homes, removal of the street markers and a general attitude that is at the heart of destruction to the history of the heart of North Plainfield, which is its rich history. This town's great history needs to be preserved for future generations and our Team North Plainfield will ensure that it happens through preservation laws, education, planning and by seeking grants for restoration.