



**The Espinosa Family from left-to-right:
Dennis, Devin, Rosie & Ryan**

Dennis Espinosa Ward 2 Councilmember

It was a true blessing for the young immigrant couple from Ecuador to work for a clothing factory manager named Fabrizio. When Cesar & Lupita Espinosa needed additional hours on the sewing floor to earn more money or help navigating a new life in Hudson County, it was Fabrizio who would make sure they had what they needed. He made such a positive impact in their

first years in a new country that when they had their third son Dennis – the first to be born in the United States – his middle name would be Fabrizio.

Life had moved quickly for the young couple. Years earlier Cesar and his brother Oswaldo were traveling salesmen in Ecuador making a living by selling men's ties and other apparel. Oswaldo would teach Cesar to play the guitar and while in the capital city of Quito, Cesar would have the fortune to meet and serenade Lupita. They would marry young, 19 and 16 respectively, and have their first two sons.

With a desire for new opportunities and a cousin with a connection for jobs in America, Cesar & Lupita would find a home in downtown Jersey City, first just themselves and once they were settled, brought into New Jersey their two boys whom had been living in Ecuador with grandparents. Cesar would eventually be promoted to floor manager and ultimately came to own his own garment manufacturing business.



Lupita & Cesar Espinosa

Unfortunately, the marriage would not last and Lupita would be a single mother in Jersey City with three children. She was very careful with money, always a saver, and set a system of values and orderliness for her boys where compassion was always prioritized.

All three sons would grow up to thrive in their careers including Dennis who knew that in order to be successful in your job you have to really enjoy it. He took a strong interest in electronics just as the computer technology industry was beginning. After two years of attending other universities, Dennis discovered that they did not offer courses in the new growing information technology (IT) industry so he decided to attend the Chubb Institute in Jersey City. He would wind up teaching some classes while there and graduated with honors.

Meanwhile, he too would marry at a young age. Dennis was introduced to his now wife Rosie by a mutual friend and they realized they both worked at the mall, he at a clothing store and her as a hair stylist.

Several years into their marriage they knew that they wanted to live close to family but also have more space and peacefulness. A real estate agent introduced them to Piscataway where they appreciated its diversity and found exactly what they



wanted. Purchasing a home in 2003 they would have their sons Devin and Ryan soon thereafter.

Sadly, Lupita would pass away before their first son Devin was born and Dennis & Rosie knew that raising a family would now be more difficult but the challenge would bring them closer together. Ryan was born a few years later and the Espinosas would flourish in Central New Jersey. Dennis continues his long career in computer technology now as a Global IT Project Manager, Rosie works in children's services for the State, Devin studies at Rutgers University and Ryan attends Piscataway High School.

Dennis also found a new calling to get involved in the community in youth sports. When Devin began playing soccer, Dennis would start as a supportive parent but eventually would become a coach and now also serves on the Board of the Piscataway Soccer Club. He has appreciated knowing the same children and their parents from year to year. From their many conversations he learned to appreciate their families' different stories and different needs and that has led to an interest in serving the public in a greater capacity.

Dennis joined the Township Planning Board in 2020 and when Ward 2 Councilmember Jim Bullard decided to retire, Dennis would run for the open seat and win. He looks forward to many more conversations with residents to make our Township an even better place to live for all families.