

## REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 12, 2018

A Regular Meeting of the Highland Park Mayor and Council was held in Borough Hall, 221 South 5th Avenue, on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 and was called to order by Mayor Brill Mittler at 7:07 PM. Mayor Brill Mittler read the Open Public Meetings Statement.

Present: Mayor Brill Mittler; Councilpersons Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim-Chohan Welkovits; Borough Attorney Schmierer; Borough Administrator Jover; Borough Clerk Hullings.

Absent: Councilperson Fine.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that this is a chance to thank all of our high school students who have worked throughout the year to help other students. Back in 2015, when she started the HP Gives a Hoot Program, it was started in order to help ensure that our children would have healthy lunches when school was not in session. 38% of the children in the schools are on free or reduced lunch and many of them were dependent upon the lunch in the schools. While HP Gives a Hoot has grown over the years, thanks to donations from so many of our residents and also a few grants, so they have been able to continue providing lunches when school is not in session and additionally, there have been other programs over the years that we have been able to put in place in order to help students. Michael Buchman is the Chairperson of the HP Gives a Hoot Committee and she asked him to explain what the Peer to Peer Program is about.

Mr. Buchman gave brief explanation of what the Peer to Peer Mentoring Program is about. Mayor Brill Mittler and Councilman Hersh presented certificates to the Peer to Peer students along with Mr. Buchman.

Main Street Minute was given by Rebecca Hersh. She noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> annual 5K had over 600 runners. The money raised goes back to the town, to agencies such as the Fire Department, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Squad and the Library. The Farmer's Market started on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will run every Friday until the end of December from 11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. This year they will have a tomato festival and a squash festival at the Farmer's Market. Every Friday, there is music on the corner, at North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Raritan Avenue. They have held 2 outdoor movie nights already and they will be held every Saturday during the summer. Arts in the Park will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> and the Window Art Walk will be held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a new restaurant in town, Okie Pokie Café and a new café to open next to Bridge Restaurant. There is a bakery looking to come to town and they are looking at the space next to Jack's Hardware.

Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Highland Park First Aid Squad has been providing valuable non-life threatening ambulatory and EMT services for our residents for many, many years. Five years ago, they were the responders on the scene when my own father was failing. I will always be grateful to them for their services to my family, and for my extended overall Highland Park family. But, sometimes things change and we must be able to move forward for the benefit of all our residents, especially when public safety is at issue. So, what has changed? (1) Volunteerism is down through the community and the country. Our lives are busier than ever. Two person working families are the norm, not the exception. The downward trend in overall volunteers can be seen, not only in the First Aid Squad, but other, long-standing volunteer organizations in town. This has resulted in longer response times, often exceeding the NFTH standard of 10 minutes/59 seconds. In fact, in March, April and May of 2018 alone, response times exceeded 11 minutes 50%-57% of the time. That's a scary percentage. Reporting requirements from Trenton have become extremely tedious and time consuming. I have heard from other Mayors of surrounding towns about the difficulties their volunteer First Aid Squads are facing given these new requirements. The reporting must be done and submitted in a timely fashion. Reduced fiscal aid from the State, combined with unfunded mandates, has been making funding of many of our budget lines very, very difficult. Just ask any Councilperson what had to be done to committee funding this year in order to make the mandatory 2% municipal cap. Despite the fact that the Highland Park First Aid Squad is a totally separate organization, not part of the municipal government, we have been funding their organization in various ways. In 2017, we were able to help support the Highland Park First Aid Squad with a budget of \$31,000, up \$5,000 from 2016 and prior years. Additionally, and continuing on, the municipality pays for insurance coverage for the Squad's trucks (an additional \$10,000-\$15,000) as well as the fuel needed to run the trucks. Lastly, the municipality owns the property that the First Aid Squad's building is one, but we have donated the use of the land to them. Times are much more fiscally difficult for all municipalities in New Jersey. We can no longer afford to support the Highland Park First Aid Squad as we had in the past. More and more local First Aid Squads have assisted their municipalities by offering to charge residents' insurance policies for ambulance rides. Surrounding towns like New Brunswick, Piscataway, Edison and Metuchen already have this policy in place. Here in Highland Park, we would not require anyone who could not afford to pay the copay for the cost of the ride to have to pay it. So, these are some of the things that have changed this year. The response times alone were of enough concern for the Governing Body to need to take a hard look at our public safety policy.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that she greatly appreciates the services provided by the Highland Park First Aid Squad. She utilized their services when she was sick a number of years ago. They have been looking at the response times and what has been going on in the community and the change in the levels of volunteerism. They are looking into the public safety overall and response times provided to our residents. The safety of all of our residents is paramount. She reached out to JFK Hospital and had some meetings with them and looked into RWJBH and had meetings with them. RWJBH is a trauma unit for the State and they are the #1 trauma unit for this area. They currently provide Highland Park with advanced care. Basic life support is dealt with by the First Aid Squad. Any call that requires advanced care, RWJBH is called in and they take over from there. This has been going on for quite some time. In conjunction with the First Aid Squad, RWJBH comes in and provides advanced care. RWJBH will give a presentation and on June 18<sup>th</sup> there will be an opportunity for residents to ask questions. The meeting will be in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Don Roberts and Todd Sheraton from RWJBH appeared to give a presentation. Mr. Roberts noted that RWJBH has been a long-time partner with Highland Park as they have been providing advanced life support since 1982. Since that time, they have grown significantly. Currently, they cover more than 750 square miles, providing advanced life support and basic life support, as well as specialty care transport and they do inter-facility transfers to help with the hospital to move patients out. Currently, they serve 12 communities for basic life support and advanced life support. Recently, they have been involved with the New Jersey State EMS Task Force and they have been assisting the US Virgin Islands with three different deployments where they have sent out both advanced life support and basic life support EMS services in taking care of patients and building their infrastructure. From the clinical perspective, they started in 2014 being recognized as the outstanding EMS service for the State of New Jersey. They get that recognition for pit crew CPR, a process they put together to ensure high quality CPR working not only with their crews, but with all the EMS agencies where everybody has a position and a place to provide care for patients. We all understand exactly what our roles are and responsibilities are and how to positively affect outcomes in patient care. They are part of the Level 1 trauma center that serves this area. They are also a comprehensive stroke center. As part of that, they get amazing opportunities for learning in an environment that we would not necessarily see being tied to other hospitals. That information and education is also shared with our staff in quarterly educations. Our paramedics and EMT's are all trained at the exact same level. The only time that the level of education changes is when the paramedics have to go out and demonstrate their competencies with their skillsets. The EMT's and paramedics level and abilities to assess patients have not changed, they work collaboratively and this allows us to provide high quality care and also work with the squads to do the exact same thing. Another initiative that they have recently been working on is partnering with all the EMS agencies throughout the area they serve to offer the same education that they have for their staff. They are also offering the opportunity to provide BLS medical direction. It allows them to receive the education necessary to advance their scope and practice. Through the education and being tied to a medical director, you are now able to administer Narcan, Epi-pen for patients having an allergic reaction, and C-PAP for people having severe respiratory distress. We work to provide that education to everyone and there are many different avenues by which that can happen. From a safety perspective, some of the things we do in the service we provide, they have a product in their vehicles called road safety. It is a product for their staff to ensure that they are providing the safest possible transportation to the scene and also to the hospital. The road safety system is an inertia driven product so it gives instant feedback to the driver so that if they are braking too fast, it lets them know. If they are driving too fast, there are parameters for speeding, it lets them know. If they are taking turns too fast, it lets them know. One of the things that you see a lot of times is backing up accidents. That is also built into the system that makes the passenger get out, press the button and become a spotter as they back up. They also have 2 CO2 monitors on all of their vehicles when they find themselves in situations where people are having difficulty breathing or may be unconscious and they don't know they are walking into a dangerous environment. The CO2 monitors will alert them of that and allow them time to get the patient and our crews out safely. They have mangar lifting devices in their vehicles. It ensures safe movement of patients. It is a mat that slides underneath the patients and with pressing the button it brings the patient into a seated position in about 2 minutes' time. This device can lift up to 750 pounds. It makes it safe for the patient and for our crews. Picture the moment when someone is on the floor and can't get up and they are in pain, this mat is nice, lifts them into a seated position and lets them slide them over to the stretcher or help stand them up. It is absolutely a wonderful product, it maintains the dignity of the patients and assists them with minimal effort. One of the other products that they have that has been in use for quite some time is the local CPR devices. Continuous CPR is what effects outcome, along with early intervention of CPR and AED. This product will allow them to move the patients safely with continuous CPR, it is a battery operated device. It also helps with outcomes in cardiac arrest.

