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Concerned Citizens Move To Block Burner Pro-Incinerator Group Also Threatens Suit

An agreement between the Bergen and Union County Utilities Authorities under which Bergen would send at least 150,000 tons of its trash to the incinerator planned for construction on 22 acres in Rahway — presented to state officials and the public as a fait accompli, and used to obtain final approval — may not exist as a legally-binding contract, thus jeopardizing the \$199 million project.

In a letter dated Dec. 17 to Scott Weiner, state Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection and Energy William Schuber, Bergen County Executive, states that the impression given in news accounts that Bergen County has signed an agreement with Union County to deliver garbage to the Union County incinerator is not true.

Schuber points out that while Bergen and Union Counties have been exploring a possible agreement, any type of formal agreement must follow the Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment process, and "this has not occurred." He further states that any agreement reached will provide for the minimization of garbage to be sent to any incinerator by the full development of Bergen's recycling and composting efforts.

Schuber closes by saying that "composting and recycling programs will be viewed as the first disposal options."

"The 'agreement' between Bergen and Union Counties has been seen by Scott Weiner as the last item needed for final approval of the Union County burner

project," said Robert Carson, Vice Chairman of the Concerned Citizens of Union County. "We have written to him, stating that we feel the granting of final approval under these circumstances is entirely premature and invalid."

"We feel that Mr. Weiner has reneged on his responsibility to the citizens of New Jersey to ensure that this proposed facility will operate under optimal financial and environmental conditions," Carson continued. "It is clear from Mr. Schuber's letter that there is no comprehensive agreement between Bergen and Union Counties and, therefore, the distinct possibility exists that Bergen County will not be able to send enough garbage to allow the Union County burner to operate anywhere near

capacity — thus compromising its physical and financial efficiency."

Furthermore, he said, "no aspects of this 'agreement' have been reviewed by the Bergen County Solid Waste Advisory Committee or the public in open hearings."

"We feel that the rights and interests of the citizens of New Jersey have not been served by Mr. Weiner's 'rush to burn,' and our legal representatives are investigating the situation," Carson declared.

At press time, parties on both sides were awaiting an appellate court ruling on a motion filed by the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic that, if successful, would invalidate the Rahway incinerator's Solid Waste Facility Permit and possibly lead to cancellation of the

1,440-ton-per-day garbage-burning facility.

The Concerned Citizens, through the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic, also have threatened to mount a legal challenge to the state's approval on grounds that the Solid Waste Facility Permit granted by DEPE to the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) states that UCUA must institute a Community Relations Program under which there will be a minimum of two open meetings, one prior to and one during facility construction.

"This permit has the force of law," Carson noted.

In a letter dated Dec. 19 to Jonathan Williams, Legal Counsel to the UCUA, Margaret Hayden of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic requested information on the scheduling of the re-

quired hearing so that she could inform her clients, the Concerned Citizens.

"To date, no such information has been relayed to us," Carson said. "If the groundbreaking, reportedly scheduled for Dec. 30, is held before this mandated public meeting, it will constitute a violation of the permit."

"Given the UCUA's demonstrated lack of regard for public sentiment, we will be very surprised if the meeting is held prior to the beginning of construction," he added. "We can only wonder

if the UCUA will show the same regard for all other provisions of its operating permit. Once again, it appears that the rights and interests of the citizens of New Jersey are being trampled in the 'rush to burn.'"

Meanwhile, the pro-incinerator People for Progress also was threatening litigation in an attempt to block the Concerned Citizens' use of the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic.

"People for Progress and its well over 200 members in Union County, who are

wholeheartedly behind starting construction on the Resource Recovery Project, will also seek injunctions," said William Hering, the group's President, in a prepared statement. "However, ours will be against the

'Concerned Citizens,' as they call themselves, for continuing to squander the taxpayers' dollars by utilizing the tax-supported Law Clinic at Rutgers in their ill-fated attempt to stop this well-thought-out solid waste management program."

