



Kapil K. Shah At-Large Councilmember

At the end of the academic year in India in what was then called Bombay, a local community volunteer named Kantilal Shah would collect textbooks, many of them worn from months of use. Even though Kantilal had a family wholesale business to run established by his father and four sons to look

after with his wife, Kantilal understood the importance of making sure that every child in those schools got a good education.

Over the summer Kantilal would spend his free time repairing these books to get them into good shape for use by the next class. He would enlist the help of his sons for what was a great amount of work. His third son, Kapil, started helping at twelve years of age and would learn from this annual project the value of public service.

When Kapil was in high school, he was the only one among his brothers who would participate in the National Cadet Corps, a somewhat comparable organization to the Boy Scouts in the United States but one designed to prepare youth for military service. Kapil would join his fellow cadets in assisting first responders when emergencies such as natural disasters took place. These experiences further instilled in him a passion to help people in need.

While Kapil would continue focusing on his studies, eventually earning an engineering degree at a local college in the Chembur-Sion section of Bombay, and would marry



Kapil greeting Piscataway Township Police Department officers at National Night Out.

his wife Taruna, he would also find politics as a way to continue making a difference in the lives of others.

A member of the Jan Sangh Party now called the BJP Party, Kapil would volunteer in the campaigns of Jayvanti Mehta, a local corporator (similar to a township councilmember) for the Bhuleshar section of Bombay proper whom would go on to serve in the Parliament of India.

At this time Kapil was working for Western Mechanical Industries, an Indian company affiliated with a German company to help provide clean water for public use.

With one of Kapil's brothers living in the United States, he & his wife would be sponsored to come to America in 1983, moving into the same Piscataway home that they live in now and in which they raised their two sons. Kapil worked for Captiv Plastics for 13 years before establishing his own travel agency in the Township.

With a continued desire to serve others, Kapil would immerse himself in local affairs, serving on the Piscataway Library Board for 16 years and as a Town Committeeman for the local Democratic Party organization. He also attended the Citizens Police Academy twice to learn about law enforcement from the Township Police Department. With an open at-large Township Council seat in 2016, Kapil was put forward as a candidate and has been serving since.



Kapil at a flag raising event with Mayor Brian C. Wahler and Ward 2 Councilmember Jim Bullard.

While Kapil works to meet the needs of all Township residents, he also looks to act as a bridge to the local South Asian community. He is a 30-year member of the India Cultural Association of Central New Jersey, having served as a president and board member, and is a past president of the Indian Business Association of New Jersey which in Iselin holds the largest Indian Independence Day parade in the state.

Through all of this community service and activism, Kapil looks to carry on the traditions his father set for him and continue helping everyone reach their full potential.