



Janice G. Allen  
Mayor

## Borough of North Plainfield

263 Somerset Street  
North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060  
www.northplainfield.org  
August 16, 2007

908-769-2902

Dear North Plainfield Taxpayer:

The Borough Council and I are dedicated to supplying needed services that create a better quality of life for all our residents. As local officials we fully understand the impact taxes have on our residents and therefore do our best to maintain a tight budget that includes many costs beyond our control.

Your overall tax bill for the 2007 fiscal year, which includes municipal, school, county open space, county library and Somerset County taxes, is increasing by \$700 on a home assessed at \$200,000. This is the same dollar increase as last year (2006).

***Please note that the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax payment from the enclosed bill is not due until September 21<sup>st</sup>. However, late payments will have interest accrued from the normal due date of August 1, 2007.***

This increase would be higher if not for the efforts of the Borough Council and Board of Education. Working with the Council and our state legislators we were able to secure \$250,000 in State Extraordinary Aid which was applied directly to tax relief. Our schools also have received \$20.7 million or 41% of their budget in state and federal funding, which has helped offset their increased costs.

While experiencing a state-wide cut in Extraordinary Aid of \$150,000 we were still able to increase our revenue by \$210,000 due to interest on investments and collection of delinquent taxes. Even though revenues went up, costs also increased. This year the majority of our budget increases are due to increases in pensions, retirement, contractual payroll obligations and insurance. These increases are being felt across the state and are being addressed by the state legislature under pension and benefit reform. This has translated into a larger property tax rebate for most property owners and could translate into greater, long-term savings in the future. We are closely monitoring these plans for their impact on local services.

To help offset other costs, the Council and I are aggressively working to secure county, state and federal dollars. This year we received, or are using, the following grants to help defray costs:

- \$ 197,000 - County - Economic Development Incentive Program - expansion of municipal parking
- \$ 29,000 - County - Economic Development Incentive Program - Facade Improvement Pilot Program
- \$ 15,000 - County - Somerset County Recreation Facility grant - Green Acres Park Improvements
- \$ 150,000 - State DOT - road and drainage improvements to Johnston Drive Extension
- \$ 25,000 - State DEP - Cool Cities tree planting
- \$ 90,000 - Federal - Homeland Security
- \$ 90,000 - Federal - Safe and Secure Communities (Police Dept.)
- \$ 75,000 - Federal - FEMA - Assistance to Firefighters Grant - equipment purchases
- \$ 75,000 - Federal - Community Development Block Grant - sewer replacement at West End Avenue