

REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 3, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 and was called to order by Mayor Minkoff at 7:08 PM. Mayor Minkoff read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Minkoff; Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Kovach, Borough Clerk Hullings.

Mayor Minkoff appointed Kathie Senior to serve as Deputy Borough Clerk for a term to expire January 1, 2014.

The above appointment was confirmed on motion made by Councilman Millet, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

Mayor Minkoff administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Borough Clerk Kathie Senior. He welcomed her to the Borough and looks forward to working with her in the future.

Mayor Minkoff asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that she was going to defer her report this evening. She asked Tara Canavera, Vice President of the Irving School PTO to speak. Ms. Canavera noted that Firefighter Peggy Brookes helped advertise the food drive and operation snowflake. She even took the remaining angels from the tree and purchased gifts. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin wished Councilwoman Brill Mittler Happy Birthday!

Councilman Potts reported that the Teen Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers. The Senior Holiday Party will be held on December 16, 2013 at the Italian Bistro from 11:30 AM till 2:30 PM. The Annual Christmas Dinner will be held at the Senior Center from 1:00 PM till 3:00 PM. Interested residents are asked to make reservations. They are seeking donations and volunteers for this event.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that Congressman Pallone will be attending the Affordable Care Act Event on December 9th at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers along with representatives from Enroll America and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare. On December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at the Senior Center there will be representatives from all three insurance carriers and counselors available to help enroll individuals. This event is sponsored by the Board of Health. On December 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM the Human Relations Commission will celebrate Kwanzaa with a candle lighting at 6:00 PM. The Martin Luther King Event will be held on January 20, 2014 at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center. The Guest Speaker for the event will be Freeholder Ken Armwood and the award recipient will be Deborah Morgan. There is a resolution on the agenda for consideration supporting National Homelessness Day on December 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a brief ceremony beginning at 5:30 PM at the Reformed Church. The Food Pantry held a successful turkey distribution for Thanksgiving, serving 90 families, a 50% increase over last year. She thanked the Department of Public Works for picking up 150 turkeys. She also thanked the many individuals who assisted in the distribution efforts and also thanked those individuals who donated to the food pantry. Lastly, she reported that the Library is kicking off their annual fundraising drive.

Councilwoman Brill Mittler reported that Main Street Highland Park has been very active. They held a fantastic menorah lighting ceremony and she thanked the volunteers and the Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department. Last Saturday, they held the tree lighting ceremony. Kwanzaa will be celebrated later this month. She encouraged residents to utilize their Shoppers Reward Card as they are missing out on savings on their property taxes. She has used her card at the gym, restaurants, etc. She gets message alerts about her savings. This program is helping small businesses in town in addition to saving money on property taxes. She encouraged everyone to shop locally for the holidays and/or for any events. She did all her holiday shopping in Highland Park. The Gratitude Graffiti project wound down on Thanksgiving Day. She thanked the volunteers and merchants for their participation. The Public Information Committee is working on the e-news, nixle and Facebook updates and the Borough is in the midst of improving the website.

Councilman Erickson – No report.

Councilman Millet – No report.

Borough Administrator Kovach – No report.

Borough Attorney Schmierer – No report.

Mayor Minkoff read the following message – “We all have periods of joy and sorrow in our lives, some days are easier than others. These triumphs and trials are woven into the fabric of life. But the intersection of the holidays we celebrated last week, Thanksgiving and Hanukkah, are infused with gratitude and hope and should enable us to reflect on whatever good we have in our lives and realize how much we have to share that others would value and appreciate. Giving is a tangible way to show gratitude both unnecessary and integral to the word Thanksgiving. Giving elevates our sense of gratitude. In addition to the critical tangible benefits to the recipient, everyone knows the rush that comes from sharing with others who may be in need, whether that need is physical, financial, emotional, communal or, perhaps, even spiritual. This is hardly news to those that live in Highland Park. We don't just talk about helping others; it is imbedded in our daily routine. It is one of the reasons we love it here so much. We are more than just a community of thankers, we are a community of givers and doers. As I

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wish everyone a wonderful holiday season, let me express my gratitude to our entire community of givers and doers who make Highland Park special and a warm and caring community.”

