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## Economic Development Key In 1992 Jones Delivers Kennedy's 'State Of City' Address

by Pat DiMaggio  
The mayor's annual "State of the City" address cited the accomplishments of Jim Kennedy's first year in office and promised a new 1992 agenda for economic development.

Noting that the mayor was unable to personally attend the Organization Meeting held on Jan. 2 because of a slipped disc, Councilman James Jones Jr. read Kennedy's speech to the assembled group of less than 20 residents and department

heads who attended the first official meeting of the new year. In his speech, Kennedy cited the problems he inherited from the former administration. "When economic trends turned downward, the past administration did not address this problem," said Kennedy. "When requested state aid was not received in the total amount, appropriate reductions were not made. The result led to serious financial overcommitments and un-

derbudgeting, resulting in the unprecedented 1990 fiscal crisis that confronted this administration in January 1991." Kennedy said he had to address emergency appropriations in the 1991 budget along with overexpenditures in the 1989 and 1990 budgets. Also, institutional increases severely impacted on the fiscal affairs of the City along with a deficit in the Water Utility's operations, said Kennedy.

During his first year in office, Kennedy said he directed the Finance Department to implement a full encumbrance system to insure municipal fiscal integrity. "This system is presently on line, and it is a hallmark of my administration that these safeguards be maintained," noted Kennedy. "This system will professionalize and safeguard the Purchasing Department and begin to correct the problems of the past."

Kennedy also noted that the Water Department has been able to provide an operating surplus during the past year, and cited his direction to the Health Department to step up the City's recycling efforts to reduce the costs of solid waste disposal. During 1991, Kennedy restructured the Rahway Fire Department and formed a Department of Public Safety. He also reduced the Department of Engineering from three en-

gineers to one and appointed Thomas Schimmel as the new director of Public Works. The Recreation Department was combined with the Parks Department and then incorporated into the Department of Public Works. On his 1992 agenda, the mayor again, promised economic development for the Central Business District. "During my tenure as president of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce, we solicited businesses and

community input in developing a thoughtful, comprehensive plan for Rahway's central downtown," said Kennedy. "Pursuant to this initiative, my administration has completed a request for proposals to develop the 11 acres behind City Hall, and will solicit proposals as the new year gets underway in an effort to gain new rentals." Kennedy also noted that, through grant funds, a professional consultant will be hired to implement

necessary changes in the municipal ordinance to facilitate a central business district. "The Rahway River Association, led by Andrew Voros, was also established to target and clean up the natural resources of Rahway," said Kennedy. "Furthermore, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee was established to promote recycling in accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan, recognizing that Rahway has not yet achieved the legislatively-targeted reduction of 60 percent," according to Kennedy.



Concerned Citizens Protest Resource Recovery Facility.

## Anti-Burner March A Day Late

by Pat DiMaggio  
On Dec. 30, activists held their scheduled protest against a planned ground-breaking ceremony for the proposed incinerator to be built in Rahway even though the event was held the day before.

The Union County Utilities Authority, which will own and operate the \$199 million resource recovery facility, announced plans for ground-breaking ceremonies to be held on Dec. 30 at 3 p.m. In response, the Concerned Citizens of Union County planned a demonstration to be held on Patterson Street at 2 p.m. In a surprise move, however, the authority held a private "picture-taking" session the day before, in the rain, at 10:30 in the morning.

Even Rahway Police Chief Barry Henderson said he was unaware of the earlier ceremony. No resident or City official was present at the event, which kicked-off the construction phase of the 1,400-ton-per-day facility to be built on Routes 1 and 9.

"We respect the reputation and image of the City of Rahway," said UCUA Chairman Angelo Bonanno. "But we were aware of a small group of organized protesters who would have inflamed the situation. We had a private session instead with no speeches."

Activists held their protest on Dec. 30 and blasted the authority for their "arrogance." Calling the earlier ground-breaking

event "a demonstration of political cowardice," Bob Carson, who serves as vice chairman of the group, said the Concerned Citizens of Union County will continue to press their suit to block construction of the incinerator.

The group has sued the authority, saying they have violated wetlands regulations by siting the incinerator on 25 acres adjacent to the Rahway River. The group led the first round when the Appellate Division of Superior Court ruled against them. The case has been appealed to state Supreme Court, and arguments will be heard next Tuesday.

"It appears the lords of garbage in Union County are simply afraid to face the public as they sell the citizens of Rahway and Union County down the drain," said Carson in a prepared statement during last week's protest. "As we stand here, the Rutgers Environmental Law Clinic is pressing the lawsuit on our behalf, which will probably invalidate the permit for the burner and cancel the project if we win. The Law Clinic has been pursuing this action for almost two years."

"The Concerned Citizens will not stop their opposition to this monstrosity just because construction has begun. Throughout the history of this project, our government has betrayed the public trust on every level. Our democratic rights

## Republican Esposito Heads Council

by Pat DiMaggio  
In a highly-unusual move, Rahway's Municipal Council elected a Republican to lead the Democrat-controlled governing body in the new year. At its Organization Meeting held on Jan. 2, the council voted to elect Michael Esposito as council president for 1992. Esposito is one of three Republicans on the nine-member municipal body.

Esposito, currently serving the last year of his first four-year term, has been a vocal leader for the opposition on the council. Employed as a manager for New York Telephone, the 30-year-old First Ward representative said he hoped the council would work together "as closely as possible" during the coming year.

"The council chose a person who they felt could deal most fairly with the issues at hand," said Esposito in explaining the unusual vote. The first nomination for council president was made by Councilman Sal Mione who placed the name of Councilwoman Nancy Saliga on the floor. Saliga was defeated, however, on a vote of four in favor, with Republican Council members Esposito, William Wanck and Katherine Ful-

comer and old-line Democrats Dennis Hemenway and Alex Shipley opposed. Fulcomer also was nominated as council president by Wanck but the roll was not called after Esposito received the majority of votes.

Kennedy, who was found in stable condition at Rahway Hospital earlier this week, is scheduled to undergo surgery at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick, sometime this week. Following surgery, he is expected to recuperate between four and six weeks.



Michael Esposito



James Jones Jr.

comer and old-line Democrats Dennis Hemenway and Alex Shipley opposed. Fulcomer also was nominated as council president by Wanck but the roll was not called after Esposito received the majority of votes.

A man stole about \$60 from a Roselle newspaper delivery woman Saturday after throwing her to the ground, police said.

According to police, the woman was delivering newspapers and collecting money in the vicinity of Columbus Place and Washington Street about 6 a.m. when the man approached her and asked for a newspaper. Police said the man followed her, grabbed her, threw her to the ground, and took about \$60 in cash and some personal papers.

The suspect is described as a black male, 25 to 30 years old, about 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a thin build. Police said he fled on foot. Anyone with information is asked to call Det. William White at 388-5600, Ext. 445, or the Rahway Police TIPS Line, 388-1533.

Two Fax machines valued at more than \$2,200 were reported stolen from Rahway Business Machines, 98 Route 27, between 4 p.m. Saturday and 2:15 Sunday, police said.

The front glass window was smashed, and two Panasonic Fax machines were taken, police said. Anyone with information is asked to call Det. Paul Missett 388-5600, Ext. 445, or the Rahway Police TIPS Line, 388-1533.

Police are seeking two men who allegedly tried to steal shoes from a discount shoe store on Friday.

Police said the men were looking around in Marty's Discount Shoe Outlet, 1453 Lawrence St., about 2:30 p.m., and as they were leaving, a clerk noticed a bulge under one man's jacket.

When the clerk confronted him, the man fled and threw a pair of shoes back into the store, according to police.

Both men fled to a waiting car on Lawrence Street and drove toward East Milford Avenue, police said. Employees found other shoes in bushes outside the store, police said.

The suspects were described as two black males in their early 20s, one clean-shaven and the other wearing a mustache and eyeglasses.

Anyone with information is asked to call Corporal James O'Leary at 388-5600, Ext. 449, or the Rahway Police TIPS Line, 388-1533.

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