



Janice G. Allen
Mayor

Borough of North Plainfield

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Dear Residents,

Enclosed you will find your property tax bill for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. The municipal portion of your taxes is being increased by 3 cents per \$100 of assessed value, or \$30 for a home valued at \$100,000. However, the total tax bill – including the school and county taxes – is increasing by 38 cents or \$380 per \$100,000.

While my administration is required by law to send this bill and collect these taxes, the Council and I are responsible only for the portion of this bill that relates to municipal services, including the police, fire, public works, building and health departments, and other services. The remainder we collect is for the schools and County, and is set by the School and Freeholder Boards.

Approximately 88 percent of the 2004-2005 increase is related to school expenditures, with the remainder going for the County and town. The Council and I, recognizing that payments for the school construction bills are included in this year's taxes, worked diligently to keep the municipal budget and resulting taxes as low as possible while cutting no services for our residents.

This continues to be a difficult task with interest rates at an all time low and flat state aid. In response, I ordered my department heads to cut their budgets across the board and delay any new spending until the economy improves. The state reviewed our budget earlier this month and in recognition of our efforts provided \$340,000 in additional municipal aid to North Plainfield's taxpayers.

In order to continue the positive progress in North Plainfield, we have worked to fund municipal improvements without burdening North Plainfield's taxpayers, by using grants and aid from the State of New Jersey and Somerset County.

The redevelopment projects initiated by VIP Honda, East Coast Nissan, CVS and the Global Service Station and the improvements made by residential property owners continue to make North Plainfield a proud community.

In addition, donations, sponsorships and volunteers produced a number of community events in 2004. We held our annual Street Fair, Independence Day Parade and Fireworks Display and our Senior Citizens Picnic, to name a few. Thanks to all the people and businesses who contributed time, talent and money, to make these events possible.

As your Mayor, I remain dedicated to maintaining or increasing our services while providing a fiscally responsible budget, and to maintaining our reputation as a model of what a government can do with limited resources. I want to give my thanks to the staff and volunteers who make it possible.

In recognition of the date you will receive this letter, property tax payments for the third quarter – which are due on August 1, 2004 – will have an interest-free grace period through August 27, 2004.

Sincerely,

Janice G. Allen
Mayor