Mayor Minkoff opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

No one appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion session.

The Clerk reported that an ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION" had been introduced in writing by the Finance Committee for consideration of passage on first reading by title.

On motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilman Millet, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilman Millet, and carried by unanimous affirmative voice vote:

No. 12-13-346

WHEREAS, an Ordinance entitled, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK AND THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION" has been introduced and duly passed on first reading;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that this Council meet at the Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, on Tuesday, December 17, 2013, at 7:00 PM, for the purpose of considering said Ordinance on final passage after public hearing thereon.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said a Notice of Pending Ordinance and Summary of said Ordinance be published once at least one (1) week prior to the time fixed for further consideration of said Ordinance for final passage in the "Home News Tribune", of East Brunswick, New Jersey, a newspaper published in the County of Middlesex and circulating in this municipality, there being no newspaper published daily in this municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and of the time and place when and where said Ordinance will be further considered for final passage as aforesaid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of said Ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall, 221 South Fifth Avenue, Highland Park, New Jersey, forthwith and that the Borough Clerk have available in her office for the members of the general public of Highland Park copies of said Ordinance for those members of the general public who may request the same.

Consent Agenda Resolution Nos. 12-13-347 through 12-13-360 were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman Erickson, seconded by Councilman Millet, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Brill Mittler, Erickson, Foster-Dublin, Millet, Potts, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: None.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 12-13-347

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that transfers of 2013 budget appropriation balances shall be made as follows:

CURRENT FUND

Account No.	Description	From	To
23-220-200	Insurance – Other	\$ 46,948.00	
23-220-200	Insurance- Health		\$ 81,948.00
26-315-200	Motor Pool	\$ 10,000.00	
31-460-235	Gasoline		\$ 10,000.00
36-472-200	Social Security	\$ 20,000.00	
27-340-200	Animal Control	\$ 5,000.00	
31-430-200	Electric	\$ 10,000.00	
		\$ 91,948.00	\$ 91,948.00

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 12-13-348

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that all claims presented prior to this meeting as shown on a detailed list prepared by the Borough Treasurer, and which have been submitted and approved in accordance with Highland Park Ordinance No. 1004, shall be and the same are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall include in the minutes of this meeting a statement as to all such claims approved as shown in a Bills List Journal in accordance with said Ordinance.

The bills approved for payment at this meeting, Bills List 12/03/13, can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 32.

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The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-349

WHEREAS, Ely Kotin (EK N011 LLC) has filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for an Owners License to operate taxicabs in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses for the year 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicant and has reported favorably upon said application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determined that said applicant is qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such License. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Owner License to the aforesaid applicant.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-350

WHEREAS, Ely Kotin (EK N011 LLC) has filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for an Owners License to operate taxicabs in this Borough under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such licenses for the year 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicant and has reported favorably upon said application;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Council hereby determined that said applicant is qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of such License. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Owner License to the aforesaid applicant.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Safety Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-351

WHEREAS, Ely Kotin have filed with the Clerk of this Borough an application for a License to operate taxicabs under the provisions of the Ordinance providing for such Licenses for the year 2014; and WHEREAS, the Chief of Police and/or his designee has investigated said applicants and has reported favorably upon said applications;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that said applicants are qualified and that public necessity and convenience would be served by the issuance of said Licenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue an Operator License to the aforesaid applicants.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-352

WHEREAS, the winter poses extreme hardship for unsheltered and inadequately housed low-income me, women and children in Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the spirit of the holiday season of giving provides an opportunity for affirmation and renewal regarding the commitment to end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, December 21<sup>st</sup> has been designated National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council and is so recognized by cities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, in this season of generosity and sharing, citizens of Highland Park are encouraged to commit themselves to promoting compassion and concern for all brothers and sisters, especially those who are poor and homeless; and

WHEREAS, in remembering those who have died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent as is the Borough's collective commitment to preventing such deaths in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that we hereby declare December 21<sup>st</sup> as

**NATIONAL HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY**

In recognition of the people who have died homeless in and around Highland Park, and we hereby ask all citizens to take a moment of silence in remembrance and encourage our citizens to support all local efforts to eliminate homelessness in our community.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-353