Mr. Sheraton noted that they operate in a 911 capacity in New Brunswick, Franklin and Piscataway areas. They also operate all the way through Somerset County and down to Mercer County. In certain areas within their operation, they do partner with local volunteer squads and their response plan and help operate as needed. In that operation, they can respond from a 911 perspective from as close to New Brunswick here to this town utilizing technology to their advantage. Not only do they respond with their BLS ambulance in a timely manner, but they also have technology that helps them in outside products that will help predict call volume, call location, automatic compliance reporting to contracts. In a contract, a said response time is required and they measure themselves to that in real time and they report out monthly. From an operations perspective, they not only have 911 ambulances that are around, they have the ability to flex their staff that operate within the non-emergency response. There are not emergency resources who operate here locally near the New Brunswick hospital can be reallocated if the 911 volumes predict it. In a mutual aid capacity, they have been able to help other agencies. If you look at it from the reporting structure, they have a very large dispatch center. This dispatch center can hold up to 18 seats and they are only operating 9 of them at this point. They utilize technology in partnering with different towns and having datum or 911 calls transferred directly for dispatch. They also monitor the resource locations through an IT infrastructure and make sure that when we dispatch we are able to backfill in a timely manner. The State has started to require a lot of reporting for dispatchers on EMS volumes. That EMS data report is very large and very tedious. Fortunately for them, they dispatch or process about 100,000 calls a year through the dispatch center and that report is automated in which they are able to transfer to the State when required. They have been operating in Highland Park since 1982. When they respond they have had an ALS bill if so need be. ALS is part of the certificate of need process and the ALS bill would be issued if an ALS unit responded. A BLS unit, if they respond, there is a bill associated with this. They do charge \$890, plus mileage. There is a concern about folks that have challenges paying the bill. One of the things they do is they partner with a third service billing company. That third service billing company operates for them and they have a hardship waiver. Their process is that if a patient has a challenge and they notify them, they will work with them. They have a one-page document that needs to be filled out and process back and then they are able to waive the bill at that point and/or work with you on payment schedules. They have the ability as an agency through the education department at a level 1 trauma center to be able to offer classes to help volunteerism, to help provide the training, offer BLS medical direction to be able to assist. In those offerings, they also have their tactical EMS support. In April of this year, they attended career day at the

Highland Park High School. They like to be part of the communities they serve. Lastly, they love understanding what the customer wants. They do customer service surveys on a portion of their calls by contract and in those customer surveys they do, they ask what were some of the most important pieces to your response and what did you care most about of the response. Over 80% of the patients talked about the care that they received and the compassion they were given. They like to be able to hear that feedback and like to be able to give that service as part of RWJBH.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin asked if there would be a choice of hospitals in non-threatening life conditions. Mr. Roberts noted that in life threatening and non-life threatening situations they take into consideration the needs and choices of the patients. If you're having a life threatening event, they will take you where you want to go. If it is so urgent that the patient needs to be stabilized, they are going to recommend that they go to the closest facility to get them stabilized and then transport them later to where they want to go. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin asked about the traffic on the Albany Street Bridge and how they would be able to get to town for an emergency. Mr. Roberts noted that they have been navigating the traffic under many different adverse conditions such as traffic and weather conditions. If the bridge is ever closed for some situation, they would re-route their trucks and station them in different positions that would allow them to provide care in a timely manner. Since January, they have assisted the squad in mutual aid 100 times and have been 87% of the time compliant to the 10:59 standard. Once we lock into a contract or agreement with the town, that will be maintained at the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin asked about responses to fire calls. Mr. Roberts noted that they would respond to all requests for service whether it's a fire, or a standby. In a large scale event such as a true working fire, not only will they have their ambulances out there, but they will also reach out to their EMS Task Force partners. They are a task force host agency for the central part of New Jersey and they also house resources in the way of a fire truck sized vehicle that stocked with supplies and equipment necessary to manage large scale events. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin asked about emotionally disturbed persons and how the billing process works. Mr. Sheraton noted that from a billing perspective, they have to abide by the laws that govern between Medicare/Medicaid. If they have to process those claims, they would. They do not go back and balance bill.

Councilwoman Welkovits noted that she was able to see some of the data and right now RWJBH is covering 10%-20% of the daytime calls. She asked if they have had recurring complaints about billings and can services be denied if you can't pay? She also asked what carriers are in network for RWJBH. Mr. Roberts no service is ever denied based on ability to pay. Patient care is first and they are transported to the hospital. It is not until after care has been turned over to the emergency department for continued care that they start any paperwork and/or look for insurance information. Mr. Sheraton noted that billing and providers in and out of network have changed constantly as it relates to healthcare. Horizon and Aetna have been working and/or are confirmed contracted network providers. There is a BLS basic bill that you can provide, and there is an ALS 1 bill and 2 bill. From a Medicare/Medicaid standpoint, the Government controls that through a fee schedule. A lot of this is dictated by the insurance companies and/or by the Federal Government. Councilwoman Welkovits asked about ambulance services and whether that goes towards your deductible. Mr. Sheraton noted that for Medicare, there is the Medicare allowable which is the 80% that is covered and then there is 20% deductible for the patient. Most insurance companies follow that similar policy.

Mayor Brill Mittler clarified that the Borough is looking at the Highland Park First Aid Squad staying on as the #1 call from 8:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. and that they would be available from 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Mr. Sheraton noted that if there is a time that a volunteer agency is able to staff during that time period, just let them know and they are more than willing to partner with and have them be first responder to the community. They do this in other different municipalities.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan asked them to talk about the hardship waiver and whether it is restricted to income level, do they need documentation in order to qualify. Mr. Roberts responded that there is no limit to income to be able to qualify for that. There are a few questions that are asked about the income that you have and if there are any extenuating circumstances in your ability to pay. Their job is to provide care to everybody who needs it and to work with anybody who has a difficulty to pay their bill.

Councilman George asked whether billing services at coordinated at the various hospitals. Mr. Sheraton noted that from an EMS perspective, the billing service is separate from the hospital and they utilize a third party service for billing. They do work with the case workers at the hospital if there is advance notice of an inability to pay a bill.

On motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, the minutes of the Regular and Conference Meeting held on February 6, 2018, February 20, 2018 and March 6, 2018, were approved as distributed by affirmative voice vote of all Councilmembers present.

Mayor Brill Mittler asked the Council members to present their reports.

Councilman Hersh noted that they have asked the American Conference on Diversity to resubmit a proposal to provide diversity and inclusion consultation services to the Borough of Highland Park to assist the Borough in issuing an RFP for anti-bias training for our Police and other municipal agencies. There was a general consultation that was going to help them identify some of the areas they need to focus on, but this is more specifically intended to assemble a request for proposals. The American Conference on Diversity will work closely with key leadership and stakeholders to explore a cohesive plan for setting the diversity and inclusion agenda for the entire agency. The program goal is to provide professional D&I strategic planning consultation to Highland Park Borough Council to create a roadmap focused on the specific needs to develop a comprehensive anti-bias training program/initiative for its law enforcement agency as well as other municipal agencies. We will discuss the American Conference on Diversity proposal in our Council Conference Session at our July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that there was a request to analyze the data that the Police Department keeps. There received a number of proposals and DeLacy Davis Consultant Services will provide that service. Mr. Davis is a 20-year veteran of the East Orange Police Department and was the founder of Black Cops Against Brutality. It is an in-kind service and will be provided at no cost to the Borough. He will take an unbiased look at the data/information. He has highly skilled professionals that work with him. He had a conflict for tonight's meeting, but will be at the next meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup>, to do a presentation.

Councilwoman Kim-Chohan reported that the newly formed Historic Commission had a great 2-day walking tour. Some of the residents were not able to sign up as the tours were full. They had to do separate groups on the 1<sup>st</sup> day and there were about 60 people in total. It was hard for the tour guide and it was hard for you to actually hear him. They are putting together a self-guided tour that you can pick up at your own leisure to learn about our downtown. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks in the park will take place Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> and the rain date is July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. Lastly, she attended the FCD Training School graduation which many Highland Parkers had students that graduated and she publicly congratulated them on finishing the school.

Councilwoman Welkovits reported that last week's electronic newsletter has her write up on the Economic Development Committee's updates. There are a lot of links to various things that Main Street is up to. You will not be bored between now and December, there is something going on every weekend. Music on the corner every Friday, festivals, so please take a look at that. There is also a survey from the Safe Walking and Cycling Committee. Thanks to the Director of Main Street for presenting to us. We will try to make sure she comes back once a quarter. Last week they hosted Brett Bramble and John Azzolloni, who are walking the East Coast Greenway for Opioid Addiction Awareness. Brett and John began their walk at the end of January in Key West, Florida. They will walk the length of the East Coast Greenway to Maine to bring awareness to Opioid Addiction, a nationwide crisis that is devastating families and communities. Mayor Brill Mittler and I sat with Brett and John at breakfast to discuss their experiences and the important work that they are doing. She thanked Pastor Kaper-Dale for allowing them to stay overnight at the church. Please visit [BrettBramblewalks.com](http://BrettBramblewalks.com) for more information.

Councilman Hersh reported that the American Conference on Diversity has submitted a proposal to provide diversity and inclusion consultation services to Highland Park Borough Council to assist the Borough in issuing an RFP for anti-bias training for our Police and other municipal agencies. The American Conference on Diversity will work closely with key leadership and stakeholders to explore a cohesive plan for setting the diversity and inclusion agenda for the entire agency. The process will explore the dynamics of current climate and how it shapes institutional policies and practices; and cultural norms. Ultimately, the leaders will map out the D&I priorities and begin to identify promising practices that will enhance and sustain its desire to lead with the dignity and respect for all. The program goal is to provide professional D&I strategic planning consultation to Highland Park Borough Council to create a roadmap focused on the specific needs to develop a comprehensive anti-bias training program/initiative for its law enforcement agency as well as other municipal agencies. We will discuss the American Conference on Diversity proposal in our Council Conference Session at our July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. I'm thrilled to announce that after an eight-month "trial" period, the Highland Park Municipal ID is now being administered at its intended home, the Highland Park Public Library, located right up the road at 31 North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Applicants can receive the card Mondays, between 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and then again between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m., and then again on Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Remember: the card is available to all residents aged 14 and up and is an accepted form of photo ID for access to all municipal agencies and can be used as one's primary library card if they so choose. The cost is \$15 per card for adults, and \$7 for seniors, veterans and children. A fee waiver will be granted for any resident who claims financial hardship with no questions asked. Applicants must provide proof of identity and proof of Highland Park residency, based on a points system which can be found at [www.hpboro.com/municipalidprogram](http://www.hpboro.com/municipalidprogram). On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Borough of Highland Park, the Highland Park Human Relations Commission and the Pride Center of New Jersey co-sponsored the raising of the LGBT Pride Flag out in front of the Senior/Youth Center in observance of Pride Month. The observance is symbolic, yes, but I find this particularly powerful. After decades of advocacy, the political climate has changed so rapidly for the LGBT community for the better, but there are still challenges. Discrimination continues to run rampant, particularly for aging community members who are trying to get into age restricted or subsidized housing. Just last week, we saw Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop in Colorado, prevail when the Supreme Court of the United States sided with him and ruled that the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which originally ruled against the baker, had been shown to be hostile to religion because of the remarks of one of its members. While the court strongly reaffirmed protections for gay rights, these types of suits are thinly veiled attempts to discriminate. They know it, we know it, and we need to continue the fight for what's right; the fight for equity. There was a reason why our Inclusive Communities resolution, intended to protect our most vulnerable members of our immigrant population, starts off intentionally broad. It's because no matter where we are in history, hostile courts, administrations, and leaders will do whatever it takes to marginalize any given population. History proves that. So, we wear the pin and raise the flag to show where our hearts are. Then we create the policies for a truly inclusive community. Last week, I participated in a rally in support of Highland Park resident, Cloyd Edralin, who is married to a U.S. citizen and holds a green card, but was nevertheless detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in the privately operated Elizabeth Contract Detention Facility. He faces deportation due to a criminal charge from 2007. This Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., please join members of our community to take part in a forum with New Jersey Attorney General Gerbir Grewal and Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew Carey. The free event will take place in West Hall at Middlesex County College. Thank you to the Indian Business Association for sponsoring. This is an incredible opportunity to discuss immigration related issues. Could the Attorney General issue guidelines or directives to prevent prosecutors from directly assisting ICE by answering questions about immigrants' court dates, release dates, or other questions? Will the Attorney General change anything about the AG Directive on requiring police to report suspected undocumented immigrants to ICE under certain charges such as drunk driving (this is really a form of racial profiling)? Can the Attorney General work with the court system to prevent assistance to ICE with arrests in

