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750 Walnut Ave. Negative Impact

have 4-percent multi-family rental residences, Mr. Hughes said.

Mr. Haber's overall average is 0.56 as a multiplier of school-aged children used for two-bedroom units. Mr. Hughes said there is no empirical evidence in those multipliers. The data by Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) utilized by Mr. Hughes in his last report uses a multiplier of 0.131 public-school children, Mr. Hughes said. He said PUMA has the best available Census data, last updated in 2017.

"His analysis has no basis in empirical data in respects to characteristics of the housing proposed as part of this application and for those reasons it's a flawed analysis," Mr. Hughes said.

Mr. Hughes called Mr. Haber's

projection of 353 school-aged children "wildly exaggerated."

Hartz also had Jeff Martell, of Stonefield Engineering and Design, a professional engineer in civil site engineering, give rebuttals to testimony provided by the board's expert on traffic circulation on the site at a previously held meeting. Mr. Martell affirmed that school buses, large moving trucks and fire trucks "all can be accommodated by the site design."

The planning board's next meeting was to take place Wednesday, May 15, at 8 p.m., after press deadline, when the public would be given the opportunity to make comments on the entire application. A subsequent meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 5.

Garwood Mayor, Council Support Ladder Truck

former councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro said considering the truck's cost "the truck should be up for public vote."

"You cannot put public safety on a ballot," Mayor Todisco responded.

The mayor said the governing body is elected to lead, protect, and make "tough, yet beneficial" decisions for Garwood. Mayor Todisco said the governing body funds the police and fire departments, "ensuring they are properly equipped" to serve the borough.

Mayor Todisco said the council unanimously decided "to do what we have always done" which is "listen, discuss, text and email concerned residents." She said the town-hall-style meetings engage residents, allowing leadership to hear "what the community wants

or respond to resident concerns."

"I could not fault it at all," said Ms. Cuccaro, complementing the fire chief's two presentations.

Councilman Russell Graham said he was apprehensive of the "ladder truck (purchase) at first." He said the truck's cost, need, manpower and other various concerns were "answered to my satisfaction."

Mr. Graham said the need for a ladder truck was clear to him after attending the presentations by fire officials.

Councilman Richard McCormack said the ladder truck will update the fire department's fleet with needed equipment.

"Put yourself in their shoes," said Mr. McCormack, referring to the volunteer firefighters who could lose their lives, or their family members, "who may lose a loved one."

Councilman Marc Lazarow said "public safety and a public vote" is a difficult concept. Mr. Lazarow said every resident is entitled to an opinion. However, those opinions are inherently biased to one's world view.

He said borough leadership must decipher what is the solution that will protect the most residents.

Councilman Sean Benoit said his fellow council members voiced his feelings articulately. Mr. Benoit said he supports the council overseeing the truck's purchase while receiving professional insight from fire department representatives.

"What do I know about firefighting?" asked Mr. McCormack rhetorically to the public.

Mr. McCormack said discussion over several months with accredited fire department leaders and personnel and demonstrations of ladder presentations helped in his understanding of how under equipped the department had been for over a decade.

"This job (councilman) keeps me up until 10:30 at night. What about this? What about that?" said Mr. McCormack, describing how well read council members become before "decisions are made."

Mr. McCormack said he emphasizes the decision-making process so residents understand their safety and tax dollars are considered in every decision he supports.

At the start of the meeting, Mayor Todisco read a proclamation honoring Scotch Plains residents Tami Eagle Bowling and Lauren O'Brien, who co-founded the METAvivors of New Jersey, a Facebook group.

Ms. Bowling is a stage-4 breast cancer survivor. Stage 4 breast cancer has a 3 to 6 percent survival rate, Mayor Todisco said.

Ms. Bowling has dedicated her survival to promoting breast cancer awareness, the mayor said. Ms. Bowling has raised \$50,000 per year since 2015 for the cancer research and advocacy group MetAvivor.

The next Breakfast with the Mayor will take place this Saturday, May 18, at Lincoln School from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Superintendent of Schools Teresa Quigley, Ed.D., and Garwood Board of Education President Christine Guerriero will be in attendance, stated Mayor Todisco.

Arrest Made In Series Of Cranford Motor Vehicle Burglaries

CRANFORD — Police have arrested a suspect in a string of motor vehicle burglaries that took place in Cranford earlier this month.

Over a three-day span between May 7 and 9, the Cranford Police Department responded to 16 south-side residences on reported car burglaries. The incidents all occurred during the overnight hours on North Lehigh Avenue, Myrtle Street, Elm Street, Mendell Avenue and Crane Parkway. Various items were stolen from unlocked vehicles along

these streets. Additionally, a vehicle was stolen from its owner's driveway on Mendell Avenue during this same time period.

An investigation conducted by the Cranford Police Department Investigative Division eventually led to the arrest of a 16-year-old juvenile from Roselle. Detective Robert Jordan, the lead investigator, has subsequently charged the juvenile with multiple burglary and theft crimes.

The stolen vehicle was recovered in Newark on the evening of May 9 and, along with other sto-

len items recovered from the investigation, are being returned to their respective owners. The investigation remains ongoing as a search continues for a second suspect.

Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles each night and not to leave any valuables inside. Anyone with additional information regarding these incidents is asked to contact Detective Jordan at (908) 709-4124.

Probitas Verus Honos