Chairman, maintained that the memorandum of understanding between the two counties is "an agreement to agree, which means that the final contract will be negotiated at some future point."

"If the state DEPE was not satisfied with this memorandum of understanding, they would not have agreed to this proposal," Bonanno said. "Union County has the same goals as Bergen County. We intend to recycle as much as we can." In addition,

Three Suspects In Armed Robbery

Police are seeking three black males in connection with an armed robbery on Irving Street near Seminary Avenue about 11:15 p.m. on Christmas Day in which a juvenile's jacket was stolen.

According to police, the victim reported that he was approached by the suspects while walking down Irving Street. One had a knife, and

the other a handgun, he told police.

The suspects demanded that the victim remove his jacket, which they took as they fled on foot to a waiting vehicle.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Rahway Police TIPS Line, 388-1553.

Pair Struck On Sidewalk

On Friday, Dec. 27, at about 8:29 a.m., police reported that a vehicle operated by Janice Sloves, 33, of Edison, on Westfield Avenue drove up onto the sidewalk in the 1200 block and struck two pedestrians. Angela Roberts, 52, of Rahway was transported via ambulance to University Hospital, while Catherine Angelicola, 54, also of Rahway, was airlifted by Northstar to University Hospital.

Both pedestrians were reported in critical but stable condition.

The driver and her son were transported to Rahway Hospital for examination. The accident is under investigation by the Rahway Police Traffic Bureau.

Pair Arrested In Burglaries

An 18-year-old Iselin man and a male juvenile were arrested on Friday and charged with two counts of burglary and theft and arson, police reported.

Vicent Ricco was held in lieu of \$70,000 bail, while the juvenile was released to his parents' custody.

About 2:18 a.m., off-duty Police Officer Anthony De Carlo was in the Galaxy Diner across from Charlie Breauner's Sport Shop when someone told him there was an attempt being made to gain access to the Sport Shop.

After calling in to headquarters, De Carlo crossed St. George Avenue, where he encountered a white male who fled the scene but was later apprehended by Woodbridge police, who identified him as Vicent Ricco.

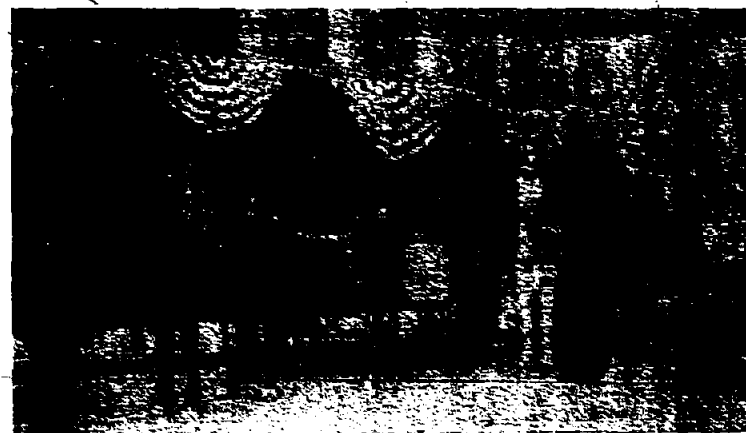
The second suspect, a juvenile, was observed by Officers Robert Conroy and David Jackson on Concord Street. He also fled and was apprehended by Woodbridge police.

Police said the vehicle the juvenile was seen standing near apparently was being used to transport proceeds from the Sport Shop burglary and another burglary at Krauszer's, also on St. George Avenue, where a fire was reported about 2:41 a.m.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call the Rahway Police TIPS Line, 388-1553.

Both: The 24 hour
NARCOTIC INFORMATION
HOTLINE for Rahway is
388-1553

Remembering Rahway



PAUL SOLOMAN (AT LEFT) PURCHASED TWO RETIRED RACE HORSES IN 1910 TO SET UP HACK SERVICE. SHOW IN FRONT OF CROSS KEYS INN.



