

The  
**WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS**  
celebrates

# **IRISH HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH**

**Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Live streamed from the Board Chamber  
<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com>

## **PROGRAM**

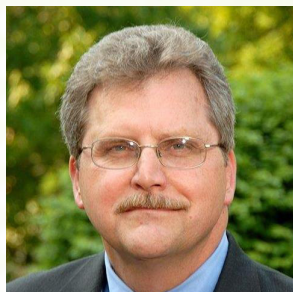
**Welcoming Remarks & Acknowledgements**  
Legislator Benjamin Boykin II, Chairman

### **Presentation of Proclamations**



**HILARY BEIRNE**

Presented by Legislator Kitley Covill



**DENNIS POWER**

Presented by Legislator Benjamin Boykin II, Chairman

**Benjamin Boykin II**  
*Board Chair*  
Legislator, 5th District

**Colin D. Smith**  
Legislator, 1st District

**Kitley S. Covill**  
Legislator, 2nd District

**Margaret A. Cunzio**  
*Minority Leader*  
Legislator, 3rd District

**Vedat Gashi**  
Legislator, 4th District

**Nancy E. Barr**  
Legislator, 6th District

**Catherine F. Parker**  
Legislator, 7th District

**Alfreda A. Williams**  
*Vice Chair*  
Legislator, 8th District

**Catherine Borgia**  
Legislator, 9th District

**Damon R. Maher**  
Legislator, 10th District

**Terry Clements**  
Legislator, 11th District

**MaryJane Shimsky**  
*Majority Leader*  
Legislator, 12th District

**Tyrae Woodson-Samuels**  
Legislator, 13th District

**David J. Tubiolo**  
Legislator, 14th District

**Ruth Walter**  
Legislator, 15th District

**Christopher A. Johnson**  
*Majority Whip*  
Legislator, 16th District

**José I. Alvarado**  
Legislator, 17th District





**HILARY BEIRNE** was born one of ten children in Boyle, Co Roscommon, Ireland, where he was raised and educated. Prior to emigrating from Ireland, Mr. Beirne worked as an Agricultural Advisor with O'Hare Animal Feeds. He came to the United States in 1988 and joined the faculty at Monsignor Scanlon High School in the Bronx as a science teacher and Department Chair for 13 years. He joined the faculty at Eastchester High School in 2001, where he has taught science for the past 20 years. Mr. Beirne continued his education in New York, where he received numerous academic awards. In 1997, Mr. Beirne graduated Suma Cum Laude from Hunter College with a Master's Degree of Science in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences.

Hilary Beirne is well known and respected in the Tri-State area and Ireland for his work on behalf of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Irish community, Ireland and more recently on behalf of the "Fighting 69th Regiment". As the former Executive Secretary of the NYC Parade for over 15 years and as its current Chief Administration Officer, he is responsible for the smooth running of all aspects of the Parade. He is one of the Parade's press and media representatives, and brought the Parade into the modern technological era by initiating the Parade's website, and by working with NBC to live stream the Parade from Fifth Avenue. He is responsible for the coordination of Parade press announcements, press releases and production of many of the Parade's publications.

In 2013, Mr. Beirne along with a small group of like-minded Irish Americans founded the New York City St. Patrick's Day Foundation, of which he is Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Foundation has been hugely successful in its mission to financially support the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade through their fundraising, educational scholarship programs and outreach to the broader community in New York and Ireland.

Hilary Beirne is married to Marguerite (nee Carvajal) Beirne, Commissioner of Technology/C.I.O. for Westchester County. They have resided with their son, Connor, in Larchmont for the past 22 years.



**DENNIS J. POWER** has a strong connection to his Irish heritage. His paternal great-grandparents emigrated from County Waterford, Ireland in the late 1800's, and his maternal grandparents hailed from County Cork in the early 1900's. He developed an appreciation for Irish music from his early days of growing up in the Bronx. Dennis sang with a folk group in the early 1960's and began performing at coffeehouses and Irish pubs throughout the NY metropolitan area. He has been a long time performer at the White Plains Rotary Club's annual Irish luncheon and also at other St. Patrick's Day community events. In 1988, he founded and performed for over 15 years at the annual "Friendly Gathering," the County's largest Irish sing-along which celebrates the culture of the Emerald Isle and raises funds for small nonprofits.

Dennis has been a progressive leader and a public servant for the people of Westchester for more than 30 years on issues like safeguarding the environment, homelessness, and as an advocate for young people and people with disabilities. He served for 10 years as a Councilman in the City of White Plains where among other things he was Chair of the Council's Youth Board and Recreation Advisory Council, as well as Chair of the Sustainability & Environmental Advisory Committee.

He served as the Director of Program Development for the County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF), where he assisted in coordinating efforts of the County's Global Warming Task Force and Climate Change Committee, putting his efforts behind recycling initiatives and environmental management systems.

He worked as Director of Development and Communications at Westchester ARC, the County's oldest and largest provider of services to residents with developmental disabilities and their families. As Executive Director of WESTHelp Greenburgh, he managed a transitional housing facility for Westchester County's homeless. He is also a founding member of SHORE -- Sheltering the Homeless is Our Responsibility -- a consortium of community resources providing permanent housing, shelter and services to displaced families and individuals.

Dennis returned from retirement to serve as Chief of Staff for Chairman Benjamin Boykin II at the Board of Legislators from 2018-2020. Their shared history of collaboration on numerous key economic, environmental, and social issues facing the City of White Plains and Westchester County was the basis of a close working relationship. He is respected as a community bridge-builder across the County, with a ready song and a twinkle in his Irish eye.