WHEREAS, The Goldstein Partnership, the Project Architect for the renovation of the Public Safety Building, had heretofore submitted an invoice totaling the amount of \$11,198.53 for services in connection with the said project; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the said invoice and have approved the same for payment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and hereby authorized and directed to issue payment in the amount of \$11,198.53 to The Goldstein Partnership, for architectural services in connection with the renovation of the Public Safety Building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Health and Welfare Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 12-13-354

WHEREAS, the Borough of Highland Park is desirous of contracting with the County of Middlesex for the provision of various public health services for the period beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:8-1 et seq., a municipality may enter into a contract with the County for the provision of such services without public bidding; and

WHEREAS, the County of Middlesex has agreed to contract with the Borough of Highland Park for said public health services in the amount of \$41,054.18 for the year 2014 and in the amount of \$41,875.27 for 2015; and

WHEREAS, funds for said contract shall be made available upon adoption in the 2014 Municipal Budget in an amount not to exceed \$41,054.18 without further resolution of Council, as reflected by the certification of funds by Finance Director Kathleen Kovach, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor and Borough Clerk shall be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute and attest on behalf of the Borough a contract with the County of Middlesex for the provision of public health services, in the amount of Forty-One Thousand, Fifty-Four dollars and Eighteen cents (\$41,054.18), for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, and Forty-One Thousand, Eight Hundred Seventy-Five and Twenty-Seven cents (\$41,875.27), said contract to be in a form approved by the Borough Attorney, for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015,.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Finance Director Kathleen Kovach, the Highland Park Board of Health, and the County of Middlesex forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-355

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park has reviewed the 2014 Budget proposed by the Highland Park Redevelopment Agency; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park has agreed to make available in the Borough of Highland Park's 2014 budget the amount of \$12,000.00, the amount needed to subsidize the Highland Park Redevelopment Agency;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Department of Community Affairs and the Highland Park Redevelopment Agency.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-356

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 04-13-129, adopted by the Borough Council on April 2, 2013, a contract was awarded to Lucas Construction Group, Inc., Morganville, NJ, for Improvements to Wayne Street Project; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 3 and Close-out Change Order, filed by the Borough Engineer, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, resulting in an overall decrease in the original contract in the amount of \$21,176.60, and there is due to Lucas Construction Group, Inc. the sum of \$11,370.64, in accordance with said Pay Estimate No. 3 for work performed from September 26, 2013 to November 14, 2013; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-813-220 in the amount of \$11,370.64, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay to Lucas Construction Group, Inc. the sum of \$11,370.64 as certified by the Borough Engineer in Pay Estimate No. 3, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports from the Contractor and posting of a one year maintenance bond in the amount of \$31,250.25; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach and the Borough Engineer.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 12-13-357

WHEREAS, Steven Stankovits of 34 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, received an extremely high water and sewer bill; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Highland Park Water & Sewer Department that the water meter malfunctioned thereby causing the issuance of an erroneous water and sewer bill; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that this account be credited for the erroneous charges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to issue a credit to Account # 20141021-0 of \$289.61 for water and \$172.06 for sewer for a total amount of \$461.67 to the water and sewer account of Steven Stankovits, 34 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Public Works and Public Utilities Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 12-13-358

WHEREAS, pursuant to Res. No. 2-13-65, adopted by the Borough Council of Highland Park on February 5, 2013, execution of a professional services agreement with CME Associates, for engineering services in connection with receipt of bids for the 2012 Curb/Sidewalk Replacement Program, was authorized in an amount not to exceed \$66,823.00 without further authorization of Council; and

WHEREAS, additional services have been provided by CME Associates for which additional compensation is warranted, in an amount not to exceed \$10,372.00; and

WHEREAS, it will be necessary for the Borough Engineer to provide Construction Administration Services for the above mentioned project, in accordance with the letter of proposal from David Samuel, CME Associates, dated November 26, 2013, attached to the original of this resolution, in the amount of \$73,900.00; and