courthouse by sheriff's officers? How about keeping ICE out of courthouses? What can be done to help immigrants (both green card holders and the undocumented) to get their old records expunged of items that have now been deemed as deportable offenses (many green card holders are being picked up now on old offenses such as the recent one in Highland Park). What are the current policies of the Middlesex County Prosecutor on assisting or responding to requests from ICE? Would they consider helping someone get their records expunged? Would it be possible for a group of concerned residents to meet with them about immigration related issues? Also, this Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., please join the Human Relations Commission for a discussion with Krystal Sital, author of *Secrets We Kept: Three Women of Trinidad*. The event will take place at the Highland Park Senior/Youth Center, 220 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. But make sure you read her book, which is an account of the long-held secrets of the author's family's past, and what it took for her foremothers to survive and find strength in themselves, amid violence, a rigid ethnic and racial caste system, and a tolerance of domestic abuse, the hard legacies of plantation slavery, permeate the history of Trinidad. I'd like to point to a resolution we're voting on tonight, resolution 6-18-158, which supports the designation of *Streptomyces griseus* as the official state microbe and specifically a bill in the legislature that designates this microbe as the official state microbe. Through a HUD Grant, the Borough of Highland Park has partnered with New Jersey Citizen Action's Education Fund to ensure our renter residents know their rights and can report discrimination. As you might know, housing discrimination is illegal and that the Fair Housing Act protects people from being discriminated on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability and familial status. If you think you have experienced housing discrimination you can call 732-246-4772.

Councilwoman Foster-Dublin reported that on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. there will be a community forum at West Hall, Middlesex County College. The Attorney General will be there with representatives from the Prosecutor's Office. On Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at Riverside Park, the NAACP will be celebrating Juneteenth. It is a celebration of life and culture of who we are. June is Caribbean Heritage Month. There is music, dancing, etc.

Councilman George reported that he spoke to Commander Bill Powers and there is a new Federal regulation that all municipalities should fly the Killed in Action flag, it is a red background with black writing on it. The Department of Public Works has erected the flag that flies over Borough Hall. Bulk trash on the South Side is tomorrow. There was a very large pickup of bulk trash last week on the North Side and Triangle. If the trash is not picked up tomorrow, they will get to it on Thursday and/or Friday as they will be assigning an additional crew for pickup. He encouraged residents to look online for plastic bag/recycling questionnaire and to take the survey so that they can get feedback on the process.

Borough Administrator Jover – No report.

Borough Attorney Tauriello - No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler – No report.

Mayor Brill Mittler opened the meeting for public discussion and called upon all those wishing to speak to identify themselves. She noted that there are two public discussion sessions on the agenda. The first session is for 15 persons. She asked that each person limit themselves to three (3) minutes and not duplicate discussions so that everyone gets a chance to speak.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, asked why the 2018 budget is being changed. Borough Administrator Jover noted that there was an inadvertent error in a salary line and they had to find the money in the budget.

Ellen Whitt, 20 South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, commented that she wanted to speak about the incident on March 15<sup>th</sup> where a black teenager walking down the street on the other side of the Borough was assumed to be a criminal by the Highland Park Police. She wanted to give a few more details about this incident which clearly showed racial bias and profiling. She was one of the residents that used the Open Public Records Act to obtain access to records, which demonstrate what actually happened. On March 15<sup>th</sup> around 5:00 p.m. in broad daylight, a black teenager walked towards his home on Lincoln Avenue. Two doors down from his house, he stopped at the intersection to take a photograph for a school project. As there was no traffic, he stood in the middle of the street and used a disposable camera, provided by his high school to take the photograph. He had no way of knowing that an undercover Highland Park Detective, who happened to be in the area in an unmarked car, was watching him. The teenager then walked into his house two doors down. Meanwhile, the Detective called for backup, assuming that the black teen must be a house burglar. On the audio to the dispatcher, the Detective said "give me patrol cars right away, I've got a black male, he took a picture of a corner house, running through the backyard of a house". We know that the teen walked through the front door of his own home as verified by his family. But, perhaps the Detective lost track of him for a moment and since he disappeared so quickly, he assumed that the teenager, who he already assumed was a criminal, must have run to the back of the house. Why would he assume this? Because of bias. The Detective simply could not conceive of the possibility that a black teenager could live in a house on Lincoln and walk through the front door. Perhaps he was blinded by his own bias. After the Detective called the dispatcher, 3 Highland Park marked Police vehicles arrived, along with 2 undercover Detectives who we were told were from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. They proceeded to surround the home, going onto private property, with no probable cause. Fortunately, the teen's mother was home and ended their pursuit. You would think the incident would stop here. But, no, instead the Detective returns to his car, calls into the dispatcher, says the incident is all clear, but then says, referring to the black teenager he had just spoken with, "he did admit to taking a picture on the corner, implying some type of guilt. But she, referring to the mother, didn't want to provide any more information since he was a juvenile". Therefore, the Detective continues, in spite of being clearly proven wrong, to treat the teen as a potential criminal. In fact, the Detective then asked the dispatcher on the audio record, "if you can print that out for me, I can talk to Officer Curbelo tomorrow". Officer Curbelo is the Police Officer who is the liaison with the Highland Park High School. So instead of dropping it as he should have, the Detective proceeds this case by reporting

it the school Police Officer, something that could flag a teen in a school as a potential criminal. The fact of the matter is that this is the kind of thing that happens when walking while black, taking a photo while black, especially while on the North Side of this Borough, and yet we fail to do the one thing that I believe is needed to be done by the Police and the Council, is fully recognize that these actions are a result of racial bias and acknowledge to those affected that you see this and that it is a problem which will be addressed. But this is not what actually usually happens with these incidents. It hasn't really quite happened here. The targets of racial profiling are never given the basic acknowledgment that what they experienced was real and that it was indeed racial profiling. I think it is time that we fully recognize it for what it was by the Council and the Police.

Monique Coleman, 407 Lincoln Avenue, appeared to read a statement on behalf of a fellow resident pertaining to the incident of racial profiling that Ellen Whitt just spoke of pertaining to myself and my son. After receiving almost 200 signatures from members of the community in 24 hours on a letter highlighting demands that address racial profiling and racial bias in Highland Park, a small group of concerned community members felt it was important to continue to amplify the voices of our community by turning the original letter into a change.org petition with an aim of mobilizing additional supporters, spreading awareness and ensuring this incident and our demands remain at the forefront of the community, Borough Council and the Police Department's agenda. This petition has now been signed by close to 400 community members, lawyers, researchers and activists, all of whom are appealing to the Borough Council Members and the Police Department to continue to listen to them and to please let them work with them in addressing, monitoring and evaluating racial profiling and racial disparities in policing in Highland Park. For those of you in the community that may be hearing about the petition and the list of demands for the first time tonight, if you feel called to support this issue, this cause, thank you. Please know the petition is still open and your signature is open to them and the continued work we have to do in our neighborhood. You can find the petition by going to biasfreehp/Facebook page and following the link. As stated in President Obama's task force on 21<sup>st</sup> century policing implementation guide, "we all own the future of policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century". Leadership needs to come from all three sectors in every jurisdiction, local government, law enforcement and the community. It continues to say that the three-legged stool needs to be evenly balanced and the weight of creating healthy, vibrant and safe communities equally shared. They are a dedicated group of concerned members of the community and they remain ready to work with the Borough and the Police Department on these issues. The Council and the Police Department have already shown to be responsive to the community's concerns on these issues and they want to keep these lines of communication open as these complex issues are addressed. Transparency and regular communication will be essential to this process in building trust and increasing collaboration. She added that she would like to see the Borough's commitment to fair and impartial policing codified through a strong, clear and comprehensive policy. The adoption of such policy is a reasonable short-term action step that will be an important part of the Borough and Police Department's work of ensuring public safety through maintaining the public's trust. There are other jurisdictions across the country that have already adopted bias-free policing policies at the State, City or Township level, including Vermont, Seattle and Cleveland. Highland Park prides itself on its inclusivity and diversity in many areas and our officials and Police Department have verbalized their stance against racial profiling and unfair practices in policing, yet we still know that bias exists and it is disproportionately impacting people of color in this community. It is time for the Police Department and the Borough Council to adopt a comprehensive policy that reflects and drives the Borough's commitment to bias free policing.

