

2002 STATE OF THE TOWN MESSAGE

FIRST SELECTMAN KENNETH FLATTO

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In the past few months, much has changed in our town and the world. Fairfield has undergone a subtle but significant transformation as many citizens have come to realize that security, peace of mind and family are far more important than material glitz or superficial television shows. Certainly our clergy may have tried to tell us such basic truth all along. And certainly civic leaders and volunteers, including many in this room, have demonstrated that caring and sharing make a difference. But the reality is that it has taken a national crisis to shake our suburban complacency.

Fairfield has responded by showing incredible strength. Neighbors and strangers have come together. We have shown concern for others and have given to causes and charities. Nevertheless the fact is conditions have changed. Some in our community are at risk and many face worries as economic conditions stagnate. We all have neighbors who have lost jobs. We all know senior citizens who are stretched to afford to pay their bills. We all know children who worry about their environment and security. As civic leaders, we must reassure our citizens, while helping those who truly need help. Fairfielders, I hope you recognize how lucky and very safe we are to live in Fairfield today. Fairfield is one of the most beautiful and stable communities on this earth. We have the ability to face up to our responsibilities and the determination to make things work right. We may have a lot on our plate to worry about, but our challenge is to face our worries and to deal with community issues successfully to protect our town's future. Friends, citizens, children of Fairfield, I call upon you today to help blaze a path that makes our community stronger.