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WHEREAS, funds for this purpose in the additional amounts of \$10,372.00 and \$73,900.00, for a total amount of \$84,272.00, are available in Account No. C-04-55-817-310, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Agreement for professional services with CME Associates to provide services as consulting engineer for the 2012 Curb/Sidewalk Program shall be and is hereby amended to provide additional compensation in the amount of \$84,272.00. No additional compensation may be authorized without further authorization of Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to CME Associates and Chief Financial Officer Kathleen Kovach forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-359

WHEREAS, CGPH, Professional Services for Administration of the Borough's Housing Rehabilitation Program II, had heretofore submitted an invoice totaling the amount of \$451.00 for services in connection with the said project; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the said invoice and have approved the same for payment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director shall be and hereby authorized and directed to issue payment in the amount of \$451.00 to CGPH, for professional services for administration of the Borough's Housing Rehabilitation Program II; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Finance Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 12-13-360

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director be and is hereby authorized and directed to remit to the following the amount set opposite, the same being the amount of overpayment of 2013 taxes for the property indicated:

<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>REMITTEE</u>	<u>AMOUNT TO BE REMITTED</u>
136	16	Marsha Kleinman 32 North 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Highland Park, NJ 08904	\$223.48

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department and Tax Collector forthwith.

Mayor Minkoff opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves.

No one appearing to be heard, the Mayor closed the public discussion.

Mayor Minkoff welcomed back Chief Rizco from Medical Leave. He thanked the public and the first responders for their patience during this meeting.

Chief Rizco acknowledged Captain Golden for the exceptional job he did while he was out on medical leave. It is comforting to know that the second in charge is a capable individual and it is nice to come back to work with a clean desk and very few problems. The Borough and the Police Department are very lucky to have a Captain like Scott Golden.

Chief Rizco explained that they are going to honor Police Officers and Dispatchers for their high level of dedication and team work shown during an extensive search for two burglary suspects on September 30<sup>th</sup>. One will receive an exceptional duty award, the rest will receive honorable service awards, and the Dispatchers will receive proclamations from the Borough. Chief Rizco called all the honorees up to the front of the room. Chief Rizco noted that this one of two meetings each year where we recognize the first responders for outstanding performances.

Capt. Golden noted that this incident was a burglary that had occurred in neighboring North Brunswick. Suspects fled area in stolen black Acura. Sgt. Wenskoski observed the stolen vehicle in BB Big parking lot and suspects fled on foot. Officers set up a perimeter search which resulted in the arrest of one of the suspects. Officers continued to search for additional suspect who was later apprehended. Sgt. Wenskoski was presented with an exceptional duty award by Chief Rizco.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commended the Highland Park Police Department for always being aware of what's going on in the community, even while we sleep, and keeping our residents safe.

Mayor Minkoff commented that they are giving fifteen awards for this incident. It is not only a testament to your teamwork, it shows and it should demonstrate tangibly to everyone in Highland Park, and anyone who comes to Highland Park to do us harm, that we will spare no effort, that we have a truly remarkable team of public safety professionals and volunteers who will do anything and everything they possibly can to keep us safe at any and all times. This happens day in and day out without fanfare and without awards. Mayor Minkoff read the proclamation and Councilwoman Foster-Dublin presented a duly embossed copy to Lt. Panichella, Lt. Hammill, Sgt. Olarra, Sgt. Culver, Sgt. Wenskoski, Sgt. Lancry, Office Karon, Det. Young, Det. Newton, Officer Pardo, Officer Garrity, Officer Soden, Officer Seigal, Disptacher Marcik and Dispatcher Archibald. Chief Rizco and Capt. Golden presented the Police Officers with pins.

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Chief Rizco stated that Captain Golden was the officer in charge and actively took part in the search for the individual. Chief Rizco honored Captain Golden with a service award. Mayor Minkoff read proclamation and it was presented to him by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin.

Chief Rizco called up Captain David Loewenstein of the Highland Park First Aid Squad to present awards to his volunteers.