Sheila Sakar, 201 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, commented that she has a petition from Change.org entitled "Taking on Racial Bias and Racial Profiling in Highland Park Policing. It has 388 signatures and she read the following letter: On March 15, 2018 a young, black Highland Park resident, returning home from visiting with his former classmates and teachers at the Highland Park High School, noticed a photo opportunity, an empty intersection that would work perfectly for a school project. He took the photo, walked over to his home across the street and entered through his front door. Within minutes, five Police cars were parked in front of his home and an undercover detective questioning his mother at the door, others circling behind the house. A neighbor reports seeing the detective at the door draw his gun and return it to his holster just before the mother opened the door. The excessive police presence was the result of an undercover detective's dispatch, mischaracterizing the young man's mundane movements as suspicious and misrepresenting him as running through the backyard of the house. Fortunately, his mother was home to diffuse the terrifying encounter so her son was neither arrested, nor physically harmed. The incident had the marks of racial profiling and includes the kind of excessive police response that often ends in unnecessary arrest, injury or death and the black and brown people who are targeted by police across the United States. This is not an isolated incident in Highland Park. Many residents of color have experienced racial profiling and the Borough has a decade's old reputation in the region for being a place to avoid because of a history of unnecessary traffic stops that disproportionately target people of color. An analysis of nearly two years of data obtained by the Highland Park Police Department found that black accounted for 58% of use of force incidents with the Police, despite accounting for only 6% of the town population. We are a group of concerned residents who are demanding that the Highland Park Police Department, Mayor Brill Mittler and the Borough Council take action now towards ending racial bias and racial profiling in Highland Park so that all of the residents and passers through may live without fear that comes with being disparately policed. Specifically, they are calling for the Police Department and the Borough Council to take the following steps: hire an independent auditor with expertise in racial profiling and policing to perform a comprehensive audit of the Police Department, focused on identifying and assessing racial disparities and potential patterns of racial bias. The auditing firm should be selected through a transparent community responsive process, initiate in-depth and sustained training in implicit and racial bias and de-escalation strategies for current and prospective Police Department Officers.

Jackie Zinberg, 239 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about the ambulance situation and noted that there is no disparity and there is no danger about time. When she called, she was told there is an 8-minute limit. The first aid squad does not have a problem delegating anything that they see that is not in their purview.



Cheryl Cole, 30 South Adelaide Avenue, commended the Highland Park First Aid Squad for being a life saver when her mom moved in. She commended the Police Department for their response when her mom has pushed her assistance button. Response from First Aid Squad was within 5-6 minutes. They are caring, professional and community people. The Volunteers are supported by the community and it is important for the Council to support them. The First Aid Squad stayed until midnight offering assistance at the incident at the high rise last night.

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

The following resolution, introduced by the Economic Development and Planning Committee, was duly adopted on motion made by Councilwoman Welkovits, seconded by Councilman George, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson Fine.  
 Abstain: None.

No. 6-18-151

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2018;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Budget be published in the Home News Tribune, Asbury Park, NJ, in the issue of June 15, 2018.

The Governing Body of the Borough of Highland Park does hereby approve the following as the Main Street Highland Park Budget for the year 2018:

<u>Income</u>	
Government Grants	22,000.00
Special Assessment (BID)	157,000.00
Sponsorships	<u>64,200.00</u>
Total Income	\$243,200.00
<u>Expense</u>	
Administration and General	\$ 160,431.45
Program Expense	<u>82,768.55</u>
Total Expense	\$243,200.00
<u>Budget Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	\$ 0.00

Notice is hereby given that the Main Street Highland Park Budget and Resolution was approved by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, County of Middlesex, on June 15, 2018.

A hearing on the Main Street Highland Park/Business Improvement District Budget will be held at Borough Hall, 221 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Highland Park on July 10, 2018 at 7:00 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to said Budget and Resolution for the year 2018 may be presented.

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 EMPLOYEE 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 George, seconded by Councilman Hersh, the ordinance entitled as above was duly adopted on first reading by title by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim, Welkovits.  
 Opposed: None.  
 Abstain: None.  
 Absent: Councilperson Fine.

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

No. 6-18-152

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, July 10, 2018, 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.

Resolution Nos. 6-18-167, 6-18-169 and 6-18-170 were tabled from consideration on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilman Welkovits, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present.

Resolution Nos. 6-18-153 through 6-18-173, except Resolution Nos. 6-18-167, 6-18-169 and 6-18-170, were duly adopted on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Absent: Councilperson Fine.

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

No. 6-18-153

WHEREAS, the property owner for 505 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue made a payment through their own on-line banking in the amount of \$2,187.89; and

WHEREAS, the payment should have been for their tax account (#1682), but they put in their utility account number (#20131300-0);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director and/or Tax Collector is hereby authorized to transfer the posting of said payment from the water & sewer account of 505 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Tax Account #1682 in the amount of \$2,187.89.

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

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

No. 6-18-154

WHEREAS, there is a need to adjust the utility accounts for some properties in the Borough of Highland Park due to misread meters; and

WHEREAS, those properties are identified as 101 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (Account #20130820-0) and 705 Raritan Avenue (Account #10030170-0); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director and/or Tax Collector is hereby authorized to adjust the utility accounts for the above mentioned properties as follows:

- Account #20130820-0 (2015 2Q – 2018 1Q) – 101 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, owned by Reformed Church of Highland Park – adjust water \$10,529.41 and adjust sewer \$6,636.04 (totaling \$17,165.45). No refund to be issued, adjustment to account only.
- Account #10030170-0 (2015 3Q – 2017 4Q) 705 Raritan Avenue, owned by 705 Raritan, LLC – adjust water \$13,007.40 and adjust sewer \$7,861.36 (totaling \$20,868.76). Refund to be done under separate Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the

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

No. 6-18-155

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 2, 2018 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an annual basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

SCOTT BRESCHER, Director of Code Enforcement/Construction Official at an annual salary of \$101,384.00, effective January 1, 2018. *This title hereby replaces the Building Inspector and Construction Official titles listed in the January 2, 2018 resolution.*

MICHAEL LUTHMAN, Building Inspector, at an annual salary of \$16,640.00, effective June 16, 2018.

MICHAEL ROSSI, Plumbing Subcode Official/Inspector at an annual salary of \$19,960.00, effective June 16, 2018.

JOSEPHINE JOVER, Borough Administrator, at an annual salary of \$86,700.00, effective January 1, 2018.

JENNIFER SANTIAGO, Planning, Zoning and Redevelopment Clerk, at an annual salary of \$21,000.00, effective January 1, 2018. *This title hereby replaces the interim Planning Board/Zoning Board of Adjustment Clerk title listed in the January 2, 2018 resolution.*

ANDREW BERARDO, Firefighter Supervisor, at an annual salary of \$15,000.00, effective January 1, 2018.

JANE STANLEY, Library Director, at an annual salary of \$125,362.00, effective January 1, 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to notify the Borough Finance Director that since the adoption of a resolution on January 2, 2018 showing the names of the officers and employees of the Borough of Highland Park whose salaries are on an hourly basis, there have been the following changes, to wit:

<u>2018 Summer Camp Employees</u>					
Last Name	First Name	D,S,T	Position	Salary	Effective Date
Luxenberg	Dave	D	Director - Day Camp	\$8500 / yr	6/18/2018
			Director - Teen Camp	\$2000 / yr	6/18/2018
			Pre-Camp Set up	\$1000 / yr	6/18/2018
Sosa	Ashley	D	Assistant Director	\$22/hr	6/18/2018
Kaplan	Caryn	A	Administrative Assistant	\$14/hr	5/1/2018
Curcio	Dana	S	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Farmer Rogers	Evan	S	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Fulwood	Caitlyn	D	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018



## REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 12, 2018

Goldstein	Bethany	D	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Halpern	Tova	T	Head Counselor	PO	6/18/2018
Harrison	Shawn	S	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Little	Kambui	D	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Roig	Keith	D	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Sclafani	Tom	S	Head Counselor	PO	6/18/2018
Szentgyorgyi	Lori	S	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Tobey	Brianna	D	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Weil	Taryn	D	Head Counselor	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Ambrosio	Matthew	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Boynton	Dylan	S	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Broderick	Andrew	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Charles	Melissa	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Connors	Steve	D	Special Ed/Counselor	\$14/hr	6/18/2018
Crawford	Allyson	D	Special Ed/Counselor	\$14/hr	6/18/2018
Ghaly	Angie	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Kettrell	Frederick	S	Counselor	\$14/hr	6/18/2018
Kozachek	Camryn	D	Special Ed/Counselor	\$14/hr	6/18/2018
Melgazo	Justin	S	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Pointer-Gamory	Noah	D	Counselor	\$14/hr	6/18/2018
Rothberg	Josh	S	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Schwartz	Eli	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Schwartz	Batsheva	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
St. Juste	Amaree	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Sussman	Matthew	D	Counselor	\$14/hr	6/18/2018
Telysheva	Elizabeth	S	Counselor	\$14/hr	6/18/2018
Wright	Amir	D	Counselor	\$12/hr	6/18/2018
Polos	Angela		Counselor	\$14/hr	6/1/2018
Asamoah	Akua	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Blank	Edan	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Bridges	Sora	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Broderick	James	S	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Faso	Raymondo	S/D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Hantsoulis	Tinos	D	Junior Counselor	\$10/hr	6/18/2018
Hardy	Theresa	S	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Hardy	Elizabeth	S	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Johnsen	Eleanor	T	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Kobayashi	Amelia	T	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Kozachek	Kira	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Lin	Kevin	D	Junior Counselor	\$10/hr	6/18/2018
Murphy	Sam	S	Junior Counselor	\$10/hr	6/18/2018
Odikanwa	Uchechi	S/T	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Pessirilo	Jacob	S	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Sargent	Justin	D	Junior Counselor	\$10/hr	6/18/2018
St. Juste	Jaden	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Thompson	Rohan	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Volpert	Katie	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Volpert	Mackenzie	D	Junior Counselor	\$10/hr	6/18/2018
Weaver	Olivia	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Wernyj	Sofia	T/D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Wharton	Kayleigh	D	Junior Counselor	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Duncan	Oz	D	CIT	N/A	6/18/2018
Kelly	Megan	D	CIT	N/A	6/18/2018
Murray	Jayden	D	CIT	N/A	6/18/2018
Rohan	Kylah	D	CIT	N/A	6/18/2018
Telysheva	Daria	S	CIT	N/A	6/18/2018
Castillo	Elsy	D	Teen Teacher	\$19/hr	6/18/2018
Ceballos Marulanda	Daniella	D	Teen Teacher	\$19/hr	6/18/2018

REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 12, 2018

Branescu	Adelina	D	After Care	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Reyes	Jonathan	D	After Care	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Underwood	Aiya	D	After Care	\$8.60/hr	6/18/2018
Beberman	Sydney		Seasonal Employee	\$8.60/hr	6/1/2018

On-Call Firefighters, Effective January 01, 2018

Andrew	Berardo	20.13/hr
Christophoeer	Inzano	20.13/hr
Michael	Kersey	20.13/hr
Hector	Malave	20.13/hr
Derek	Merrill	20.13/hr
Kevin	Meehan	20.13/hr
Jeffrey	Morris	20.13/hr
Lester	Rosenhouse	20.13/hr
Norman	Shamy	20.13/hr
Lawrence	Thiel Jr	20.13/hr
Douglas	Watt	20.13/hr
Christopher	Ziobro	20.13/hr

JAMES FEASTER, Special Law Enforcement Officer II, at an hourly rate of \$25.50, effective January 1, 2018.

JAMES FEASTER, Special Law Enforcement Officer II, at an hourly rate of \$26.01, effective August 1, 2018.

LELA GUZMAN, Receptionist, at an hourly rate of \$12.00, effective January 1, 2018.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director be and is hereby directed to make the necessary changes in the payroll records of the Finance Department in accordance with the changes established by this resolution.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:

No. 6-18-156

WHEREAS, by Ordinance No. 1955 the Borough of Highland Park dissolved the Highland Park Redevelopment Agency and designated itself as the redevelopment entity” assuming all responsibilities including but not limited to all Redevelopment Agency property, payment to all creditors and obliges; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution 2-18-67 made application to the Local Finance Board pursuant to NJSA 40A:5A-20 and said dissolution was approved on March 20, 2018; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Highland Park Redevelopment Agency applied, awarded and accepted three (3) grants from the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund Municipal grant program through the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and the NJ Economic Development Authority for Preliminary Assessment and Site Investigation along with report preparation for the following:

Rutgers Gun & Boat Shop Property	\$54,331.43
Block 173, Lots 41 and 42	
Classic Cleaners	\$37,730.75
Block 173, Lots 43, 46 and 49	
Denison Avenue Vacant Lots	\$54,431.43
Block 173, Lots 44 and 45	
Total	<u>\$146,493.61</u>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that said grants, grant agreements and any and all other documents and responsibilities pertaining to said grants be transferred to the Borough of Highland Park as “redevelopment entity”.

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

No. 6-18-157

WHEREAS, NJS 40A:4-85 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Finance may, at the request of, or with the consent of, the Governing Body of any County or Municipality, make such correction of the title, text or amount of any appropriation appearing in the budgets as may be necessary to make said item of appropriation available for the purpose or purposes required for the needs of any such County or Municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of NJS 40A:4-85, the Borough of Highland Park hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Finance to make the following corrections in the budget year of 2018:

DESCRIPTION	FROM	TO	DIFFERENCE
Tax Collector SW	11,290.00	82,037.00	70,747.00
Administration SW	154,710.00	140,960.00	(13,750.00)
Group Insurance OE	1,303,062.00	1,292,565.00	(10,497.00)
Communications SW	98,898.00	91,098.00	(7,800.00)
Communications OE	31,100.00	18,600.00	(12,500.00)
Information Technology OE	113,000.00	109,500.00	(3,500.00)
Finance OE	133,400.00	126,900.00	(6,500.00)
Code SW	330,949.00	323,249.00	(7,700.00)
Motorpool OE	154,000.00	149,000.00	(5,000.00)
Buildings & Grounds OE	182,500.00	179,000.00	(3,500.00)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,512,909.00</b>	<b>2,512,909.00</b>	<b>-</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing correction is, in the opinion of the Governing Body, warranted and authorized by the statute referred to and is necessary for the orderly operation of the Borough of Highland Park for the reasons hereinafter set forth:

- To reflect the budget appropriations as intended and authorized by the Governing Body that were inadvertently excluded from the adopted budget.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-18-158

WHEREAS, *Streptomyces griseus* is a soil-based microorganism that was first discovered in 1916 by Dr. Selman Waksman and Dr. Roland Curtis; and

WHEREAS, soon after its discovery, the microbe drew international acclaim for its groundbreaking use as an antibiotic; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, a research team from Rutgers University, led by Dr. Albert Schatz and Dr. Selman Waksman, used *Streptomyces griseus* to create streptomycin, the world's first antibiotic for tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, the original discovery paper for streptomycin, entitled "Streptomycin, a Substance Exhibiting Antibiotic Activity Against Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria," was co-authored by Dr. Waksman, Dr. Schatz, and Elizabeth Bugie, and published in the Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine; and

WHEREAS, after clinical trials showed that streptomycin cured ailing tuberculosis patients, Merck & Company, a New Jersey-based pharmaceutical company, quickly made the drug available to the public; and

WHEREAS, prior to this discovery, tuberculosis was one of the deadliest diseases in human history and the second leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, within ten years of streptomycin's release, tuberculosis mortality rates in the U.S. fell to a historic low, with only 9.1 tuberculosis-related deaths per 100,000 people in 1955 compared to the rate of 194 deaths per 100,000 people in 1900; and

WHEREAS, according to a June 1947 *New York Times* article, streptomycin had "become one of the two wonder drugs of medicine" and offered the "promise to save more lives than were lost in both World Wars"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Selman Waksman was later awarded a Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology in 1952 for his work in discovering *Streptomyces griseus*, creating streptomycin, and curing tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, *Streptomyces griseus* and streptomycin were two of the most consequential discoveries in the fields of biology and pharmacology during the twentieth century; and

WHEREAS, the unlocking of the antibiotic potential of *Streptomyces griseus* is a testament to the hard work and tenacity that changed the world; and

WHEREAS, few people are aware of the enduring social value of Schatz and Waksman's research, as penicillin has overshadowed streptomycin as the twentieth century's greatest antibiotic discovery; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper to renew the public's awareness of this historic achievement, and New Jersey's role in combating tuberculosis, by designating *Streptomyces griseus* as the official microbe of the State of New Jersey;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, along with the Highland Park Board of Health, supports New Jersey bills A3650/S1729, which designates *Streptomyces griseus* as the official New Jersey State Microbe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the, our State Legislators, and the League of Municipalities.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-18-159

WHEREAS, the property owners for 501 South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 406 Valentine Street made payments through their own on-line banking systems and put their tax account numbers on their payments instead of their utility account numbers; and

WHEREAS, the payments need to be transferred to the appropriate accounts for said properties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director and/or Tax Collector is hereby authorized to transfer the posting of said payments as follows:

- \$397.82 from tax account #501 to utility account #20120690-0 for 501 South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue
- \$286.83 from tax account #406 to utility account #20191295-0 for 406 Valentine Street

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

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

No. 6-18-160

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 9-17-285, adopted by the Borough Council on September 19, 2017, a contract was awarded to Tri-Form Construction, Metuchen, NJ, for the construction of a Teen Center; and

WHEREAS, it appears from Pay Estimate No. 3, filed by Code Enforcement Director, Scott Brescher, that certain work under said contract has been completed and approved, and there is due to Tri-Form Construction, the sum of \$119,798.63 in accordance with said Pay Estimate for work performed from March 24, 2018 to May 29, 2018; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. C-04-55-826-210 in the amount of \$119,798.63, as reflected by the Certification of Funds Available by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized and directed to pay Tri-Form Construction the sum of \$119,798.63, as certified by the Code Enforcement Director in Pay Estimate No. 3, subject to the Clerk's receipt of the Certified Payroll and Project Manning Reports and additional documents as necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and Code Enforcement Director forthwith.

The following resolution, introduced by the Recreation and Arts Committee, was duly adopted as above:

No. 6-18-161

BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Mayor shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to execute an Agreement with the Middlesex County Department of Human Services for the provision of Municipal Alliance related activities in the Borough of Highland Park for the period covering July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, said Agreement to be in a form approved by the Borough Attorney.

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

No. 6-18-162

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2014, The Crossings at Highland Park, The Pulte Group, heretofore posted with the Borough of Highland Park a surety performance bond, No. 1014102, issued by The Hanover Insurance Company in the amount of \$3,225,296.88 and a cash surety bond (check #85272564) in the amount of \$358,366.32, for a total amount of \$3,583,663.20, in connection with a site plan application on the property known as Block 172, Lot 2 and Block 101, Lots 25-30, in the Borough of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the developer for the referenced project had requested that the performance bond be reduced and pursuant to Resolution No. 3-15-111, said performance bond was reduced by \$1,775,289.00 to \$1,808,374.20 as per the recommendation of the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the developer for the referenced project had requested that the performance bond be further reduced and pursuant to Resolution No. 6-17-205, said performance bond was reduced by \$733,275.24 to \$1,075,098.96 as per the recommendation of the Borough Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the developer of the project has requested that said Performance Bond be released; and

WHEREAS, CME Associates, the Borough Engineer, has reviewed the site in the field and found that all of the required work has been satisfactorily completed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the cash surety bond and performance bond heretofore posted for The Crossings at Highland Park for the Site Plan for the Pulte Homes of NJ, L.P., shall be and is hereby released, subject to the following:

- Posting of a 2-year Maintenance Bond in the amount of 537,500.00;
- Payment of the remaining Tree Balance in the amount of \$139,100.00;
- Payment of any outstanding engineering inspection fees;
- Payment of any outstanding Borough fees;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department, Borough Engineer, Construction Official, and Pulte Homes.