ROOSEVELT SCHOOL, LOOKING FROM STANTON STREET, LATE 1920S OR EARLY 1930S.



MAIN STREET, LOOKING WEST AT MONROE STREET, EARLY 1890S.



Main Street Fire, Nov. 29

New Mayor To Main Street Fire 1991 Saw Breather, 1992 Shifts To Politicking

by Pat DiMaggio

The year in review for the City of Rahway would have to begin with the new administration of Mayor Jim Kennedy and end with a devastating fire in the Central Business District. Along the way, residents followed the machinations of the Union County Utilities Authority and the Concerned Citizens of Union County and their divergent opinions on the proposed incinerator to be built in the City.

Promising a "new vision for Rahway," Jim Kennedy was sworn into office on Jan. 2. The new mayor proposed programs to revitalize the Central Business District, promised an overall, comprehensive evaluation of Rahway's Water Department, and said he would create an Economic Development Corporation and a local Youth Service Commission.

During the past year, Kennedy reorganized the Fire Department and appointed a Public Safety Director in charge of both of the City's public safety departments. He also reorganized the Public Works Department.

During 1991, the City introduced two municipal budgets. A \$14 million transitional budget for the first six months of the year was adopted in May. Rahway then changed over to a fiscal year budget to run from July 1 to June 30, 1992. A \$22.9 million fiscal year budget was approved in September that included no increases for any City department and

the termination of seven employees.

As the proposed incinerator moved closer to reality, the City, Union County Utilities Authority and environmental activists found themselves literally at each other's throats. Rahway found itself in court on two occasions during 1991, pitted against the authority. A resolution asking for a referendum on the siting of the incinerator was deemed "improper" by Superior Court Judge Edward Beglin Jr. In September, the UCUA also filed suit to block a resolution dealing with Rahway's appointees to the authority. Judge Beglin ruled that anything pertaining to the operation of the facility was outside the scope of the jurisdiction of Rahway's Municipal Council.

Pending is litigation over the authority's recent change in its By-Laws, permitting the chairman to succeed himself. Rahway's council has directed its law department to again argue against the authority in court.

Residents of the Capobianco Plaza and Leesville Avenue family housing units approached the council several times during the year to ask for better protection from rampant crime and drug dealers. Children spoke on how afraid they were to play outside, and adults expressed anxiety over conditions in the area.

In November, Rahway Housing Authority Executive Director Jack McGrath

announced that two-man foot patrols would be financed through monies received via a federal grant. The two-man patrols are expected to begin this month.

In May, voters rejected the Board of Education's \$26.9 million budget, and returned Lillie Henderson and Antonio Garay to three-year board seats. New candidate Steven Okay also was elected to the nine-member board. At the end of May, the board agreed to accept a \$250,000 cut in its budget proposed by Rahway's Municipal Council. In July, Superintendent of Schools Frank Brunette announced that he will retire early next year. The district is currently searching for a new superintendent.

In early December, a fire destroyed three buildings in Rahway's downtown business district. More than 150 firefighters fought the Main Street blaze for more than five hours. The fire started in the Rahway Appliance Store and spread to the Great Wall Chinese Restaurant and Wash-Rite Laundromat located next door. Four firefighters who were injured were treated and released that night. No residents were injured. Cause of the blaze remains undetermined, and the investigation will continue as the buildings are torn down.

The biggest item on the agenda of Rahway's new year is the election of a new mayor. Jim Kennedy has promised to bring local elections back to Rahway. In November, six ward council seats will be up for grabs, all for four-year terms. And Mayor Kennedy will have to answer critics who charge that he has not provided a clear direction for the City.

tivists have promised to strengthen their efforts to block actions by the Union County Utilities Authority and the Board of Chinese Freeholders.

The new year also will bring local elections back to Rahway. In November, six ward council seats will be up for grabs, all for four-year terms. And Mayor Kennedy will have to answer critics who charge that he has not provided a clear direction for the City.

