

Township of Hillside: Council to Community Newsletter



Mid-Year Legislative Update



Dr. Angela R. Garretson
Council President
2nd Ward

Dear Hillside Friends,

On behalf of the Township of Hillside Municipal Council, I am pleased to share an overview of our legislative work over the past six months. As Council President, I have set forth four priorities to guide this Council: building the structure that allows good government to function, deepening engagement with residents, holding ourselves accountable to the community's trust, and strengthening the operations that move Hillside toward the efficient, responsive government you deserve.

As your elected legislators, we legislate, investigate, appropriate, and advocate. Since January, your Council has convened 12 meetings, passed 120+ resolutions, and enacted 17 new ordinances into law. This newsletter is one more way we keep you informed and invited into the process, because every decision we make is made with you in mind.

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela R. Garretson".

Dr. Angela R. Garretson,
Council President



David Feuerstein
Vice President
4th Ward



Lisa Bonanno
At-Large



George L. Cook III
1st Ward



Armando DaSilva
At-Large



Daryl Joyner
3rd Ward



Calvin Lofton
At-Large

By The Numbers: January 2026 - June 2026

120+

**Resolutions
Passed**

17

**New Laws
Enacted**

20

**Ordinances
Introduced**

23

**Ceremonial
Recognitions**

12

**Meetings
Conducted**

2026 Legislative Milestones & Accomplishments



January: New Mayor and Council Installation

The year began with the Reorganization Meeting on January 15 at Hillside High School, oaths of office were administered to newly elected officials: **Mayor Andrea Hyatt**, **Dr. Angela Garretson** (Ward 2), **Calvin Lofton** (At-Large), **Lisa Bonanno** (At-Large), and **Armando DaSilva** (At-Large). The Council unanimously selected **Dr. Angela Garretson** as Council President and **David Feuerstein** as Council Vice President. Resolution R-26-001 filled the Ward 1 vacancy, seating **George L. Cook III**.

Other Council Highlights: Muslim Heritage Month, National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and International Holocaust Remembrance Day

February: Appointments & Black History Observance

The February 10 meeting adopted 24 resolutions that established the township's professional services network for 2026. The February 24 meeting confirmed the Library Board of Trustees, the Planning Board appointees, and authorized the Hillside Municipal Alliance Strategic Plan grant submission.

During the council meeting, the township marked the Centennial Black History Month 2026 with a Heritage Awards presentation, honoring seven community members whose contributions reflect the depth of Hillside's African American legacy.

Photos of Honorees In clockwise order, From top picture: Mayor Andrea Hyatt and Council President Dr. Angela Garretson with Rosalia L. Clegg, Queenie King, and Barbara George Johnson; Arthur Garrett with Councilman George Cook; Queenie King with Councilman Calvin Lofton; Barbara George Johnson with Council Vice President David Feuerstein; Rosalia L. Clegg with Councilwoman Lisa Bonanno; Nicole Graves-Watson with Councilman Armando Dasilva; Marc Ermlinal with Councilman Daryl Joyner.



March: Empowering Entrepreneurs & More

Every Friday during Women's History Month, Hillside HerStory spotlighted local women business owners on social media, amplifying Hillside's entrepreneurial women.

Council also voted for the overnight truck/bus parking prohibition and zoning permit fee update into law, approved lawsuit settlements for retiring employees, and authorized the Seton Hall Public Nursing Agreement (3-year term).

Other Council Highlights: Support for County Federal Funding/Traffic Signals and recognized St. Patrick's Day.



Businesses, clockwise:
Yara Marin, Revive Salon & Spa;
Trupti Trivedi, Two Lucky Convenience & Deli;
Toni Curvin, EA, Curvin & Curvin Accountants;
Liz Demkin, United Forms Finishing Co.

April: Township 113th Anniversary & Innovations

The Council authorized the purchase of Police Body & Fleet Camera Equipment to meet New Jersey Attorney General guidelines, along with a Comprehensive Technology Risk & Readiness Assessment. The Council also appointed a Fire Official for the Township.



At the April 28th council meeting, the Council honored Hillside's 113th Anniversary. Celebrations continued on April 29th with a town wide art project featuring contributions from the Board of Education, Town Council, Administration, union leaders, staff, residents, and supporters. Community tables were staffed by the Clerk's and Congresswoman McIver's offices, with Girl Scouts selling cookies and volunteers supporting the evening's activities.

Other Council Highlights: Earth Day, Autism Awareness Month, and recognition of Hillside Innovation Academy 8th grader **Uwaila Agheyisi** for winning the Stock Market Challenge, hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Zeta Nu Lambda Chapter.