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

No. 6-18-163

WHEREAS, the property owner for 123 South Adelaide Avenue (4B) and 207 Lawrence Avenue made a payment through their own on-line banking in the amount of \$6,032.01; and

WHEREAS, the above payment was made using Account #222, which is the account number for the property at 123 South Adelaide Avenue (4B) but should have been for tax account #2943, which is the property at 207 Lawrence Avenue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the Finance Director and/or Tax Collector is hereby authorized to transfer the posting of said payment from tax account #222 (123 South Adelaide Avenue (4B) to tax account #2943 (207 Lawrence Avenue) in the amount of \$6,032.01.

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

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

No. 6-18-164

WHEREAS, the School Budget for the School District of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, was approved for the School Year 2018-2019:

Current Expenses	\$ 27,136,379.00
Debt Schedule	<u>1,865,526.00</u>
	\$ 29,001,905.00

and

WHEREAS, NJSA 18A:22-34 provides that the governing body of a municipality that is co-extensive with the said school district determines the amount necessary for school purposes, and levy such aggregate amount for such school purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that there be raised, approved and collected for the school district of said Borough the following items:

January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018	\$ 14,762,240.00
July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018	<u>13,568,190.00</u>
Total school levy for the Year 2018	\$ 28,330,430.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aggregate sum of Twenty-Eight Million, Three Hundred Thirty Thousand, Four Hundred Thirty Dollars (\$28,330,430.00) be certified by the Borough Clerk to the Middlesex County Board of Taxation, the Board of Education of the School District of said Borough, the County Superintendent of Schools, and the Assessor of the Borough of Highland Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-18-165

WHEREAS, applications for renewal licenses issued in the Borough of Highland Park under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) have been made by the hereinafter applicants, and

WHEREAS, said applications have been examined and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have made the following findings of fact with respect to each of the applicants:

1. Said applications are complete in all respects.
2. The applicants and the premises are qualified to be licensed in accordance with Title 33, all regulations promulgated by the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control and local ordinances as amended and supplemented pertinent to and consistent with Title 33.
3. The applicants have disclosed, and the issuing authority has ascertained and reviewed, the source of any additional financing obtained in the previous license term for use in the licensed business.
4. The Mayor and Council are of the opinion that said applications should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following renewal licenses issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) to sell alcoholic beverages upon the premises set forth opposite their names under the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act aforesaid, the amendments and supplements thereof, and the ordinances, rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, State of New Jersey, shall be and are hereby approved, to wit:

PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSES

- Pad-Thai, Inc. d/b/a Pad Thai, 217 Raritan Ave. – 1207-33-005-004
- Wilhelm & Young, Inc. d/b/a Park Pub, 180-182 Woodbridge Ave. - 1207-33-011-002
- Eisigian LLC, d/b/a Tete’s Restaurant & 24/7 Bar & Café, 247 Raritan Ave., - 1207-33-004-008
- Kiadan Inc., d/b/a Pino's Fruit Basket Shoppe and Wine Cellars, 13 North 4th Ave. – 1207-32-008-012
- Highland Park Wine & Liquor LLC, 97 Woodbridge Ave., WITH BROAD PACKAGE PRIVILEGE-1207-32-003-007

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSES

- Rite Aid of New Jersey, Inc., d/b/a Rite Aid 2561, 332 Raritan Avenue – 1207-44-001-005
- New Athens Corner, 28 Woodbridge Avenue – 1207-44-007-005

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue to the aforesaid licensees the license aforesaid, which licenses shall be effective July 1, 2018 and shall expire June 30, 2019.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-18-166

WHEREAS, application for renewal licenses issued in the Borough of Highland Park under the provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) have been made by the hereinafter applicant, and

WHEREAS, said applications have been examined and the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park have made the following findings of fact with respect to each of the applicants:

1. Said application is complete in all respects, including submission of the club member list.
2. The officers and directors of the club are qualified according to all statutory, regulatory and local governmental ABC laws and regulations.
3. The club maintains all records required by N.J.A.C. 13:2-8.8. (special events open to non-club members) and N.J.A.C. 13:2-8.12 (true books of account for receipts and disbursements).
4. The Mayor and Council are of the opinion that said application should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the following renewal licenses issued under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law (NJSA 33:1-1 et seq.) to sell alcoholic beverages upon the premises set forth opposite their names under the terms and conditions prescribed in the Act aforesaid, the amendments and supplements thereof, and the ordinances, rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, State of New Jersey, shall be and are hereby approved, to wit:

CLUB LICENSES

- The White Mountains Cretans Fraternity, 1152-1154 Raritan Avenue - 1207-31-012-002

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk shall be and is hereby authorized and directed to issue to the aforesaid licensees the license aforesaid, which licenses shall be effective July 1, 2018, and shall expire June 30, 2019.

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

No. 6-18-168

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution No. 4-18-100 adopted by the Borough Council on April 3, 2018, the Department of Public Works was granted permission to get DPW Truck #10 repaired by Cambria Automotive Companies for an amount not to exceed \$5,995.00 as reflected on Purchase Order No. 18-00954; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to have more repairs done on DPW Truck #10 and therefore, the authorized repair amount needs to be increased by \$5,959.00; and

WHEREAS, funds for this purpose are available in Account No. 8-01-26-315-2PW in the amount of \$5,959.00, as reflected by the certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer, shown below;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that Purchase Order No. 18-00954 be increased by \$5,959.00, for a total of \$11,954.00;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Chief Financial Officer and the Superintendent of Public Works and Public Utilities.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-18-171

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Highland Park wishes to amend the PERSONNEL MANUAL AND HANDBOOK, adopted May 5, 2009, by amending Section 410. Overtime Compensation and Compensatory Time Policy of the Borough of Highland Park's Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook to include holiday pay for On-Call Fire Fighters, which shall be paid as set forth herein:

A. On-call Fire Fighters will receive holiday pay in accordance to the Borough's observed holidays:

- a. New Year's Day
- b. Martin Luther King's Birthday
- c. Lincoln's Birthday
- d. Washington's Birthday
- e. Good Friday
- f. Memorial Day
- g. Independence Day
- h. Labor Day
- i. Columbus Day
- j. Veteran's Day
- k. Thanksgiving Day
- l. Day-After Thanksgiving

B. On-call Fire Fighters who are requested or scheduled to work on the aforementioned holidays will receive holiday pay calculated at time and half or double time for certain enumerated holidays.

C. On-call Fire Fighters requested or scheduled to work on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day only, and Christmas day shall be paid at a rate of double time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park that the above mentioned policies, attached hereto and made a part hereof, shall be and is hereby adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration Office be provided with a copy of the within policy for distribution to all existing employees and to all new employees, upon hire.

The following resolution, introduced by the Finance Committee, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-18-172

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 6/12/2018 can be found in the Bills List Journal Book No. 37.

The following resolution, introduced by the Council as a Whole, was duly adopted as above:  
No. 6-18-173

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council is of the opinion that such circumstances exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Highland Park, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the closed session at close of tonight's open session.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:  
(Litigation: (a) Affordable Housing; (b) Buck Woods update; (c) 35 Harrison update; and Teamsters negotiation update)
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when these matters are resolved or as soon thereafter as it is deemed to be in the public interest to do so.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Mayor Brill Mittler appointed Sylvia Hove and Paul Sauers to serve as members of Sustainable Highland Park for terms to expire December 31, 2018.

The above appointments were confirmed on motion made by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, seconded by Councilwoman Kim-Chohan and carried by the following roll call vote, to wit:

Ayes: Councilpersons Foster-Dublin, George, Hersh, Kim-Chohan, Welkovits.

Opposed: None.

Abstained: None.

Absent: Councilperson Fine.

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

Herb Gross, Adelaide Gardens, commented that he has listened to all speakers tonight and not one of them spoke about the issue he is going to bring up. He wanted to bring up the issue about the ambulance service being taken away from the residents. There are many women in Highland Park that have gone into labor and will go into labor and need an ambulance and if the ambulance is taken away, that woman might lose her baby. He has spoken to members of RWJBH and they will come into Highland Park for an emergency, but their priority is New Brunswick, Edison, Milltown, and East Brunswick. If any of these women ever loses their baby, he will file criminal charges against the Mayor.



