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Kennedy Sold Out On Burner: Wnuck Says City Could Have Held Out For More \$

Councilman William P. Wnuck has criticized Democrat Mayor Jim Kennedy and his City Council allies for losing "at least 2.5 million in additional annual revenue to Rahway" in the latest host community agreement with the Union County Utilities Authority by "selling out to the outside interests who raised substantial money for Kennedy's mayoral campaign."

Wnuck said it was reported at the public hearings that another host community agreement provided \$11 per ton of garbage for a resource recovery facility, while Kennedy and his allies accepted only \$4.50 per ton. He noted that when Rahway voted for resource recovery in 1985, the cost of resource recovery disposal was much higher than the garbage disposal at that

time. Today, he explained, the cost of garbage disposal is much higher than resource recovery disposal, yet Rahway will get only a small amount of the countywide savings under the Kennedy-sponsored agreement.

"The annual compensation clause of the host community agreement does not go into effect until about two years from now, at the earliest. So why was there a rush to accept a deal that offers less than half the best deal which the public hearing indicated is already reached for another municipality?

Why was there such a rush for a poor deal that gives Rahway practically nothing compared to the total savings that resource recovery will give all of its users? Could it be that Kennedy is paying back the outside financial interests that put him in office?" asked Wnuck.

Wnuck called Kennedy's claim that a "no" vote would end all future renegotiations with the authority "an outright lie."

Not only did negotiations continue then, but we were offered more money. If we had held out long enough and had continued with our lawsuit to stop the re-election of the Authority chairman, I am confident that we could have negotiated an agreement that would have given Rahway the millions of dollars more every year that our city needs and deserves," he said.

Wnuck pointed out that in the executive session, Councilwoman Katherine Fulcomer pushed for a compromise amendment that

would allow renegotiations one year later to raise the annual compensation to at least the level of the most generous host community agreement in the New Jersey and New York area. This compromise was rejected by the city Administration, he said.

"Rahway has been sold out by a Mayor who is more concerned with satisfying his out-of-town political masters who put him in office than with the best interests of Rahway," Wnuck said. "Kennedy, in effect, went on his knees before the

tyrannical chairman of the Utilities Authority, Angelo Bonanno, instead of running that tyrant out of office as was Kennedy's obligation under the consent agreement signed years ago."

Wnuck's reference was to the fact that the recent controversial reelection of Bonanno violated a consent agreement signed in 1986 between the Utilities Authority, the county and Rahway.

He added that when the 1985 referendum on resource recovery was held, verbal assurances were made by Freeholders and Freeholder candidates at meetings that if other host community agreements were substantially higher than Rahway's, the Rahway agreement would be renegotiated before the facility became operational. The idea behind these assurances was to bring Rahway's compensation up



Wnuck also said that he strongly objected to the

to the level of later and better host community agreements that might be gained by other towns, he said.



Michael Esposito

Esposito Censured In GOP Club Vote

In a recent vote, the Rahway Republicans Club unanimously censured Councilman Michael Esposito for "breaking campaign promises and dishonorable conduct in office," Club President Adam A Mackow announced.

However, Esposito said he believes the censure vote has more to do with his decision to field a full slate of ward Council candidates in the June 2 GOP primary against a slate of candidates backed by Republican Municipal Chairman James Fulcomer.

The filing deadline for nominating petitions is today at 4 p.m.

"When Esposito appeared before our Republican Screening Committee to secure the organization endorsement four years ago, Esposito said he opposed deficit spending and would never vote for bond ordinances," Mackow said. "Now, under the Kennedy Democrat Administration, Esposito has voted for the biggest deficit spending measure in Rahway's history, a \$7.2 million bond ordinance that will cost Rahway taxpayers millions of dollars in interest long after Esposito leaves office."

Mackow said that Esposito promised the Screening Committee and

the Rahway Republican Club that he would always support the majority choice of Republican City Council members for Council President. This year, he said, the unanimous choice was Council member Katherine Fulcomer, to whom Esposito reaffirmed his commitment 15 minutes before the election of the new Council president. Esposito then "broke his word by making a deal with Democrat Mayor Kennedy and voting for himself," Mackow charged.

"Esposito promised his Republican Council colleagues that he would vote against granting a second residency waiver to the out-of-town business administrator, and then voted the opposite way to grant it," the Club President said. "He promised that he would oppose the appointment of the wasteful \$75-per-hour city consultant, and then absented himself from the meeting so that the appointment could be approved. This dishonest behavior is a betrayal of the public trust."

Mackow said that "Esposito has betrayed the people, his fellow Republicans and his friends, and is untrustworthy. Therefore, we Republican Club members have voted to censure him and to dissociate ourselves from him."

Budget Passes, Incumbents Return

by Pat DiMaggio
For only the fourth time in 12 years, voters in Rahway supported their Board of Education's budget when they went to the polls on Tuesday. The board's \$27.6 million budget drew 656 voters in support, with 408 votes opposed.