Portions of the art tapestry



May: Council Takes More Action

The Council awarded Heyer, Gruel & Associates PA the Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) 5-Year Development Agreement, GovPilot the tech contract, and Rayco Inc. the website redevelopment. Steps have also begun toward launching the ordinance review process, a comprehensive update of Hillside's municipal code to improve quality of life matters. Ordinances adopted addressed on-street vehicle repair, commercial parking, and designated locations for food trucks.



Top: Hillside Walking Club members receiving a certificate from the Council.



The Hillside Walking Club was recognized as part of National Walking Month. This group formed organically at the Hillside Senior Center post-Covid and membership continues to grow.



Other Council Highlights:

The month covered Small Business, National Pet, Haitian Independence, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage, Jewish American Heritage, and Police Officers Memorial Day.



June: Mid-Year Point

The Council heard two major presentations this month: an update on the **New Library, opening February 2027**, and the **Administration's 2026 Budget Update**, ahead of budget introduction at a special meeting in July. We also authorized a grant proposal for a Technology Infrastructure & Efficiency Study to support the Department of Public Works and other Township departments. With the year's midpoint here, the Council completed a six-month review of legislative operations and set priorities for the months ahead.

June also brought several recognitions: Pride Month, Immigrant Heritage Month, and a Portuguese Flag Raising, culminating in a township Juneteenth event on June 20th.

Get Involved!

In 2026, more than 80 Hillside residents signed up to get involved with their local government. We're just getting started. Some residents were appointed to boards and committees with varying terms. Others chose to get involved by attending council meetings in person or watching them live online on YouTube and Facebook, or supporting events. Have a comment? Leave a message with your elected officials or the Clerk's Office for the Council President and members. Check the town calendar or website for department and township events.

Branches of Municipal Government

The Administration, Executive Branch

The Mayor leads the Township's administrative functions and appoints department heads, subject to Council approval. The Business Administrator oversees daily operations, and the Chief Financial Officer manages fiscal affairs and prepares the proposed annual budget for Council review. Department directors run municipal services and attend monthly Council meetings to report updates and address concerns. The Town Attorney provides legal guidance to the Township.

The Council, Legislative Branch

The Council serves as a balance to the Administration, reviewing and approving budgets, ordinances, and resolutions, setting policy, overseeing town spending, and advocating for the needs of Hillside. The Legislative Research Officer manages legislative research for the Council. The Municipal Clerk's Office maintains official records, administers elections, and supports Council boards and meetings. The Council also hosts presentations and ceremonial resolutions during meetings.

The Municipal Court, Judicial Branch

The Mayor, with Council approval, appoints the Judge and Prosecutor, preserving the Court's independence in handling ordinance violations, traffic matters, and other municipal offenses. A Court Administrator manages case filings, scheduling, and courtroom records. The Municipal Prosecutor represents the Township in court proceedings, and due process is ensured for all individuals who appear before the Court.



Special Notice to Taxpayers

The Union County Board of Taxation has ordered Hillside to conduct a full revaluation of its property tax base. The Mayor and Council requested an extension as our township continues to bounce back from the significant municipal cost increases left by the previous administration.

What is a revaluation? A revaluation is a comprehensive reassessment of all properties in the township to ensure they are taxed at fair and accurate market value. For more information, contact the Clerk's Office to obtain a copy of the official letter.

Know Your Ward

First Ward:

George L. Cook III
gcook@hillsidenj.us

Second Ward

Dr. Angela R. Garretson
Council President
agarretson@hillsidenj.us

Third Ward

Daryl Joyner
djoyner@hillsidenj.us

Fourth Ward

David Feuerstein
Council Vice President
dfeuerstein@hillsidenj.us

At-Large

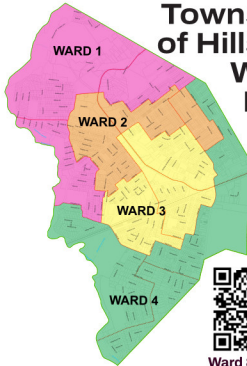
Lisa Bonanno
lbonanno@hillsidenj.us

At-Large

Armando Dasilva
adasilva@hillsidenj.us

At-Large

Calvin Lofton
clofton@hillsidenj.us



Township of Hillside Ward Map



**Ward & Voting
Information**

Council Calendar

Meeting Days	Major Observances & Events
July Special Meeting: 14th	Independence Day America 250 th Celebration
August 11 th , 25 th	Caribbean Heritage Month National Night Out
September 8 th , 22 nd	Hispanic Heritage Month Labor Day
October 13 th , 27 th	Breast Cancer Awareness Italian/German Heritage
November 10 th , 24 th	Veterans Day Election Day Thanksgiving
December 8 th , 22 nd	Christmas, Hanukkah, & Kwanzaa

All meetings are open to the public. Residents may speak for up to three (3) minutes during public comment. Please state your name and address for the record.