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James J. Fulcomer

## Fulcomer declares mayoral candidacy

*Opposes high tax increases, demands professional management*

*Lindemann, Rooney, Cusmano round out slate*

Former Union County Freeholder James J. Fulcomer recently declared his candidacy for Mayor of Rahway, asking the people to give his council running mates and him "a mandate to stop high tax in-

creases and to establish excellent professional direction to city services."

Running for Council members-at-large with the Republican mayoral candidate are former County

Consumer Affairs Board member Richard Lindemann, Senior Communications Coordinator Ann Rooney, and Rahway Italian-American Club President Thomas Cusmano, all of whom are Rah-

way homeowners and taxpayers.

"As of last year, the present mayor and his partisan political business ad-

ministrator, Joseph Hartnett, were taking almost seven times as much money out of our pockets as the preceding mayor. The 1989 city purposes taxes under Mayor Daniel Martin and Administrator Hartnett were \$12,512,782 as compared to \$1,847,030 in the year before Mayor Martin took office," said the Republican mayoral candidate.

Mayor candidate Fulcomer said that the high property tax increases of the Hartnett years have driven many good people out of our community and have forced many good Rahway citizens to put up a record number of "For Sale" signs on their properties. It does not have to be that way," said Mayor candidate Fulcomer.

"Unfair tax increases, unfair revaluations, the loss of businesses in downtown Rahway, mismanagement of city services, extreme partisanship from the city ad-

ministration, suppression of minority views at Council meetings, vicious personality attacks, and insensitivity to citizen complaints are among the Martin-Hartnett policies that must be ended," said the mayoral candidate.

Mayor candidate Fulcomer said that the administrative style of the two men who run Rahway is counter-productive. He explained that Mayor Martin

delegates too much power to Administrator Hartnett and Hartnett is too preoccupied and obsessed with partisan politics to run the city in a professional manner.

"Unlike Mayor Martin, I don't need an \$87,000 business administrator to write my news releases and to run my political campaigns. I will hire a business administrator solely to do the professional job that business administrators do in the best managed municipalities of our state," said the Republican contender.

"We ask the people of Rahway to give my running mates and me a mandate to stop the excessive growth of city property taxes and to establish a nonpartisan professional approach to city services instead of the terribly partisan political approach of the 20-year-old Martin administration. We need an administration and council that is responsive to all the people, not just to Martin-Hartnett politicians," said

Mayor candidate Fulcomer.

Mayor candidate Fulcomer was a Union County freeholder for three years, a first person to serve as chairman of the Union County Utilities Authority, the first chairman of the county environmental health advisory board, and a member of the Rahway Planning Board. He currently is serving as the state member of the Rahway Housing Authority until the new Democratic state administration appoints his successor. Mayor candidate Fulcomer is a political science and history teacher of over 20 years service at Elizabeth High School. He is a former deacon of the Second Presbyterian Church of Rahway and a former president of the Rahway Lions Club, a local charitable association. He received his Master of Arts degree in government from New York University and his Bachelor of Arts degree from Kean College. He is married to Council member Katherine Fulcomer and the father of three children.

Council candidate Cusmano is president of the Italian-American Club, a former vice-president of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce, a former president of the Clark Community Players, and president of

Amerson Display Futures, Inc. He is a member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church of Rahway, married, and the father of three sons.

Council candidate Rooney is a former member of the public relations committee of the county utilities authority, a former lector of St. Mary's Church of Rahway and a member of the church's Communications Committee, and former president of the N.J. Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. She is a senior Communications Coordinator for Public Service Electric and Gas Company and is married to Robert E. Rooney. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, from Yean College and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, the national arts and sciences honor society.

Council candidate Lindemann is a former county consumers affairs board member, a C.Y.R.C. baseball coach, and a former C.Y.R.C. soccer coach. Mr. Lindemann is a Eucharistic Minister at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church and is married with two children. He is a sales representative for Progress Lighting, received his B.A. from Rutgers University, and is a graduate of Rahway High School.

## Path being cleared for Hartz start

*Hartnett: Zoning, urban renewal amendments contain 'no surprises'*

by Pat DiMaggio

Rahway's Municipal Council approved ordinances for first reading that will pave the way for the development of the Rahway Corporate Center by Hartz Mountain Industries. At a meeting held Monday night, the council approved an ordinance amending the City's zoning code and an ordinance amending the City's Urban Renewal Plan.

Rahway's Urban Renewal Plan was amended to conform with the development agreement between the City and Hartz Mountain Industries (HMI). The area located behind City Hall, purchased by Hartz Mountain Industries (HMI), is governed by the federal government through the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This area is a zone unto itself," explained Business Administrator Joseph Hart-

nett. "Over the years, the Urban Renewal Plan has changed many times. There are no surprises in these ordinances. We've incorporated nothing different from the original development agreement."

The agreement reached between Hartz and the City for the mixed-use development concept includes 120,000 square feet of office space, a modern multiplex theatre, 90,000 feet of retail space with an anchor supermarket and a 150-room hotel with a parking garage located under it.

Allen Magrini, an attorney for HMI, said the company is in the process of developing plans, types of uses and the size and scale of development. He said development will begin with a "wrap-around" effect, with construction to take place behind the Chase Trans-Info and City Hall buildings.

Setbacks will preserve green and open spaces and parking will be based on a shared and unified agreement, according to Magrini. "Plans allow for the development of day and nighttime use and occupancy which will expand the viability of the area," said Magrini.