Capt. Loewenstein commented that the great part of their job is that 90% of the time the men in blue are there to assist. He thanked them for their help. There are two calls for which they will honor their volunteers. Capt. Loewenstein explained that the first incident on October 14<sup>th</sup> was a call for assistance for a resident in cardiac arrest. Upon their arrival they took over CPR efforts from the Highland Park Police Department. There were seven volunteers who responded to this call. The elderly gentlemen did begin to breathe on his own and lived for an additional week, enabling his family to spend time with him. Capt. Loewenstein called up Rebecca Lauer, Andy Brown, Patrick Boulanger, Micah White, Robin Loewenstein, Yair White, and Josh Loewenstein to be recognized.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that one thing that is said about Highland Park is how safe the town is. This is not only demonstrated in public safety but with the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Squad and keeping residents alive. This is a shining example of who the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Squad is and the kind of service that they offer.

Mayor Minkoff commented that the Borough is extraordinarily grateful for what they do. Even if they don't say it as often as they would like, please know that you have the gratitude of the Mayor, the Governing Body, the Administration, your peers in Public Safety, as well as the entire Borough of Highland Park. Thank you for volunteering your time to save lives and it is an extraordinary commitment and contribution that you make and we are extremely grateful for it.

Mayor Minkoff read the proclamation and Councilwoman Foster-Dublin presented a duly embossed copy to each of the honorees.

Becky Lauer explained that this incident involved a call for assistance for a resident, Zev Rosenberg, who had fallen down his basement stairs. When the squad arrived the patient had loss of feeling in his limbs. The squad members, David Loewenstein, Patrick Boulanger and Bruce Nadler, acted quickly and carefully moved the patient onto a backboard and rushed him to the hospital. Their quick response and action resulted in the patient making a full recovery and he recently competed in the Philadelphia marathon. Ms. Lauer called up the honorees to be recognized. This is one of their big saves and they enjoy seeing him around town.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that words cannot express how thankful the Borough is for the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Squad that keeps us all safe and this is another great demonstration.

Mayor Minkoff recognized Capt. Loewenstein for his leadership. The 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Squad in Highland Park has truly become a family business. There are parents, children, and siblings that serve on the squad. This is something that has been passed down through the generations and it is truly remarkable.

Mayor Minkoff read proclamation and Councilwoman Foster-Dublin presented a duly embossed copy to the three honorees.

Mayor Minkoff commented that he saved the most meaningful recognition for last. He asked the audience to indulge him as he read the following speech.

"To paraphrase a quote from John F. Kennedy: A nation reveals itself not only by the people it produces, but also by the people it honors, the people it remembers.

"Today, Highland Park, reveals itself with the bittersweet taste of honor and remembrance. Bitter, because it was a little less than a year ago that we lost a true friend and hero, Barry Criss.

"But it's my hope that there is some sweetness, in our choice to honor and remember Barry today, and in so doing, perhaps we can be both uplifted and inspired.

"Many of you may know that this is not the first time the community has honored Barry. He was honored as a Volunteer of the Year in Highland Park, and twice commended with resolutions for his heroism as a member of the Highland Park First Aid Squad. Just under a year ago, we gathered as a community in a moving tribute to Barry, albeit under the most trying of circumstances, but at least we were again able to show him how much we loved and cherished him for the kind person he was, the kind of volunteer he was, the kind of father and husband he was, and the kind of friend he was.

"So, what kind of person was Barry? Numbers can help tell a small piece of the story. 7,000 calls, First Aid Squad Captain for 4 terms, Assistant Captain for 10 terms, Trustee for 10 years, a total of 42 years in all, of selfless devotion and commitment to the community that he treated like his family; a man whose family shared him so selflessly with us. But, those numbers don't tell you that Barry was always a calm, reassuring and expert presence in responding to those in need, whether for us locally, or during a time of national tragedy in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

"Above all, Barry valued the precious gift of life and he devoted much of his life to saving and protecting the lives of others. It was a horrible irony that he was taken from us way too soon, but through countless acts of bravery, he sought to rescue victims of fires, floods, accidents, acute health episodes like heart attacks and strokes, and a litany of other such emergencies. He stopped counting the number of lives he literally saved after the number passed several dozen. But for all of that and much more, we all owe him our gratitude because his nobility in his pursuit to save others added something to all of our lives.

"And just as he sought to save lives, he sought to help in the giving of life. On 7 different occasions he transformed the anxiety, fear and uncertainty of women in labor who were stranded at home into the joy of the birth of a healthy child. His kindness didn't stop with people. During and after Hurricane Floyd, Barry spent an entire night in Bound Brook in the First Aid Squad's boat rescuing not just people, but pets in distress.

