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For Immediate Release:

## ***Morristown Mayor holds meeting with local clergy and community leaders***

MORRISTOWN - On the morning of February 15, Morristown Mayor Timothy Dougherty hosted a forum for local clergy and faith-based leaders to discuss the topic of immigration. Leaders from over 15 local religious institutions were in attendance. The meeting was also attended by Morristown Council President Stefan Armington, Mayor Timothy Dougherty and representatives from the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, Wind of the Spirit, and NJ Together.

In an invitation to the meeting, the Morris Area Interfaith Clergy Council wrote, "The Town of Morristown is proud to be diverse and welcoming, and the gravity of recent events and policy decisions at the federal level offer an opportunity for us to come together as a community to contend with these issues."

The group discussed several topics affecting the immigrant community, including common misconceptions about undocumented residents, how Fair and Welcoming policies have impacted other communities, and how the NJ Attorney General Guidelines apply to municipal policing relative to immigration status. The group also discussed creating a series of public forums where every resident can have a voice in crafting policies that reflect the spirit and interests of Morristown. While referencing the recent executive orders on immigration issued by President Donald Trump, Mayor Dougherty expressed a desire to create strategies to address the consequences of these policies on Morristown's community.

The meeting resulted in the formation of a subcommittee of the Morris Area Interfaith Clergy Council to further continue the discussion within the community. The Clergy Council is an interfaith group of clergy and congregational representatives who bring together the diverse congregations in Morristown and the surrounding area. The subcommittee will include Mayor Dougherty and Morristown Business Administrator Jillian Barrick, who will work in tandem with the Clergy Council to coordinate the series of public forums in the upcoming months.

After the meeting, Mayor Dougherty added, "All of Morristown's residents deserve a secure environment to raise their families, go to work, and contribute to society without fear". He

continued, "Now more than ever, it is important for all of Morristown's community leaders to work together".



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