Robin Loewenstein, 116 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented as President of the Highland Park First Aid Squad. She mentioned to the Council President that they not only take patients to JFK, but they don't charge by the mile and if you need to get transferred from RWJ to any other hospital, it is very likely that they can make that transport at no cost, if your hospital allows it. With regard to statistics, their average response time in 2018 was 5.5 minutes. She is waiting for some documentation under OPRA from the Borough and then she can figure out why it differs. She has statistics that say in 2013-2017 80% of the time, they have been under 10 minutes for response times. Response time is not as big an issue as everyone is making it out to be. Our first responders are the men in blue, they carry defibrillators, they carry oxygen, and they carry first aid kits and they know how to use them. She cannot remember a CPR call that she has ever been on that the Officers on the scene hadn't already initiated CPR. They are the first responders and they are there in 90 seconds, typically, and they are amazing. Response time is not the biggest issue, but she will tell you, that you made reference as did the RWJ representative to 10 minutes and 59 seconds. We were told at a meeting with Councilwoman Foster-Dublin and Public Safety Director Rizco that RWJ told them 3 minutes. She does not think that is possible. They have talked to a lot of staff at RWJ and found out some of the ways they get to quote those numbers and skew them a little bit. The day after they were told they were out of business during the day, effective immediately, including weekends, and they have not had weekend issues in over 20 years. Two Saturday's ago, when they were still online, her family answered 7 calls that day alone and does not understand why it is 7 days a week. The day after they were given that announcement, they heard an ambulance from RWJ calling and saying they were responding to an address that was around the corner from where 8 squad members were readily available and from the time they called in service to the time they arrived at that house, they were coming from Route 27 in South Brunswick. It took them 12 minutes, but she doesn't know when they were dispatched. Some of the times and numbers being thrown around are being grossly misrepresented. They have a petition with over 500 signatures of residents of Highland Park that strongly oppose this decision. She was shocked to hear that RWJ understands that if they inform them on a given day that they have daytime crews available, that they would stand down and they could provide the residents with a free service. That was not made clear to them by Councilwoman Foster-Dublin and Public Safety Director Rizco. They were told 24/7, done deal, not up for discussion. She made mention of the increase of \$5,000 in funding for 2017 over what they had been getting for the last 25 years. The response time is not the issue. They had a small stint of about 2 months where they were having trouble getting daytime crews out and when we met together the answer they got was that the Borough would find out what RWJ had to offer and they would reconvene and share information. When they did reconvene they were excited as they had completely turned it around, they worked very hard and their daytime calls were very close to 100% and the answer they got was we still already did it, done deal, not up for discussion. She wanted everyone to know how it went down. Does not think it was appropriate and don't think it is necessarily best for the town and she hopes that everyone continues to sign the petition and fight to keep them volunteer 24/7. She also mentioned that her friend checked with her insurance and they do cover the cost of an ambulance after you meet your deductible.

Marsha Goldberg, 451 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about Buck Woods, a 4.1 acre wooded area running between South 5<sup>th</sup> and South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues. Recently, the Borough issued a permit to the developer who owns Buck Woods, and has for many years, Edgewood Properties, and this permit allows for the removal of 179 trees for the purposes of environmental testing. This is in violation of the Borough's own code for tree removal. Residents were only informed of the existence of the permit after it was issued and this was a few weeks ago. When they questioned people in the Borough, they were told that tree removal could happen at any time now that the permit had been issued, once the site passed inspection. This is an issue that will affect them very directly, as their homes are just on the edge of the woods. Many of these are mature trees growing in a steeply sloped, wooded ravine. Their removal will cause erosion of the slopes and release any contaminants that would be there to the environment, causing harm to the residents, the wildlife and the watershed. Once the trees are cut, that is irreversible. She asked why the permit was given as removing trees for environmental testing doesn't make sense. She hired her own LSRP (Licensed Site Remediation Professional) to evaluate the situation. The report that the Developer's LSRP submitted was reviewed by her LSRP. He did concur with the need for assessment if the land is to be developed, but he also questioned the method. Basically, his question and her question is why go to expense of removing trees to do testing when other methods are equally affective and much less costly. They also don't have the serious environmental consequences that this tree removal will have causing harm to the residents of Highland Park and to their property.

Borough Attorney Schmierer explained that thanks to her initiative, today a court order was issued preventing the removal of those trees. Her Attorney and the Borough will be in court on Monday to try and make that order permanent. Up to this point in time, the Borough has fought the battle of Buck Woods since 2009 and they were eventually ordered by the court to receive and process the permit. Initially, there were only 72 trees to be taken out down the middle. Unfortunately, they found pollution and they are continuing to study that. They were bound by the LSRP reports which were submitted to the Borough and reviewed by the Borough Engineer. You have found another LSRP that disagrees and thankfully we can go to court on Monday and hopefully block it.

Phyllis Goldstein, 30 South Adelaide Avenue, commented that she was a public service employee for over 30 years. One of the first things she learned was that you can't do anything without giving due notice. Due notice is anywhere from 10 business days to 21 business days. With the first aid squad, everyone she knows found out that there was a change in the procedure retroactively. She has never seen anything like that. It is always done proactively.

Gitell Footerman, 115 South Adelaide Avenue, asked about relationship with RWJBH and whether it was a financial relationship. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin commented that there is no financial output by the Borough of Highland Park. It will be a paid for service, as needed, by insurance carriers. Councilman Hersh noted that the substance of the proposed change is nothing more than Police dispatch rerouting its calls to another ambulance provider.

Justin Footerman, 115 South Adelaide Avenue, commented that First Aid Squad has been a phenomenal help as has RWJBH when he has needed assistance. He suggested that both parties sit down and talk. If the local First Aid Squad is available during the day, then they should answer the calls.

Gerald Pomper, 348 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, commented that he is here in support of the continuation of the First Aid Squad. He has been in Highland Park for 50 years and has known people on the First Aid Squad. This has been a town resource. These are people who live in town and know the town and who on top of that are expert, incredibly concerned and empathetic and very efficient. He is not convinced from the presentation tonight that the alternative knows the town as well. He noticed that they only used the name Highland Park once. This squad has been very fast, they know you, they know individuals, and this is a peculiar town in many ways. There are crowded streets, heavy traffic, a considerable number of people who will have difficulty paying the fees and you should take consideration of that. If it is money, there are ways to raise money. If it is people, the First Aid Squad says they can now staff daytime and they have a very good record of that. His wife had a kidney transplant back in 2010 and when she came home she could not walk. The squad came and got her out of the house to get her to rehab in a timely fashion when he called for help. He thinks this is a great resource that should be preserved. Finally, this is an example of what is needed in Highland Park and what attracted him to Highland Park and made him stay all this time. It is a true community where a great deal of the work is done by volunteers. It is a great characteristic of a small town and is a very important characteristic of the United States. You ought to try and preserve the First Aid Squad because it is so damn American.

Justin Burton, 40 Cedar Avenue, asked a couple of questions about the petition that was interrupted earlier. On that petition there are a few simple requests and they would like to work with the Council to see them to fruition. He had some questions about the training and the auditor. He asked if there was a public bidding process before selecting Mr. Davis. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that Mr. Davis is going to do this audit pro bono. Mayor Brill Mittler added that they have been working very closely with the NAACP and that organization provided them with a list of possibilities. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that additionally someone had suggested that they use Rutgers School of Law and work with that team and Mr. Davis is a part of that group. Mr. Burton commended them for consulting with the NAACP and wants to make sure they are looking through all the options available. He asked about the comment made by Mr. Davis about his report. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that when Mr. Davis looks at a Police Department, whatever the findings are, he will not be pressured into writing any report for anyone no matter what. Mr. Burton requested that as this audit happens, in addition to looking at the data collected on policing statistics, they also have someone who interviews and maybe issues some surveys with the community so that there is a full sense of what the data shows and what the relationship is. Councilman Hersh noted that they will begin public diversity inclusion workshops through the Human Relations Commission that does address bias.

Jessica Hundsten, 304 Montgomery Street, commended the Council for moving forward on training and the independent audit. She had some questions about the complaint process as that is something else that was brought up in the petition. She stressed that any complaint process needs to be tied to a transparent means to address the complaint independent of the police. Without a clear means to address the complaint, the Highland Park community and those specifically filing a complaint will only feel more frustration. Additionally, the Mayor, Council and Police Department must commit to communicate the complaint process in ways that actually make it accessible to the community. For example, an online form on the website for both anonymous and self-identified complaints. A location outside of the Police Department that is easily accessible day and evening to pick up forms. Finally, an announcement about the institution of the process could possibly be sent out on Nixel or other ways to the community. Several Council meetings ago, the Council mentioned that they would make changes to the online report a concern process to now include the option of reporting a policing concern and address the fact that it was required to sign in. She has not yet seen that those changes have been made. She asked when the changes to the complaint process will be made to address the concerns she just raised. Borough Administrator Jover noted that she is not sure that the login is an option that they can disable or if it is a function of the platform and they can look at a different way to take these complaints. The Borough uses a certain web provider and she is not sure if the login is the Borough's choice or the platform being used. Ms. Hundsten noted that you can download the internal affairs report on the police website and it asks for personal information and does not give appearance that it can be filled out anonymously. Lt. Hammill noted that as the Internal Affairs Officer for Highland Park he noted that they will always accept any complaint through the phone, anonymous, a note mailed in, etc. Every complaint is investigated as per the Attorney General's guidelines. He does not know about the Borough website and how people submit things. Ms. Hundsten commented that she has raised the issue before about the investigation being done outside of the Police Department as well as the fact that they need to make sure that everyone is aware of the process.

Rob Holzapfel, 431 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about Buck Woods. He wanted to convey the strong concerns of his neighbors about the tree cutting and how that erosion might expose some of the neighbors to the contaminants that have been discovered on the site. He reached out to the NJDEP today and they instituted a case # and they told him that within 48 hours they are going to send one of their people to meet him and walk through the woods. He understands that the case the Borough is litigating is Jack Morris saying that the Borough polluted the site. That is not the case, people who have been in Highland Park will tell you that the debris is from the NJDOT dumping their tailings in that site. He is asking the Borough to stand up to Jack Morris. As a Council, he thinks there needs to be a public meeting because there is a lot of misunderstanding about what is going on. He doesn't think as a local government that they have done a good job of communicating the facts to the residents. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the last meeting they had on this matter was at the end of 2016.

