



Borough of Rocky Hill New Jersey

March 26, 2008

Mayor
Edward P. Zimmerman

Council President
James Banks

Council Members
Linda Goldman
Brian Griner
William Hallman
Julia Hasser
Courtney White

Chief Financial Officer
G. Ross Bobal

Tax Collector
Donna Griffiths

Assessor
George Sopko

Engineer
Neil I. Van Cleef

Borough Magistrate
Eric Perkins

Borough Clerk
Donna Griffiths

Deputy Borough Clerk
Raymond E. Whitlock, Jr.

Borough Attorney
Albert E. Cruz

Prosecutor
Raymond J. Stine

The Honorable Jon S. Corzine
Governor of New Jersey
State House
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Corzine:

On March 13th, at the request of our constituents, the Borough Council and I held a “Town meeting” with regard to your proposed cuts in aid to our municipality and the financial considerations of the potential consolidation with Montgomery Township. Over 20% of our adult population attended the meeting at which time I presented the cuts you proposed and the implications as far as possible tax increases and service cuts. We sought feedback from the citizens about what direction they wanted us to take.

It was unanimous amongst the large gathering that to single out our Borough purely based on it’s size and without any discussion with the people who manage the day to day operations about the long and short term implications is just plain unfair and unacceptable. To do so without warning just days after we finished putting together our annual budget was additionally unfair and inappropriate.

For years, the Borough of Rocky Hill has followed the direction laid out by the State by implementing shared services to an extent far above those municipalities with larger populations. Almost 80% of the services we provide are shared, outsourced, or done by volunteers. We use shared services in conjunction with DCA, Somerset County, South Brunswick Township, South Bound Brook, Princeton Township, Princeton Borough, Franklin Township, and Montgomery Township. Our Borough is managed by less than 12 part time employees and an unpaid Mayor and Council. Additionally, in keeping with State recommendations, approximately one third of our Borough has been taken off the tax roles

All bills and communications should be sent to

Donna Griffiths – Borough Clerk
P.O. Box 188, New Jersey 08553-0188
Tel: (609) 924-7445
FAX: (609) 924-2274

for Open Space/Green Acres. We are also in compliance with the first two rounds of COAH guidelines. We have done everything that has been asked of us, yet we are being punished for nothing more than being a small community.

All of the actions we have taken have led us to have lower overall property taxes than our large neighbor, Montgomery Township. In fact, we actually are providing more services to our taxpayers than our neighbor, even at the lower taxes. Again, the citizens present unanimously agreed that a “forced” merger would do nothing more than increase taxes while reducing services. It would also force the loss of volunteerism and sense of community we all expected when we moved here. The Borough Council and I were directed to share with you that a forced merger is not something the voters will accept.

To that end, I have been asked to present to you and our elected representatives to the Senate and Legislature the attached petition signed by a large number of our residents.

Governor, please understand that I am a firm believer that shared services and volunteerism work. Rocky Hill is proof of that, and I would be willing to meet with your Consolidation Commission at any time to share just how well it does work. I applaud you for trying to tackle the difficult financial problems of the state. What I don't understand is how cutting much needed aid to the Borough of Rocky Hill based on no other measure than our population will solve the bigger problems based in Trenton. Please keep your promise to reduce or at least contain property taxes by reinstating the municipal aid to the Historic Borough of Rocky Hill.

Respectfully,

Edward P. Zimmerman
Mayor

Cc: Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman (District 16)
Assemblyman Peter J. Biondi (District 16)
Assemblywoman Denise Coyle (District 16)
William Dressel, Executive Director, NJ League of Municipalities