The basic architectural style of the development will be based on the building materials used on the City

Hall, primarily brick and stone, said Keith Michaels, vice president of engineering for Hartz.

The council unanimously approved both ordinances with Councilman James Cadigan absent. The plans will now go to the Planning Board for review and will return to the council for a public hearing and possible final adoption at the May 14 meeting.

Kennedy:

## Soaring taxes are result of Martin budget

Democratic Mayor

Candidate James J. Kennedy called attention to the tremendous growth in the Rahway Municipal budget and the negative impact it was having on property taxpayers. "From 1987 to 1989, the Rahway Municipal budget skyrocketed from \$14,813,883 to \$19,175,569," Kennedy stated. "The tremendous increase in municipal expenditures resulted in soaring property taxes to pay for the excesses of the Martin Administration."

Kennedy added that "With an over-29% increase in Rahway's expenditures, this Administration has outpaced the cost of living and the rate of inflation."

"Rahway should have controlled its budget through intelligent long-term planned growth and restrained municipal spending," Kennedy noted. "The Martin-Hartnett Administration unfortunately failed to exercise control over the city budget."

"The tragedy is that property taxpayers have had to make up the difference for this almost careless increase in spending," stated Kennedy.

"The Martin-Hartnett Administration has outpaced every financial indicator

in their spending. Not only do they fail to recognize the devastating impact this has on Rahway families, but these expenditures put Rahway taxpayers at risk for the foreseeable future," Kennedy stressed.

"The financial liabilities and burdens of the Martin-Hartnett Administration will force seniors and middle class families to reexamine whether they can afford to live in Rahway," said the candidate.

Kennedy concluded: "Rahway needs to set future municipal goals and prioritize budget spending projections. The over 29% increase in municipal expenditures can't be tolerated in the face of escalating property taxes."

"We hope to continue to build our program in Rahway, but our backs are to the wall, we have to make do with what we have. We've made reductions because we hope to convince the public that we've kept the taxpayer in mind. We will also strive to continue the best educational program in Rahway."

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"I can certify that the students attending our schools get a thorough and efficient education," said Superintendent of Schools Frank Brunette. "We've anguished over the reductions, but in order to provide proper

home assessed at \$140,000, residents will pay an additional \$154 in taxes for local schools purposes.

At a family gathering of local Democratic Committee and Club members with their spouses and children, Rahway Council Members At-Large Vincent Addona, Walter McLeod, and James Cadigan formally announced their candidacies for re-election Tuesday evening. "We wanted to make our announcement at a family-type get-together," the Democrats proclaimed, "in order to emphasize the total of 38 years of family values and good government we have worked so hard to give this hometown we love and care for."

Democratic City Chairman Al Shipley, who hosted the announcement party at his home, stated, "Council Members Addona, McLeod, and Cadigan are true Democrats who have been faithful to the trust placed in them by the citizens of Rahway." They have earned the public's confidence and are fully deserving of the voters' support once again.

Addona, McLeod, and Cadigan declared they were going to be "very proud to run on our record of accomplishment for the people of Rahway and our vision for the future." "We are more energetic and dedicated than ever," the Democrats

said, "and extremely excited about Rahway's future."

"With the Hartz Mountain project coming, and other signs of economic vitality we have worked so hard to develop, we see bright days ahead for Rahway," the three incumbents stated.

McLeod indicated he wished to "dispel any notion that there is a fight in the Democratic Party this year just because other individuals are apparently entering the Democratic primary election for Mayor and for Council." "The Democratic Party, by the unanimous endorsement of the Rahway Democratic Club on March 5, is totally united in its strong support of Mayor Martin and Council Members Addona, Cadigan, and myself."

"Additionally," Council Member Addona pointed out, "the other individual who covets the Mayor's office has never been a registered Democrat and just came into the City Clerk's Office recently to convert to a Democrat." The same applies to two of his three running mates, Addona said, "and the third, while a registered Demo-

crat, has never been active in the Party."

"In short," Council Member Cadigan explained, "what we have here is a case of non-Democrats trying to take-over and get credit for all of the good things the Democrats have done and have got coming for Rahway." "Even though they do,

of course, have the right to run for public office," he commented, "they are certainly not really Democrats and we're not going to let them take credit they have not earned and don't deserve."

## Board of Ed approves spending plan

*\$17.5M to be raised by taxes subject to results at polls*

by Pat DiMaggio

Rahway's Board of Education unanimously approved its proposed 1990-91 spending plan at a special meeting held on April 3. The budget includes a current expense portion of \$21,768,606, no capital outlay and a debt service amount of \$422,861 for a total budget of \$22,191,467.

Residents will be given the opportunity to vote on \$17,520,800, the amount to be raised by taxes, when they go to the polls in the schools election on April 24.

Before voting on the budget, the board unanimously approved reductions totaling \$550,175. The list of reductions included the deletion of \$63,000 for "courtesy buses" for public school children and \$60,000 from the contracted services-operations account. The district is currently contracted with Servicemaster for the upkeep and maintenance of buildings and grounds.

The proposed budget maintains existing staff levels in the district, according to Business Administrator Anthony Rocco, Jr., the result of a decrease in the state aid to education funding level.

Reductions were made in the supplies, equipment, vehicles and services accounts. Costs for fringe benefits including insurance increased by \$181,000 or 25 percent, said Rocco.

The budget shows an increase of 9.1 percent over the current year's spending plan. With the \$550,175 reduction, points were also reduced from 13 to 11. On a

home assessed at \$140,000, residents will pay an additional \$154 in taxes for local schools purposes.

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