David Loewenstein, 116 South 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he is proud to say that he has been a member of the Highland Park First Aid Squad for 35 years. Last week, he felt like his heart was ripped out. This has been his legacy for his life to take care of the Borough of Highland Park and to be that person in that organization. He asked if this is a done deal and whether or not the 500 signatures on the petition and all of the comments will be taken into consideration. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that they do not have any signed agreements with RWJBH coming in the daytime. Mr. Loewenstein asked why they have been shut out since Thursday. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin clarified that at the meeting they had on Thursday, they shared with the First Aid Squad their thoughts and Robin told them to do it now. Mr. Loewenstein indicated that it is not true. He asked whether they thought this through. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Borough Council has been discussing this and it was communicated to them. They were planning on discussion this matter further at a future Council meeting and it was all thrown to the wayside when they were told to just start it now. Mr. Loewenstein indicated that they were at the fire last night because they are concerned. Councilwoman Foster-Dublin noted that she held a meeting over a month ago and outlined all of the concerns that they heard and she said she would get back to them in a month after she does research. They met a month later and they noted that RWJBH was providing daytime service and the team that attended the meeting said that they had increased help. She expressed concern about what would happen when they went back to school in September. Mayor Brill Mittler would like to sit down with Councilwoman Foster-Dublin, Chief Rizco and David and Robin Loewenstein at a future date after the meeting. The process in place right now is RWJBH gets called in the daytime and the First Aid Squad gets called in the evening.

Al Stokes, 242 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that he came to live in Highland Park in 1968. He suggested a start time and an end time for a meeting. RWJ cannot give a response time faster than the First Aid Squad.

Imiri Tulloch, 407 Lincoln Avenue, commented that earlier his mother and other people spoke about a situation involving racial profiling. That was him after coming back from the high school. He read the following statement: He extended his heartfelt thanks for all the support from his friends, his family and his neighbors throughout these last few days. He is happy that people are offering their support to him and his family but he is primarily grateful to see how so many people are using this experience to educate themselves on the realities of racism in this society and specifically the prevalence of racial profiling in this town. It is cumbersome that it requires a traumatic event to initiate education, but he is glad nevertheless, that it is underway. This experience that he had, racial profiling, is something that is almost fundamental to the identity of being black in America and certainly fundamental to being a black person in this country. It is ironic that he turned 18 four days ago. This experience was a jarring introduction to the unfortunate realities of his black adulthood, specifically growing up in this town. It was most jarring for him because he has always seen other people's viral images, stories, videos and experiences with racism. The fact that he was a victim of overt racism was bizarre and unsettling. He guessed that he has to get used to that feeling. He feels like the most important aspect of this experience from his perspective is the fact that this situation is not just his own. Racial profiling is a problem in Highland Park and in New Jersey and America, not because of this one incident, but because there have been so many situations like his throughout the years. He knows so many kids at Highland Park High School, and some of his closest friends, and students who have graduated in recent years who can vividly share their own racist encounters with the Police in Highland Park and with Police in Middlesex County, New Jersey and in America at large. He knows that being a victim of racist policing is a traumatic experience and it can also be seriously debilitating. So, as glad as he is that people are here supporting his experience, by no means is his situation an aberration. This is not the first time that we have seen this issue play out in the community, nor will it be the last. Let us use this current energy to interrogate the longstanding issue of police racism in the community so that they can remember that the situation isn't the only example of the longstanding institutional problem.

Sam, 801B Donaldson Street, commented that taking away daytime hours from the First Aid Squad will affect the cadets, as they can only respond to calls during daytime hours. This will limit the amount of time to ride and go on calls and get experience. There are a bunch of cadets on the squad right now that are dedicated and want to go on calls, but with daytime hours being taken away they don't have that opportunity.

Melanie McDermott, 330 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, commented about the Buck Woods issue. She is heartened by the developments of the day and heartened by the words from the Attorney and the strong action of her neighbors to stand up for what makes Highland Park beautiful and valuable. She echoed the call for transparency and future public meetings to discuss a way forward. Highland Park is not against development and they can accommodate density as we are a walking town, but not at the expense of environmental degradation that can't be sustained. If we stick together and keep each other informed the outcome will be best.

Ed Prince, 703 South 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that his mother fell and the first responders were the Police and immediately thereafter was the First Aid Squad who treated her with enormous respect and enormous consideration. He is grateful to the squad for all that it does. He thinks there is a simple solution that the Borough might consider. RWJ would seem to have the opportunity to make some income from being exclusive and there seems to be some question as to how rapidly they actually do respond. The solution might be that RWJ be charged \$100 a minute for every minute they arrive after the first 5 minutes and that money would go to initially reimburse the people who will now have to pay out of their pockets and any subsequent income would then go to the Borough. RWJ would probably not agree to that proposal as they are looking for an income opportunity without any risk to themselves financially or any other way. He commented about Buck Woods and the letter he sent to the Mayor who agreed to share it with the Borough Attorney. Unfortunately, he has not heard back from the Mayor or the Borough Attorney. He is grateful for the progress being made, however what is increasingly clear is that progress will occur only to the degree that individual citizens of this town are prepared not only to stand up personally and financially and that is wrong. This town cannot be so financially averse to spending money for the benefit of its citizens that it ignores the needs and rights of those citizens. It

seems to him that they need to proceed in a way in which we make sure that all of the citizens are best protected and not be told how much an appeal would cost. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that the Borough never said they don't want to spend money in litigating this issue. Because of all the litigations going on there were things they were not able to say or do. Councilman George noted that the Borough spent over half a million dollars to lose four lawsuits to protect the citizens of this town. This matter with Buck Woods didn't start in 2009. As a former Municipal Prosecutor, he fined Buck Woods for cutting the first tree and managed to stop him until 2009 and have continually been working on it. Councilman Hersh added that the money spent on lawsuits could have been used to purchase new garbage trucks and to do a lot of things. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that they have been in court on Buck Woods since 2009 and before that, the Planning Board denied an application to develop and take the trees down on that property. They negotiated for about five years on various scenarios to try and avoid taking down those trees and that didn't pan out. Finally, the final litigation began and the town ran out of reasons why it had denied the environmental testing tree removal permit. They were told by the court to issue the permit with conditions, and they worked out five pages of conditions which tracked the tree removal ordinance and they did the best they could to prevent them from taking down trees. Now they have a reprieve thanks to the efforts made by the citizens and hopefully they can go to court on Monday and make that stick. This town has spent a ton of money on him and other litigators involved over the last 10 years. Mr. Prince commented that perhaps he misunderstood that when the two court cases were merged together, to separate them would make it an expensive proposition as an appeal and the town was not prepared to invest in that. Borough Attorney Schmierer noted that there are three cases. The third case involves JSM the developer suing the Borough for allegedly polluting Buck Woods. The second case was the affordable housing case, which they are a part of and the first case was we are not going to give you a permit to knock down the trees. Those three cases were consolidated by Judge Natali at one point in time and the Judge has discretion to do that. He instructed them to sit down, since the permit had not been issued since 2009, to figure out a way to issue it because there were no reasons not to and that is when they sat down and followed that directive and eventually, that case was dismissed.

Eric Pelofsky, North 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented about volunteerism in Highland Park and the fact that it is down. Seventeen years ago, his daughter had a food allergy when she was a baby and the rescue squad was there within four minutes. Fast forward 17 years, she reached out to the rescue squad three months ago, completed all of her requirements for first aid and became a cadet. She is now riding and supporting the ambulance and now pursuing a medical degree. She thanked the Loewenstein's and the rescue squad for everything they are doing to provide a platform to educate and support the youth. He understands the situation for outsourcing and it is difficult situation and he understands the financial implications. He thinks if you could bring the facts of what the costs are to the town, there could probably be a solution to help subsidize the cost for the rescue squad. If it is data related, he thinks some of the data they are using is not actual. The rescue squad's data is going off of 82% of the calls being responded to on a 5.5-minute average. RWJ's statistics say that 87% of the calls are responded to in 10.59-minute average. They are going off the wrong data and are not equal platforms. He asked if the town is receiving payment to go with RWJ.

Martin Klee, 613 Benner Street, commented that he is a longtime resident. The first aid squad has responded to his house and to his parents' house many times. It seems like the Borough is trying to fix something that is not broken. The current system is working and is a model for other towns to emulate. He has seen outsourcing in other places and it ends up costing more and you get less services. Mayor Brill Mittler noted that they are not outsourcing. The first aid squad is not part of the Borough, but volunteers in a separate organization. The first aid squad and the dispatch have different numbers and they need to sit down and talk about them. The numbers that they have seen for daytime calls since January, were very concerning to them. The first aid squad has done a phenomenal job and do a phenomenal job, but there have been times where it is almost 20 minutes before a call can be answered. The process is to give the first aid squad 11 minutes to respond before mutual aid is called. The Borough's number one job is the protection of the residents and the last thing she wants to see is somebody dying because somebody couldn't get there quickly enough.

Resident, 130 Valentine Street, commented that the first aid squad is one of the things that knits together this community. There is no way that an outside service would have done what they did last night at 30 South Adelaide Avenue. We need to keep them in business as they are a part of what makes this town connected and strong.

Michelle May, South Adelaide Avenue, commented that she has had two very catastrophic accidents in town where she needed the rescue squad. Their response time was amazing. The last time she broke her leg she thinks if it was 10 or 15 minutes she could have lost her leg. They were there in less than 5 minutes. The first aid squad is like family to her now. They see her in town and ask her how she is doing. She has a particular squad member that is out in the hall that she calls her hero. When she fell and fractured her skull he fought for her at the hospital and she doesn't know if anyone else would have ever done that for her. She appreciates them and hopes that the Borough reconsiders keeping them on because she thinks they are very important to this town.

Al Stokes, 242 South 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, commented that the Borough is trying to solve the problem with a hammer. The solution is not to get rid of the first aid squad but allow them to respond and when there is not enough manpower, let RWJ respond.

Abby Stern Cardinale, Harper Street, commented that she is relatively new to the town and as someone who has a new baby and will hopefully not, but possibly need services, for her the time it would take for response to her house would be a concern. Looking at the statistics response time is the most important thing. In terms of health insurance and costs she understands that it is very difficult for people, but the bottom line should be who can get to the house faster.

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

There being no further business, on motion made by Councilman George, seconded by Councilwoman Welkovits, and carried by affirmative voice vote of all Councilpersons present, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings  
Borough Clerk