Since 1980, the budget has been passed only four times (1981, 1986, 1987 and now this year). Due to an infusion of \$3 million in state aid, the budget, with a local tax levy of \$17,239,299, will result in a zero tax increase for local schools purposes.

Voters also returned three incumbents to new three-year terms on the board. Top votegetters were Peter Kowal with 753, Mario Kurylak with 749, and John Ludington II with 653. The three challengers for the three seats were Fred Brown Jr. with 478 votes, Michael Kureczka who drew 455, and Charles Laskowski who garnered 368.

Newly-elected board members will be sworn into office at the board's reorganization meeting, to be held on Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Intermediate School.



Peter Kowal



Mario Kurylak



John Ludington II



RAHWAY SAVINGS SUPPORT YMCA... Greg Trowbridge of Rahway Savings Institution, right, presents \$10,000 check to Rahway YMCA Executive Director Sally Hogan and Board President George Wagenhoffen, who reported that Rahway Savings had enabled Y to perform many services in city.

Rape Suspect Being Sought

Police are seeking a black male, 30 to 40 years old, about 6 foot 2 inches tall, with a large build, facial scar and short-cropped hair, in connection with an aggravated sexual assault against a woman in her basement.

The incident took place about 2:50 p.m. Friday in the 100 block of Maple Avenue, police said.

According to police, the victim went to the basement and the suspect, who had gained entry in some way, attacked her, without showing a weapon but by using superior physical force.

The suspect's manner of escape from the scene is not known, police said.

The victim was examined at Rahway Hospital and released.

Anyone with information regarding this crime is asked to call Det. John Kaczor or Det. Stuart Backman at 388-5600, Ext. 445 or 447, or the Rahway Police TIPS Hotline, 388-1553.



HAVING A BALL... Seen at Rahway Hospital Foundation's Diamond Jubilee Ball Saturday night were Rahway Mayor Jim Kennedy and his wife, Lori, center, chatting with Foundation Board member Edward Valvano and his wife, Marianne, left, and William Anderson, Co-Chairman of event. More than 325 people attended fundraiser for benefit of technology and equipment purchases.

Authority Reorganizes

Two Rahway residents were among nine commissioners and two alternates of the Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) who took their seats on the Authority during the Authority's recent reorganization meeting.

Chester Holmes and William Wolf, both of Rahway, are among those who are ready to take care of the Authority's business for the upcoming year.

Holmes first took his seat with the Authority two years ago, after former Commissioner Harvey Williams passed away in 1990. The following year, Holmes was reappointed to a five-year term of office.

The Rahway native, who served as UCUA Treasurer from February 1991 to January 1992, has been re-elected Treasurer for another one-year term.

During his tenure on the UCUA, Holmes has served on numerous Authority Committees including the Construction, Host Community Negotiations, Recycling and Ethics committees.

This year Holmes will serve as Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee. He also will serve as a member of the Operations, Real Estate and Insurance, Freeholder Liaison, Project Liaison and Contract Services Committees.

A 28-year veteran of the Rahway Police Department, Holmes left the force in 1989. He now owns and operates the Rahway-based Holmes Security and Investigations Inc.

Holmes has been a member of the Rahway City Council since 1989, serving as Council President during 1991.

Among his professional accomplishments, Holmes is a member of the National Black Police Association, which represents 33,000 black police officers nationwide. Locally, he is



Chester Holmes



William Wolf

Treasurer of the Union County-based Black Electric and Appointed Director of the Heritages Site Preservation of the State of New Jersey, and is President of Gravit Inc.

Married to Grace Wolf for 51 years, the couple has two children, Elaine Sackrider and Noel Wolf, one granddaughter, Lisa, and two great-grandchildren, Ashley and Lily Ann.

The UCUA is an autonomous County agency created in 1986 to oversee implementation of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes source reduction, recycling, waste-to-energy and limited landfilling.

The nine UCUA Commissioners and two Alternates are appointed by the Union County Freeholder Board. The Authority's reorganization meeting is held each February to elect the chairman of the board.

This year, the board is led by Chairman Fred Brown Jr. and Treasurer Chester Holmes. The board also includes William Wolf, John Ludington II, and Fred Brown Jr. as commissioners, and Michael Kureczka and Charles Laskowski as alternates.

Wolf has been a member for 22 years. He is on the Council of the Heritages Site Preservation of the State of New Jersey, and is President of Gravit Inc. Married to Grace Wolf for 51 years, the couple has two children, Elaine Sackrider and Noel Wolf, one granddaughter, Lisa, and two great-grandchildren, Ashley and Lily Ann. The UCUA is an autonomous County agency created in 1986 to oversee implementation of the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, which includes source reduction, recycling, waste-to-energy and limited landfilling. The nine UCUA Commissioners and two Alternates are appointed by the Union County Freeholder Board. The Authority's reorganization meeting is held each February to elect the chairman of the board. This year, the board is led by Chairman Fred Brown Jr. and Treasurer Chester Holmes. The board also includes William Wolf, John Ludington II, and Fred Brown Jr. as commissioners, and Michael Kureczka and Charles Laskowski as alternates.