

Cougars Boys Laxers Tangle with New Providence Pioneers in Scrimmage – by Dave Corbin



Ethics Expert to Probe Alleged Conflict of Interest in Cranford

By **FRED T. ROSSI**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The Cranford Township Committee on Tuesday appointed an expert in legal ethics to look into whether there are any conflicts of interest in having the former township attorney and his law firm represent the township in two significant housing development matters while the firm’s ties to the developers are being questioned.

Professor Michael Ambrosio, who teaches legal ethics at Seton Hall University School of Law and was described by Township Attorney Daniel McCarthy as a “premier ethics expert,” will examine whether the Florio, Perrucci law

firm and one of its attorneys, former township attorney Phil Morin, had a conflict of interest in representing Cranford in builders’ remedy litigation and site plan hearings for the housing developments at 555 South Avenue and on Birchwood Avenue.

Both developments have been, and continue to be, the source of local controversy. Several residents, backed by a group they formed called Concerned Citizens of Cranford, have claimed that Michael Perrucci, the law firm’s managing partner, is also a principal with Woodmont Properties, a client of the firm and the developer of the 555 South Avenue site. The group of residents is claiming that

Mr. Morin, as township attorney last year, represented the municipality at a hearing where his boss was the developer.

At the township committee’s meeting on Tuesday, Mr. McCarthy asked anyone with any documentation that may assist Prof. Ambrosio’s efforts to provide them to the township clerk’s office. Mayor Thomas Hannen said the appointment was made because the committee believes that “there’s something there” that needs to be looked into by an outside expert. Prof. Ambrosio will be paid up to \$5,000 for his work.

Rita LaBrutto, one of the residents who has voiced concerns

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Benjamin B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader

SALUTE TO SECRET SERVICE...The Cranford Public Library is featuring an exhibit this month entitled “United States Secret Service: Sons of Cranford.” Sponsored by the Cranford Historical Society, it includes photographs, documents and memorabilia about six Secret Service agents from Cranford. Pictured viewing the exhibit last Wednesday, from left to right, are: Cranford Police Chief Eric Mason; Jim Mottola, Special Agent in Charge, Newark Field Office, United States Secret Service; Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (R-21, Westfield) and Thomas Sloan, one of the agents highlighted in the exhibit.