"When Barry wasn't actually saving lives he was doing all he could to advance the cause of public safety. He spent much spare time maintaining the squad's vehicles and boat. He served as part of the Borough's Office of Emergency Management; he starred in a local documentary, prepared for Highland Park High School students to educate them about the dangers of drunk driving. Barry trained Highland Park Middle School students in CPR and first aid.

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“One can’t help hear those details and be impressed; but today I’d like to talk about the broader, and I hope enduring impact of Barry’s legacy, and legacy was extremely important to him. But I don’t mean legacy in the usual sense. Barry’s motto was “allow people to teach you so you can teach those that come next”. As a mentor, instructor and friend, Barry trained and advised countless members of the squad. Barry literally took his work very personally. He was the son, brother and father of First Aid Squad members. You might even say that for Barry, the Highland Park First Aid Squad was the “family business” and he saw it as his responsibility to ensure its continuity, professionalism and vitality.

“I’d suggest though, that for all of this, it’s just possible that there was something very subtle about Barry that endeared him so much to us. His courage was inspiring, his bravery was unquestionable, and his personification of the CPR code “Never Give Up” was without peer. But in a time when people seek headlines, recognition and the fleeting futility through television, movies and social media, Barry worked not for recognition or reward, he served because it was the right thing to do. He served because he loved his community and he felt his service would be the most tangible and valuable expression of his love and devotion.

“Barry Criss left us a legacy of what public service truly means because Barry was a role model of what a public servant must be; devoted, ready to answer the call, a willingness to go above and beyond under virtually any set of circumstances, to be part of a team, and when the situation warrants, to be a leader. Barry understood that you serve the public because you want to live in and be a part of a community, to leave it better off than when you arrived, rather than simply take for granted that public service is a job for somebody else. The myriad things great and small that have transformed Highland Park from a wonderful community into an extended family to make it the special place that we all cherish didn’t just happen by themselves. Barry understood this and he gave selflessly and tirelessly for decades. He didn’t wait around to be asked or to hope that somehow our community might become better; he did all he could, in his own way, to make sure it did happen.

“Which leads me to what impressed me most and what I will always remember about Barry, his humility. If you met Barry you would not have known of his prolific achievements as a member of this squad unless somebody else told you, and Barry would not have encouraged, in fact he would likely have been embarrassed by that. He was gracious and considerate, a genuine and kind person with a heart the size of Highland Park.

“So today, even though Barry would probably blush, it’s time for us to thank him and his family for his heroism, bravery, and dedication to service. We reveal ourselves today by honoring and remembering him by dedicating Barry Criss Way so that the legacy he left us and the inspiration that legacy should provide us can be properly preserved, perpetuated and promoted.

“To the Criss Family, on behalf of the Borough of Highland Park it is my honor and proud duty to say thank you. We are revealed today as we should be by thanking you for sharing Barry with us and by allowing us to remember and honor him by dedicating Barry Criss Way, to add his name permanently to the lexicon and geography of Highland Park. It is our hope that this is a suitable tribute to a wonderful person of refinement, generosity, commitment to community, and our humble and devoted hero, Barry Criss. He has been and always will be missed, but he will always be loved, honored and remembered.”

Mayor Minkoff asked the Criss family to come forward.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that when she first came on Council, the first committee she served on was Public Safety. One of the first people she met was Barry. He was always so calm no matter what was going on. He always reminded her of that movie “Cool Hand Luke”. It was a pleasure to be with Barry, learn from Barry and have him as a mentor. When they were planning to name a street after him, they considered street, circle, but finally decided on “way” as it had to be Barry Criss’ Way. Barry is truly one of Highland Park’s treasures. She thanked his family for giving him to the Borough for so many years, we are truly grateful.

Mayor Minkoff read the proclamation and presented them with an embossed copy of the proclamation and the key to the Borough.

MaryLou Criss thanked Mayor Minkoff for honoring Barry.

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman Millet, seconded by Councilwoman Brill Mittler, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned to the Conference Meeting at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk